

Walnut Sports Timeline

(current as of 2-16-2022)

1876 - 1st game of baseball Avoca 36, Walnut 18.
1897 - 1st game of football Walnut 6, Avoca 0.
1900 - 1st high school baseball team.
1908 - 1st girls basketball game, versus Oakland. five players per side (2 forwards, 2 guards, 1 center confined to center circle of court). Captains Jennie Cissna, Alma Johanssen.
1908 - Walnut's football team defeats Harlan 10-6.
1917 - Earl Caddock defeats Joe Stecher in Omaha for the world wrestling championship.
1920 - Caddock's Colts, semi-pro baseball team, is organized.
1920 - Earl Caddock loses to Stecher in a rematch in New York City's Madison Square Garden.
1921 - The Colts defeat Manning, who had hired Claude "Lefty" Williams to pitch, he of the infamous Chicago Black Sox of the 1919 World Series. About 3,000 attend the game at Kent's Park.
1922 - Walnut's high school baseball team participates in the Ames Invitational.
1928 - Walnut's high school teams take the name "Cardinals"
1929 - Walnut's HS girls basketball team wins the Pott County Championship, the first of 6 titles over the next 8 years.
1933 - the boys basketball team wins their first -ever conference and county titles.
1933 - Legion youth baseball begins with the "Juniors", ages 9-17.
1933 - the Harlem Globetrotters appear in Walnut in a game against our town team.
1935 - the town baseball team takes the name the Red Sox.
1935 - Walnut fields a men's softball team for the first time, sponsored by Osler Chevrolet.
1939 - our football team captures their first ever conference title, sharing the crown with Avoca and Oakland.
1941 - our boys basketball team takes the Southwest Iowa Conference crown.
1945 - The Community Club purchases six acres of land for a sports park from Emil Dau at \$500 per acre. It is named Veteran's Memorial Park, and becomes the home for baseball and football games.
1946 - Harold Johnk, one of Walnut's best athletes to date, is named head basketball coach at Omaha University after starring as a player there. He would resign this position two years later to join his father on the family farm in Lincoln Twp.
1946 - boys basketball wins the conference crown. They would repeat in 1948.
1946 - Walnut's town baseball team is named the Blue Sox, for their new gray uniforms trimmed in blue, with gray cap and blue sox.
1946 - Legion Post 422 fields their first "Midgets" team, a new classification for ages 9-14. Juniors become age 15-17.
1947 - Eldon Bees pitches 3 consecutive complete game shutouts as Walnut wins the spring high school sectional baseball tournament. He strikes out 21 batters.
1948 - Bill Kay (pronounced Kye), a 1942 graduate of WHS, signs a contract to play professional football with the New York Giants. He was a two-time All-American at Iowa University as a tackle, and named captain of the team in 1947.
1948 - Lights are installed at Memorial Park, making it a highly sought-after venue for tournaments statewide.
1948 - Walnut's town baseball team, the Cardinals, wins the western division of the Iowa Western League. They lose to Earling in the finals in Walnut.
1949 - The first American Legion District Seven Midget baseball tournament is held in Walnut. Walnut would host the event for 23 of the next 26 years. District Seven is composed of the 13 counties in the southwest corner of the state.
1950 - Future baseball Hall-of-Famer Bob Gibson and his YMCA team from Omaha defeat the Walnut Midgets in Walnut 23-3. Walnut would go on to qualify for the district tournament that year.
1950 - Legion Post 422 fields their first "Cubs" team, another new classification, for ages 9-10. Midgets remain 11-14.
1951 - Walnut's boys basketball team wins the conference crown, going undefeated

1954 - Our football team goes 7-2, the school's best record to date. Larry Koehrsen is named to the Des Moines Register's all-state team, WHS's first such honor.
1955 - the high school baseball team wins the summer sectionals tournament, defeating Elk Horn.
1955 - WHS fields a girls softball team for the first time.
1956 - The WHS girls basketball team is crowned conference champions for the first time since 1939. They lose to Oakland in a close game in the district finals. Guard Mable Dorscher is named to the Des Moines Register's All-State First Team, Walnut's first girl all-stater and only first-teamer.
1957 - The WHS girls basketball team is conference, sectional and district champion and qualifies for the state tournament, losing out to eventual champion Garrison in the first round. The tournament was played without divisions - only 16 teams qualified for the tournament.
1957 - Walnut's Midgets make it to the championship of the district 7 tournament in Legion baseball, losing to Casey in the finals.
1957 - Our high school medley relay team qualifies for both the indoor and outdoor state tournaments, made up of David Drake, Bob Eslick, Max Bornholdt, and Larry Koos.
1957 - Larry Koos is crowned state champion in the 440 yard dash, class C, at the state indoor meet in Iowa City.
1958 - Gene Young of Walnut is crowned Class C champion in the football throw at the Iowa High School State Track and Field meet.
1958 - Carmen Cordes is named as an all-stater in basketball, 3rd team.
1960 - WHS baseball team wins the summer sectionals tournament.
1962 - Dale Peters places 3rd in the discus throw at the state tournament.
1962 - WHS changes its name and mascot from Cardinals to Warriors.
1964 - our two-mile relay team places 3rd at State: Gary Harris, Wes Petersen, Robert Andersen, Tom McIntosh
1965 - The girls bball team wins the sectional tournament.
1970 - Barb Davis ends her career at WHS with 1,955 points in girls basketball, 2nd only to Carmen Cordes 1955-1958 (2,223 pts). She scored 66 in one game, and averaged 49.5 per game in the 69-70 season, good for 3rd in state that year.
1971 - Walnut High School joins the new Western Iowa Conference for all sports and activities. The WIC is a combination of the previous Tri-County Conference and Southwest Iowa Conference. The new conference includes AvoHa, Carson-Macedonia, Elk Horn-Kimballton, Griswold, Iowa School for the Deaf, Missouri Valley, Oakland, Shelby-Tennant, Treynor, Tri-Center, Underwood, and Walnut.
1972 - Walnut fields a high school wrestling team for the first time.
1974 - the girls bball team wins the sectional tournament.
1976 - WHS wrestler Mark Drake qualifies for the Iowa High School State Tournament, Walnut's first state qualifier.
1977 - Jim Blum places 3rd at the state wrestling tournament. Mark Drake places 6th.
1978 - Jim Stuart, a freshman, qualifies for the state wrestling tournament.
1978 - Larry Johnk qualifies for the state track meet in the high hurdles.
1979 - Larry Johnk wins the state championship in the 120 yd high hurdles, in a time of 15.01 secs. He also places 7th in the low hurdles.
1979 - Volleyball becomes a varsity sport at WHS.
1980 - Larry Johnk wins the state championship in the 110 meter high hurdles, in a time of 15.30 secs.
1980 - Jolene Shirley qualifies for state in the discus, becoming WHS' first girls' track & field qualifier
1980 - The girls bball team wins the sectional tourney.
1981 - Nancy Blum, senior forward at WHS, is named Captain of the Omaha World-Herald's All-Southwest Iowa basketball team.
1981 - Jim Stuart qualifies again for the state wrestling tournament, placing 6th. Ron Hamilton also qualifies for state.

1981 - Kevin Brix places 6th in the 1600 meter race at the state tournament, setting a new school record .
1983 - Walnut high school joins the Rolling Hills Conference for all sports and activities, which matches it up with schools of the same size as opposed to the previous conference.
1983 - Walnut's high school football team qualifies for the state tournament for the first time. The head coach is Earl Harberts. Deven Harberts is named 1st team all-state. The team had the only undefeated season in Walnut's history.
1983 - Walnut's high school girls basketball team qualifies for the state tournament for the 2nd time in its history. They lose to Des Moines North-Tech in the first round. The head coach is Rod Hoegh. The Des Moines high school had enrollment of >2,000 students, while Walnut had 87.
1983 - Holli Harberts is crowned champion of the high jump at the Iowa State Track & Field meet. Her jump of 5'9 1/2" is still fifth best all time (all classes). Harberts was named the Omaha World-Herald's Female Athlete of the Year for Southwest Iowa. She also won the high jump at the indoor meet that year.
1984 - Land is purchased adjacent to Veteran's Memorial Park to put in a softball and little league field, and the project is completed by the end of the year.
1984 - both the girls and boys basketball teams win the Rolling Hills Conference championships.
1989 - Deven Harberts, a 1984 graduate of WHS, signs an undrafted free agent contract with the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League after a successful college career playing for the Iowa Hawkeyes.
1990 - The Walnut school board approves a football and track sharing agreement between Walnut and Elk Horn/Kimballton, to begin in the 1991 season. The team would go on to be known as the Walnut-EHK Knights. The sharing agreement for football is abandoned in 1998 when both schools field new 8-man football teams.
1992 - Heather Schirm leads the state in rebounding, at 13.1 per game, and is the only Walnut player listed in the IGHS AU basketball history books to this day.
1993 - The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union switches girls basketball from a six-player to a five-player structure.
1993 - The Walnut-EHK Knights qualify for the state tournament in football. Ron Hamilton is co-coach.
1993 - Walnut's baseball team wins its second district title in as many years, and loses in the sub-state final. This is the last year that the state tournament takes only 4 teams.
1994 - The Knights qualify once again for the state tournament in football. Ken Olsen sets a state record with a 99-yd punt return in a game vs Ar-We-Va. He is named 1st team all-state.
1995 - Walnut's baseball team qualifies for the state tournament for the first time ever. The coaches are Bob Gross and Denny Book. Justin Gross is named a 1st team all-stater.
1997 Walnut's baseball team qualifies for the state tournament for the second time, losing to Southeast Warren-Liberty Center in the first round.
1998 - Larry Dant of Walnut is drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 21st round of the amateur baseball draft. He is our only professional baseball draftee.
1998 - Walnut High School joins 6 other teams in western Iowa to convert to 8-man football, a new format adopted by the IHSAA. Curtis Osborn is our first 8-man coach.
1999 - Walnut senior Josh Abel hits 20 home runs for the season, easily a school record.
2000 - WHS girls basketball team wins conference and district titles, and loses to Manning 58-53 in Regionals. Coach is Bob Gross.
2000 - WHS boys basketball team qualifies for the state tournament, our first and only such appearance. Coach is Jon Peterson.
2001 - WHS softball team wins the conference and district titles, defeating Ar-We-Va 9-2. They lose to Southeast Warren 1-0 (extra innings) in the Regional Finals.
2001 - WHS girls basketball team once again win conference and district titles. They lose to Van Meter 68-63 in overtime in Regionals.
2002 - WHS girls basketball wins their third straight conference title.

2003 - Walnut's A Cubs (formerly Midgets) win the state Legion tournament in Walnut, Legion Post 422's only championship in its 70 year history. The coach is Larry Jacobsen, who coached Legion Ball for 22 years in Walnut.
2004 - Walnut's football team qualifies for state in 8-player, and hosts the first-ever state tournament game in Walnut. They defeat Farragut 51-44 in Walnut on a desperation 50-yd throw for a touchdown as time expires. They lose to Adair-Casey 42-29 in the semi-finals in Adair. Coach is Ron Hamilton.
2004 - Walnut's volleyball team wins the Rolling Hills Conference. Coach is Gwen Blum.
2004 - Walnut qualifies for the state tournament in baseball, defeating West Harrison in the 1st round, and then losing to state champion Martensdale-St.Mary's 7-4.
2004 - Tyler Blum of Walnut is crowned champion at 215 pounds at the state wrestling tournament. He is the son of Jim Blum, who placed 3rd in state in 1977. Walnut's boys wrestled for Atlantic that year. Tyler would qualify for state in 2003 and 2005 as well, placing 3rd in 2005.
2005 - Walnut qualifies for the state tournament in baseball, losing to state champion Kee-Lansing 14-5 in the first round.
2005 - Walnut's softball team wins the conference championship.
2005 - Walnut's football team qualifies for the state tournament, losing to Essex 48-40 in the first round. Coach is Alan Sorensen.
2006 - Walnut's volleyball team wins the district title.
2007 - Walnut's football team qualifies for the state tournament, defeating Essex and losing to Stanton. Coach is Ron Hamilton.
2010 - Walnut's third baseball field is built at Veteran's Memorial Park. It is designed as a little league and softball field, and is named Logan's Little Field, in memory of Logan Blum, son of Rick and Gwen Blum, who died of a car crash at the age of 20.
2012 - Walnut competes in its last high school competition of any kind during the baseball districts at Woodbine, losing 10-1 to Logan-Magnolia. All sports would be played as part of a whole-grade sharing agreement with AHST for 2012-13.
2014 - Walnut grad Mitch Osborn ('80) is inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Through the 2019 season and 35 years of coaching basketball, Osborn ranks 4th in Iowa history with 689 wins, 18 state tournament appearances and 3 championships at Elk Horn-Kimballton, Pomeroy-Palmer and Harlan