Remember Frackville’s Varsity in 1935? The Frackville Stegmeier outfit was the same squad that performed for Coach Charley Dunkleberger as well as in the District High School playoffs. Schooled into a wonderful school representative, the Frack kids took advantage of the fine opportunity and immediately sensed success after their high school career had ended. They got together and the result was the molding of one of the finest independent cage teams in this county. The squad was managed by Bill Kirelawich and captained by “Povie” Povalaitis who handled the pivot position for the Fracks.

Remember the headline? January 11, 1936: “Frackville Stegmeiers team trounce I.O.O.F. 47-28.” Points scored were: Caton 10, Haberle 6, Povalaitis 8, Copeland 8, Heim 0, Pilconis 6.

January 31, 1936: Brooklyn Giants Humbled by Stegmeniers 45-32. “A large crowd of court followers attended the fine feal at the Frackville High School Gym when Independent Basketball of the finest brand was featured when the Frackville Stegmeniers collided with the Brooklyn Colored Giants. The Stegmenier Team, going at a great clip under manager, Bill Kirelawich, started with their stringent line-up on the floor. Copeland and Caton at forward posts, Povalaitis as center and Pilconis and Slovak at the guard positions. This line-up, a gathering of seasoned basketball players, all home bred, is one of the strongest independent combinations that could be gathered together from any one town in the county. Their opposition in this game is one of the speediest and smartest combinations touring the east and includes among their line-up several stars from colored colleges and from some of the independent colored pro teams. The Frackville Team sprung a surprise by out scoring the visitors in three periods. The Brooklyn Colored Giants were soundly trounced by the Frackville Stegmeniers 45-32.

February 7, 1936: Stegmeniers Are Dropped 45-41 By Schuylkill Haven. “Before bending their knees 45-41 to the Frackville Stegmenier Basketball Team throw a scare into manager, Charley Manbeck’s Courtiers of Schuylkill Haven in the Frackville High School Gym. The game was rather exciting at the finish—with a minute to go to the score read 43 to 41 to Schuylkill Haven’s favor. Povie, pivot player of the Fracks, made a basket and was fouled in the act of shooting. He converted the charity attempt and tied at 43 all, but a few seconds later Bowman hauled one from the center of the floor with the final whiskelawning just as the ball sailed through the net. This made up for the Frackville Stegmeniers’ 1 point loss. February 14, 1936: Frackville Stegmeniers Dump Abatior 68-48. “A big crowd attended the benefit court bill when basketball addicts journeyed to J.W. Cooper Gym bringing together three leading teams of the city league with a trio of established independent troops from other towns. The spectators felt the gym more than satisfied for they saw three fast freys. Points scored were: Caton 11, Copeland 11, Povalaitis 12, Savitsky 2, Heim 0, Pilconis 0.

February 20, 1936: Stegmeniers Out Hamptoners 42-33. “The Frackville Team got even for the defeat suffered several weeks ago. The Frack youthful miracle basketball outfit trounced the Hamberg Big 5 of the Tri-Coty Pro League. With a score tied at 22 all and 8 minutes remaining to play in the last quarter, the Stegmenier pulled together for one big final sparge and succeeded. When Povie went back into battle at the pivot position it was he with his spectacular nose shooting that really won the game for the Frackville forces.” Points scored: Caton 10, Copeland 7, Savitsky 12, Savitsky 8, Pilconis 7, Slovak 7, Heim 0, Pilconis 0.

March 5, 1936: Stegmeniers Lose To Cooleys 68-38. “This is the second time this season that the Tri-Coty Professional Basketball League Team tripped the big five from the mountain top. The Frackville Stegmeniers were known as the coal regions fastest scholastic quetet. In a nip and tuck affair until the last half of the final quarter the game was out of the doubtful stage as the whistle blew—it was a close battle. The visitors manicked the Manbeck men point for point in the 3 periods preceding the final frame. It was poor shooting from the foul line that actually lost the game for the mountainiers. Out of 14 free throws they sank only 3 free throws while the Havencites had almost a 500 average with 8 out of 17.

The year 1936 was a great year for basketball in Frackville. Headlines were splashed all over the sports section of the newspapers. This was the year the Fracks won their 100th basketball game when Frackville High School’s fast stepping basketball representatives vanquished Port Carbon High on January 30, 1936. Ed Schilling, try forward of the Fracks topped the team in individual scoring this season.

The Statistics for Frackville High School Basketball Squad read: Schilling 366, Norbury 172, Wagner 100, Graboski 100, Giffins 69, Paukment 41, Gibson 41, Timmins 18, Merkows 4, Kirelawich 4, Rakowski 2, Barnettovich 0.