Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Movie Title: \_\_\_\_ Producer: \_\_\_\_ Year Made: \_\_\_\_

Stars/Main Actors: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

* Complete the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Events Depicted in the Movie, Hoosiers | The Actual Real-Life Events |
| Norman Dale (Gene Hackman), 56-year-old |  |
| Hickory star basketball player, Jimmy Chitwood (Maris Valainis) |  |
| CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR: 1952 – they came out of nowhere. |  |
| PRACTICES: Coach Dale is a taskmaster during practices, running the players through drills, always wearing a shirt & tie. |  |
| The moody-but-talented Jimmy Chitwood (Maris Valainis) sits out half the season - upset about the previous coach dying- tutored by Myra Fleener, who hates basketball. |  |
| ENROLLMENT: Hickory High School's total enrollment of 161 is so small that it can only field a team of six players. |  |
| GAME: Four passes before taking a shot |  |
| Hickory is depicted as a massive underdog throughout the movie. |  |
| LOVE INTEREST: Coach Dale romances teacher Myra Fleener (Barbara Hershey). |  |
| ASSISTANT COACH: "Shooter" (Dennis Hopper) is the town drunk and the father of one of the players. |  |
| TEAM MANAGER: "Ollie" (Wade Schenck) comes on the court in the semifinal and hits two free throws to win the game, granny-style. |  |
| Coach has a player measure the height of the hoop where the state finals were going to be played. |  |
| Announcer at the final game: Hillard Gates |  |
| STATE TOURNAMENT: The Huskers win every game in the tournament on a last-second shot. |  |
| FINAL SECOND GAME WINNING SHOT … Come from behind victory |  |
| FINAL GAME ATTENDANCE: Butler University's Hinkle Fieldhouse |  |

B. Explain where the idea for the movie came from or why the producer did what he did.

C. Why did the Producer stray so far from the real-life events? (*Find the quote he made*)

D. Name some ways that the game of basketball was different back in the 1950’s which would impact our viewpoint.

ANSWER KEY

Movie Title: Hoosiers Producer: Angelo Pizzo Year Made: 1986

Stars/Main Actors: Gene Hackman Barbara Hershey Maris Valainis

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Events Depicted in the Movie, Hoosiers | The Actual Real-Life Events |
| Norman Dale (Gene Hackman), 56-year-old | HEAD COACH: Marvin Wood was 26 years old when he coached Milan to the title. Speculation exists that the character of Norman Dale was named for [Norm Ellenberger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norm_Ellenberger), whose middle name is Dale. A longtime assistant coach for [Bob Knight](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Knight) at Indiana, he once played basketball for coach [Tony Hinkle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Hinkle) at Butler. |
| CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR: 1952 – they came out of nowhere. | CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR: 1954 – they lost in the semi-finals the year before. |
| PRACTICES: Coach Dale is a taskmaster during practices, running the players through drills, always wearing a shirt & tie. | PRACTICES: Coach Wood often suited up in workout clothes and played with the team during practices. |
| The moody-but-talented Jimmy Chitwood (Maris Valainis) sits out half the season - upset about the previous coach dying- tutored by Myra Fleener, who hates basketball. | STAR PLAYER: Bobby Plump played the entire season without any moping or whining about the previous coach, although he said in an ESPN chat that "Snort" was "the most popular coach in Milan's history." |
| ENROLLMENT: Hickory High School's total enrollment of 161 is so small that it can only field a team of six players. | ENROLLMENT: Milan High did have an enrollment of only 161, but 58 of the 73 boys in the school tried out for the team. Milan High had 10 team members in 1954. |
| GAME: Four passes before taking a shot | *Hoosiers* screenwriter Angelo Pizzo based this fictional element on Indiana University's coach, Bobby Knight. |
| Coaching controversy | Milan had fired its previous coach, Herman "Snort" Grinstead, after the 1951–52 season for ordering new uniforms against the superintendent's orders. |
| Hickory is depicted as a massive underdog throughout the movie. | Hickory is depicted as a massive underdog throughout the movie. Milan entered the 1953–54 season as one of the favorites to win the state title, as it returned four starters from the state semifinalists of 1952–53. |
| LOVE INTEREST: Coach Dale romances teacher Myra Fleener (Barbara Hershey). | LOVE INTEREST: Coach Wood was in fact married with two children, so it can be assumed that there was no romance with a teacher at the school. |
| ASSISTANT COACH: "Shooter" (Dennis Hopper) is the town drunk and the father of one of the players. | ASSISTANT COACH: Marc Combs and Clarence Kelly were the assistants -- neither of them drunks. |
| TEAM MANAGER: "Ollie" (Wade Schenck) comes on the court in the semifinal and hits two free throws to win the game, granny-style. | TEAM MANAGER: Oliver Jones stayed on the sidelines and didn't make any heroic buckets, granny-or-any style. |
| Coach has a player measure the height of the hoop where the state finals were going to be played | Coach Wood measured the height of the Hinkle Field House, where the 1954 state finals were played to "cast out their fear." |
| Announcer at the final game: Hillard Gates | FINAL GAME ANNOUNCER: Hillard Gates. The same guy. |
| STATE TOURNAMENT: The Huskers win every game in the tournament on a last-second shot. | STATE TOURNAMENT: Milan won their first eight games in the tournament by at least eight points. Seven of those victories were by double-digit margins.  "The final 18 seconds were the only thing factual in the movie about the Milan-Central game. From the time the ball was in bounds after the final timeout, the movie was accurate." |
| FINAL SECOND GAME WINNING SHOT … Come from behind victory | The final game was a bruising, low-scoring affair. The Indians were paced in scoring by senior **Ray Craft**. However, Coach Wood's delay tactic game plan would place the ball in the trusty hands of another senior, Bobby Plump. |
| FINAL GAME ATTENDANCE: Butler University's Hinkle Fieldhouse | Fieldhouse was packed to the rafters, and tickets were being scalped for up to $50. |

B. Explain where the idea for the movie came from or why the producer did what he did.

*The film is inspired in part by the story of the 1954 Indiana state champions, Milan High School. The phrase "inspired by a true story" is more appropriate than "based on a true story" because the two teams have little in common.*

C. Why did the Producer stray so far from the real-life events? (*Find the quote he made*)

*Hoosiers screenwriter Angelo Pizzo summed up the film's heavy dose of fictionalization by saying that the added drama was necessary, "because their lives were not dramatic enough... The guys were too nice, the team had no real conflict."*

D. Name some ways that the game of basketball was different back in the 1950’s which would impact our viewpoint.

*There was no “Shot Clock” back then (presently 25-30 seconds), neither was there a time limit set for the offensive team to bring the ball to half court (presently 10 seconds). The game was potentially boring once a team got a significant lead (5 or more points). They could stall and hold onto the ball without passing. The only way to break this was to foul or steal the ball away.*