

**Tressa Bush – Forks River School Class of 1976**  
**The Best Game of my Life**

I played basketball from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We played the old-fashioned way, six on six. For those of you who have no idea what I mean by that, then ask your parents!

We had a VERY good team during my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. One of our games is one of my most fond memories --- EVER!

It was November 1975 and the basketball season had just begun. Carthage Junior High put on a Thanksgiving Tournament. Many of you may recall that school was demolished to make way for the expanded Smith County High School.

As we all know, it is a very BIG deal for a “county” school to defeat a “city” school. And by city school I mean Carthage and/or Gordonsville. That year --- we were right up there with both city schools.

I have no idea who we defeated to make it to the finals – but we did. And as you might expect, we had to take on the “home” team – the Carthage Owls.

We knew it would be a tough game, but sometimes things just work out for the perennial “underdogs.” (underdogs where Carthage was concerned).

The game was close till the very end ---- and in the end WE WON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Forks River girls beat Carthage by a score of 26 – 20. And I scored all 26 points!

Please don't think I was a “ball hog” – only three girls could shoot (that's six on six style) and the other two shooters were younger than me and very scared --- despite making no points, they contributed greatly to our win – as did the girls who kept the others from scoring!

The only thing I did that was selfish that night – was this. As the final seconds were ticking off the clock, I wanted to be the one with the ball. For two reasons, I had done well shooting free-throws that night – but most of all, I wanted the ball in MY hands when the buzzer sounded so I could sling the ball into the air as high as I could sling it! And guess what, I got my wish!

I fell onto my knees --- I was so tired, both physically and mentally.

I will never forget the feeling I had inside when the announcer said, “And now, the champions – Forks River!!” We just went bananas – we were all beaming with pride!

I will never forget that night and neither will Reba Maberry, Judy Dyer, Lisa Tomlin, Lisa Colter and Cindy Holland. WE beat Carthage! I'd give anything in this world if we had video of that night, course nobody had camcorders back then.

Finally, somewhere, amid the dozens and dozens of trophies that fill the cases at FRS -- there sits the trophy WE won that night – ah, if it could just talk! But it won't have to – because I've told the story of HOW we won it – and hopefully you all won't forget either!