



Albert Combs

“Basketball smarts”

One of the striking athletes during the 1959-60 and 1960-61 basketball seasons was veteran player, 6-foot-1, Albert Combs.

He was a true Pirate pacesetter of his time, who knew how to skillfully muscle his way around underneath the glass and slyly, tip the ball in for a two-pointer. Lots of times a personal was encountered and he easily put another point on the scoreboard.

Combs had a colorful spirit in his presence on the hardwood. His avant-garde way of taking the ball to the hoop stands out the most, which gave his opponents fits.

He had a variety of ways to let loose of the ball. In any case, his shots were hard to defend. And, probably the most impressive, was his ability to muscle the defense and find a weakness in it to score.

He was a remarkable playmaker for Coach John E. Wood, especially in his senior year. Wood could always look to Combs for solid playing minutes on the floor.

One of his biggest shooting performances was against Shawe Memorial of Madison. His offensive tempo was at its best. He tossed 26 points in the nets, connecting on 12 field goals and 2 free throws, as the Pirates won in “sudden death” overtime.

Combs scored double figures 27 times for the Pirates. He led his team in scoring during the season of 1960-61 and ended with a 15-ppga. He compiled a single career high of 466 points.

He ended his senior year winning the annual Charlestown Lions Clubs’ Free Throw Award with a shooting percentage of 73.6.



Albert Combs (Photograph courtesy of Charlestown-Clark Co. Public Library)