

# Hunting Season: Destruction of the Puppet Masters

## Copyright

### “Hunting Season: Destruction of the Puppet Masters”

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## Introduction

Bob Terrell, a teacher in Minceville Indiana, has his life change on I-69 outside Indianapolis. Returning home to attend a pep rally for the high school basketball team that narrowly lost a state championship, Bob's life changes when he runs over a man right there on the interstate. Who was this man? Why was he crossing a major interstate? Bob doesn't know that the answers are right there in the mind of Ronald Millstone, the school janitor.

## Chapter 1 - The Final Four

Billy Gaines knocked the ball away from Jeremy Rhodes of Bancroft Charter High School and with a flick of the wrist, he got control of the dribble and drove quickly up the right side of the basketball court. Tommy Reed of Bancroft stabbed at the ball and with the ease of Steph Curry, Billy G. as the fans called him swiftly dribbled the ball between his legs and pulled up a step and half behind the three-point line and buried the shot with nothing but net. The crowd cheering for Perrysville Consolidated erupted.

"1,2,3, bang, bang, bang", they cheered, making six shooters with their fingers like an old cowboy movie. No one knows exactly when the tradition started. Nick Hughes the

principal of the school cringed every time the cheer block led the charge. It certainly wasn't proper behavior in the current climate of the nation, but inside he loved it and wished he could join in the cheering.

Billy Gaines had just hit his fifth three pointer of the first half and now had 19 points. The PCHS Stallions now led the game 31-26 with just a few ticks left in the second quarter. Perrysville Consolidated as a school in 1994. Perrysville sucked up Minceville and Remington, two small little burgs in Southern Indiana. Perrysville was a growing community and with news of a Honda plant coming it would only get bigger. The kids from Minceville and Remington were treated like outsiders by the kids from Perrysville. The kids from Perrysville were children of business owners and white-collar parents. The Minceville kids were typically farm kids,

Southern Indiana hillbillies. Farming cantaloupe, tomatoes, corn, or soybeans. The kids from Remington were primarily children of parents who worked in the coal mine. There was only one large coal mine left in Indiana, and it was just outside of Remington. The Minceville kids and the Remington kids figured they would follow in the steps of their parents.

But this was the time for the Minceville and Remington kids. Four of the starting five from the Stallions were from Minceville and Larry Donnaly was from Remington. Billy Gaines, he was the pride of Minceville. Billy G. led the Perrysville Stallions to the Final Four. The season started with a 25-point win over Farmersburg. When head coach Jimmy Buck started the four kids from Minceville and one from Remington; the Perrysville parents were not happy. "Ole Buck

must be nuts. Playing those hillbillies. They won't win ten games. Sure, they beat Farmersburg, but we always beat Farmersburg", the naysayers crowed.

Then in a Holiday tournament just before Christmas, Perrysville Consolidated played at Jeffersonville and beat Evansville Central and then beat second ranked Jeffersonville by three in overtime to bring home the championship trophy. Even the naysayers began to believe. The noise changed from "Ole Buck is nuts" to "Ole Buck plays the best kids, he don't care where they are from". But the hardcore businessmen from Perrysville still were not happy but here they were playing Bancroft Charter School in the Final Four at the Fieldhouse on the Butler campus in downtown Indianapolis. Bancroft Charter was a school of more than 4000 students. It was a like a small college campus. Perrysville with their



recent growth had just over 900 and was the smallest 4A school in the state. Here they were battling Bancroft and even winning!

The horn sounded signaling the end of the first half and Perrysville was clinging to a tight 33-28 lead with Gaines scoring 20 of the points for Perrysville. Leon Gaines, Billy's dad, was at the concession stand getting a box of popcorn and a Dr Pepper when Morgan Smith approached him. Morgan Smith, the smug arrogant man, owned the coal mine and frequented Leon's produce stand. Of course, Morgan Smith showed up more often now that Billy was the star of the Perrysville Stallions.

"Billy looks great today", Morgan Smith said to Leon.

"He is definitely dialed in today. But those boys from Bancroft are big. Hopefully, they can hold on. Meyer had a

great game last week", Leon said. Leon was complimenting Morgan Smith's middle son. Meyer had scored five points off the bench last week when Perrysville defeated Vincennes in the Semi-State at the Hulman Center in Terre Haute.

"He does okay, but Murray, my youngest, is gonna be real good. Maybe the best this school has ever seen", Morgan Smith said. Clearly making a slight on Billy. "Looking forward to getting Billy a job in the office", Morgan said.

"We hope he can get into Purdue. Coach Painter is here today", Leon said referencing the fact that the Head Coach of the Boilermakers was here watching the game. He was recruiting Muhammad Mustafa, the 6-10 star from South Sudan playing for Bancroft and was looking to see if Billy had it in him to play at Purdue. Billy at 6-1 was a little short for the Big Ten, but boy could he handle the ball and shoot.

