

# Salt Lake Tribune Sports

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## Divisional Contenders for Seventh Straight Time

Members of Edgehill Ward basketball team. Front row, left to right, Brent Eager, Bill Paul Jr., Jim Christensen, Allen Brown,

Rollie Williams. Second row, Vic Van Oosterndorp, Don Patton, Wally Hatch, John McMaster, Dick Smith, Coach Bill Paul.

# Record Marks Edgehill as Club to Beat

By PHIL McLEESE

Tribune Sports Writer

You watch 'em play, and recall their performances in previous tournaments—and you reach the inevitable conclusion that Edgehill Ward is a good bet for L D S all-church basketball honors this season.

The Edgehill crew, except for last season a dominant figure in the all-church event since 1948, hasn't lost a stake game for five seasons—including the current one.

## Seventh Title

The club, coached by Bill Paul, clinched its seventh straight stake title last week, and its slick performance makes it a strong choice for division 14 honors—and an equally strong contender for the all-church affair.

The team—with many of the players on the current 'squad—gained the all-church finals from 1948 through 1951. And the players not only win, but they're good sports about it, too, for it won the sportsmanship award in the '51 all-church event, and the same prize in the 1952 divisional.

## All-Church Choice

Perhaps the best-known member of the club is Rollie Williams, who was an all-church selection in 1948. Other members of the squad are Allen Brown, John McMaster, Brent Eagar, Dick Smith, Jimmie Christensen, Gene England, Wally Hatch, Victor Van Oostendorp and Don Patten.

The team approaches the unique in one respect. Only one

player on the squad is a high school product—all the others were developed in the M Men ranks.

## One of Twelve

The Edgehill crew, although a strong favorite for the division 14 crown, is only one of 12 clubs in the Salt Lake area—which also includes divisions 9 and 10—which have clinched their stake titles.

Latest entrants in the title field are Grantsville Second of Grantsville Stake, Laurelcrest of Monument Park and Evergreen of East Mill Creek Stake.

Grantsville Second won over Grantsville First, 51-30, for a berth in division 9, and in division 14, Laurelcrest downed Indian Hills, 60-48, and Evergreen defeated Canyon Rim, 61-34, in title contests.