1980-1981 Storden Jeffers Chiefs Boys Basketball Team

The Storden Jeffers Chiefs won the Red Rock Conference, advanced to the 1980 District Finals and held a 14 point lead on perennial power Windom late in the 3rd quarter. The Eagles rallied to win and advanced to the state tournament for the 3rd time in 8 seasons.

That painful end to a season, along with the return of 3 talented starters in Brad Witt, Curt Erickson and Mark Iverson, and the emergence of junior Randy Witt and sophomore guard Robert Weber, had the 80-81 Chiefs on a mission. The Chiefs opened the season with a 50-46 loss to HLO, but then rattled off 17 straight victories. Senior power inside player Brad Witt missed the first game with a hand injury from football but was back on the court the very next game and poured in 24 points! The Chiefs were back on track. They claimed an undefeated conference championship and the best was yet to come.

Earning their way to the Districts the Chiefs got their revenge on Windom and went on to the finals where Chiefs defeated Mountain Lake, 80-72 for the first district basketball title for either community.

The Chiefs defeated District 5 champions Trimont (68-62) and District 8 Champion Luverne (58- 55) to qualify for the 1981 Minnesota State Tournament.

Williams Arena was covered in blue and echoed "Go Big Blue" as the two small communities packed in the arena! The Chiefs paired up with Chishom for a very tough battle and a close game until the final minutes. The Chiefs came up short at the end with a 73-62 loss.

The Chiefs bounced back for a morning consolation game and battled Region 8 champion Warren to a 51-49 overtime loss, completing their season with a 22-3 overall record.

These young men erased the dividing line between two communities that were no longer Storden and Jeffers, they were forever more the Storden Jeffers Chiefs and inspired and instilled dreams in many more boys and girls Champions to come.

This group of men along with the cheerleaders, managers and coaches celebrate every 5 years not as a team but as family. This year marked their 45th reunion and it never gets old remembering their remarkable season!

Team Members include Coach Dennis Turner, Assistant Coach Gary Gillis, Randy Witt, Shawn Hedman, Brad Witt, Mark Iverson, Jay Eichner, Jim Polk, Kelly Grams, Robert Weber, Dean Johnson, James Meyer, Curt Erickson, Troy Sorenson, and Lincoln Simonson. Managers were Jason Turner, Dominic Turner, and Charles Berger. Statisticians were Morgen (Duroe) Pederson and Jody (Prins) Gewerth.