

Northern Indiana Christian Athletic League Membership Directory

1978-1982

School name (Mascot)	Location	Years in Conference	Championships
Blackhawk Christian (Braves)	Fort Wayne	1978-1982	Regular season: 1980?, 1981
Brethren Christian (Chargers)	Osceola	1978-1982	Tourney: 1982
Fort Wayne Christian (Crusaders)	Fort Wayne	1978-1982	Regular season: 1979?, 1982?, Tourney: 1979, 1981
Lakeland Christian (Cougars)	Winona Lake	1978-1982	None

Conference History

After the demise of the Michiana Christian Athletic Conference in spring 1978, Brethren Christian and Fort Wayne Christian joined with Blackhawk Christian of Fort Wayne and Lakeland Christian of Winona Lake to form the Northern Indiana Christian Athletic League (NICAL). The new league began play in the 1978-1979 season.

Just two years after the NICAL began, the four schools helped start Indiana's Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) state tournament in 1980. Blackhawk Christian won the first title, defeating Brethren Christian in the final.

Like many other Christian school conferences that lasted just a few years, the NICAL lasted only four seasons. Fort Wayne Christian joined the IHSAA in 1982-1983 to bring an end to the conference and Lakeland Christian was not able to field a varsity squad. Blackhawk Christian joined the Crusaders in the IHSAA in 1985 while Brethren Christian closed for four years in 1983. Only Lakeland Christian remained as a Christian school independent, albeit a key member of the ACSI. The Cougars made their foray into the IHSAA following the 2007-2008 season.