

Bucks Win Was Only Fifth Time In State History That A Championship Was Won AT Home

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Tuesday's Game 6 Milwaukee Bucks clinching of the NBA Championship is only the fifth time ever that a Wisconsin team won a national or world championship in a major sport in front of home fans.

For the purposes of this listing, I am considering a major sport to be: Major League Baseball, NFL Football, NCAA Football, NBA Basketball, NCAA Basketball and NHL Hockey.

Milwaukee's only championship in Major League Baseball was the 1957 Braves win in Game 7 of the World Series at Yankee Stadium. The Bucks' only prior championship was in Game 4 when sweeping the Bullets in Baltimore in 1971. Wisconsin has never won an NCAA football championship in the period in which a team was given such a crown. Wisconsin and Marquette both won NCAA basketball titles on neutral courts. Wisconsin has never had an NHL team. The Packers won several titles on the road or at neutral Super Bowl sites.

I am not considering NCAA divisions below Division 1 and conference or league championships that are short of a full title (example: Brewers 1982 American League pennant) aren't good enough. I am counting the 1967 Ice Bowl as it was still the NFL Championship as the Super Bowl wasn't yet as big a thing and the NFL and old AFL had not yet fully merged (some may disagree on this point).

Also, the Green Bay Packers three titles in 1929-31 came in years in which there was no title game and regular season standings were used to determine champions.

Here's the list of championship games won by Wisconsin teams in Wisconsin:

1939 NFL Championship December 10 Green Bay Packers 27 New York Giants 0 (State Fair Park, Milwaukee)

1961 NFL Championship December 31 Green Bay Packers 37 New York Giants 0 (City Stadium, Green Bay)

1965 NFL Championship January 2, 1966 Green Bay Packers 23 Cleveland Browns 12 (Lambeau Field, Green Bay)

1967 NFL Championship December 31 Green Bay Packers 21 Dallas Cowboys 17 (Lambeau Field Green Bay)

2021 NBA Championship July 20 Milwaukee Bucks 105 Phoenix Suns 98 (Fiserv Forum, Milwaukee)

The decisions by the NFL and NCAA to play title games at neutral sites make it almost impossible for any future titles to be won at home except by the Brewers and Bucks.

A couple of other curiosities: Both the Packers and Braves won world titles at Yankee Stadium. And, there are two times in which a state team lost a championship in front of its home fans. The 1958 Braves lost Game 7 at County Stadium to the Yankees and the 1974 Bucks lost Game 7 at the Milwaukee Arena to the Boston Celtics.