

# The Greatest Players in Putnam County

## Selection to the All-PCL Teams

Previous to 1976, the only All-PCL team that was selected by the coaches of the PCL was boys' basketball. When girls' basketball was restarted under the supervision of the OHSAA in 1976, All-PCL teams were selected in 1977. The first All-PCL baseball team was selected in 1978.

The rules of selection are very simple. A coach nominates his players for first or second team honors. The coaches vote for the nominees, but he may not vote for his own players. From 1978-1999, there were at least 9 players on each team, plus ties. Ten positions were used in 2000 because of the designated hitter. The top vote getter is also the Player of the Year. A Coach of the Year is also selected.

In addition to these two All-PCL teams, a maximum of three boys can be put on an honorable mention list. Finally, there is an All-Scholastic honor given to any seniors that have maintained a 3.5 grade accumulation through his four years of high school.

There were not any honors at the local level for the baseball players of Putnam County previous to 1978. We obviously know that baseball was played in the earlier years by many great players, but what is difficult is how to list their individual honors by comparing them to players of their day as we can today with the All-PCL selection process.

In the 1930's Harry Sweigart of Leipsic and Rudy Pugh of Columbus Grove were two of the best pitchers of their era. In the 1940's, Stretch Goedde and Ralph Goedde of Vaughnsville were in a class by themselves. Stretch had at least 290 strike outs in his career. Ralph threw two perfect games, one in 1943 and one in 1944. He also had nearly 200 strike outs. William Stechschulte was a great player for Kalida who pitched them to the State Tournament in 1940. Many older followers of baseball mention Mark Lammers, a graduate of Miller City in 1947, as one of the best. In the 1950's, Dan Stechschulte of Kalida, Tom Lanwehr of Ottawa SPPS and Jack Callahan threw several no-hitters. In the 1960's, Larry Cox and Dave Ruhe of Ottawa-Glandorf had brilliant high school careers. Larry also went on to 'The Show' and had a great professional career. Ken VonLehmden, who had three no-hitters and Doug VonSossan of Fort Jennings were two of the counties best pitchers in the mid 1970's. Denny Maag of Leipsic was a great player for their State Championship team of 1976. He was 10-0 with a 1.10 ERA and batted .326. Mark Niese, a graduate of 1977 from Miller City, led the Wildcats to a State Championship also. He was 12-0 with a 1.32 ERA and batted .420 with 42 hits.

There were many players since 1978 that were highly regarded in the PCL. The entire list of those making 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-PCL is listed in this book. In 1978, the first players and coaches of the PCL were officially recognized. It was only fitting that the first Player of the Year was to be

selected from two of the best players to ever play high school baseball in Putnam County, Ruben Gonzalez of Leipsic and Dan Hermiller of Miller City. Ruben batted .280 in 1978 with an 8-3 record and an ERA of 1.44. He also had 33 career wins. Dan Hermiller batted .575 in 1978 and had a career average of .456. He was also a great defensive player with a .983 average.

Another first that year was when Ted Miller of Leipsic was voted Coach of the Year. Coach Miller led his 16-8 Vikings to the Regional Tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time and also won the PCL with a 6-1 record. He would later retire in 2001 after 27 years with 411 wins. What a fitting choice!

The following information is separated into five categories: (1) Players who made 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL four times, (2) Players who made 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, (3) Players who made 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL two times and Player of the Year, (4) Great players who did not fit into the first three categories and (5) Ottawa-Glandorf players. A separate category for O-G players was created since they were not included in the All-PCL selections.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL

4 Times

### Chad Ehrnsberger, Kalida 1993 - 1996 Player of the Year 1995

Chad Ehrnsberger of Kalida was the first player in PCL history to be a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL player four times, 1993-1996. He was also the Player of the Year in 1995. In 1993, Chad batted .409 with 18 hits, 3 homers, 9 runs and 15 RBI's. His pitching record was 3-3 with an ERA of 2.08 and 41 strike outs. In 1994, he batted .458 with 27 hits, 5 homers, 21 runs and 27 RBI's. His pitching record was 5-2 with an ERA of .69 and 40 strike outs. In 1995, Chad batted .509 with 27 hits, six homers, 29 runs and 31 RBI's. His pitching record was 8-2 with an ERA of .70 and 113 strike outs. In 1996, he batted .417 with 15 hits, 2 homers, 22 runs and 16 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-1 with a .44 ERA and 60 strike outs. Chad's career average was .453. He had 20 wins with a .90 ERA and 254 KOs.

### Jackson Lammers, M. City 2013 - 2016

Jackson Lammers of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL four times, 2013-2016. He is only the second player to accomplish this feat. His contributions were great in three areas - offense, defense and pitching. In 2013, he batted .360 with 32 hits, with 8 doubles, 8 walks, 17 runs, 22 RBI's, 10 stolen bases, a .937 fielding average and 4 wins with a 2.98 ERA. In 2014, Jackson batted .342 with 25 hits, 6 doubles, 10 walks, 25 runs, 16 RBI's, 5 stolen bases, a .968 field average and 2 wins with a 2.45 ERA. In 2015, he had a .354 average with 12 walks, 25 runs, 27 RBI's, 7 stolen bases, a .975 fielding average and 8 wins with a 2.42 ERA. In 2016, Jackson batted .360 with 26 hits, 4 doubles,

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6 walks, 16 runs, 24 RBI's, 11 stolen bases, a fielding average of .950 and 7 wins with a .40 ERA. Jackson's career average was .360 with 117 hits, 83 runs, 89 RBI's and a fielding average of .956 with only 13 errors out of 298 chances. His career pitching record was 21-7 with 251 strike outs and an ERA of 2.01.

**1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL**

**3 Times**

## **Dean VonSossan, FJ 1985 – 1987 Player of the Year 1986**

Dean VonSossan of Fort Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 1985, 1986 and 1987 and was also the Player of the Year in 1986. In 1985, Dean batted .310. In 1986, VonSossan batted .491 with 27 hits and 2 homers. His pitching record was 5-2 with a 2.37 ERA and 73 strike outs. In 1987, he batted .439 with 29 hits, 8 homers, 27 runs and 15 RBI's. His pitching record was 2-3.

## **Brett Hastings, CG 1989 - 1991**

Brett Hastings of Columbus Grove was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 1989, 1990 and 1991. In 1989, Brett batted .410 with 32 hits, 23 runs, 12 RBI's and 41 stolen bases. In 1990, he batted .446 with 33 hits, 29 runs, 17 RBI's and 43 stolen bases. His pitching record was 5-1 with a 4.28 ERA and 35 strike outs. In 1991, he batted .551 with 49 hits, 40 runs, 25 RBI's and 43 stolen bases. His pitching record was 7-1 with a 2.43 ERA and 43 strike outs. Hasting has two Putnam County career records, 102 singles and 127 stolen bases. He has two Putnam County game records with 6 stolen bases and 5 singles. Brett also has two Putnam County season records with 49 hits and 43 singles. His career batting record was .473. What a fabulous career!

## **Jason Stechschulte, CG 1997 – 1999**

Jason Stechschulte of Columbus Grove was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 1997, 1998 and 1999. In 1997, Jason batted .398 with 37 hits, 2 homers, 29 runs and 9 RBI's. In 1998, he batted .408 with 31 hits, 1 homer, 21 runs and 10 RBI's. In 1999, Stechschulte batted .429 with 30 hits, 2 homers, 20 runs and 12 RBI's. His career batting average was .376.

## **Jarrold Wehri, Ottoville 2002 – 2004 Player of the Year 2004**

Jarrold Wehri of Ottoville was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and was also the Player of the Year in 2004. In 2002, Jarrold batted .398 with 37 hits, 4 homers, 22 runs and 24 RBI's. In 2003, he batted .366 with 26 hits, 4 homers, 25 runs and 20 RBI's. In 2004, Wehri batted .588 with 40 hits, 27 runs and 22 RBI's. Jarrold's .588 average in 2004 is a Putnam County record. He is also in the top ten with 33 singles in a season, 121 career hits, 87 career singles

and 173 career total bases. His career batting average was also a hefty .448.

## **Ross Guisinger, Kalida 2005-2007 Player of the Year 2005, 2006 & 2007**

Ross Guisinger of Kalida not only was named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, but was named Player of the Year three times, 2005, 2006 and 2007. His statistics are staggering. In 2005, Ross batted .424 with 39 hits, 8 homers, 10 stolen bases, 28 runs and 34 RBI's. In 2006, he batted .452 with 37 hits, 6 homers, 31 runs and 35 RBI's. In 2007, his senior year, Ross batted .468 with 37 hits, 6 homers, 22 stolen bases, 20 runs and 35 RBI's. His top 10 career stats are as follows: 113 hits, 20 homers, 204 total bases and 101 RBI's. Ross's career batting average was .438. His career pitching stats are as follows: 19-4 record, 242 strike outs and 1.09 ERA. It is obvious that Ross is one of the greatest players to have played high school baseball in Putnam County.

## **Rusty Lammers, MC 2008 – 2010 Player of the Year 2009 & 2010**

Rusty Lammers of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times 2008, 2009 and 2010 and was also the Player of the Year in 2009 and 2010. In 2008, Rusty batted .357 with 25 hits, 1 homer, 20 runs and 19 RBI's. His pitching record was 3-1 with a 1.89 ERA and 31 strike outs. In 2009, he batted .583 with 42 hits, 1 homer, 27 runs and 29 RBI's. His pitching record was 3-3 with a 2.59 ERA and 32 strike outs. In 2010, Lammers batted .360 with 27 hits, 4 homers, 33 runs and 27 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-1 with a .65 ERA and 72 strike outs.

## **Derek Mangas, Leipsic 2009 – 2011 Player of the Year 2011**

Derek Mangas of Leipsic was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and was also the Player of the Year in 2011. In 2008, Derek batted .351 with 33 hits, 9 walks, 11 doubles, 2 homers, 52 total bases, 31 runs and 24 RBI's. In 2009, he batted .423 with 47 hits, 20 walks, 12 doubles, 7 homers, 82 total bases, 33 runs and 31 RBI's. In 2010, Mangas batted .488 with 42 hits, 19 walks, 9 doubles, 7 homers, 72 total bases, 33 runs and 32 RBI's. In 2011, Derek batted .491 with 28 hits, 29 walks, 8 doubles, 8 homers, 62 total bases, 31 runs and 38 RBI's. Derek holds the number one position for six PCL career records. He accumulated 150 hits which included 40 doubles, 24 homers, 268 total bases, 128 runs and 125 RBI's. He also ranks high in walks and stolen bases. His career batting average was .431. He has, without question, had the greatest statistical career in Putnam County history!

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## **Ross Lehman, MC                      2013 – 2015** **Player of the Year                      2014**

Ross Lehman of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 2013, 2014 and 2015. His offensive statistics were nothing unusual. For his career, he had 47 hits, 9 home runs, scored 59 runs, knocked in 60 runs and had a .230 batting average. However, he was an outstanding pitcher. In 2012, Ross was 4-0 with 26 strike outs and a 1.3694 era. In 2013, he was 6-1 with 36 strike outs and a 1.6154 era. In 2014, Ross was 7-1 with 61 strike outs and a 1.6749 era. In 2015, he was 8-2 with 68 strike outs and a 1.5154 era. For his career, Ross was 25-4 with 191 strike outs and an era of 1.5583. His 25 wins rank third in Putnam County history.

## **Terry Dockery III, Conti 2014 – 2016**

Terry Dockery III of Continental was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 2014-2016. He made the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team in 2013. In 2013, he had a .4138 batting average with 24 hits, 9 walks, 23 runs, 18 RBI'S and 25 stolen bases. In 2014, he had a .4655 batting average with 27 hits, 6 walks, 18 runs, 15 RBI'S and 23 stolen bases. In 2015, Tyler had a .4545 batting average with 30 hits, 15 walks, 23 runs, 20 RBI'S and 32 stolen bases. If he makes 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2016, he will be only the second player to ever accomplish this feat. In 2016, Terry batted .491 with 26 hits, 2 walks, 15 runs, 7 RBI's and 14 stolen bases. For his career, he batted .455 with 107 hits, 79 runs, 60 RBI's and 94 stolen bases.

## **Brandon Wehri of FJ                      2016 – 2018** **Player of the Year                      2017**

Brandon Wehri of Ft. Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL three times, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and was also the Player of the Year in 2017. He was Honorable Mention in 2015. In 2016, he had a .405 batting average with 30 hits, 6 walks, 15 runs and 22 RBI's. In 2017, Brandon had a .493 batting average with 34 hits, 2 walks, 19 runs and 24 RBI's. In 2018, he had a .418 batting average with 28 hits, 6 walks, 16 runs and 12 RBI's. Brandon had a career batting average of .398.

## **Owen Recker of Kalida                      2017 – 2019** **Player of the Year                      2018 & 2019**

Owen Recker of Kalida was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2017, 2018 and 2019. He was also the Player of the Year in 2018 and 2019. In 2017, Owen had a 4-3 record. He pitched 43 1/3 innings with 80 strike outs and an ERA of 1.13. In 2018, Owen had 8-0 record. He threw 46 1/3 innings with 91 strike outs and a microscopic ERA of 0.15. He also had a batting average of .458 with 33 hits, 15 walks, 22 runs and 18 RBI's. In 2019, Owen had 5-1 record. He pitched in

57.67 innings with 106 strike outs and a .364 ERA. Owen had a .275 batting average with 15 hits, 7 walks, 20 runs scored and 15 RBI's. For his career, Owen had an 18-5 record with 160.67 innings pitched, 286 strike outs and an ERA of .828. He had 74 hits and a .320 batting average with 40 walks, 56 runs scored and 51 RBI's.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL                      2 Times** **Plus a Player of the Year Selection**

## **Dan Hermiller of Miller City                      1978 - 1979**

Dan Hermiller of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1978 and 1979 and was also 1979's Player of the Year. Since All-PCL teams were not selected until 1978, Dan did not have an opportunity to be All-PCL his freshman or sophomore year. In 1976, Dan batted .317 with 19 hits, 9 walks, 23 total bases, 8 runs and 12 RBI's. In 1977, he batted .529 with 45 hits, 4 homers, 23 walks, 68 total bases, 32 runs and 34 RBI's. In 1978, Hermiller batted .575 with 23 hits, 3 homers, 19 walks, 35 total bases, 16 runs and 21 RBI's. In 1979, Dan batted .419 with 31 hits, 6 homers, 17 walks, 65 total bases, 29 runs and 26 RBI's. Hermiller, the premier catcher of his era, led Miller City to a State Championship in 1977. Dan's 10 RBI's in a game is a Putnam County record. He also has four top ten rankings in his career with 118 hits, 14 homers, 191 total bases and 68 walks. His career batting average was .456.

## **Mark Recker of Fort Jennings                      1979 - 1980**

Mark Recker of Fort Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1979 and 1980. In 1980, he was also Player of the Year. In 1980, Mark batted .440 with 33 hits, 3 homers, 35 runs and 31 RBI's.

## **Tom Bruskotter of Ft. Jennings                      1981 - 1982**

Tom Bruskotter of Fort Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1981 and 1982 and was 1982's Player of the Year. In 1981, Mark's pitching record was 8-1 with a 2.28 ERA and 75 strike outs. In 1982, Bruskotter's pitching record was 8-2 with a .64 ERA and 83 strike outs. For his career, Tom had 240 strike outs and 24 wins. These are both top ten Putnam County records.

## **Jeff Hermiller of Miller City                      1983 - 1984**

Jeff Hermiller of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL and Player of the Year in 1983 and 1984. In 1983, Jeff batted .406 with 28 hits, 4 homers, 17 runs and 19 RBI's. His pitching record was 5-1 with a 1.97 ERA and 44 strike outs. In 1984, he batted .328 with 22 hits, 7 homers, 37 runs and 31 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-1 with a .74 ERA and 91 strike outs. For his career, Hermiller finished in the top ten in Putnam County with 15 homers and 108 RBI's. Jeff was an outstanding catcher and pitcher for Miller City as he led them to a State Runner-Up in 1983 and a State Championship in 1984.

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## **Leroy Johnston of Miller City 1984 - 1985**

Leroy Johnston of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1984 and 1985 and also 1985's Player of the Year. In 1984, Leroy batted .431 with 31 hits, 3 homers, 11 runs and 40 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-1 with a 2.17 ERA and 44 strike outs. In 1985, Leroy batted .362 with 38 hits, 7 homers, 20 runs and 32 RBI's. His pitching record was 12-1 with a 1.01 ERA and 156 strike outs. The 156 strike outs ranks as number one in Putnam County for a season. Johnson was an outstanding pitcher and shortstop for Miller City as he led them to a State Championship in 1984 and to the State Semi-Finals in 1985.

## **Cary Melia of Miller City 1987 - 1988**

Cary Melia of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1987 and 1988 and was also 1988's Player of the Year. In 1987, Cary batted .407 with 33 hits, 6 homers, 21 runs and 39 RBI's. His pitching record was 5-4 with a 2.52 ERA and 64 strike outs. In 1988, he batted .352 with 32 hits, 6 homers, 31 runs and 40 RBI's. His pitching record was 12-2 with a 1.13 ERA and 116 strike outs. Melia's 23 career wins ranks in the top ten in Putnam County.

## **Brian Ruhe of Miller City 1989 - 1990**

Brian Ruhe of MC was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL and Player of the Year in 1989 and 1990. In 1989, Brian batted .561 with 32 hits, 2 homers, 28 runs and 24 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-1 with a 1.56 ERA and 57 strike outs. In 1990, he batted .431 with 22 hits, 6 homers, 18 runs and 23 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-1 with a 2.37 ERA and 66 KOs.

## **Brian Klausing of Kalida 1990 - 1991**

Brian Klausing of Kalida was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1990 and 1991 and also 1991's Player of the Year. In 1990 Brian batted .326 with 14 hits, 2 homers, 4 runs and 13 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-1 with a 3.06 ERA and 53 strike outs. In 1991 Klausing batted .300 with 18 hits, 3 homers, 15 runs and 21 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-0 with a .89 ERA and 102 strike outs. His 294 career strike outs ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Putnam County.

## **Randy Siefker of Miller 1991 - 1992**

Randy Siefker of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1991 and 1992 and was 1992's Player of the Year. In 1991, Randy batted .435 with 40 hits, 2 homers, 63 total bases, 37 runs and 39 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-2 with 2.55 ERA and 63 strike outs. In 1992, he batted .400 with 30 hits, 4 homers, 49 total bases, 19 runs and 25 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-1 with a 1.09 ERA and 89 strike outs. For his career, Siefker finished in the top ten in Putnam County with 179 total bases, 100 runs and 112 RBI's.

## **Rob Allen of Columbus Grove 1992 - 1993**

Rob Allen of Columbus Grove was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1992 and 1993 and was 1993's Player of the Year. In 1992,

Robb batted .329 with 24 hits, 11 runs, 34 RBI's and 14 stolen bases. In 1993, Rob batted .434 with 36 hits, 5 homers, 21 runs, 39 RBI's and 17 stolen bases. His pitching record was 4-2 with a 3.26 ERA and 30 strike outs. He also placed in the top ten for career Putnam County records with 118 hits, 85 singles and 114 RBI's. Rob finished with a .393 career batting average.

## **Ryan VonSossan of Ft. Jennings 1993 - 1994**

Ryan VonSossan of Fort Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1993 and 1994 and was 1994's Player of the Year. In 1993, Ryan batted .239 with 11 hits, 7 runs, 8 RBI's and 5 stolen bases. His pitching record was 2-4 with a 1.63 ERA and 55 strike outs. In 1994 he batted .380 with 30 hits, 5 homes, 23 runs, 29 RBI's and 29 stolen bases. His pitching record was 8-2 with a 1.05 ERA and 104 strike outs as he led the Musketeers to a State Semi-Final game.

## **Nick Kreinbrink of Leipsic 1996 - 1997**

Nick Kreinbrink of Leipsic was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1996 and 1997 and was also the Player of the Year both years. In 1996, Nick batted .431 with 31 hits, 3 homers, 32 runs and 29 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-1 with a .36 ERA and 80 strike outs. In 1997, Kreinbrink batted .468 with 37 hits, 8 homers, 28 runs and 40 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-1 with a .48 ERA and 93 strike outs. Nick's 263 career strike outs ranks in the top five in Putnam County history.

## **Jay Newell of Leipsic 1998 - 1999**

Jay Newell of Leipsic was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1998 and 1999 and was also 1999's Player of the Year. In 1998 Jay batted .329 with 23 hits, 2 homers, 15 runs and 18 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-3 with a 2.54 ERA and 45 strike outs. In 1999, Newell batted .406 with 26 hits, 4 homers, 31 runs and 17 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-2 with a 2.96 ERA and 61 strike outs.

## **Benjy Pester of Miller City 1998 - 1999**

Benjy Pester of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1998 and 1999 and was also 1999's Player of the Year. In 1998, Benjy batted .247 with 18 hits, 9 runs and 13 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-6 with a 1.70 ERA and 72 strike outs. In 1999, he batted .333 with 29 hits, 14 runs and 16 RBI's. His pitching record was 8-4 with a 2.37 ERA and 78 KOs.

## **Dusty Pester of Miller City 1999 - 2000**

Dusty Pester of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 1999 and 2000 and was 2000's Player of the Year. In 1999, Dusty batted .382 with 34 hits, 2 homers, 16 runs and 32 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-1 with a 2.1 ERA and 48 strike outs. In 2000, he batted .382 with 29 hits, 4 homers, 17 runs and 28 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-4 with a 1.45 ERA and 83 strike outs.

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## **Matt Metzger of Fort Jennings      2000 - 2001**

Matt Metzger of Fort Jennings was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2000 and 2001 and was 2001's Player of the Year. In 2000, Matt batted .389 with 21 hits, 4 homers, 19 runs and 13 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-1 with a 2.67 ERA and 30 strike outs. In 2001, Metzger batted .469 with 30 hits, 4 homers, 23 runs and 22 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-2 with a 1.88 ERA and 44 strike outs.

## **Joel McDaniel of Leipsic      2003 - 2004**

Joel McDaniel of Leipsic was 1st Team All-PCL in 2003 and 2004 and was also 2004's Player of the Year. In 2003, Joel batted .443 with 39 hits, 5 homers 26 runs and 34 RBI's. In 2004, McDaniel batted .494 with 41 hits, 7 homers, 34 runs and 22 RBI's.

## **Austin Blaski of Pandora-Gilboa      2007 - 2008**

Austin Blaski of Pandora-Gilboa was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2007 and 2008 and was the 2008's Co-Player of the Year with Nate Bogart of Leipsic. Austin batted .394 with 28 hits, 1 homer, 21 runs and 21 RBI's. His pitching record was 2-4 with a 2.85 ERA and 43 strike outs. In 2008, he batted .397 with 27 hits, 5 homers, 12 runs and 14 RBI's. His pitching record was 4-4 with a 3.02 ERA and 58 strike outs. In 2008, Austin led P-G into the district tournament for the first time in the school's history.

## **Nate Bogart of Columbus Grove      2008 - 2009**

Nate Bogart of Columbus Grove was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2008 and 2009 and was 2008's Co-Player of the Year with Austin Blaski from Pandora-Gilboa. In 2008, Nate batted .361 with 31 hits, 4 homers, 27 runs, 27 RBI's and 17 stolen bases. His pitching record was 5-4 with a 1.98 ERA and 75 strike outs. In 2009, he batted .343 with 24 hits, 4 homers, 20 runs, 21 RBI's and 12 stolen bases. His pitching record was 3-3 with a 4.11 ERA and 40 strike outs.

## **Matt Jay of Columbus Grove      2012 - 2013**

Matt Jay of Columbus Grove was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2012 and 2013 and was 2013's Player of the Year. In 2012, Matt batted .386 with 34 hits, 28 runs, 29 RBI's and 8 stolen bases. In 2013, Matt batted .500 with 37 hits, 8 doubles, 27 runs and 36 RBI's. He also had a pitching record of 2-0 each season.

## **Austin Swift of Kalida      2015 – 2016**

Austin Swift of Kalida was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2015 and 2016 and was also the Player of the Year both years. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> All-PCL in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, Austin batted .329 with 24 hits, 33 runs, 12 RBI's and 15 stolen bases. His pitching record was 5-1 with 78 strike outs and an ERA of .37. In 2016, he batted .388 with 26 hits, 23 runs, 16 RBI's and 11 stolen bases. His pitching record was 8-0 with 105 strike outs and an ERA .28. For his career, Austin had 17 wins, 268 strike outs and an ERA of 1.32.

## **Caleb Niese of Miller City      2021 – 2022**

Caleb Niese of Miller City was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL in 2021 and 2022 and was 2022's Player of the Year. In 2021, Caleb batted .291 with 23 hits, 17 runs and 20 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-2 with a 1.29 ERA and 80 strike outs. In 2022, Niese batted .303 with 23 hits, 18 runs and 24 RBI's. His pitching record was 7-0 with a .942 ERA and 103 strike outs. Caleb is only junior this year and has the 2023 season to complete his career.

## **Great Players that Slipped Through the Cracks!**

These next four players had stellar seasons and careers. Mark Niese and Ruben Gonzalez didn't fit into the previous categories simply because the selection of the All-PCL Teams was not started until 1978. Matt Michel and Bruce Kreinbrink had two of the greatest offensive seasons in Putnam County history, but both were edged out as the Player of the Year by two great pitchers, Brian Klausing of Kalida and Leroy Johnson of Miller City.

## **Mark Niese of Miller City      1977**

Mark Niese, a four-year starter at Miller City, played previous to the All-PCL selections. In 1975, Mark batted .348 with 24 hits, 3 homers, 39 total bases, 17 runs and 19 RBI's. His pitching record was 6-4 with a 2.79 ERA and 77 strike outs. In 1976, Niese batted .333 with 20 hits, 1 homer, 28 total bases, 14 runs and 21 RBI's. Mark's pitching record was 8-1 with a 1.33 ERA and 54 strike outs. In 1977, he batted .420 with 42 hits, 6 homers, 78 total bases, 39 runs and 43 RBI's. His pitching record was 12-0 with a 1.32 ERA and 72 strike outs. Mark ranks number two in Putnam County with 29 career wins and 228.67 innings pitched. He also ranks in the top ten with 96 RBI's. In 1977, Mark led Miller City to a State Championship with a great season. He finished in the top ten with 14 doubles, 78 total bases, 39 runs, 43 RBI's and 79.33 innings pitched. Mark's 12 wins ranks number one in Putnam County. Compare this season to Dan Hermiller's 1977 season. Who would you have selected as the Player of the Year?

## **Ruben Gonzalez of Leipsic      1978**

Ruben Gonzalez, a four-year starter at Leipsic, was the first Player of the Year in 1978. His previous three years were also great. In 1975, Ruben's pitching record was 8-2, 56 innings pitched and 61 strike outs. In 1976, his pitching record was 11-1 with a 1.05 ERA. He had 81 strike outs in 80 innings pitched. In 1977, Ruben's pitching record was 6-3 with a 2.07 ERA. He had 62 strike outs in 61 innings pitched. In 1978, his pitching record was 8-3 with a 1.44 ERA. He had 83 strike outs in 73 innings pitched. Ruben's career pitching records are fantastic as he leads Putnam County with 33 wins and 270 innings pitched. He also

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ranks number two in strikeouts with 287. Many think of Ruben as only a great pitcher. However, in 1976 he led Leipsic to a State Championship with 40 hits and a .367 batting average.

## **Bruce Kreinbrink of Miller City 1985**

Bruce Kreinbrink, a four-year starter at Miller City, was selected to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL only once in 1985, but his consistency over four seasons puts him in the top ten in nine different categories. His breakout season was in 1985. Bruce batted .537 with 27 walks and 35 RBI's. His 44 hits, 14 doubles, 74 total bases and 39 runs rank in the top ten for a season in Putnam County. He ranks number one with 39 walks in 1982. For his career, he has a top ten ranking with 99 RBI's. He also ranks number two with 114 runs and ranks number one with 96 walks. Bruce played on three teams that went to state. In 1983, Miller City was the State Runner-Up, State Champions in 1984 and the State Semi-Finalist in 1985.

## **Matt Michel of Miller City 1991**

Matt Michel was selected to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-PCL only once, but he ranks number one in Putnam County in four different categories for a season. In 1991, he had 13 homers, 47 runs, 68 RBI's and 99 total bases. His 43 hits also rank in the top ten. Matt's 68 RBI's ranks as number one in the State of Ohio! Michel's 3 homers in a game also ranks as number one. His career homers of 16 and 100 RBI's ranks in the top ten.

## **Great Players from Ottawa-Glandorf**

When Ottawa-Glandorf first consolidated in 1965, it was blessed with three of the best athletes in Putnam County at that time, Larry Cox, Tom Heckman and Dave Ruhe. There are very little statistics from that era, but we know that Larry played professional baseball, Dave Ruhe had 11 high school wins and played college baseball and Tom Heckman had 14 high school wins.

The following players have statistics to verify their stellar careers at O-G. If these players would have participated in the PCL, most of them would certainly have been selected to the All-League team.

Al Burgei graduated in 1986 with the following career stats: 86 hits, 9 homers, 77 runs, 72 RBI's, 33 stolen bases and a .415 average.

Todd Leatherman graduated in 1988 with the following career stats: 85 hits, 10 homers, 57 runs, 59 RBI's, 10 pitching wins and a .411 batting average.

Eric Dunn graduated in 1989 with the following career stats: 75 hits, 54 runs, 46 RBI's, 12 pitching wins and a .352 batting average.

Bill Burgei graduated in 1992 with the following career stats: 94 hits, 7 homers, 67 runs, 47 RBI's, 40 stolen bases and a .452 batting average.

Brian Poeppelman graduated in 1997 with the following career stats: 82 hits, 65 runs, 28 RBI's, 21 pitching wins and a .321 batting average.

Nick Miller graduated in 1998 with the following career stats: 99 hits, 7 homers, 61 runs, 60 RBI's, 27 stolen bases and a .368 batting average.

Chad Killen graduated in 1999 with the following career stats: 80 hits, 14 homers, 71 runs, 50 RBI's, 27 stolen bases and a .400 batting average.

Kyle Leatherman graduated in 2001 with the following career stats: 90 hits, 75 runs, 36 RBI's, 31 stolen bases, 9 pitching wins and a .323 batting average.

Brett Myers graduated in 2000 with the following career stats: 71 hits, 67 runs, 37 RBI's, 62 stolen bases and a .332 batting average.

Todd Schumaker graduated in 2002 with the following career stats: 99 hits, 16 homers, 91 runs, 77 RBI's, 28 stolen bases and a .379 batting average.

Nick Ruhe graduated in 2003 with the following career stats: 83 hits, 69 runs, 40 RBI's, 54 stolen bases and a .372 batting average.

Jason Selhorst, a four-year starter, graduated in 2004. He had one of the greatest careers in Putnam County history. In 2001, Jayson batted .333 with 27 hits, 19 singles, 8 doubles, 35 total bases, 20 runs and 19 RBI's. In 2002, he batted .429 with 33 hits, 22 singles, 8 doubles, 3 homers, 50 total bases, 22 runs and 28 RBI's. In 2003, Selhorst batted .400 with 30 hits, 21 singles, 7 doubles, 1 homer, 42 total bases, 22 runs and 18 RBI's. In 2004, Jason batted .526 with 40 hits, 21 singles, 13 doubles, 5 homers, 70 total bases, 33 runs and 24 RBI's. Jason had five top ten rankings for his career. He had 130 hits, 83 singles, 36 doubles, 197 total bases and 97 runs. His 13 doubles in 2004 put him in the top ten for a season. Jason's career batting average was .421.

Andy Brickner graduated in 2007 with the following career stats: 82 hits, 63 runs, 41 RBI's, 47 stolen bases and a .327 batting average.

Jake Hashberger graduated in 2013 with the following career stats: 65 hits, 32 runs, 59 RBI's and a .3514 batting average.

# The Greatest Players in Putnam County

Tyler Zender graduated in 2014 with the following career stats: 107 hits, 26 doubles, 75 runs, 72 RBI's, 39 stolen bases and a .4007 batting average.

Brad Croy graduated in 2015 with the following career stats: 109 hits, 29 doubles, 71 runs, 64 RBI's and a .4378 batting average. He was also a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-WBL and the 2015 WBL Player of the Year.