

# Four Teams Share Baseball Title

Ottoville Knocks Off Leipsic; Big Green, Vikings Tie with Grove, FJ

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Seven teams started the season in the Putnam County Baseball League, six finished out the season and four of them share the championship.

Ottoville made sure of that Wednesday afternoon when the Big Green knocked off Leipsic 4-2 at Ottoville.

As a result these two teams, along with Ft. Jennings and Columbus Grove each ended up with four victories and two defeats in league play. Leipsic was the defending champion.

Jennings and Columbus Grove each won their fourth league games on Tuesday. The Musketeers defeated Continental for a share of the championship 2-0, while Columbus Grove whipped Kalida 13-0.

Continental has to settle for fifth place with a 3-3 record, only one game behind the champions, while Kalida is sixth with a 2-4 mark. Miller City, which forfeited its last three games, had a 0-6 record.

**THE BIG GREEN**, who adds a share of the county baseball championship to the basketball title they earned last winter, finished their diamond season Friday afternoon against Delphos St. John. Ottoville has a mighty respectable 13-4 record so far.

In the baseball league, ironically, they lost to Continental and Kalida, but beat the other three co-champions.

Mike Gasser picked up credit for the big victory on Wednesday, as he shut out the Leipsic Vikings in all but the third inning.

The game was a pitching duel between Gasser and two Leipsic hurlers, Rob Peck and Ralph Westrick. Gasser gave up five hits, but the Leipsic pitchers allowed only four. Gasser struck out six and walked only one, while the Leipsic duo fanned nine and walked four.

**LEN VANNEMACHER'S** single in the second inning was the big blow of the game. He drove in two runs and gave Ottoville a 3-0 lead at the time.

Ron Klima opened the inning with a single and scored the first run on Ron Kaufman's double. Bruce Altenburger was hit by the pitcher and both runners scored on Wannemacher's blast.

Leipsic came back with two in the top of the third as Jack Christman tripled to send home Jerry Kreinbrink who was on base with a walk. Jerry Klausing then singled to send Christman across the plate.

The Big Green got an insurance run on a series of wild plays in the third inning. Klima got on base with a fielder's choice and went to second on an error. Another error on Gasser's shot to short sent Klima to third and Gasser then stole second. On the attempted pick-off at second Klima scored from third. Neither team threatened after that.