

# Putnam County League Tournaments

The PCL Tournaments were held for 16 of the 22 seasons from 1943-1964 for determining the PCL Champion and OHSAA representative.

In 1943, a completely new format was put together by the PCAA to determine a baseball PCL Champion. It was decided not to play a league schedule and hold a playoff tournament. This was basically a 10 team single-elimination tournament. Leipsic was defeated by Vaughnsville 4-0 in this PCLT to qualify for the District Tournament. World War II seemed to be the main reason for this dramatic change in format.

The PCLT in 1944 and 1945 was expanded to 12 teams. The county was divided into four districts based on geography rather than a random drawing. Vaughnsville won the 1944 PCLT by defeating Kalida 10-3 to qualify for the District Tournament.

In 1945 Vaughnsville was again in the championship game, but lost the PCLT to Kalida 13-5.

In 1946, the PCL experimented with league play again for 3 years. From 1949-1952, the PCL went back to the tournament format for determining its league baseball champion. The brackets were determined by random drawing. Miller City defeated Blanchard 2-1 to win the 1949 PCLT.

The 1950 PCLT was won by Ottoville when they beat Miller City 13-5. The 1950 PCLT was played at two sites, Kalida and Columbus Grove. A unique feature of the tournament was that the games were played under the lights with double headers starting at 7:00 pm.

Fort Jennings defeated Continental 2-1 to win the 1951 PCLT. Continental and Fort Jennings met in the PCLT finals again in 1952. Continental won 1-0.

In 1953, the PCL jumped back to league play once again. After 3 years, the PCL went back to tournament play for the third and last time in 1956. This same format would be used from 1956-1964. Columbus Grove and Continental dominated this time period by winning 7 of the 9 PCLT Championships.

“Fred Bremer, Vaughnsville’s coach and the PCAA President, explained that in going back to tournament play it would be easier to determine the district tournament entrants. In past years the coaches felt that league play was a more fair method of determining county champions, but they have always run into trouble with the weather and many of the league games were often missed before the district tournament.

A quote in the PCS from a coach summed up the feeling of many coaches concerning high school baseball at that time. He said “Most coaches are concerned about their pitcher’s arms, they are not expecting much brilliant play in the tournament and some are entering the tournament only as a matter of formality.” This indifferent attitude about high school baseball continued until the mid 1970’s when high school baseball moved to another level of competitiveness.

In 1965, the spring baseball league for the PCL was set up in a one-divisional format as is still used today.