

Dickering – Coaches Tried Anyway

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The Putnam County Coaches Association made a gallant try in their effort to revive interest in high school baseball in the county this year, but they stepped to the plate with three strikes against them.

The coaches attempted to schedule the county tournament in a series of double headers at parks in Ottawa and Kalida, with some of the games to be played under the lights at night.

Not a single one of the games was played according to the schedule, and some even had to be moved out of the county in order that the tournament could be played far enough so two teams could be entered in the sectional met.

The first strike against the coaches was the weather. Not one of the coaches can remember when we have had good weather for baseball in the spring of the year.

In the past half dozen year (which cover the tenure of practically all of them), springs have always been either too cold or too wet and on several occasions the county tournament had to start before any of the teams could even hold a practice session.

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STRIKE TWO was another curve thrown by the weather. Because of the wet conditions this spring, the schedule could not be adhered to, and games in the tournament had to be played when and where possible between showers, even out of the county.

In many cases, coaches did not even know if or where they were going to play up to couple of hours before the game started.

Under such condition it is impossible for fans to follow the teams.

The third strike is the time at which the games are played.

If the games would have been played according to the schedule, the best turnout which could have been expected would have been a couple of dozen fans.

The double headers were set to start at 4:00 p.m. with the second game to start about 6:00 o'clock. Even the most avid fan who works during the daytime would have time only to get home and swallow a couple of bites of supper; and then get to the ball park for the last half of the second game. There just isn't any of that kind around any more.

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WHAT'S THE SOLUTION? A lot of people are asking that question. Unless we all move to a different climate, there probably isn't any.

Throughout the state some coaches are suggesting baseball season be extended throughout the summer. This is being attacked by various groups for a number of reasons and it is doubtful that the high school season, as such, will be allowed to continue after the school term ends. We can just hope for better weather in the future.

In the meantime we'll give the coaches an "A" for effort and the weatherman an "F" for his lack of cooperation.