

# Coaches & Season Results of Putnam County

## Over 10,000 Games Played by Thousands of Players and Hundreds of Coaches

Nearly 10,000 games at 19 high schools have been played since 1910 in Putnam County by nearly 6,000 players and over 250 coaches. The list of coaches, players and season results are very accurate since the early 1940s.

However, in the early years from 1910-1940, it was difficult to find very many baseball games in comparison to basketball. This was true for several reasons. Many schools only played the scheduled league or PCL tournament games and the fields were not in very good shape. Mix in the wonderful spring weather of northwestern Ohio and it is understandable as to why so few games were played in the earlier years. In addition, even if games were played, the newspapers did not consistently report the scores.

The number of games played in Putnam County dramatically increased each decade from 1930 through the 2000's.

1930	18 games	9 schools
1940	39 games	13 schools
1950	67 games	13 schools
1960	92 games	12 schools
1970	116 games	9 schools
1980	175 games	9 schools
1990	162 games	9 schools
2000	191 games	9 schools
2010	216 games	9 schools
2021	229 games	9 schools

Remember, the early years were influenced by weather, poor facilities, scheduling and coaches doing multiple sports. In addition, even if games were played, many were not reported.

Here are a few examples that are typical of the early years. Ottoville's first recorded game was in 1933 and Louis W. Heckman seems to be the only coach from 1933-1951. The Big Green participated in the PCL and PCLT for each year, but only 27 league or tournament games were found. From 1923-1939, I can account for

coaches for just two of the seasons at Kalida and only 29 games. From 1923-1942, only 22 games can be accounted for at Palmer/Miller City.

Another interesting statistic is the comparison of the "baby school" of Putnam County to the 'elders'. Ottawa-Glandorf has played nearly 1,000 games since 1965 but only Columbus Grove, Leipsic and Miller City have played more than 1,000 games even though these three schools started play in the early 1900's!

## The Coaches

Previous to the 1970s, it was unusual for a school to play more than a dozen baseball games. It also was unusual for anyone to coach more than a few years at a time. As a result, the earlier coaches don't have the number of wins or years of coaching experience as the modern coaches do. During this era, the 'Coach' sometimes was in charge of football, basketball, boys and girls and spring baseball or track. It was not unusual for the coach to do baseball and track in the same season since so few games or meets were held.

When schools started to diversify the coaching duties and improving the baseball facilities, it was possible for more games to be scheduled and played.

## New Trend at Columbus Grove

Bruce Razor of Columbus Grove was the first coach in Putnam County to start playing games in addition to league and tournament. In his four years of coaching from 1972-1975, he coached 106 games. By comparison, Miller City played 70 games, Kalida 53 and Ottoville 67.

Gary Jones of Columbus Grove continued the trend by playing 166 games from 1976-1981. By comparison, Leipsic played 139 games,

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Miller City and Ottawa-Glandorf 125 respectively.

Columbus Grove averaged 27 games per season for this ten-year period. No other school in Putnam County played as many games, but they did start playing more and more each year.

## 20 Years of Coaching

### **Jim McBride 31 Years 349 Wins**

Jim McBride coached at Kalida for 31 years from 1981-1983 and 1986-2013 with a record of 349-260. He took off two years, 1984 and 1985. Under Coach McBride, Kalida won 10 PCL, 13 Sectional, 5 District and 2 Regional Championships. Jim was named PCL Coach of the Year 8 times.

### **Dan Kern 29 Years 469 Wins**

Dan Kern coached at Miller City for 29 years, from 1975-2003 with a record of 469-191. Under Coach Kern's tutelage, Miller City won 11 PCL, 20 Sectional, 11 District, 4 Regional and 2 State Championships. In 1985, his Wildcats were named the #1 team in the Coach's Poll for Division IV and he was Ohio's Coach of the Year. Coach Kern was named Coach of the Year in the PCL 7 times. He was also inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coach's Association Hall of Fame in 2004.

### **Ted Miller 27 Years 410 Wins**

Ted Miller coached at Leipsic for 27 years from 1974-2001 with a record of 410-179. He took off one year in 1991. Under Coach Miller's guidance, Leipsic won 9 PCL, 14 BVC, 16 Sectional, 5 District, 1 Regional and 1 State Championship. Ted was named PCL Coach of the Year 9 times.

### **Tom Sakemiller 23 Years 253 Wins**

Tom Sakemiller coached at Fort Jennings for 23 years from 1968-1990 with a record of 252-216. Under Coach Sakemiller, Fort Jennings won 1 PCL, 9 Sectional and 3 District Championships.

Tom was named PCL Coach of the Year 2 times.

### **Darren Henry 22 Years 379 Wins**

Darren Henry has coached at Leipsic for 22 years from 2002-2024 with a record of 379-200. Under Coach Henry, Leipsic has won 5 PCL, 4 BVC, 16 Sectional and 7 District Championships. Darren has been named the PCL Coach of the Year 5 times and the BVC Coach of the Year 3 times.

### **Tony Castronova 22 Years 234 Wins**

Tony Castronova has coached at three different schools – Lordstown from 1995-1996 (9-19), in Ottoville from 1997-2013 (195-175) and in Columbus Grove from 2015-2017 (30-35) with an overall record of 234-229. Under Coach Castronova, Ottoville won 1 PCL and 5 Sectional Championships. Tony was named the PCL Coach of the Year in 2003.

### **Stan Myers 21 Years 248 Wins**

Stan Myer coached at Allen East for 2 years in 1985 and 1986 with a record of 22-19. He also coached at Ottawa-Glandorf for 19 years from 1988-2006 with a record of 226-200. His overall record is 248-219. Under Coach Myer, Ottawa-Glandorf won 5 Sectional Championships.

## Father verses Son

We have had two father/son coaching combinations in Putnam County. Larry McCullough, Jr. and his father, Larry McCullough, Sr. both coached at Pandora-Gilboa. The other one is Ted Miller of Leipsic and his son, Nick, who coached at Ottawa-Glandorf.