

Fall Baseball

1913 - 1973

The first reported fall high school baseball game was in 1913 between Continental and Leipsic. The game ended in an 8-8 tie.

The next recorded teams were in 1919. Continental was coached by Bert Mull and Leipsic by Harry Kerns. Columbus Grove and Vaughnsville also participated.

In 1923, Columbus Grove's entire schedule was found. They finished with a 4-3 record and were coached by Earl Smith.

In 1924, a wild game was played between Kalida and Palmer in which Kalida won 41-11. Palmer was coached by Joe Windle.

From 1925-1936 games are reported every year. The schools would schedule 3-5 games a fall and would play as many as the weather permitted. Schools that had football usually did not participate in fall baseball.

In 1937, eight schools played 3-6 games in Putnam County. They were as follows: Columbus Grove, coached by Willard Schaller; Continental, coached by Harold Fasig; Crawfis College, coached by Ira Benedict; Fort Jennings; Glandorf, coached by H. J. Benning; Kalida, coached by Don Lowell; Vaughnsville, coached by Galen Williams. In the spring of 1938, Leipsic, Pandora and Ottawa SPPS also played. As was the custom at that time, Leipsic and Pandora did not play fall baseball because they were already playing football.

In the 1940's, the schools were playing as many fall baseball games as spring games. As a result, the PCAA decided that it was necessary to organize fall baseball and incorporate it into the PCL.

During this time period, fall baseball was officially brought into the PCL. Many of the high school teams played baseball in the fall since the early 1900's, but in the fall of 1951 the PCAA formed a fall league. All of the county teams played except for the football schools, Columbus Grove, Leipsic and Pandora-Gilboa. This fall league ran for 14 years from 1951-1964.

The league format was similar to the spring in that there were two divisions and a playoff to determine the champion. Continental and Fort Jennings were

the top two teams with Continental winning the playoff game 7-0 to win the 1st PCL championship for fall baseball in 1951.

From 1952-1954, the Fall PCL went to a one divisional format. The PCL Champion was determined by the highest winning percent. Kalida, Ottawa SPPS and Fort Jennings won each of these years respectively.

From 1955-1958, the Fall PCL went back to the two divisional format. In the fall of 1955, a PCL champion was not able to be determined due to a five-way tie. After several playoff games, Ottoville was declared a Divisional A winner and was to play Continental, the Divisional B winner. This playoff game did not take place, thus Ottoville and Continental were declared Co-Champions of the fall PCL Championship. Continental won the PCL Championship outright from 1956-1958.

From 1959-1964, the Fall PCL went back once again to the one divisional format. Continental won in 1959, Fort Jennings in years 1960, 1962, 1963, Glandorf in 1961 and Ottoville won the last season's PCL Championship in 1964.

The PCAA ended its association with fall baseball in 1965. Fort Jennings, Kalida and Ottoville were the only three PC teams to play fall baseball in 1965.

Some schools continued to play baseball in the fall and in 1971 it seemed to be getting stronger with five PC teams playing. Kalida played 10 games.

In the fall of 1972, six schools were playing baseball. Ottoville had the best record at 4-0 and was coached by Dick Kortokrax.

However, in 1973 only three teams had fall baseball and only a few games were played.

No schools fielded a baseball team in the fall of 1974. Fall baseball ended due to the formation of other teams such as golf, cross country and soccer. Organized high school summer baseball (ACME) was getting stronger and, as a result, the push for fall baseball was over.