

Kalida's McBride Honored

The Lima News – May 10, 2013

Ottoville's baseball team pounded out 12 hits and Luke Schimmoeller threw a two-hitter as the Big Green knocked off Kalida 15-0 in five innings in Putnam County League action Thursday night at Holy Name Ballpark in Kalida.

The lopsided game, however, did not dampen the spirits of the nearly 100 fans who came out to honor Kalida Coach Jim McBride.

McBride, coaching his last regular season home game, began coaching the Wildcats' baseball team in 1981. During his career, McBride recorded 349 wins, 10 Putnam County League titles, 13 district appearances, five regional appearances and two final four trips.

"It's tough to sum up 30-plus years and 349 wins," McBride said after the game. "It's a tribute to teenagers giving up their time and effort."

As is the tradition at Kalida, after their last home game, seniors each take one final strut around the bases where they are greeted by the underclassmen as they round third and head for home. After all of the seniors took their turns

Thursday, many of McBride's former players gathered around the infield as the retiring coach took his final strut around the bases. Players from his 1981 team through the current group came out to support McBride.

Even the Ottoville players and coaches stayed to applaud.

"I've been here for 17 years," Ottoville coach Tony Castronova said. "Jim and I are kind of the longevity in the PCL. He's a good coach and we are real good friends. We golf together. He's going to be missed. He's a good man and he's had a good career."

When asked which games stick out McBride said, "There are the obvious games, but it's the faceless players that win a tournament game... A tournament you weren't supposed to win, but you do. The memories are seeing guys become All-Americans at Ohio State or Wrigley Field."

"I've got a new granddaughter," McBride said. "I love my wife to death and I owe it to her. It's time for my family, for me to be a father and a grandfather."