

Baseball is Cancelled by Local Coach

Father Kraff Explains Action Taken at Ottawa SPPS

Putnam County Sentinel – March 31, 1933

RULE IS VIOLATED

Director of Athletics Quotes State Rules

Sts. Peter and Paul High School will not have a baseball team this spring. Probably there will be a campus baseball as a substitute for the inter-school competition.

The change in the program is necessary because not enough boys are eligible according to Ohio State High School Athletic Association regulations. Five of the boys, possibly not aware of the consequences, possibly influenced by the well-meaning, but sadly mistaken advice of friends in town, took part in the Leipsic Gold Medal basketball tournament.

In so doing they violated Rule II of the Constitution and Rules, 1932- 1933 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. They did not ask the permission or advice of their director of athletics, but acted entirely on their own initiative. If they had asked, probably they would not have played in this independent tournament, for Sts. Peter and Paul follows the rules of the state association of which it is proud to be a member.

This item is written to avoid unpleasant criticism and misunderstanding. Lawrence Dunn, Wilfred Gerdeman, John Labadie, Harold Schroeder and James Schroeder have made themselves, as seniors, ineligible for all inter-scholastic athletics for the remainder of this semester, according to Rule II of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Rule II reads as follows:

A – After a high school has played its last basketball game, no member of the first-team squad may play independent basketball.

B – The penalty for violation for any member of the team, except a senior, shall be ineligibility for basketball the ensuing season.

C - The penalty for a senior shall be ineligibility for all athletics the balance of the second semester. (Sec. C becomes effective September 1, 1932.)”

The official interpretation follows:

A – A pupil shall be regarded as a member of a squad if he has played in a first-team game the second semester either as a substitute or a regular.

B - A team is regarded as disbanded immediately after it plays its last scheduled game.

C – This rule does not apply to inter-class basketball.

This rule says nothing about amateur standing. The Gold Medal tournament, so far as I personally know, is an amateur tournament, and the amateur standing of the boys who played in it remains intact.

However, it is manifestly “independent basketball” and is moreover an “independent tournament”. As to independent tournaments, no member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association may enter them, under penalty of suspension from the Association (Rule 12 B. The Ottawa All-Stars, as the boys called their team, did not represent Sts. Peter and Paul High School.

In fact the matter came to the coach and athletic director, (both offices are held by me) only through the newspapers a week after the Gold Medal tournament, and they by dint of private inquiry.

The rules laid down by the Ohio High School Athletic Association are made by a responsible group of high school superintendents and athletic directors, and have in mind the best interests of the high school boys. Those friends who urge boys to violate laws under which they live are certainly not true friends, nor should their advice be followed. While I regret the matter sincerely, I trust that these boys and others may learn the wisdom of obedience to established law and good order. Signed Rev. Martin A. Kraff, SPPS.

The following article appeared a week later in the Putnam County Sentinel

Parochial School to Play Baseball

Rev. Martin Kraff, athletic director and coach at Sts. Peter and Paul high school, announced the fore part of the week that he will have a baseball team at the school this spring. Most of the games scheduled will be with teams in the county.

The schedule will be given in the Sentinel, as soon as it is released by Father Kraff. The local school will take part in county league play, if that organization does not fall through.

The news as given to the public this week in no way cancels any decision as made known by Father Kraff in the signed article that appeared in the Sentinel last week. Father Kraff is making certain in his relations with other schools that every player used by him is eligible under all the rules.