

# Continental, Grove Share PCL Baseball Crown; Playoff Doubtful

Putnam County Sentinel – June 1, 1972

After a hectic week of action followed by several days of rain, it appears as if Columbus Grove and Continental will share the championship of the Putnam County Baseball League for 1972.

The Bulldogs knocked off Conti 5-0 last Thursday to regain a tie for first place in the standings. Both teams went 5-2 in league play.

Ottoville also had a chance to share in the championship but the Big Green did not get in a game with Pandora-Gilboa. Ottoville's record in the loop is 4-2, and a victory over the Rockets would have tied them with Grove and Continental.

Both Steve Moore, coach of Continental and Bruce Rasor, coach of Columbus Grove, said Wednesday they do not know what will become of a possible playoff. Rasor's Bulldogs are also involved in a championship fight in the Northwest Conference, with a possibility of four games to settle that title.

Grove shared the division lead with Hardin Northern, and the division winner was to play Paulding, winner of the other division a three-game series for the league crown. Rasor said that the Paulding coach had informed him that he would be unable to play after today, the last day of school.

**BAD WEATHER** this spring raised havoc with league schedules, and only ideal weather last week permitted most of the games to be made up. However, rain this week prevented any play-offs and both Rasor and Moore said they had lost their seniors through graduation although they would be permitted to play if they wished. "It's pretty hard to get them back once they graduate," Moore said.

Continental played five games in five days last week, winning two league games to take over the lead in the PCL and then losing to Grove on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday the Pirates played in the regional tournament at Dëshler, losing in the regional finals.

There has been only one play-off in recent years to break a tie for the league championship and that also involved Grove and Continental two years ago, with Grove winning. The Bulldogs won the championship outright in 1971, and this makes the third straight county championship for them. Before that co-champions were declared. Fort Jennings and Leipsic shared the title in 1969, and the year before there was a four-way tie for the crown.

Only one game was not played in the entire PCL schedule this year, and that involved Ottoville and Pandora-Gilboa. Rocket Coach Roger Shipman said that he attempted to schedule the game last week but Ottoville was not interested in playing. That decision could have cost the Big Green a share of the championship.

**COLUMBUS GROVE** took advantage of three Continental errors to score their five runs in the game which threw the race back into a tie last Thursday. There were a total of 14 errors in the contest and only nine hits.

Kevin Altstaetter went all the way on the mound for the Bulldogs to earn the victory with a four-hitter. Jim Troyer suffered the loss as he hurled six innings for the Pirates. Darrel Meeks took over in the seventh. They allowed only five hits.

Altstaetter struck out 10 and gave up only one walk as he was in command all the way. The Conti hurlers fanned two and walked three.

Grove took a four-run lead in the second inning on a walk to Mark Selhorst, a single by Dale Sargent, an error, another walk, a second error, a single by Dave Verhoff and a double by Greg Verhoff. Selhorst scored the other run in the next inning after reaching base on an error. He store second and came home on another single by Sargent.

The loss snapped a 14-game winning streak for Continental.