

# Grove, Conti Not PCL Champions Yet; Principals Decree Three-Team Playoff

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Principals of the Putnam County League schools voted last Thursday evening that there is to be a three-team playoff yet to determine the PCL high school baseball champions and already Ottoville appears to be a winner, while Columbus Grove and Continental who thought they were the co-champs might turn out to be also rans.

Lou Myer, Kalida's principal, who is president of the principal's association, was given the duty of setting up the playoffs and announced they will be next Tuesday and Thursday at Gomer, with the Saturday the rain date.

Columbus Grove will take on Continental in the first game and the winner will meet Ottoville for the championship.

The play-offs are the result of a vote of the principals which was taken after the regular season play ended in a tie. Continental and Columbus Grove each finished with five victories and two losses in league play. Ottoville won four games and lost two, and did not play Pandora-Gilboa.

**THE HECTIC** season wound up in a flurry of activity during the last two weeks of the school year when all games but the one between the Big Green and the Rockets were made up after bad weather and tournament action had forced most of the regular league schedule to be postponed. Pandora-Gilboa Coach Ken Baumgartner and P-G Principal Howard Warncke said that they

tried to schedule the game, which was to be played at Pandora, several times during the final week but were unable to do so.

However, Ottoville reported that Pandora wanted to play the game on a diamond which was not acceptable and they refused to play under those conditions, because they were still in contention for the championship.

At last week's meeting, which was attended by all the principals except Harold Wieging of Ft. Jennings, they voted 4-1 to forfeit the game to Ottoville, giving them a share of first place.

**FOLLOWING THAT** the principals then voted for a playoff with the vote 3-0. Columbus Grove, Ottoville and Continental principals did not vote and Mr. Meyer abstained.

A drawing was then held for the three-team tournament with Grove and Continental drawing each other and Ottoville getting the bye.

A number of questions arose concerning the eligibility of many of the players, especially seniors who have graduated. Continental's team, which went to the regional finals this year, had many seniors on the squad and Coach Steve Moore said that he probably would have trouble getting the boys back.

Mr. Meyer said that Ohio High School Athletic Association rules state that a boy who has graduated may not participate in sports except that he may participate in the remaining games of that semester. Also boys who are on independent teams may still play high school games if the school has postponed games to play.

**MOST OF THE** boys involved are playing American-Legion or ACME ball and a few are on other independent teams.

Mr. Meyer said he had suggested that co-championship trophies be awarded and both Columbus Grove and Continental agreed to this, because it would have been impossible to arrange playoffs until about two weeks after graduation. Grove was involved in a Northwest Conference playoff at the time school was dismissed.

However, Ottoville raised an objection with the result that the playoffs are now scheduled for next week, more than a month after the closing of school.

This will be only the second playoff in the league's recent history. The other was two years ago and also involved Continental and Columbus Grove. The league constitution was changed to provide for the playoffs at that time.

Prior to that, co-champions were declared when the league ended in a tie, and in 1968 four shared the title.