

Ottawa Lads Victorious in County Tournament

**LEIPSIC FIGHTS OUT FINAL GAME TO CLOSE DECISION
SCORE 27 to 26**

Putnam County Sentinel – March 13, 1925

The Ottawa High School basketball artists are champions of Putnam county. The decision was awarded late Saturday night at the end of the most exciting, breath-taking and flashy tournament ever held at the Ottawa Armory.

Ottawa's title came with victory in the final game over the speed demons from Leipsic who have so often tried the metal of the local five.

For the third time this season, Ottawa was adjudged victory by a one-point margin. This time the score was 26 to 27.

The first round saw Ottawa win from Miller City, Leipsic from Crawfis, Vaughnsville from Continental, Columbus Grove from Glandorf and Ottawa from Belmore.

Continental put up a good battle against Vaughnsville holding the score to 12 to 21 and the Grove and Glandorf were on equal terms for a while but, for the most part, the early round games went by big margins.

In the semi-finals Ottawa took Columbus Grove into camp without question as to superiority. The score was 15 to 27.

A real battle was staged by Leipsic and Vaughnsville in this round. Advantage favored first one and then the other, but at the end, it rested with Leipsic by a one-point margin, 13 to 14. Superiority in team play and less individualistic work was probably the deciding factor.

The tilt between Ottawa and Leipsic was the real thriller of the series. The previous games between the two had put the teams and spectators on edge for the fast and furious contest. No one was disappointed in the clean and fast struggle which came to a close with the ball in Leipsic's hands and the score favoring Ottawa.

The series drew the largest crowds in Armory history. Every available bit of floor space was taken and hundreds stood during each session. Scores were refused admission to the final games because of lack of room to accommodate them.

Credit is due the tournament management and officials of the games for the spirit of friendliness, fairness and clean play that permeated the series.

Champs

The splendid victory of the Ottawa boys' high school team in the county tournament, which places the local lads at the top of the heap, merits the admiration of every unbiased spectator.

Nothing that can be said in praise of the Ottawa boys that will detract one whit from the good name and good fame of Leipsic and Vaughnsville, teams that fought so elegantly and lost by narrow margins.

Ottawa's victory was merited by a good conditioned team of willing workers schooled in team play and ready to put forth every effort to bring the team in position to score.

Some players of former years may have been more brilliant as individual players than members of the 1925 squad, but certainly no Ottawa team has shown the concerted effort that Roof and his gang did.

Captain Roof deserves particular praise for having inspired the confidence of his teammates and no small measure of the team's success is due to him.

Credit for the inculcation of basketball knowledge which showed up so well in the tournament is due to Coach Elmer Unverferth.

Leipsic - 26

Hutton – 10. Buttermore – 7. Reynolds – 8. Robinson – 0. Kihm – 1. Wagner – 1.

Ottawa – 27

Quinn – 1. Heckman – 0. Dunn – 6. Fenbert – 0. Ruch – 12. Roof – 8.