

# Ottawa Public is County Tournament Champions

Win in Close Finals by Score of 36 – 35

**PAROCHIAL SECOND**

**Leipsic Wins Position in District Event**

**Putnam County Sentinel – March 5, 1943**

Ottawa Public's high school basketball team won the Putnam County title Saturday evening in the Ottawa gymnasium when they defeated Ottawa St. Peter and Paul in a thrilling game by the narrowest of margins, 36-35.

The teams earned their positions as finalists by defeating Vaughnsville and Leipsic in Friday's evening games.

From the viewpoint of the Ottawa fans, it was a "natural" for interest and high-spirited friendly rivalry.

This was the third time that an Ottawa High basketball team has won the county championship. The first was in 1922 when they defeated Vaughnsville in the finals and in 1925 they were awarded the trophy after they eliminated Leipsic in the championship game.

## Championship Game Ottawa-Public – Ottawa Parochial

The time for the final and championship game of the county had arrived. Of all the previous tournaments, this by far was the most interesting for the Ottawa basketball fans. True, the local schools have met before with some games going into overtimes, but this was different. The title was at stake and the nonpartisan fan was at a loss to make predictions.

The atmosphere was tense, the cheering sections of both schools were breaking all records for enthusiasm, players were getting their practice, the conference between the referees and captains had ended, the teams lined up and the battle was finally on.

Ottawa High scored a free throw and a fielder before the Parochial lads added one. From then on it was a see-saw fight with Public ahead 7-6 at the quarter.

The second period saw Parochial tie the count and then lead 19 to 15 at the half.

Both teams were at their best. Sts. Peter and Paul used a more conservative and set style of offense while Public, at times, would cut loose with bursts of speed not equaled before in the tournament. It is evident that both styles

have their points as the score was tied four times and on ten occasions, traded during the game.

The second half opened with both teams still going strong. Parochial increased their lead to five points but this margin didn't disturb the Ottawa High boys – good ball clubs are not easily upset. Parochial didn't relax a minute, for they knew too, how quickly a lead can be overcome. They did it before and realized that Public was also capable of doing likewise. By the end of the third quarter the margin was cut to two points with Parochial still leading.

The final quarter was one that beat everything for excitement. The lead was traded back and forth and the fans began to realize that the title would go to the one who had the good fortune of being ahead at the final whistle. Public forged ahead with about a minute to play and the game ended with the score standing at 36-35.

And so, after one of the most exciting games ever played before local fans, Ottawa Public High school won the 1943 Putnam County basketball title. Jubilant fans swarmed out on the floor to congratulate the victors and to wish them luck in the coming Sectional tournament.

Too much praise cannot be given the players of both teams - each performed his best - each was a credit to his school and to himself. And we might add, the tolerance and goodwill displayed between the cheering sections and fans, exemplified the highest degree of sportsmanship.

Public	7	8	10	11	36
SPPS	6	13	8	8	35