

Why The Home Team Wins

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While searching for the reason why some teams win more games than others, I am becoming more and more convinced of the fact that the home floor has as much as anything to do with it.

Practically every coach will give all kinds of reasons why they dislike to play on a certain floor, and many will admit they are much better off at home.

In Putnam County this year one team is undefeated at home and six others have won all but one of their home games.

Ottoville, which beat Miller City last Friday, won eight straight in its new gym before suffering its first home setback Tuesday by Delphos St. Johns, a Class AA team. Kalida has gone seven straight on its home floor.

Miller City, in winning 13 of 16 games, has won six of seven at home, losing only to their alumni on their court. Fort Jennings has won five of six home games in compiling an 11 to 2 record.

Continental has won nine games this year, five of them at home in six games. Pandora-Gilboa has won five out of six at home, and Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul has won four of its six victories in five home starts.

Ottawa Public has won two of its three victories at home, and Glandorf and Columbus Grove have each one three of their five wins at home. Only Vaughnsville and Leipsic have done as well away from home as at home, but eight has done better away than they have done on their own

courts. One of Vaughnsville's home victories was a 73-47 conquest of Ottoville.

Coaches will advance many theories for the home floor advantage, such as the size of the floor, light, surface and condition of the floor, arrangements of seats, proximity of boundary lines to walls, seats stage, etc. – all of which give the home team the advantage of getting used to the floor.

Cot Marquette, coach at Miller City, said recently he wasn't afraid of anyone at home or on a neutral court but noted several floors in the county where he would be afraid to play the home team, including Ottoville.

Another coach told me last week that Jerry Moenter at Ottoville admitted to him that his team was 12 points better at home.

The same can be said for almost every floor in the county, and there seems to be no remedy for it. Even new gymnasiums don't help. This is the first year the new Ottoville gym is in use..

The home floor advantage can work in reverse, too. An Ohio Power company official cited the Glandorf floor as an example. "The Glandorf floor is lighted too well, and the Glandorf players are at a definite disadvantage when they get away from home because they are playing in comparative darkness," he said.

I bet that's one excuse that Coach Joe Nienberg hasn't thought of!