

# Dragons Capture Last County Tourney

**Glandorf Edges Miller City 64 – 62 in a Classic!**

**Putnam County Sentinel – February 27, 1964**

The Glandorf Dragons, whose only three league losses this year were on the home courts of the three league co-champs, avenged two of those setbacks and came off with the granddaddy of all championships by winning the 41<sup>st</sup> and last Putnam County Tournament.

Glandorf, which downed defending champion Kalida by two points in the semi-finals on Friday, held on to beat out five-time tournament champion Miller City in another thriller 64-62 Saturday at the Delphos St. John's gymnasium.

Not only was it the last Putnam County tourney, but it was probably also the last time Glandorf can hope for any kind of a basketball tournament cup for quite some time. Next year, Glandorf will consolidate with Ottawa and the Ottawa-Glandorf teams probably will have to compete in Class AA tournaments where they can expect some mighty rugged going.

The victory also now makes Glandorf the winningest team in the county this year. The charges of Coach Tom Weber have now won 19 and lost only four, to surpass Ottoville, which was sidelined in the consolation game with an 18-5 record.

Miller City, coached by Jim Grove, will advance to sectional tournament action with an excellent mark of 16-5.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP affair was a fitting finish to Putnam County tournaments which through 41 years have seen some mighty spirited competition. However, it was the only really close title game since Fort Jennings tipped Kalida for the crown by three points in 1957.

Glandorf led the entire game except for a few seconds three times during the game when Miller City was able to go two points up on them. The Dragons ripped off 15 straight points late in the third quarter and were ahead 13 at one time as they threatened to make a run-away of it.

However, they ran completely out of gas in the fourth quarter and in the final eight minutes their only scoring was four free throws, as Miller City came back and tied it up with only slightly more than a minute left in the game.

Glandorf's margin of victory was two free throws scored by Jim Inkrott in the last 34 seconds as the result of two intentional fouls committed by the Wildcats who were desperately attempting to get the ball.

Miller City missed a chance to win it when their big Dan Lammers missed a lay-up with only four seconds to go

and they were trailing by just one point. That's how close they came to winning and Glandorf to losing what for a while looked like a walk-away for the Dragons.

THE GAME was a battle between the two biggest centers in the county, Dan Lammers of Miller City who stands 6-5 and Dick Siefker of Glandorf who is listed at 6-4.

Not only on offense, but also on defense, both were outstanding. Siefker poured through 22 points for the night, while Lammers hit 18, but each probably knocked down as many opponent's shots as they made themselves.

Glandorf's Tom Heckman was the game's high scorer with 24 points, but he was having his troubles finding the range in the early going and Siefker took up the slack where Heckman usually is on the beam.

Many of the Dragon ace's shots were rimming the basket, but still he scored 10 points in the first quarter to put Glandorf out to a six-point early lead. He made five of 19 shots the in first half, an unusually low percentage for him.

Lammers got good help from Terry Leopold who also scored 18 points. Leopold was highly effective on fast breaks and drive-in lay-ups from his guard position. Jim rump, another guard, contributed 15 to the Wildcat's cause.

MILLER CITY'S first lead was on Rump's jump shot at the opening of the game. But then Glandorf came back with six straight points as Marv Brinkman goaled, Heckman stole the ball and scored and Siefker hit two free throws.

Using a very effective pressing defense, the Dragons maintained a four-to-six-point lead during most of the first quarter. But then in the last minute, with Glandorf on top 19-14, the Wildcats rallied. Leopold scored on a fast break, Rump followed with another goal and, after the buzzer sound, Larry Leopold converted a free throw to make it 19-19 at the end of the period.

Nearly a minute of the second quarter was gone when Siefker hit jumper from the side to put Glandorf in front again and another minute and 15 seconds passed when Jim Inkrott pushed back a rebound to make in 23-19.

The next eight points were scored at the foul line, two by Rump and two more by Terry Leopold to tie the score again with the clock showing 5:20. Heckman hit a pair for Glandorf at 4:34 and four seconds later Lammers tied it up once more with two.

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Then at 4:14 Lammers put in a layup to give the Wildcats their first goal of the period and their first lead since the opening bucket at 27-25. It was short lived as Jim Brinkman came right back with a 15-foot jumper for Glandorf and a few seconds after that Siefker hit one from the side and then he followed with another lay in for a 31-27 advantage again. The Dragons maintained the lead, going into the second half on top 39-35.

THEY SPREAD this to eight points immediately after the start of the third quarter on a jumper by Siefker and a rebounder by Dale Gerding.

Then Miller City came back. Rump hit a free throw. Terry Leopold drove in for a layup and Ira Burkhart, who was playing with an ankle injury, scored from the corner to make it 43-30.

After Siefker drove under for a layup, Lammers connected on a three-pointer and, at 4:55, Terry Leopold converted twice from the line to tie it up. Leopold drove under at 4:04 to put Miller City on top again at 47-45.

However, this was the last time the Wildcats were to lead and Glandorf ran off a string of 15 straight points. It went like this: Siefker a turn around jumper from the key to tie - Heckman on a steal - Siefker on a hook followed by a free throw - Heckman on a rebound - Inkrott on a drive under - Siefker on a free throw - Heckman from the corner and Siefker again from the foul stripe. This gave the Dragons their widest margin of the game at 60-47.

With four seconds left in the quarter Miller City's four-minute drought came to an end as Rump scored. They went into the last quarter trailing 49-60.

FANS THOUGHT it was all over, but Miller City had other ideas. They came out with a full court press and Glandorf did not get another field goal the rest of the night.

Rene Niese scored his only point of the night by pushing back his own rebound for Miller City. Then Heckman dunked two foul shots and it was still a 11 points difference. But Glandorf then went more than five minutes before scoring again, while Miller City scored 11 straight points to tie the score.

This is how they did it: Burkhart hit two free tosses - Lammers a bucket followed by two free throws - Rump another free toss - a bucket by Burkhart from the front of the key at 2:40 and finally a 15-foot jumper by Rump with 1:37 remaining in the game to make it 62-62.

Glandorf held on to the ball for one last sure shot. With 34 seconds to play Inkrott was fouled intentionally to stop the clock. He missed the first and made the second, giving Miller City life again.

THE WILDCATS got the ball down the floor waiting for one last chance. The ball was thrown to Lammers who let one go from about six feet away with only four seconds to go.

It went across the top of the basket and Inkrott grabbed the rebound. Immediately, Niese fouled him again to stop the clock. Once more Inkrott stepped to the line with two gift shots and again he missed the first and made the second.

Still Miller City was not finished. The ball was whipped down the floor to Lammers under the basket. Siefker was waiting for him and collided with him. Miller City fans thought Lammers should have a chance from the foul line. The referee, who was standing right on the spot, said time had run out before Lammers got the ball.

Pandemonium broke out as the Dragons, who would never again get a chance at tournament honors, chalked up their second tournament championship. Their other was in 1961.

Glandorf hit 24 of 61 field goal tries for 39.3 percent and added 16 of 21 free throws. The Wildcats, as they have done several times this year, almost pulled this one out at the free throw line. They were outscored by four buckets, but converted 22 of 28 charity throws. The shot 43.4 percent from the floor on 20 of 46 chances.

### Glandorf

Inkrott – 2/3 2/4 6 4. Gerding – 2/7 0/2 4 1. Siefker – 8/14 6/7 22 4. M. Brinkman – 2/4 0/0 4 4. Heckman – 8/22 8/8 24 3. J. Brinkman – 2/11 0/0 4 1. Schroeder – 0/0 0/0 0 0. Horstman – 0/0 0/0 0 2. Totals – 24/61 16/21 64 19

### Miller City

Niese – 1/3 0/0 2 3. Burkhart – 3/8 2/2 8 1. D. Lammers – 6/15 6/8 18 2. T. Leopold – 5/9 5/5 15 3. Rump – 5/9 8/9 18 4. L. Leopold – 0/2 1/4 1 4. J. Lammers – 0/0 0/0 0 1. Kaufman – 0/0 0/0 0 0. Totals – 20/46 22/28 62 18.

Glandorf	19	20	21	4	64
Miller City	19	16	14	13	62