

Basketball Records of Putnam County

I have compiled a list of records in Putnam County for boys' basketball in the following areas:

1. Most coaching wins
2. PCL winners by school
3. Most team wins in a season
4. Individual game, season and career leaders
5. Team game and season leaders

In each of these categories, the list of players or teams is quite lengthy. For example, the rankings will vary from the top 50 to 100.

Many of these individual and team accomplishments have been lost since many schools have not kept their scorebooks and stat sheets up to date. I am still searching for this 'lost' information by contacting former coaches and looking through past newspapers.

Coaching Records

Dick Kortokrax of Kalida leads Putnam County and the state of Ohio with 890 wins in boys' basketball. Dick coached for 56 years at three different schools. He coached at Fort Jennings for two years with 26 wins. His next stop was at Ottoville where he coached for 13 years and won 199 games. He had been at Kalida for 41 years with 665 wins. Coach Kortokrax retired from Kalida in the spring of 2016. The next closest active coach in Putnam County to Coach Kortokrax is Mike Lee at Pandora-Gilboa with 350 wins.

In order to put this in perspective a new coach would have to average 18 wins for the **NEXT 50 YEARS!** I think Coach Kortokrax's record for most wins in the state of Ohio is safe.

High Scoring Players in a Game

The first boys to score over 40 points in a game were Bob Aultman of Ottawa Public and the legendary Sylvester 'Stretch' Goedde of Vaughnsville. They both scored 41 points in a game in 1941 against Palmer and Shawnee respectively.

Three broke the 40-point barrier in the 1950's. In 1951, Dick Rice of Pandora scored 43 points against Mt. Blanchard. In 1956 Continental's Ray Johnston scored 42 points against Glandorf and Jack Callahan of Columbus Grove scored 49 points against Bluffton.

The flood gates were opened in the 1960's when seven different boys scored over 40 points. Denny Haselman of Leipsic led the way when he scored 47 points against Deshler in 1962.

Ten different boys went over the mark in the 1970's. Mike Schmidt of Continental set the boy's county record by scoring 51 points against Lima Perry in 1971.

Led by Tim Utrup's 49 points against Delphos Jefferson in 1988, the scoring pace started to slow down in the 1980's as only five different boys scored over 40 points.

Six different players hit the mark in the 1990's with Nick Kreinbrink pouring in 47 points against Gibsonburg in 1996.

Since, 2000, only six different boys have scored 40 points or more with Eric Maag of Columbus Grove scoring the most points with 45 against Ada. Colin White is the last player by scoring 44 points against St. Mary's in 2023.

High Scoring Teams in a Game

The 100-point game in high school basketball is a rarity today, but it wasn't always so.

The first team to break the 100-point barrier was Continental when they defeated Belmore 102 – 7 in 1922. It took another 32 years before Columbus Grove scored 107 points in 1954. Four years later Fort Jennings put in 108 markers.

In the 1960's, 15 teams broke 100, led by Kalida and Miller City's 112 points.

The flood gates were opened up in the 1970's when 28 teams went over the mark. In 1971, Miller City scored 116 points against Perry to set the PCL record at that time, but a week later, Continental blitzed Perry again by beating them 130-91 to claim the record. The two teams attempted 200 field goals. Continental was 55/113 from the field and Perry was 37/97.

Scoring then started to drop as only ten schools hit the century mark in the 1980's and nine more in the 1990's.

Since 1996, Leipsic and Ottawa-Glandorf are the only two schools to break the 100 mark. Leipsic scored 107 against North Baltimore and 100 against Hardin Northern in 2013. O-G has broken the century mark seven times with the last time being in 2019 with a 102-48 thrashing of Bath.

Top Scoring Teams in a Season

Scoring the most points in a season is not a true indicator of a high-octane offense since the number of games played can inflate the total. In 1950, Miller City's state championship team only averaged 56 points per game, but they played 29 games. As a result, the Wildcats are in the top 50.

Continental's 1971 team scored 1,609 points which is not in the top 50, but the Pirates averaged 85 points per game since they only played 19 games. This is the highest average per game in the history of Putnam County.

Leipsic broke the team PCL scoring record by scoring 2,108 points for an average of 70 points per game. This is the highest average since O-G did it in 2003. Continental is a close second with 2,052 points and a 79-point average.

In the 1950's one team averaged 70 points or more, in the 1960's six teams, in the 1970's 13 teams, in the 1980's eight teams, in the 1990's six teams, in the 2000's three teams, in the 2010's three teams and in the 2020's only one.

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1,000 Points in a Career by Brothers

Tim Pollitz scored 1,693 points at Ottawa-Glandorf to lead Putnam County in scoring. Tim graduated in 2004 and led O-G to an incredible 96-9 record which included a state championship in 2004.

In 2018, Drew Johnson of Pandora-Gilboa, slipped into the second slot with 1,566 points. He passed two legends of Putnam County, Stretch Goedde of Vaughnsville with 1,538 points and Tom Heckman of Ottawa-Glandorf with 1,537.

In the history of Putnam County basketball, 87 young men have scored 1,000 points or more in their careers. There are five brother combinations that have accomplished this feat.

Tom Heckman, who played his first three years at Glandorf and his senior year, 1965, at Ottawa-Glandorf, scored 1,537 points. Ken Heckman, a 1959 graduate from Glandorf, scored 1,087.

Mel Meyer, a 1948 graduate of Miller City, scored 1,100 points and his brother, Ralph, a 1950 graduate, scored 1,000 points. An added note to the 'Meyer Legacy' is that their "baby brothers Roy and Elmer", 1952 and 1954 graduates, scored 954 and 592 points respectively.

Chad Olds, a 1990 graduate of Continental, scored 1,139 points and his brother, Matt, a 1994 graduate, scored 1,066 points.

Another Continental pair of brothers that went over the 1,000-point barrier was Greg and Brad Spitnale. Greg, a 1974 graduate, scored 1,484 points and Brad, a 1976 graduate, scored 1,307 points.

The Pollitz twins from Ottawa-Glandorf, Tim and Eric, graduated in 2004. Tim broke the county record by scoring 1,693 points. Eric scored 1,220 points.

Father or Mother and Son Combinations

There are four father/son and one mother/son combination. At Miller City, Daryl Lammers, a 1971 graduate, scored 1,161 points and his son, Aaron, a 2000 graduate, finished with 1,348 points.

Kevin McGlaughlin, a 1971 graduate of Upper Scioto Valley, finished with 1,044 points and his son, Tyson, a 2,000 graduate, scored 1,241 points at Ottawa-Glandorf. Another unique note with Kevin and Tyson is the coaching scenario. Kevin coached at Miller City from 1978-1996. Tyson coached at Miller City from 2010-2011 and is currently the varsity coach at Ottawa-Glandorf. Kevin has been his assistant at both schools.

At Elk Grove High School in Elk Grove, Illinois, Ken Pollitz, a 1974 graduate, scored 1,263 points. His sons, Tim and Eric Pollitz of Ottawa-Glandorf, graduates of 2004, scored 1,693 points and 1,220 points respectively.

At Continental, Brad Spitnale, a 1976 graduate, scored 1,307 points and his son, Casey, a 2003 graduate, finished with 1,127 points.

At Leipsic, Sarah McKeen/Brandt, a 1999 graduate, scored 1,068 points and her son, Mason, a 2022 graduate, finished with 1,376 points.

Undefeated Teams

Including tournament games, only one boys' team has gone undefeated. In 1950, Miller City's boys went 29-0. In addition to winning 18 regular season games, the Wildcats won 11 tournament games to claim the state championship.

The boys have had four undefeated regular season teams that lost in tournament play. In 1935, Ottoville went 17-0 before losing to Maumee in the Districts.

In 1980, Ottoville went 19-0 before losing to Kalida in the Districts.

In 1986, Ottawa-Glandorf went 20-0 before losing to Coldwater in the Districts.

In 2006, Ottoville went 20-0 before losing to Columbus Grove in the Districts.

In 2020, Columbus Grove went 22-0. The Bulldogs also won four tournament games and was set to play Parkway in the Regional Finals when the OHSAA ended tournament play and eventually the entire season due to the Corona Virus. Thus, CG ended the season with a 26-0 record, but no chance at a State Championship.

Most Overtimes in a Game

The boys of Columbus Grove and Ottoville had an 8-overtime game in 1984. The score at the end of regulation was 53-53. Columbus Grove won the game 74-71.