

Grove Uses Record 8 OT's To End 32 Year Drought

Putnam County Sentinel – February 22, 1984

Ottoville coach Steve Penhorwood recited the understatement of the year after his Big Green fell to Columbus Grove 74-71 Saturday night. "It's a shame either team had to lose this game."

He's absolutely right.

A game featuring two of the best Class A schools in northwest Ohio took an unbelievable 56 minutes of actual playing time to decide the contest between the Putnam County League unbeatens. It was a state record tying eight overtimes that finally ended when Grove's Todd Hoffman hit a lay up with 11 seconds to play and nine seconds later teammate Eric Fortman added a free throw for the final three point margin.

"In a game that long you become oblivious to what overtime it is," Penhorwood said. "You tell the kids to keep trying to concentrate but they are so tired it's really tough. The pressure in a game like that is unbelievable."

With first place at stake there was enough excitement during regulation for the sold out Ottoville gymnasium.

For the hosts, entering the game with a 6-0 league mark and 15-2 overall, a victory would have given the team a final 7-0 league slate and automatic title.

But Grove, looking for its first PCL crown since 1952, came in at 5-0 and 15-2 and needed the win to gain at least a co-title. The Bulldogs must still play Miller City away this Saturday.

Coach Jerry Stechschulte's club took the early lead in the first quarter and at the break had an 11-10 spread.

But then Ottoville, running the ball better than the visiting Dogs expected, used the fast break to take a 30-27 lead into the locker room at the half.

The inside work of Dave Kemper and Dan Landin and the outside shooting of Todd Schimmoeller and Dave Schlagbaum kept the Big Green ahead the third period; though it was cut to a two point game with eight minutes left in regulation time, 43-41.

OHS appeared to be breaking the game open early in the last stanza by taking an eight point spread with only five minutes to play; but then the visitors came back.

Causing some Ottoville turnovers and hitting some very crucial free throws, the Bulldogs were able to send the game into overtime at 53 all.

"If I had to pinpoint a time in the game we really had a chance to win it, it was at the end of regulation," said the OHS coach.

"We had the lead but we did not execute. But give Columbus Grove credit. They scrapped back into it," Penhorwood said.

It was a slow down strategy from there as three of the overtime periods were scoreless and only 39 points were scored in the 24 extra minutes. No one scored the first overtime and there were just two points apiece the second extra round.

Neither team scored in the sixth or seventh overtime. It was the eighth period that things finally opened up.

With the score deadlocked at 67 all, Brian Schimmoeller hit a baseline shot for the hosts that made it 69-67. Eric Fortman knotted it for the Bulldogs on a corner shot and then the tide turned.

A travel call was made on an Ottoville basket but got the ball back on a turnover and with 55 seconds left, Schimmoeller hit a basket to tie the game back up at 71 each.

Ottoville missed an alley oop play seconds later but got the ball back on a turnover and with 55 seconds left, Schimmoeller hit a basket to tie the game back up at 71 each.

Todd Schimmoeller had a chance to put OHS ahead when the team got the ball back with 30 seconds left but missed a free throw and Grove rebounded.

The team then worked for a last shot and Hoffman drove the lane and underhanded a lay up with 11 seconds left to make it 73-71.

Ottoville got a good shot off with four seconds to play that again could have sent it to another overtime, but it missed and Fortman rebounded and was fouled by Kemper.

Fortman hit the first of the one-plus-one to ice it. His second one missed to make it a three point final.

"Both teams had their chances," said Stechschulte, "but both teams also came up with big defensive plays and crucial free throws or buckets when they needed them."

"It was quite an experience to go through," he added. "Ottoville has a real good team, both offensively and defensively."

The winners, who needed the eight extra periods to top their 70.3 point, offensive average which

is tops in the league, shot 37 percent from the floor making 29 in 78 attempts.

At the foul line, where the team hit 11 of 11 in regulation, Grove finished 16 of 27 (59 percent) as they missed 11 times in the overtimes. The team had 40 rebounds to 47 for the winners and five more turnovers, 21 to 16.

Ottoville made a like number of field goals, 29 in 66 tries (47 percent) and 13 of 21 foul shots.

Jeff Basinger had an outstanding game for the victors, hitting a game high 21 points. Fortman had 19, his fourth straight double digit game and Diller 11.

Todd Schimmoeller hit a team high 17 points for the losers, Kemper and Dan Landin 16 each and Schlagbaum 12.

Landin led both teams in rebounding with 17 before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Kemper had 12 caroms.

The eight overtimes ties an Ohio record set just over a month ago, January 20, when Troy edged Vandalia Butler 62-58.

In the reserve game Grove won for the 17th time versus one loss, taking a 40-36 decision. OHS's reserves are 15-3.

Columbus Grove 29-16-74

Basinger 7-7-21. Diller 4-3-11. Maag 1-2-4. Fortman 8-3-19. Hoffman 5-0-10. Gerdeman 4-1-9.

Ottoville 29-13-71

T. Schimmoeller 7-3-17. Kemper 7-2-16. Landin 6-4-16. Schlagbaum 4-4-12. Bendele 3-0-6. B. Schimmoeller 2-0-4.

CG 11 16 14 12 0 2 5 4 3 0 0 7 – 74
OT 10 20 13 10 0 2 5 4 3 0 0 4 – 71