

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Columbus Grove High School 1914 to Today

Basketball at Columbus Grove was first mentioned in a newspaper article in 1914 when the girls defeated an unknown opponent 10-4 and the boys, in 1915, lost to Vaughnsville 17-16. W. F. Sexton coached both teams. Ms. Agnes Hoffman, a 1934 graduate, mentions in an article in 2012 that “football games were played at the school, but the basketball games were played in the upstairs of the old City Building.

GYMNASIUM #1 1914 - 1932

In the early 1900s, Columbus Grove did not have a gymnasium connected to the school. The games were played in a large room on the second story of the City Building. This area was used for various purposes, a gym being one of them. It was probably used from 1914-1932. This basketball court was very typical of this era, “short, narrow, low ceiling and standing room only – limited seating”.

GYMNASIUM #2 1933 - 1958

This is the first gym attached to the high school. The first game in this new gym was on December 2, 1932 when Columbus Grove played Shawnee High School. Both teams lost, the girl’s score was 24-12 and the boys was 36-12. The girl’s coach was Helen Thomas and the boys was Homer Barto.

This gym was used for 26 years, 1933-1958. The floor dimensions were 42 – 64. There were bleachers on one side and a stage with bleachers on the opposite side. The seating capacity was 600. This school was demolished after the students moved into the next school in January of 1958.

GYMNASIUM #3 1958 - 2012

After many delays, the students of Columbus Grove were able to move into the new school and play their first home game on January 31, 1958. The Vidette stated that “Columbus Grove was facing its final game of a somewhat discouraging season this week, after having its opening contest in the new gymnasium spoiled by Glandorf’s 76-

42 victory last Friday night. A large crowd was on hand attracted by a desire to see the huge, bright new gymnasium as the game itself.” The leading scorer was Jim Meyer with 13 points and the team was coached by Robert Diller.

This gym was used for 55 years, 1958-2012. The floor dimensions were 50 x 84. There were bleacher seats on both sides of the gym with a seating capacity of 1,116. It was taken down shortly after moving into the new school.

CURRENT GYMNASIUM #4 2012 to Today

This new school and gymnasium had a very similar start as the previous school in that it was christened late in the 2012 school year. The girls defeated Crestview 34-29 on February 16, 2012. The girls were coached by Chad Ricker. Anna Ricker led the Bulldogs with 13 points. The Vidette stated that “Ricker’s grandfather, John Humphreys, played in the final game and season of the old high school gymnasium in 1958”. The boys first game was on February 24, 2012, when they defeated Delphos Jefferson 59-32. The Vidette stated that “Not only were they celebrating the inaugural boys’ basketball varsity game at the new gymnasium but they were also celebrating Senior Night and honoring the veterans of our Armed Forces.” The leading scorer was Connor Kohls with 14 points and team was coached by Ryan Stechschulte.

The floor dimensions are 50 x 94. It has bleachers on both sides with a seating compacity of 1,422.

PRACTICE GYMS – In addition to the current gym, Columbus Grove has two practice gyms.