

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Kalida High School 1942 to Today

Kalida participated in boys' and girls' basketball periodically from 1915-1938. However, an article in the Western County News on November 28, 1941, claims that Kalida High School will be playing its first ever high school basketball game that year. It is not understood why Kalida did not recognize these earlier games.

GYMNASIUM #1 1942 - 1975

An article in the Putnam County Gazette on October 2, 1941, under the title of 'Kalida's New School Building' describes the "completion of a handsome new \$56,000 addition to Kalida's school building. The front part of the new structure is occupied by the auditorium and contains a full-sized basketball floor and a stage..... the gym floor is made of maple herringbone flooring."

The first game in this gym was played on November 25, 1941. Kalida, coached by Harry Douvadjian, lost to Miller City 39-17.

This gym was used for 34 seasons, 1942-1975. The floor dimensions were 44 x 64. There were chair seats on one side and bleacher seats on a stage on the opposite side. The seating capacity was approximately 500.

GYMNASIUM #2 1976 - 2005

The first game in this gymnasium, known as the Palace, was on November 22, 1975. Kalida, coached by Dick Kortokrax, defeated Lincolnview, 65-52, and was led in scoring by Denny Knott with 32 points.

This gym was used for 30 seasons from 1976-2005 and is still in use. The floor dimensions are 50 x 84. It has bleacher seats on both sides. On one end is a stage which also has bleacher seats. The seating capacity was 2,038.

CURRENT GYMNASIUM #3 2006 to Today

On Wednesday, December 7, 2005, the Putnam County Sentinel stated that "Kalida opened its new gymnasium Friday night with an exciting come-from-behind win." This game was played on December 2, 2005, when the boys defeated Fort Recovery 62-53. The Wildcats, coached by Dick Kortokrax, was led in scoring by Boomer Roller with 22 points.

The first girls' game was on December 10 when Kalida lost to Delphos Jefferson 61-39. Kalida was coached by Steve Fersch and the leading scorer was Megan Hamburg with 10 points.

The floor dimensions of this gym are 50 x 94. It has bleacher seats on one side and end. There are chair seats on one side with a few rows of bleacher seats. There is a stage on one end with seating also. The seating capacity is 1,783.

PRACTICE GYMS – In addition to the current gym, Kalida has one practice gym.