

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul High School 1928 – 1961

Ottawa SPPS first team was in 1928. They shared the Armory's gymnasium and the Fourth Street gymnasium with the Ottawa Public High School.

GYMNASIUM #1 1928 - 1939

The Armory' gym had been in existence since 1914. Ottawa Public played its first game at the Armory in 1918. The first home game for the Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul Trojans was on January 13, 1928. Ottawa, coached by John Krull, was defeated by Lima St. Johns, 25-15.

This gym was used for 12 years, 1928-1939. The floor dimensions were 40 x 64. There were bleachers on both sides and a balcony on one end. The seating capacity was 700.

GYMNASIUM #2 1940 - 1961

When the 'Fourth Street Gym' was built in 1939, SPPS moved into this new facility along with the Ottawa Public Indians. On the evening of November 17,

1939, three games were played. In game one, the Ottawa Public girls, coached by Merwin Hilty, lost to Blanchard 21-7. Game two was between the boys of Saints Peter and Paul, coached by Reverend Walter Junk, and Continental. Continental won 45-24. The third game was between the boys of Ottawa Public, coached by Merwin Hilty, and Blanchard. Ottawa Public blasted Blanchard 67-10.

This gym was used for 22 years, 1940-1961. The floor dimensions were 47 x 74. The original seating of this gym had chair seats, but these were later replaced with bleacher seats. After the renovation, it had bleacher seats on one side and a stage with bleachers on the other. It had a seating capacity of at least 700. This site is still in use as a practice and game gym for the junior high teams of Ottawa.