

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Palmer and Miller City High School 1924 to Today

The first boys' basketball team at Palmer High School was in 1924. The only game that could be found for this team was in the Putnam County Tournament. Palmer had no gym, only a classroom to practice in.

GYMNASIUM #1 1925 - 1951

Palmer's first gym was built by the locals of Miller City. The first season was around 1925. The main structure is still standing. It has been renovated several times and is currently the hall for the Sportsman Club of Miller City.

The playing court was 34 x 60. It had two rows of bleachers on both sides of the gym and a stage on one end. The building was heated by two pot-bellied, coal stoves located on opposite corners of the floor. The seating capacity was approximately 200. This gym was used for 27 years, 1925-1951.

GYMNASIUM #2 1952 - 1978

In the early 1940's, there were a few attempts to build a modern gym, but it failed for each time. In the summer of 1941, Palmer had been closed. Later that summer, a new school district was formed and renamed the Miller City-New Cleveland School District. It was commonly referred to as simply Miller City High School.

Following the State Championship of 1950, plans were finally made for a new school and gymnasium. This gym was used for 27 years, 1952-1978. The floor dimensions were 42 x 66. It had bleachers on one side and stage with bleachers on the other. The seating capacity was 600.

The first game in this gym was on November 16, 1951, when Miller City defeated Continental 42-30. The Wildcat's were

coached by Norris Simpson and the leading scorer was Junior McDonald with 15 points.

GYMNASIUM #3 1980 - 2003

Miller City's third gym was started in the fall of 1978/1979 school year. It was not game ready for the 1979 season, but it was used for practice late in the season. In 1979, Miller City used the Glandorf gym for games and practice. Brookhill was also used for practices. The first game for the third gym was on November 24, 1979, when Miller City lost to Fort Jennings 69-57. Tom Stuber led the Wildcats, coached by Kevin McGlaughlin, with 23 points and 23 rebounds.

This gym was used for 24 years, 1980-2003. The floor dimensions are 50 x 84. It has bleachers on both sides and a seating capacity of 1,450.

CURRENT GYMNASIUM #4 2004 to Today

Miller City's new school and fourth gym was first used in the fall of 2003. The first girls' game was on December 3, 2003, when Miller City defeated Cory Rawson 70-27. The Wildcats, coached by Chris Rump, were led in scoring by Lynn Schroeder with 14 points. The first boys' game was on December 26, 2003, when Miller City defeated Delphos Jefferson 50-29. MC, coached by Kerry Johnson, was led in scoring by Tyler Niese with 32 points.

The floor dimensions are 50 x 84. It is two-tiered on one side with bleachers. The opposite side has one level of bleachers. The seating capacity is 1,500.

PRACTICE GYMS – In addition to the current gym, Miller City has one available practice gym.