

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Pandora High School 1915 - 1951

Pandora High School fielded basketball teams from 1915-1951. But in 1952, Pandora consolidated with Blanchard to form a new school named the Pandora-Gilboa Rockets

Pandora's first basketball season was in 1915 when it was reported that they lost twice to Columbus Grove. The coach was Lester Harkness. These games may have been played outside.

Hiram Huser of Pandora stated that Bluffton played their home games during this era in a skating rink!

GYMNASIUM #1 1915 - 1927

In a newspaper article in the Pandora Times in 1975, Charles Reese, a member of the 1916 Pandora basketball team stated that the home games were played in "Schutz Hall, above Hilty's Drugstore and The Farmer's Bank". Apartments are now in this area above Meinke Pharmacy. He recalled that "the room was equipped with a radiator at one end to heat the room and that a basket could be made from most any spot on the floor".

GYMNASIUM #2 1928 - 1950

In 1928, an auditorium and gym was built to accommodate the expanding needs of Pandora High School. Glen

Hilty coached the boys and girls teams that year.

The gym was used for 23 years, 1928-1950. The floor dimensions were 36 x 60. It had bleacher seating one side and a large stage on the opposite side. The seating capacity was 400.

GYMNASIUM #3 1951

The first game in Pandora's new and last gym was on November 28, 1950 when Pandora defeated Malinta-Greltin in overtime 54-52. This was the year BEFORE the consolidation of Pandora and Blanchard which occurred in the 1951/1952 school year. Dale Bridenbaugh led the Fleetwings of Pandora with 20 points and the coach was Robert Strahm.

This gym was used for one year, 1951, by Pandora and for 52 years by Pandora-Gilboa, 1952-2003. It was purchased by the village of Pandora in 2004 when the new school was built and is still being used for various purposes besides basketball. The floor dimensions are 48 x 80. It has chair seats on one side and bleacher seats on the other. The seating capacity was approximately 650.