

# Let's Give The Players A Break

## Dickering

Putnam County Sentinel – By Richard E. Laudick, Jr. – January 11, 1952

An announcement was made last week that the Hardin County schools had decided to curb the number of basketball games their teams could play in one season. A similar decision was announced in Logan County some time ago.

In the new rules selected at Hardin County to become effective next fall, the number of games played prior to tournament time is limited to 16 and no games are to be played on nights when there is school the next day.

Logan County has done away with the double elimination tournament and Hardin County is expected to follow suit next year. The season will not start before November 15.

ACTIONS SUCH as these are becoming more prominent in a move to deemphasize the sport. Basketball today is becoming too much of a commercial enterprise with no consideration being given the players.

It is a common thing for a team to have a schedule of from 18 to 24 games prior to tournament time. Then when tournaments roll around and teams are expected to be at their peak, they are way beyond and are on the down grade. Instead of giving their best they flop and teams, which are not played out, come out on top.

A very good example of this can be found right in this county. Past records will show that Ottoville usually has the shortest schedule of all the teams in the county and there has not been a team in the county which has been a more consistent contender for championship honors than Ottoville.

This is not to say that Ottoville hasn't had good team during past season, because they did have, but that they reached their peak at tournament time while most other teams are about played out.

THIS YEAR the average team in Putman County has an 18-game schedule. Ottoville, as usual, and Pandora-Gilboa have the smallest schedules with 15 games while Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul has the largest, 20.

An 18-game schedule is not too bad if the games can be played on the dates originally set, but when a situation arises such as we have had this year, with most the games during of month of December being postponed and having to be squeezed into an already crowded schedule late in the seasons, it imposes too much of a hardship on the players.

As it is now, there are only about five weeks remaining until the county tournament starts. In that time, most of its teams have to get in eight or nine games which amounts to about two a week.

A little forethought on the part of those who arrange the schedules could do away with such a situation in the future. The league schedule for next season has already been approved. About four or five non-league games should be enough to complete the schedule and then if weather does cause some of the games to be postponed, there will not be such a gang-up late in the season.