

Three Referees Work O-G and Coldwater Basketball Tilt

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Fans attending the Ottawa-Glandorf/Coldwater game last Friday night were treated to an unplanned experiment with three referees, something they probably will see more often in the next couple of years.

The situation occurred when one of the regular officials pulled a leg muscle during the reserve contest and found it impossible to move about as he should.

Following consultation with two coaches and Mack James, an OHSAA referee supervisor who happened to be in the crowd, it was decided to use three officials for the varsity contest and the experiment worked out well. One official stayed at the opposite end of the floor from the action at all times.

OTTAWA-GLANDORF COACH TOM WEBER said this week he was well satisfied with the way the experiment worked. Although fears have been expressed that a third official would lead to more whistle blowing, Weber said that the game resulted on only the normal number of calls.

There were 33 turnovers called and Ottawa-Glandorf was charged with 22 fouls to Coldwater's 18. One very definite goal tending violation was called by the official at the opposite end of the floor and it probably would have been missed if there had been only two referees.

Weber said that the possibility of hiring three referees for all Western Buckeye League games has been discussed at league meetings and this probably will come about in the next two or three years.

A few Putnam County League schools were using a three-man crew for a few non-league games in the 1990's, but it was not until the 2002 season that the PCL started to use three officials for all boys' basketball league games. Three-man crews started working PCL girls' games a few years later. Once the league went to three officials, PCL schools added the extra official for all non-league varsity level games also.