

# **'Stretch' Goedde Leads Vaughnsville to Three PCL Championships in 1940 - 1941 - 1942**

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Sylvester 'Stretch' Goedde's record verifies the fact that he was one of Putnam County's greatest basketball players. Goedde averaged over 30 points per game when that total was all that was needed to win most ball games.

His honors included receiving honorable mention on the All-Ohio team as a sophomore. He was named to the second team, All-Ohio, as a junior and his senior year was named captain of the All-Ohio team and named outstanding player in the state.

In the four years of Goedde's high school basketball career, he scored 1,538 points in 78 games with an average of 19.6 points per game. In his senior year alone Goedde scored 629 points, an average of 31.5 points per game.

Goedde's highest scoring game was against the team from Convoy in 1942. He chalked up 49 points for Vaughnsville in the match.

During Goedde's high school career, Vaughnsville won 63 games and lost 15. In his freshman year, the team finished the season with a 9-8 record. As a sophomore, his team chalked up a 19-3 season record. In the 1940-41 season, they finished 17-2 and in 1941-42, their record was 18-2.

The Vaughnsville Vikings won the Putnam County Tournament three times in Goedde's last three years with the team, from 1940-1942. In the three years, the Vikings were never able to get past the district in state competition.

In 1940, Vaughnsville reached the district finals where they were beaten by Holgate by one point in the final second of the match. After making the first shot, Holgate took the ball out of bounds instead of taking the second free throw. Holgate managed to make one more shot and beat Vaughnsville 27-26.

In 1941, Goedde's junior year, Vaughnsville lost their first district game to Delta 51-48.

In his senior year, 1942, Goedde chalked up 104 points in the county tournament. The Vaughnsville Vikings went on to the district tournaments beating the Antwerp team 63-33 in the first game. Points scored by Goedde in that game totaled 36, more than the total for the entire Antwerp team.

In the next round of the district tournaments that year, Vaughnsville met their old foes, Holgate. The Vikings lost to the Holgate team in a 33-31 match. That game marked

the end of Goedde's high school basketball career. It was seven years before Vaughnsville won another Putnam County Tournament.

Goedde's outstanding record speaks for itself, but it takes more than one good ball player to make a winning team and ample credit should be given to Goedde's teammates.

Vaughnsville players who travelled with the team to the district tournaments in 1940 include, besides Goedde, Robert Blackberger, Vernon Caton, Ronald Dunlap, Donald Forman, Percy Heidlebaugh, Vernon Hughes, Wendell Humphreys, Willis Sakemiller, William Parson, Floyd Metzger, David Boyd, John Evans and Dale Miller.

Goedde's teammates in 1941 included Robert Blackberger, David Boyd, Vernon Caton, John Evans, Percy Heidlebaugh, Wendell Humphreys, Floyd Metzger, Bill Parsons, Willis Sakemiller, Kenneth Wells, Everett Metzger, Dale Litton and Ralph Goedde.

Goedde's teammates for 1942 included David Boyd, William Parsons, Dale Litten, Floyd Metzger, Ralph Goedde, Don Wells, John Evans, Jack Roberts, P.A. Heidlebaugh, Willard Irwin, Herbert Bushong, R. W. Heidlebaugh and Ev. L. Metzger.

Guiding Vaughnsville's basketball team through the three championship years, 1940-1942, was Coach Gale Williams. He began coaching at Vaughnsville in 1937 and continued until 1942.

Williams is the son of George W. Williams, who was an Allen County Juvenile Officer.

Gale Williams graduated from high school in 1930 and attended Bluffton College for two years. He transferred to South Dakota Wesleyan at Mitchell, SD, where another brother, Thomas W. Williams, was head of the vocal music department. While a senior at Wesleyan, Williams was chosen all conference forward by coaches of the South Dakota Conference.

His high school career at Gomer, Ohio, included receiving four letters in both basketball and baseball. He played both sports during his stay at Bluffton College.

Goedde credited Williams with providing encouragement during his high school basketball career.