

County School Officials Act to Stop Unsportsmanlike Conduct at Games

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School officials in Putnam County have taken action aimed at preventing incidents in the future such as occurred at Ottoville about two weeks ago when Bill Giffin, a member of the Ottawa Public basketball team, was hit in the face by a fan after the game between the Ottawa and Ottoville teams.

C. J. Stackhouse, county superintendent, has written a letter to all local school administrators pointing out rules governing the conduct of fans at games and the school administrators discussed the problem at a meeting this week.

Mr. Stackhouse said that the identify of the man who struck the Giffin youth has been learned by the county sheriff's department and Sheriff Arnold Potts spoke to him last week-end. The man apologized for his hasty actions, said the sheriff, who added that the man did not seem the type who would do such a thing and that his actions were the result of the hotly contested game.

REV. RODNEY Giffin, father of the Ottawa player involved, has not taken any action against the man. Mr. Stackhouse said that it would be up to Mr. Giffin to file charges if he wished to do so. Conviction could bring a fine of \$200 or a six months' jail sentence. Calling attention to the constitution and rules of the Ohio High School Athletic

Association, Mr. Stackhouse wrote the school administrators that they are to be held ultimately responsible for all matters in their respective schools which concern inter-school contests, and that they, or some authorized representative, shall accompany their teams to all contests.

POLICEMEN are to be employed to control the spectators and to protect the visiting teams and officials from abuse by the crowd. Any school which fails to do so is liable for suspension from the OHSAA.

Mr. Stackhouse informed the local administrators, "Should any further reports reach this office of unsportsmanlike conduct or improper police protection by any school in Putnam County, said school shall be checked as to the validity of the accusations by the Putnam County Athletic Committee. Should the school be found guilty of the accusations, it shall be dropped from the Putnam County League and reported to the State High School Athletic Commission."

He asked the administrators to mention the contents of the letter to their student bodies and relay the same to the fans.