

# Coach Dick Kortokrax

## Retired in 2016 with 890 Wins

890 – 372 Record    1960 – 2016    56 Years    24 PCL Championships    18 PCL Coach of the Year    1 State Championship

Coach Dick Kortokrax's road to 890 wins as a varsity basketball coach is one of the most remarkable trips ever taken by a coach in the state of Ohio.

Coach Kortokrax has coached against the top five PCL coaches of all time over the years excluding Ottawa-Glandorf's coaches and L. W. Heckman. Roger Renz (#4) coached at Continental, Defiance and Findlay with 334 wins. John VonSossan (#5) coached at Fort Jennings with 309 wins. Don Huber (#6) coached at Continental with 285 wins. Kevin McGlaughlin (#7) coached at Miller City with 274 wins. Steve Penhorwood (#8) coached at Ottoville and Celina with 232 wins.

He began his coaching career at Fort Jennings High School in the fall of 1959. Dick coached two years, 1960 and 1961, at Fort Jennings where he compiled a 26-18 record.

His next step was to coach at his alma mater, Ottoville High School. At Ottoville, Coach Kortokrax coached for 13 years, 1962-1974, and he compiled a great record of 199-82.

It was during this time period in which the confusion of his record caused some recalculations as he approached the 800 win total. The Ottoville yearbook states that his record in 1967 was 12-7 (This was correct). But another yearbook later on states that it was 13-7 (This was incorrect). Someone either added his totals incorrectly using the 12-7 record or used the 13-7 record to incorrectly come to a total of 200 wins. Regardless of how the mistake was made, everyone keeping a tally of his win totals kept using the incorrect 200 win total.

In 1987, the Putnam County Sentinel listed his individual season win totals as he approached L. W. Heckman's 448 wins, a Putnam County record at that time. It showed the 1967 record as being 12-7 and the Ottoville total at 200. (No one ever added the season totals to double check)

As a result of this oversight, Coach Kortokrax's win total was off by one for each of his milestones beginning with win number 200 through 700. When the mistake was discovered, his 800<sup>th</sup> win was adjusted and celebrated on the correct number when Kalida defeated Van Buren, 48-47, during the 2010 season.

Coach Kortokrax has the most wins of any high school boy's basketball coach in the state of Ohio. Joe Petrocelli of Kettering Archbishop Alter, who recently retired, is a distant second.

A few other accomplishments by Coach Kortokrax are as follows: 56 years of varsity coaching with 24 PCL, 24 Sectional, 10 District, 4 Regional and 1 State championship. He also was honored as the PCL Coach of the Year 18 times.

What do Dick Kortokrax, L. W. Heckman, Bob Arnzen and 1951 have in common? Dick, who played for Mr. Heckman, graduated from Ottoville in 1951. Coach Heckman, one of the first high school basketball coaches in Ohio and Putnam County, retired from Ottoville in 1951 with 448 wins. Delphos St. Johns, a mere five miles from Ottoville, was coached by Bob Arnzen beginning in 1951. He won 676 games. Together, these three giants of Ohio basketball won 2,014 games.