

Ottoville Eliminated

State Champions Defeat Putnam County Team

Putnam County Sentinel – March 26, 1937

Ottoville high basketeers, Putnam County and District Class B champions, went down to defeat in their initial game in the Ohio State University gym Thursday evening. Ottoville seemed to be somewhat off color and could not overcome the driving attack made by the aggressive Lockland team of Hamilton County.

Lockland, winner of the state Class B championship Saturday evening, held the Ottoville lads to a score of 20 to 6 in their game Thursday evening and to a count of 40 to 14 when the contest came to an end.

M. Becker made five points for Ottoville, Leis three, C. Becker and Giesken, two each and Rellinger and Hoersten one each. Wannemacher played a good game and broke up many plays but was unable to score.

Ottoville high had a very successful season in basketball. The team won the Class B county tournament at Leipsic three weeks ago, went to the district tournament at Defiance a week later and won high honors and last week represented this district at Columbus. Even though they were defeated in their first try in the state capital, the members of the team, their coach and the citizens of the county can feel justly proud of their achievement.

Bluffton high, champions in the neighboring district were eliminated in their second try at the state tournament Friday evening. Midvale defeated the Allen County team by a score of 39 to 32.

In 1937, the top three teams from the Putnam County Tournament qualified for the next level of tournament play. Today, it would be called the Districts. The winner of this tournament qualified for the State Tournament.

Ottoville, Columbus Grove and Continental moved to the District Tournament from the PCT. Columbus Grove defeated Mark Center and lost to Stryker. Continental lost to Walbridge. Ottoville defeated four teams to qualify for the State Tournament. They defeated Sherwood, Holland, Pettisville and Haviland to win the District Tournament.

Sixteen teams went directly from the District Tournament to the State Tournament. At Columbus, the Big Green lost to Lockland 40-14.

Ottoville, coached by Louis W. Heckman, finished with a record of 19-5. This was the second boys' basketball team to compete in the State Tournament.