

# History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Leipsic High School 1916 to Today

The first mention of a boys' basketball team at Leipsic High School was in 1916. Only four games could be found and the coach was unknown.

## GYMNASIUM #1 1916 - 1930

The first "playing gym" for Leipsic was at a building where Shawbers, the Masonic Hall and The V.F.W. are now located. This gym was used from 1916-1930 and was probably typical to all the gyms of that era, "short, narrow and limited seating".

## GYMNASIUM #2 1931 - 1964

The plans for this new and modern gymnasium was started in September of 1929 and was in use for the 1930-1931 school year. An article in the Leipsic Free Press stated that "the building will accommodate probably 2,000 people and still have a basketball playing floor of 50 x 80". The first game was played on December 5, 1930 when the Leipsic Viking girls, coached by Betty Camp, lost to Crawfis College 53-14. The boys, coached by William Query, won 19-18.

This gymnasium was the by far the best basketball arena in the area, rivaling most college courts at that

time. It was used as a basketball gym for 34 years, 1931-1964. It hosted the Putnam County Tournament 22 times from 1931-1955. The floor dimensions were 50 x 80. It was two tiered with bleacher seats on both sides with a seating capacity of approximately 2,000. The building is still in use, but all remnants of the gym are long gone. The interior has been renovated and used by various businesses of Leipsic over the years.

## CURRENT GYM #3 1965 to Today

The current gym's first game was on November 27, 1964, when the Vikings, coached by Marvin 'Bucky' Walls, lost to Bluffton 69-50. Don Erford was the leading scorer with 17 points. The Leipsic Free Press stated that "Playing before a large crowd of about 1,400 fans in the first home game to be played in the new Leipsic gym, the Vikings weren't able to get going until the fourth quarter".

The floor dimensions are 50 x 84. It has bleachers on either side and a seating capacity of 1,500.

PRACTICE GYMS – In addition to the current gym, Leipsic has one practice gym.