

# “Star Court Artists” Net Champs in 1925

Putnam County Vidette, November 28, 1974

Just 50 years ago, a team of “star court artists”, Columbus Grove High School’s girls’ basketball team, battled their way to the top to become the 1925 Putnam County Champions, according to the 1925 edition of the “The Reflector”, then Columbus Grove High School’s yearbook.

The team became Putnam County champions by defeating such formidable opponents as teams from Leipsic, Vaughnsville, Ottawa, Continental, Gomer, Elida, Ada and Rawson. After a season of 15 wins, three losses and one tie, to win the county championship, the team was challenged by the champs from Hancock County, the Liberty team, whom they defeated 10-2.

The Columbus Grove roster included Ivora Strow, of whom the yearbook says “Captain of the best girls’ team in Putnam County. Ivora is a senior. She uses her head and feet with equal quickness and effectiveness. She is an ideal leader for a championship team - one of the all-county starters and a masterful passer and floor worker.”

The champion’s roster also included Ida Lora, Victoria Lora, Helen Thomas, Clara Keever, Mary Begg, Lelia Stevenson, Velma Souders and Lucille Jones.

Of senior Ida Lora, “The Reflector” comments, “A very nimble and most aggressive guard”. Of Victoria Lora, it states, “You can’t beat her so don’t try”.

“The Reflector” also gave Helen Thomas a good review. “At running center she is a streak. Always meets the ball half way. She spoils oodles of well-meant passes”.

Of Clara Keever, a sophomore, the yearbook comments, “Clara is right there with the best of them when it comes to guarding. She is exceptionally aggressive.”

Freshman Mary Begg drew the following comments. “Mary and Clara make an ideal team in the guard position. Too much cannot be said for either and what applies to one applies to both. She puts up a stonewall defense.”

Another freshman, Lelia Stevenson, also won praise in “The Reflector”. Beat her if you can at jumping center. She’s the all-county pivot player and none can out winkle her. Find one that can outreach her and outdo her and we’ll find dozens who can’t.”

“Velma Sounders is wiry and needs not take a back seat for any one when it comes to ability to play the ball. She is everywhere at once.”

“Lucille Jones is tall and strong and can tip the ball where she may. She is a willing worker. Get the oval away from her if you can. Where is the center that can out jump her, eh?”

“The Reflector’s” praise for C.G.’s winning girls’ basketball team was not confined to flattering description, but ended with the following verse.

**Here’s to the Champs of old C.G.**

**They’ve won the cup two years you see**

**Watch them hit their old time gait**

**And next year makes it**

**“THREE TIMES STRAIGHT”**

The girl’s actual record in 1925 was 13-4-1. In the Putnam County Tournament, CG defeated Vaughnsville 16-4, Ottawa Public 21-9 and Continental 24-6. In 1926, Columbus Grove and Leipsic tied in the finals of the Putnam County Tournament. There were no tie breakers at this time so the Bulldogs did make it “THREE TIMES STRAIGHT”!