

## Legends of Putnam County Baseball

The people that are involved in a high school baseball game are the players, coaches, umpires and fans. This book is mainly about the players and coaches.

However, Charlie Bennett, a long time resident of Leipsic, was directly connected to high school baseball in our area and the state of Ohio as an umpire, rules interpreter and a fan for nearly 50 years. He was inducted into the Ohio High School Officials Hall of Fame in 1993.

Though Charlie had not umpired a game since 1981, he was still called upon by umpires and coaches to explain a rule or give the “final correct ruling on a play”.

He would NEVER second guess a fellow umpire on a judgment call, but a misapplied rule of the game bothered him immensely.

The state commissioners, as well all local coaches and umpires knew that if a rule needed to be

explained, Charlie was the man to call. His knowledge of the rules of baseball was unparalleled. He followed the game religiously and could be seen at a local high school or an Ottawa legion game nearly every evening.

Charlie passed on December 1, 2009 at the age of 93. He will be sorely missed.

Putnam County’s claim to fame in terms of major league baseball belongs to former players Larry Cox of Ottawa-Glandorf and Gene Stechschulte of Kalida. Many other Putnam County players have played minor league ball, but these were the only ones to make it all the way.

Articles found on successful coaches in the modern era are Stan Myer of Ottawa-Glandorf, Tony Castronova of Ottoville, Jim McBride of Kalida, Tom Sakemiller of Fort Jennings, Ted Miller of Leipsic and Dan Kern of Miller City.