

Kalida Wildcats 7 - 1

1940 State Semi-Finals

Bottom row, left to right – Stub Rower, Tony Rampe, Wid Verhoff, Don Holtkamp and Don Hamel. Middle row – Don Gerdeman and Norm Erhart. Top row – Dick Unverferth, Bob Krouse, Wid Stechschulte, Buck Westbeld, Bill Rower, Dick Stauffer and Coach Jim Ferguson.

In 1940, Kalida did not win a Regional Championship, but they did go to State. During this time period, the PCL Champion went directly to the District. The District winner would go directly to State. Kalida was coached by James Ferguson who won the West Division of the PCL and then defeated Leipsic, the East Division winner, to win the PCL. Kalida defeated four teams at the District Tournament.

Kalida lost to Colerain 4-2 in the first game in the State Tournament.

Thus, even though teams of this era did not play a Sectional or Regional Tournament as is done today, Kalida still had to win five games just to get to State. At the State level, it would have taken at least three more wins to win the State Tournament. This was Putnam County's first baseball team to play at the state tournament.