

# Miller City Wildcats 27-0

## 1977 State Champions

Sitting left to right – Mark Niese, Dan Hermiller, Kevin LaFountain, Dean Hermiller, Al Siefker and Tim Schroeder. Kneeling left to right – Joann Kuhlman, Wayne Pester, Chris Rump, Leo Schroeder, Tony Rump, Ken Schroeder and Nancy Nadler. Standing left to right – Alice Pester, Asst. Coach Ron Burgel, Head Coach Dan Kern, Nick Niese, Tony Klear and John Lammers.

Miller City, which finished 17-1 in 1976 when Leipsic won the Championship, realized it was possible for them to have the same dream. As a result, Miller City went 27-0 to win the PCL and the State Championship in 1977. The Wildcats were coached by Dan Kern and led by two Putnam County greats, Dan Hermiller and Mark Niese.

The 1977 Wildcats were a mirror image of the 1976 Leipsic state championship team, great pitching, defense and hitting. In 1976, Miller City finished with a 17-1 record. The Wildcats only loss was to Kalida in the Sectional Tournament and Miller City was the only team to defeat Leipsic. Miller City easily disposed of Riverdale 8-1 in the Sectional Semi-Finals and was to meet Kalida again in the Sectional Finals. The Wildcats defeated Kalida 1-0 when Leo Schroeder singled with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Miller City defeated Delphos Jefferson in the District Semi-Finals 6-3. Dan Hermiller, Mark Niese and Leo

Schroeder hit consecutive homers to grab an early lead. John Lammers also had a bases loaded triple to score three more. The District-Finals was a breeze as Miller City outscored Allen East 13-3.

Miller City defeated Fremont St. Joe 8-6 in the Regional Semi-Finals and Northwood 5-0 to capture the Regional Championship. The Wildcats hitting was kept in check at the state tournament, but the pitching and defense was excellent. Lucasville fell 3-1 in the Regional Semi-Finals with Tim Schroeder getting the win with relief help from Mark Niese. The State Final game was won by Miller City over Versailles by a score of 4-2. In this game, Mark Niese got the win with relief help from Tim Schroeder. There were two big plays in this game. The first one was a three run double by Mark Niese and the second one was a base running mistake by Versailles which ended an inning.