

Movement on to Oust Ottawa-Glandorf from the PCL

Putnam County Sentinel – May 20, 1965

Ottawa-Glandorf High School athletes won three Putnam County championships this school year, but may have played themselves right out of the county league. Apparently smarting from the setbacks they took at the hands of the Titans during the past year in basketball, track and baseball, several coaches Monday night made an attempt to oust Ottawa-Glandorf from the Putnam County League.

Although no official action was taken, it was the feeling of most who left the spring meeting of the Putnam County Coach's Association at Kalida that the attempt will be successful, if not immediately, within a few years.

Miller City Coach James Grove made the motion at the meeting to amend the by-laws of the association so that Ottawa-Glandorf could be put out of the league. His motion received a second, but when it came time to vote on it most of the coaches decided to pass and let the action up to the school administrators. In the end, it will be up to administrators and not the coaches, to decide the issue.

A few coaches, said, however, that they felt that Ottawa-Glandorf is just too large a school for them to compete with. With just a few boys over the Class A limit, Ottawa-Glandorf is the only Class AA school in Putnam County and is probably the smallest Class AA School in the state.

WITH AN enrollment in the top four grades of nearly 500 boys and girls, Ottawa-Glandorf is about 150 students larger than Columbus Grove, 200 larger than Leipsic and more than twice as large as all other schools in the county. Miller City has the second smallest high school in the county this year with an enrollment of about 160 while Ft. Jennings has the smallest with about 115.

The Titans won the league championship in all three sports sponsored by the league this year and was not beaten by any other Putnam County school in any contest except football.

Ottawa-Glandorf is reluctant to pull out of the league. School officials have discussed the matter through out the school year and recently the school board went on record as favoring staying in the league rather than attempting to find another league.

Their main reason was the great interest in the Putnam County League and its ability to draw good crowds to basketball games. Being able to play close to home with a very short traveling distance was also a big factor in the board's decision.

Ottawa-Glandorf Principal Harold Dilbone told the coaches Monday that if it came to the point that his school would be asked to pull out, they would as soon as they could affiliate with another league.

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THE LOCAL school has been asked to join the new Lake Plains League which consists of LCC, Bowling Green and Defiance, but that league also participates in football.

Dilbone stated after Monday's meeting, that it was his opinion that Ottawa-Glandorf is a big asset to the county league and the loss of the Titans would greatly hurt it.

The great fan following of the Titan helps other schools, he pointed out, stating that almost every place they went during the past basketball season, they had packed gymnasiums. He noted that when Ottawa-Glandorf was forced to play in the Class AA tournament its fans went with them and the sectional tournament games for the teams with this county draw as few as 500 fans, compared to several thousand at county tournaments in past year.

Despite quite a bit of discussion and argument on the matter, the coaches association did approve the basketball league schedule for the next two years which includes Ottawa-Glandorf. The schedule was prepared by a committee consisting of John Phillips, Kalida; Richard Kortokrax, Ottoville and Robert Diller of Columbus Grove.

THE ASSOCIATION also unanimously approved a suggestion by Mr. Dilbone, who proposed that the sportsmanship trophy be

revived in this county. The trophy was awarded several years by the Ottawa junior Chamber of Commerce, which has since disbanded.

It will be sponsored in the future by the Coach's Association and the voting will be done in a difference manner. As proposed by Mr. Dilbone, referees at all basketball league games will be asked to rate both schools and their votes will be tabulated at the end of the season. The trophy will be awarded at the annual banquet for senior basketball players.

There was also a suggestion that the spring baseball league be dropped but this was not approved. The league will continue but will start a week later next year and two games will be played per week instead of one as this year. Two schools that are now participating hinted that they would drop the sport next year.

It was also suggested that the fall league be discontinued and replaced with cross county but no action was taken.

James Knox, Pandora-Gilboa, was elected president of the association for the 1965-66 school year. Larry Miller, Ft. Jennings was named vice president; and Robert Diller, Columbus Grove, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Richard Kortokrax, Ottoville, is the outgoing president.