Putnam County Basketball

Dan Kern's Collection of Putnam County Sport's History

This project initially was only concerned with boys' basketball at Miller City. But as I was gathering information in the early 1900s, I quickly discovered that the importance of girls' basketball was almost EQUAL to the boys! From 1912-1940, the girls played the same night as the boys' in nearly all the high schools in Putnam County. From 1924-1940, the girls' Putnam County Tournament games were intermingled with the boys. This tournament was not for advancement to an Ohio state tournament, but to simply determine the best team in Putnam County. The OHSAA, or Ohio High School Athletic Association, ended interscholastic basketball for the girls at the conclusion of the 1940 season without much fanfare.

In the early 1960's within each school, a wide range of athletic activities such as basketball, volleyball, track, archery, bowling, etc. were being made available to the girls. In the late 1960s, the governing body was the GAA or Girls Athletic Association. In the early 1970s, when the schools started playing each other, the GAA was then renamed the GIA or Girls Interscholastic Association. In the 1975/1976 school year, the OHSAA took over the administration of the girls' athletic programs and ran it just like it had the boys' programs since 1924.

In 1979, Ron Burgel, Kevin McGlaughlin and I were engaged in an argument about which Miller City boys' basketball team was the best rebounding team. Where would we find the information? We started looking through what records Miller City had at the time. It was in unorganized folders and boxes lying about the school. This was the start. Little did I know at the time that this conversation would turn in to a never-ending project of collecting information about the sport's history of Putnam County.

As time progressed, I started compiling basketball information on all the schools in Putnam County. Eventually, all 19 varsity sports of Putnam County were included. From this information, I have written eight books as follows: (1) Putnam County Boys Basketball (2) Girls Basketball (3) Baseball (4) Golf (5) Track (6) Miller City Girls Basketball (7) Boys Basketball and (8) Baseball The information came from many places, but the bulk came from newspapers, yearbooks, scorebooks and people's memories.

Many people have helped in this collection process. Doug Durliat from Ottawa and Marv Sebring from Defiance had been collecting basketball scores for years. Charlie Warnimont of the Putnam County Sentinel has helped dispense and collect information. The Genealogy Directors of the Putnam County Library have helped immensely. Mary King of the Putnam County Vidette and Niles Stateler of the Continental News Review left me take home original copies of their newspapers so that I could read them at my leisure. All the Athletic Directors and Principals of the high schools gave me direct access to the year books at their schools. Many individuals let me look at their high school yearbooks. All the coaches of Putnam County have been providing me information in their respective sports. If I have omitted anyone who has contributed to this collection process, I apologize.

My first methods of recording this information were primitive, the pen, paper and a typewriter. Imagine the difficulty of trying to change a list of the Top Career Scorers in Putnam County by use of a typewriter. For example, Carol Lammers, a 1977 graduate of Miller City, was the first girl to break the 1,000-point barrier when she scored 1,321. Since then, many girls have passed her. This would have been a momentous task in the 1980's. However, today the computer makes these adjustments very simple.

This book covers a wide range of information concerning girls' basketball in Putnam County. In some of the articles, please don't be offended by the bold and challenging headlines of the past, or the strong criticisms of different schools towards each other. It is amazing how little things have changed when you read about the 3-

point line in an article written in 1932. People complained about 'home cooking' and biased officials in 1917 just as they do today.

The history of girls' basketball is a treasure that many of us share with each other when we talk about the great players, coaches or games we have seen. Hopefully, this book will help you appreciate and preserve the rich traditions of girls' basketball.

My first method of dispensing this information to the sport's fans of Putnam County was in the basketball program at Miller City High School from 1988-2003. However, due to the volume of information, only a small portion of it was ever seen.

The second source was this book which now provides all the known information in printed form. The book is also available on a flash drive.

The third method was an internet website which solved both problems by making all the information available to everyone at any time.

Most of the initial work in building this website in 2011 was done by Jeremy Stober, a teacher and coach at Kalida High School. The site was redone and updated in 2014 by Mark Suter, P-G's Tech Coordinator, Jacob Basinger, the Project Leader and the Pandora-Gilboa Tech Club.

A fourth method was created in the fall of 2021 when the Principals of the PCL had its own website built. This site has the printed information from all the Putnam County books that Dan Kern has written plus information specific to the PCL such as rosters, schedules and current scores.

Jared Kern, Miller City's Tech Coordinator, Denny Mumaw, Ottoville's Tech Coordinator, Tim Eding, Continental's Principal and Dusty Pester, Miller City's Baseball Coach have been a great help out with all the glitches that occur with the site.

Steve Ranes of Rainbow Advertising does the printing of the book.

The PCL website was created and is maintained by Joel DeVenney and his company, Microtronix.

As you look through this book, please contact Dan Kern if new or corrected information can be provided.

Special Thanks and Dedication

Steve Ranes Mark Suter
Jacob Basinger Joel DeVenney

Kevin McGlaughlin and Ron Burgel helped me get started in this project in gathering statistics and records for Miller City.

Steve Ranes, my publisher, then took this information and put it in book form, making it available to hundreds.

Jeremy Stober, Mark Suter and Jacob Basinger took it to the next level, making all of this information available to the "world" by putting it on the internet.

The PCL and Joel DeVenney have created a new website for all my books on Putnam County sports.

Ron Burgel Jim Losh
Jayna McGlaughlin

This book is dedicated to the late Ron Burgel, Jayna McGlaughlin and Jim Losh, three dear friends who loved basketball with a passion.

Over the years, I'm sure all three followed with great pride the success of Coach Tyson and Kevin McGlaughlin's coaching careers at Miller City and Ottawa-Glandorf.