

Columbus Grove Wins Second Tournament Championship

Bulldogs Whip Ottoville in Finals 62-57

Putnam County Sentinel – February 27, 1953

Columbus Grove Bulldogs won their second Putnam County High School basketball tournament championship last Friday night when they whipped Ottoville in the finals by a score of 62-52.

A turn-away crowd of about 1,600 fans, by far the largest of the seven-session tournament, turned out to see the Bulldogs take their first championship in nine years and the Kalida Wildcats win their second District tournament berth in history.

Kalida won its way into the District with a 69-53 upset victory over Miller City in the consolation game.

Five trophies were awarded following the championship game. They were given to the first three teams in the tournament and the league trophies were given to Ottoville and Columbus Grove. Miller City, loser of the consolation match, was given the game ball of the tournament.

GROVE 62 – OTTOVILLE 52

Columbus Grove pulled away about midway in the third quarter for the championship victory. The game was a nip and tuck see-saw battle all the way up to that time with the lead changing hands nine times and the score tied nines before that. The final score was the widest margin that Grove held throughout the game.

Big Jim Schneider, who sparked the Ottoville drive before he left the game via the personal foul route in the fourth period, started the scoring with a free throw. Bill Bell countered for Grove with a field goal and the battle went on.

Bill Schlagbaum hit for Ottoville to make it 3-2 but Dale Jenkins put Grove back in the lead when he did likewise. Bob Risser sank a free throw for the Bulldogs and then Joe Horstman sank one from the side to knot the score at 5-5.

Risser pushed another goal through for Grove and once again Horstman tied the count. Ben Baxter hit from underneath to make the score read 9-7 in favor of Grove and once again Horstman came through for Ottoville on a free throw followed by a goal to give them a 10-9 lead.

Dennis Maag put the new champs in front on a pair of free throws and Dan Wannemacher tied the score at 11-11 with a foul shot. Jenkins goaled for the winners and Schneider tied it up with a goal from underneath. Jenkins made good a free throw and the quarter ended with Grove ahead 14-13.

SCHNEIDER opened the second quarter with a goal and a free toss for Ottoville. Baxter hit for Grove to tie the score at 16-16. Virgil Hohlbein came through for Ottoville with a goal to put them ahead once again and they kept the lead until Jenkins tied the score at 22-22 late in the period.

Baxter put Grove ahead 24-22 on a goal and they retained the lead as the half ended 26-25 in favor of the Bulldogs.

At the start of the second half, Baxter sank a free toss to make it 27-25 but Schneider got his first of eleven points in that period to tie it up once again.

Schlagbaum gave Ottoville its last lead of the game with a field goal and Horstman followed with a free throw to make it 30-27. Dennis Maag and Jenkins then hit a pair of goals to put the Bulldogs ahead once more at 31-30. Wannemacher tied the score with a free throw but then the Ottoville team cooled off and was unable to hit a thing.

Grove pulled away and the Big Green was never in the game again. Schneider got nine straight points for the losers after that while the rest of his team went scoreless the remainder of the period. Meanwhile, Grove continued to pour through a continuous stream of points and the period ended with them ahead 47-40.

Schneider collected his fourth personal foul late in the third quarter and Coach Jerry Moenter pulled him for a while. He went back in at the start of the fourth quarter but lasted only a few minutes and without his height to control the backboards Ottoville was lost.

The game was won from the free throw line as has happened so often this year. While both teams were collecting 20 field goals Grove sank 22 out of 28 free throw tries while Ottoville was able to capitalize on only 12 out of 27. Twenty personal fouls were called against Ottoville and 17 against the new champs.

Ottoville

Schlagbaum – 4/0/8. Hohlbein – 2/0/4. Schneider – 7/6/20.
Horstman – 4/2/10. Wannemacher – 1/3/5. Miller – 2/1/5.
Totals – 20/12/52

Columbus Grove

Baxter – 7/4/18. Bell – 3/3/9. Risser – 2/5/9. Maag – 2/6/10.
Jenkins – 6/4/16.
Totals – 20/22/62

Ottoville	13	12	15	12	52
Columbus Grove	14	12	21	15	62