

Tourney Final Slated for Delphos Gym

School Heads Cite Need for Big Gym

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As the result of an almost unanimous vote on the part of superintendents of schools in Putnam County, the final championship match in this year's Putnam County Basketball Tournament will be held at the Delphos St. John's gymnasium in Delphos, Putnam County superintendent of schools Collins Stackhouse advised this week.

The county's 11 school superintendents voted ten to one to hold both the championship and consolation games in the same gym and in a gym large enough to accommodate those who wished to see the games, even if such meant taking the final matches out of the county, Stackhouse explained.

It was pointed out that last year, even by dividing the championship and consolation games between two sites and utilizing the Columbus Grove gymnasium, largest in the county, for the championship match, many who wished to see the title contest, had to be turned away at the door. Attendance at the consolation game was disappointing, but even then, it gave rise to the complaint that fans could not witness both the consolation and championship encounters.

Stackhouse said the superintendents were aware that moving the final games outside the county would probably cause some criticism, but that actually no school in the county wanted to host the consolation and championship matches due to an inability to give all who wished to see the games an opportunity to do so.

Following the superintendent's decision, Stackhouse continued, Lima and Bluffton were both contacted but gyms there were not available for the date needed. The Delphos St. John's gymnasium was found available.

He explained that it is a large gym which will adequately seat 2,200. Last year, fans were turned away from the 1,200 seat Columbus Grove gym, and about 500 witnessed the consolation game at another site that same evening.

Both the consolation and championship games are now slated for Saturday night, February 27, at the Delphos gym. Earlier tourney games will be played at Pandora, Columbus Grove, Ottawa and Ottoville.