

# Leipsic Whips SPPS 55 – 43 for Seventh Tourney Title

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Charles Violet, coming to Leipsic from Republic this year, hit the jackpot in his first year of coaching in Putnam County by winning both the league and tournament championships with his powerful Viking crew. Violet took his team to this home town of Delphos Saturday night to wrap up the tourney title, but the Vikings had to come up with a big fourth quarter to down defending champion Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul, 55-43.

Leipsic, winning four games straight in the meet by no less than 11 points, has extended its winning streak to 11 in a row and for the season has a 20 and 2 record.

The title game followed a consolation tilt in which Kalida edged Columbus Grove 47-46 for third place. The games drew a crowd of nearly 2,300 people to St. John's gymnasium, the first time it was ever filled to capacity. It was also the biggest crowd ever to witness a Putnam County tournament game.

The championship cup is the fourth for the Leipsic school in the last seven years and the seventh in history for the Vikings. They won three straight times from 1954 to 1956 and also won in 1939, 1930 and 1928. The Ottawa school, which won its second tournament crown last year, has finished in second place five times.

For Willard Kellogg's Trojans it was the second straight appearance in the finals and the first time that two consecutive SPPS teams were in the championship game.

As expected, the personal scoring duel between the Vikings' Bob Wyant and Ottawa's brilliant Jerry Schomaeker did not develop as two mighty tired teams engaged in the championship playoff. Both squads had to play their hearts out the previous night. Saturday's affair was far from a well-played ball game.

SCHOMAEKER, who scored 43 points the night before, just couldn't find the range against Leipsic. He was getting off his usual shots but they were bounding off the rim. The Ottawa ace hit just two buckets, both in the second quarter and had only seven points for the night. He took 18 shots, including seven in the last quarter when the Trojans were making a desperate bid to stay in contention.

Wyant got off only nine shots at the basket and made three goals. However, he was deadly from the foul line, sinking 12 without a miss and his 18-point total was high for the champs.

The game's scoring honors went to Ottawa's Len Brinkman who hit six of 12 field goal attempts and eight of nine from the foul line for 20 points.

THERE WERE quite a number of turnovers and misplays in the game which saw both clubs come up with big scoring spurts and long lapses. Leipsic had one slow period of almost seven minutes from late in the first quarter through most of the second in which they did not score a point while Ottawa went on a 14-point binge and moved from eight points behind to six points ahead.

Once the Leipsic club had the victory sewed up the demoralized Ottawa team went on a fouling rampage in one last desperation move to get back into the game. They fouled themselves right out of contention, however, as Leipsic was hot from the line, making the last 11 points on free throws.

Terry Shafter hit six without a miss in the last round and Wyant got four of his in that time. The Vikings made 13 out of 24 free throws in the fourth quarter.

SPPS put up a game scrap against the favored Leipsic outfit and was in the lead for a period of 12 minutes and 44 seconds, but Leipsic never said "die" and came through with a 23-point fourth quarter to win going away.

The Vikings built up a big lead in the first quarter as only Brinkman was able to find the range to score for SPPS.

WYANT OPENED the scoring with a free throw. Brinkman came through with a goal to make it 2-1 for SPPS, but Wyant hit another free toss to tie it up. Shafer bucketed his only goal of the game to send Leipsic ahead at 4-2 and seconds later, Wyant hit his first goal.

Brinkman scored again for Ottawa to cut the margin to 6-4 but then Wyant hit to more free tosses. Brinkman was fouled and hit two to cut the margin to two points once more.

Tom Wilhelm came off the bench for the Vikings and, in no time flat, hit two buckets to give Leipsic a 12-6 lead. Ron Gerding got one of the buckets back for SPPS only to have Wyant sink another pair of free tosses.

With about two minutes left in the first period, Mark Kuhlman scored a goal for Leipsic to make the score 16-8, but this was the last point the Vikings scored for almost seven minutes. Before the quarter ended, Brinkman hit two more free tosses for Ottawa and Gerding score a goal to cut the lead to 16-12.

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THE SECOND round got off to a slow start with both teams blowing several scoring chances. Gerding and Bob Annesser went to work on the boards and took quite a few rebounds from the taller Viking and this enabled SPPS to move out in front by six points.

Schomaeker scored his first goal to make it 16-14 and, with 5:33 showing on the clock, Annesser hit a goal to tie the score. More than a minute elapsed without another point being scored. With 4:28 showing on the clock, Annesser hit again to give the Trojans the lead and, just seconds later, Schomaeker hit again. Annesser followed by plunking his third straight shot to make the score 22-16.

The clock showed 3:04 left in the first half before Leipsic scored. Sub Dennis Haselman hit a long one at that point, but Brinkman was quick to get it back for Ottawa. Larry Rigel and Haselman each goaled for Leipsic to cut the lead back down to 24-22. But before the quarter ended, Brinkman hit a free toss and bucket to give the Trojans a 27-22 halftime lead.

Leipsic's Dick Mangas opened the second half with his first bucket and Wyant followed with another pair of free throws as they cut the Trojan lead to one point.

The third quarter was even slower than the second. Several minutes elapsed before SPPS could score. Brinkman, who did not miss a shot in the first half, missed two at the opening of the third quarter before finally connecting to give the Trojans a three-point advantage again.

Wilhelm came through with one for Leipsic a little later to make it 29-28.

Schomaeker converted a pair of free throws for Ottawa. Brinkman scored another from the line and Annesser hit a goal to make it six points once more at 34-28. Just before the third round ended, Kuhlman and Wyant each hit a goal to cut margin to 34-32.

LEIPSIC WASTED no time in taking over in the fourth quarter as they outscored SPPS 23-9 in the last eight minutes.

Only 16 seconds were gone when Wyant hit his last goal to tie the score. Kuhlman put Leipsic ahead 36-34 at 6:30. About 45 seconds later, Annesser converted a pair

of free throws to tie the score again at 36-36. This was the last time they were able to catch up.

The Vikings pulled away fast after that. Rigel and Mangas each scored and Shafer hit two free throws to make it 42-36. Schomaeker hit a free toss, his last point of the game, and Annesser bucketed a goal to cut the margin to 42-39.

A little later, Kuhlman hit a goal for Leipsic. This was their last bucket, but far from their last point. Trailing by five points with time running out, Ottawa turned to fouling. Most of these were intentional in a last bid to get possession of the ball. This stunt backfired and Leipsic built up its biggest margin of the game on free throws.

KUHLMAN HIT one and Wyant added two more to give them an eight-point advantage. Annesser got two for Ottawa but in the last two minutes Kuhlman hit two more, Shafer dunked four in a row and Wyant finished out with a perfect night from the line with his last two to give the Vikings a 55-41 lead.

Just before the buzzer ended the game, Ottawa's Annesser hit a goal for the final points of the night. That bucket was only the fourth for SPPS during the second half. They missed 24 shots during the last two periods.

For the night, the Trojans connected on just 15 of 55 shots for a weak 27.3 shooting percentage. Leipsic did only slightly better from the floor. They hit 17 of 49 for 34.7 percent which is also low for a championship ball club. The Vikings hit 21 of 36 free throws to Ottawa's 13 of 28.

## Leipsic

Rigel – 2/4 0/5 4 3. Shafer – 1/6 6/6 8 4. Wyant – 3/9 12/12 18 1. Mangas – 2/9 0/2 4 2. Kuhlman – 4/12 3/6 11 2. Wilhelm – 3/5 0/0 6 4. Haselman – 2/4 0/5 4 2. Niese – 0/0 0/0 0 0. Totals – 17/19 21-36 55 18.

Totals – 17/49 21-36 55 18

## Ottawa SPPS

Gerding – 2/5 0/5 4 5. Annesser – 5/17 2/5 12 1. Brinkman – 6/12 8/9 20 4. Ruhe – 0/2 0/2 0 5. Schomaeker – 2/18 3/7 7 4. Kaufman – 0/1 0/0 0 3. Siebeneck – 0/0 0/0 0 1. Totals – 15/55 13/28 43 23.

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Leipsic	16	6	10	23	55
Ottawa SPPS	12	15	7	9	43