

Legendary Icons Coaches and Players

68 pages

All 1,000 Points Career Scorers

**All PCL and WBL Players of the Year
from Each Putnam County School**

A Real Referee

Edward Glancy, the local authority on the game of Basketball

Leipsic Free Press – February 1, 1917

While we are speaking of basketball, right now we want to hand the laurels to Edward Glancy, the local authority on the game who handles the whistle in the majority of the matches. Leipsic players have adopted the slogan “if we can’t win fairly, we lose gracefully” and Referee Glancy is living up to these rules in a superlative degree.

In most small towns when a close score is in evidence a little partiality is shown to the home team and it is hard to deviate from this rule. But not so with Glancy; if the home boys are offenders, they are penalized at any stage of the game. In last Friday night’s contest, on three different occasions, he called fouls on the home boys that when made put the visitors in the lead.

Never a murmur of criticism came from the large crowd or from the local players. They knew they were getting a square deal to the best of Glancy’s knowledge – which is pretty wide.

The writer has witnessed many games of this great sport in various towns and, outside of college contests, has never seen more perfection or more fairness in handling these matches than that which is displayed by the Leipsic official.

Mack Schaffer Is Most Popular Referee in State

Putnam County Sentinel – March 30, 1951

One of Ottawa's distinguished citizens – Mack Schaffer – again proved his popularity among Ohio's basketball followers last weekend.

Because of that popularity, Mack could be elected governor of the state or president of the nation, if that decision were left to coaches and players of high school basketball in Ohio.

Meeting in Columbus last week to select officials and make final arrangements for the Class A and B state basketball finals scheduled in the State Fair Ground Coliseum Thursday and Saturday of this week, the well known Ottawa referee was selected for the seventh time to officiate a state tournament, the last four years in succession.

That is an honor which has been conferred on no other basketball referee in the state, and by that token, it may be proclaimed that Mr. Schaffer is the best in the state.

When officials for the state tournament were being discussed, the Class A coaches and the Class B coaches went into separate huddles. The first name injected in the discussions among both groups was that of Mack Schaffer. As it is impossible for an official to referee both classes, the coaches got together and flipped a coin. The Class A coaches won the services of the Ottawa man. The same situation developed the previous two years - coaches in both classes with teams entered in the state tournament wanted the services of Mr. Schaffer. Each time, the flipping of a coin settled the question.

It might be well to state, also, that in those four years, Hamilton is the only school to be in on the choosing twice.

The selection of the Ottawa referee comes as a distinct honor. Mack not only has a fine and pleasing personality, a man who gets along well with coaches, players and fans, but is also recognized as an authority on basketball regulations. His trait of honest and sincerity, as well as his sportsmanship, are outstanding and orally recognized among the coaches, players and fans throughout the state.

Mac had his first experience as a referee in the state tournament in 1938. He was back again in 1939 and in 1941, before entering the U.S. Navy for World War II.

It was just five years ago on March 17 that Mr. Schaffer had both legs broken above the ankles. He was a lieutenant commander in the navy, a gunnery officer standing aboard a ship in Honolulu the day before he was to start his trip back home and be discarded from service, when he was swept overboard by a tidal wave.

He was hospitalized from March 17th to Labor Day. Nevertheless, Mack says, "They sure did a good job on me. Those legs never bother me now."

As proof of that statement, Mack has already refereed in 65 basketball games this past winter. He did 34 nights during the regular season, added eight games in the Mercer County tournament, nine more in the Celina protest tournament, officiated in the Central District Class A and two weeks ago, refereed three games in the Regional Tournament at Troy.

Now, in his twentieth year as a sport's official, Mack recalls many of the outstanding contests and the many little and new incidents that frequently arise. However, he remarks that the

Mack Schaffer Is Most Popular Referee in State

Putnam County Sentinel – March 30, 1951

toughest game he ever worked was the Ohio State-Michigan football game last fall. This game was played in a blinding snow storm and bitter cold. With a grin, prayerfully and hopefully, Mack added "That will never happen again – I hope."

Mack recalled that he considered himself more of a broom man than an official in that game. "I had hold of a broom, sweeping snow off the lines, more than I did anything else," he commented.

He is a native of Melrose, Ohio, son of the late Mack and Minnie Schaffer, former Leipsic residents. He graduated from Leipsic high school, Bluffton College and took his masters degree at Miami University, majoring in chemistry. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball in high school and college.

Mack taught school for two years at Leipsic, eight years at Columbus Grove, and also coached football for one year at Sts. Peter and Paul school in Ottawa.

Mack's talents as a referee aren't limited to basketball. He's been on the Western football conference "accepted" list for four years. He also refereed the Indiana-Notre Dame football game last fall, plus Mid-Ohio, Mid-American, Ohio conference and a number of Ohio high school contests.

With that familiar grin lining his face, Mack also remarked, "Got kicked off the football team at Bluffton College in my senior year because I was a professional on the basis of officiating. I had to officiate or I couldn't have gone to school. I needed the money."

While teaching at Columbus Grove, Mack was married to an Ottawa girl – Miss Mary Elizabeth Long. They have a daughter, Cynthia Ann. Mrs. Shaffer teaches one of the first grade classes in the West building of Ottawa Public school.

In addition to his services as a sports official, Mack is a text book salesman for the Houghton-Mifflin company, a position he held for several years prior to his enlistment in the navy.

Another position filled creditably by Mr. Schaffer is that of councilman for the village of Ottawa. And here again, he meets those problems with an open mind, discusses them openly and freely and then bases his decision on the merits of the request or situation for what he believes is the best interest of the village for the parties concerned.

Incidentally, Mack is a candidate for reelection to the village council position again this year. We know he will be reelected because the home folks have the same high regard for him as the coaches and basketball players over the state.

It is ironic, that Mack worked only one game in the Putnam County Tournaments. In 1932, he did the championship game for the girls with H. I. Slocum.

‘Stretch’ Goedde Leads Vaughnsville to Three PCL Championships in 1940 - 1941 - 1942

Putnam County Sentinel – January 1, 1975

Sylvester ‘Stretch’ Goedde’s record verifies the fact that he was one of Putnam County’s greatest basketball players. Goedde averaged over 30 points per game when that total was all that was needed to win most ball games.

His honors included receiving honorable mention on the All-Ohio team as a sophomore. He was named to the second team, All-Ohio, as a junior and his senior year was named captain of the All-Ohio team and named outstanding player in the state.

In the four years of Goedde’s high school basketball career, he scored 1,538 points in 78 games with an average of 19.6 points per game. In his senior year alone Goedde scored 629 points, an average of 31.5 points per game.

Goedde’s highest scoring game was against the team from Convoy in 1942. He chalked up 49 points for Vaughnsville in the match.

During Goedde’s high school career, Vaughnsville won 63 games and lost 15. In his freshman year, the team finished the season with a 9-8 record. As a sophomore, his team chalked up a 19-3 season record. In the 1940-41 season, they finished 17-2 and in 1941-42, their record was 18-2.

The Vaughnsville Vikings won the Putnam County Tournament three times in Goedde’s last three years with the team, from 1940-1942. In the three years, the Vikings were never able to get past the district in state competition.

In 1940, Vaughnsville reached the district finals where they were beaten by Holgate by one point in the final second of the match. After making the first shot, Holgate took the ball out of bounds instead of taking the second free throw. Holgate managed to make one more shot and beat Vaughnsville 27-26.

In 1941, Goedde’s junior year, Vaughnsville lost their first district game to Delta 51-48.

In his senior year, 1942, Goedde chalked up 104 points in the county tournament. The Vaughnsville Vikings went on to the district tournaments beating the Antwerp team 63-33 in the first game. Points scored by Goedde in that game totaled 36, more than the total for the entire Antwerp team.

In the next round of the district tournaments that year, Vaughnsville met their old foes, Holgate. The Vikings lost to the Holgate team in a 33-31 match. That game marked

the end of Goedde’s high school basketball career. It was seven years before Vaughnsville won another Putnam County Tournament.

Goedde’s outstanding record speaks for itself, but it takes more than one good ball player to make a winning team and ample credit should be given to Goedde’s teammates.

Vaughnsville players who travelled with the team to the district tournaments in 1940 include, besides Goedde, Robert Blackberger, Vernon Caton, Ronald Dunlap, Donald Forman, Percy Heidlebaugh, Vernon Hughes, Wendell Humphreys, Willis Sakemiller, William Parson, Floyd Metzger, David Boyd, John Evans and Dale Miller.

Goedde’s teammates in 1941 included Robert Blackberger, David Boyd, Vernon Caton, John Evans, Percy Heidlebaugh, Wendell Humphreys, Floyd Metzger, Bill Parsons, Willis Sakemiller, Kenneth Wells, Everett Metzger, Dale Litton and Ralph Goedde.

Goedde’s teammates for 1942 included David Boyd, William Parsons, Dale Litten, Floyd Metzger, Ralph Goedde, Don Wells, John Evans, Jack Roberts, P.A. Heidlebaugh, Willard Irwin, Herbert Bushong, R. W. Heidlebaugh and Ev. L. Metzger.

Guiding Vaughnsville’s basketball team through the three championship years, 1940-1942, was Coach Gale Williams. He began coaching at Vaughnsville in 1937 and continued until 1942.

Williams is the son of George W. Williams, who was an Allen County Juvenile Officer.

Gale Williams graduated from high school in 1930 and attended Bluffton College for two years. He transferred to South Dakota Wesleyan at Mitchell, SD, where another brother, Thomas W. Williams, was head of the vocal music department. While a senior at Wesleyan, Williams was chosen all conference forward by coaches of the South Dakota Conference.

His high school career at Gomer, Ohio, included receiving four letters in both basketball and baseball. He played both sports during his stay at Bluffton College.

Goedde credited Williams with providing encouragement during his high school basketball career.

Vaughnsville's Stretch Goedde

Stretch Ushers in 'Era of Big Man'

Putnam County Vidette – Nick Moore – January 23, 1975

Putnam County basketball history abounds with heroes. Ask a fan of the sport that has been around for a while, who the best basketball player in the county was and you will probably get a variety of answers. If the fan is from Ottoville, names like Scram and Trenkamp might be mentioned. A Columbus Grove fan might say Hartman or Stechschulte.

If you ask a fan from Vaughnsville who the greatest player in the county was, chances are that, without hesitation, he would say "Stretch" Goedde. Goedde, whose first name is actually Sylvester, is a local superstar who led Vaughnsville to victory in the Putnam County Tournament in his sophomore, junior and senior years of high school, from 1939 to 1942. Goedde's achievements include setting many records. One record the 6'8" center set that still, to his knowledge, stands, is for the total number of points scored in a high school career in the county. Goedde scored over 1,400 points, while in high school. He also set a record for his time, of most points scored in a single game. Goedde scored 49 points in a single game for his team. To make the feat even more remarkable, in those days, the accent was on defense and a team that scored 40 or 50 total points in a ball game was considered exceptionally hot in the shooting department.

Goedde was active in baseball as well as basketball, participating in both sports all four years of high school. He later played baseball professionally for the Toledo Mud Hens and is currently on the voluntarily retired list of professional baseball.

Goedde, who is now superintendent of schools in Van Wert, says that his interest in basketball began in grade school. "I suppose that I first became interested in the sport in the sixth grade," explains Goedde. "At that time, we had a junior high tournament in Columbus Grove."

He was later encouraged by his high school coach. "My real interest in basketball was nurtured by Gale Williams, formerly from Gomer." Williams began coaching baseball and basketball for the then-existent Vaughnsville school district when Goedde was in the eighth grade. "He took me under his wing," explains Goedde. "He showed a lot of patience with a big, awkward farm kid and from then on, my sports career just started to unfold to whatever it unfolded to."

One the things that Goedde's career unfolded to was Putnam County championships for his team three years

straight. "In the 1938-1939 school year, we got beat in the tournament. I was a freshman and don't remember too much of that year. I do remember that we won more games than we lost.

During the 1939-1940 season, Goedde, then a sophomore, traveled with his team to Ottawa for the Putnam County Tournament, which they won. "As a sophomore, we had a really good ball team. That year we won the Putnam County Tournament, went on into the district tournament and finally got beaten by the Holgate team.

The starting lineup for Vaughnsville's team that year included Goedde, William Sakemiller, Donald Fortman, Robert Blockberger and Vernon Hughes. Hughes, a resident of Columbus Grove, recalls that season as one that surprised many Putnam County basketball fans. "We won the Putnam County Tournament, though we weren't slated to. At that time, Louis Heckman had a pretty good ball team and they were favored over us," remembers Hughes.

"I don't remember our record for that year," states Goedde, "But it was pretty good." That year Goedde received All-Ohio Honorable Mention, Class B.

In the season of Goedde's junior year, 1940-1941, the Vaughnsville team won the Putnam County Championship again, and this time made it to the finals in District competition. They were finally eliminated by the team from Delta. That year, Goedde was named Second Team, All-Ohio, Class B.

In Goedde's senior year, Vaughnsville came out on top of other area teams to once again win the Putnam County Championship.

By that year, 1942, "Stretch" had attained his full height of 6'8". One of his opponents, Winford Diller, then a center for Liberty-Benton's team, remembers Goedde's remarkable height. "He was the tallest player around. Once his teammates tapped the ball to him, you could say goodbye to it," recalls Diller. "At that time a height of just 6'2" was considered exceptional." It was not height alone, but skill, that caused Goedde to be named captain of the First Team, All-Ohio Class B that year.

Vaughnsville was beaten again by the team from Holgate in District competition. "In my years on the team, we never got to go on to state competition," states Goedde.

Whatever disappointment, Goedde might have felt must have been alleviated when he was awarded a basketball

Vaughnsville's Stretch Goedde

Stretch Ushers in 'Era of Big Man'

Putnam County Vidette – Nick Moore – January 23, 1975

scholarship at Georgetown University, Washington D.C. to begin in September of 1942.

Goedde's high school sports career included four years of pitching for his school's baseball team. "We always got to District, but never made it to State competition until my senior year," states Goedde. That year the Vaughnsville baseball team won their first game in the state tournament, but was defeated in their second match.

It was baseball Goedde turned to when the students of Georgetown University were informed that their school would be converted into an armed service base as part of the U.S. war effort, in the autumn of 1942.

That winter Goedde entered the world of pro baseball as a pitcher for the Toledo Mud Hens. "I signed up to play with Mud Hens in January or February," recalled Goedde. "I played baseball that summer up until July." Goedde's baseball career took him to Elmira, New York, where his team won the Eastern League playoffs.

In that year, 1943, he enrolled in Toledo University. At that time, he was restrained from participating in the school's basketball program because his pro baseball employers feared that he might be injured. His status as a professional baseball player prohibited his participation on the university's baseball team.

In the summer of 1944, Goedde again pitched for Mud Hens, aiding the team to achieve a 14-6 season. "It was a good year," recalls Goedde.

He attended Toledo University for the 1944-1945 academic year, again facing restrictions that prevented him participating in sports.

Spring training in 1945 marked the beginning of the end for Goedde's promising career in professional baseball. Goedde suffered arm injuries during that season's spring training. He pitched for the Mud Hens until July that summer, when he was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the hope that a warmer climate would aid in the healing of his arm. He returned to the team in mid season, where they won four games in Elmira.

Goedde returned to Toledo University for the 1945-1946 school year where he finally was allowed to play basketball leading the team to a 21-5 season.

In the summer of 1946, he was sent to San Antonio, Texas, in another effort to let the recuperative powers of a warmer climate work on this still-injured arm. Goedde's

arm never healed and that summer he went on the voluntary retired list.

In 1947, Goedde played basketball for Toledo University, until an emergency appendectomy just before Christmas, forced him to sit out the rest of the season. Goedde graduated from Toledo University in 1948.

Goedde began his career in education in Ironwood, Michigan, where he taught and was basketball coach for four years. "I received my master's degree from the University of Michigan and have been in education ever since," says Goedde. His career included nine years as a high school principal. He has been superintendent of Van Wert Public School since 1964.

Goedde sums up his basketball career. "Basketball was an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed." He expresses a firm belief in athletics on the high school level. "Participating in high school athletics is a good experience. You learn to give and take. Most importantly, you learn to accept losses."

His son, Ed, is involved in Van Wert's varsity basketball and golf programs.

Although he praises high school athletics, Goedde admits that the activity is not always an easy one. "My advice to anyone who wants to be a good athlete is that he is going to have to spend a lot of time in practice. To be a good, it takes a lot of dedication, self sacrifice, and work."

He believes that the advantages of high school athletics are two-fold:

"All sports play a very important role in the school program for two reasons. Number one: they give the student an opportunity to participate in a very wholesome activity. Number two: they give the student boys an opportunity to identify with something that brings them all together in a common purpose." "A good sports program does this for a school, whether they have a winning team or not, he adds.

Former Players Reminisce on L. W. Heckman Years

Putnam County Vidette – Nick Moore - January 9, 1975

The most visible measure of a high school coach's success is his record of wins. A less tangible, but perhaps more lasting, measure, is the regard in which he is held by his former players.

Louis Heckman's record of wins is impressive. In his 30 years of coaching at Ottoville High School, he coached over 1,000 basketball games and won over 750. To further gauge Heckman's success, two of his former players were interviewed to determine the nature of their coach-player relationship.

Robert Honigfort and Richard Kortokrax, two former players on Heckman teams, were asked to comment on their former coach. Honigfort, Columbus Grove, played high school basketball under Heckman for three years, from 1946-1949, while Kortokrax played on the last team Heckman coached before retiring from coaching in 1951. Kortokrax later went in to high school coaching and is currently head basketball coach for the Kalida High School team.

"He was the finest," states Honigfort. "He knew basketball. I can remember at halftime we would go into the shower room and he could tell what every player on the other team was going to do," Honigfort explains. "He also knew the potential of this own boys right down the line – that's how he won ball games."

Honigfort recalls Heckman's policy on practice. "We never had any really tough training rules. Everybody respected Heckman and knew pretty much what the coach expected." "We only practiced two nights per week, after supper," explains Honigfort, "but when we were there, we practiced."

Honigfort was asked to recall the greatest game he played under Heckman. "I can't recall one particular game above the others. During the years that I played, we had some pretty good ball teams and we weren't too used to losing. I can remember that we beat Columbus Grove.

Honigfort commented on Heckman's style during games. "He wasn't the type of man to jump out on the floor and shout at

referees. He was pretty calm during games. He didn't stand for unsportsmanlike behavior. He taught us more than just basketball," he recalls. "He taught us sportsmanship, and how to get along with other people. Sometimes we thought he was tough on us, but that is the kind of thing that makes a man out of you."

"One year only 22 boys came out for the two squads, so your chances of playing were pretty good," recalls Honigfort, who adds that the team had some pretty good cheerleaders, such as his wife, the former Illa Bohm. "We had some good ball players, but no real stars. One night it would be one player, the next night another."

Honigfort, who has been a resident of Columbus Grove since 1951, remembers Heckman as a teacher as well as a coach. "He taught about every math course. I had him for algebra, geometry, chemistry and physics. He taught parents, their children and their grandchildren."

Richard Kortokrax also recalls Heckman's qualities as an educator. "I think first of all, I learned the fact that education came first with him. And I also believe that firmly. I have tried to follow that particular philosophy."

"I felt at the time I played for him, that he was a living legend. He had my tremendous respect, and I don't think there is anything better for a coach-player relationship."

Kortokrax recalls points he learned from Heckman that helped him in his own coaching career. "He was a fine defensive coach. He instilled in me a liking for defense. He taught me to appreciate both ends of the floor. He gave me a tremendous appreciation of the important parts of basketball."

Kortokrax commented on Heckman's behavior during games. "I felt he conducted himself like a coach should. He didn't ride the officials, yet he expected the officials to do their job fairly. He was the coach, he did his job. He expected everyone to do their job, also. I don't

recall the man ever getting a technical. Kortokrax's teammates included Tom Weber and Don Altenberger, two Heckman players who went on to become high school coaches. "We tied Columbus Grove for the co-championship of the county that year. We won the Putnam County Tournament and got beat on the fourth game in the District Tournament by Deshler."

Kortokrax noted that the most important thing he learned from Heckman happened not on the court, but in the classroom. "I was being overbearing one day and he called me outside the classroom. He told me "When I stop talking to you then you had better start worrying. Because it means that I have either given you up as hopeless, or have my eye on someone else. He expected the right type of behavior in the classroom and on the ball floor." Kortokrax stated that he has told his own player and pupils, in this 18 years of coaching, the same thing. "I think that lesson was the most important thing that stuck with me," said Kortokrax.

Kortokrax compared his style of coaching to his former coach's. "I think that my type of coaching is the same in many ways. He taught you to be a winner; he stressed the fundamentals and taught his players the importance of both ends of the floor. He put a lot of stress on teamwork. I believe in teaching the players to be winners, also. I think we have enough losers in life. I believe in education first. I believe in stressing the fundamentals and I believe in teamwork."

Kortokrax said that the ways in which his coaching style differed from Heckman's are ways that are dictated by the changes in the game of basketball. "Now we have the fast break, the pressure offense, and the games are played faster and under more pressure. There are more facets of the game to learn and the sport is more time consuming.

Mr. Heckman ended his 30 years of coaching with 448 wins. At the conclusion of the 2016 season, Mr. Kortokrax retired after 56 years with a record of 890-372. He is the winningest boys' basketball coach in Ohio.

Ottoville Dedicates Gym after Schools First Coach – L. W. Heckman

Putnam County Sentinel – December 10, 2003 – By Charlie Warnimont

Basketball was introduced to the Ottoville community around 1918. Friday night the man that brought basketball to Ottoville was honored by the community and school. In a ceremony before the Big Green's varsity game with Cory-Rawson, Ottoville's newly built gymnasium was officially named the L.W. Heckman Gymnasium.

Heckman was a long time coach, teacher and principal at Ottoville and was the man that introduced the sport to the community. Heckman retired from coaching after the 1951 season with a career record of 448-124 which included nine Putnam County League titles, 15 district appearances and one state tournament appearance. Heckman also was enshrined in the Ohio High School Basketball Coach's Hall of Fame in 1990.

Besides coaching at Ottoville, Heckman also was a teacher for 50 years, spent time as the high school principal and was the village mayor for 22 years.

Three of Heckman's daughters along with grand children were on hand for the ceremony Friday night. Also on hand were several of his former players and cheerleaders. A reception was held for them and family members prior to the game.

The idea to name the new gymnasium in honor of Heckman was the idea of his grandson Tom Archdeacon and his sister Cathy Looser. They presented their proposal to the Ottoville Board of Education early last year and the board voted in favor of the idea.

Archdeacon was on hand Friday and spoke on behalf of the family. "It feels pretty good to stand out on this new gym floor and just be able to stand here," Archdeacon said. "The last time I was on the Ottoville gym floor was 35 years ago and I was waiting for Coach Dick Kortokrax to blow his whistle so I could start running."

"Growing up with my grandfather, these guys (former players) were my idols. He had the attention of all these guys. He loved these guys, they were his players. Tonight, I've heard all the tales about him and they loved him back. When he walked around town, everyone called him Mr. Heckman even though they were 40 to 50 years old."

"What he did was take farm boys and small town kids and he made them the Big Green. They took on all comers. They played and beat teams from Toledo, Columbus and Lima. They took on anybody and they won a lot and they

took the name of this town every place and that's why we are here tonight."

"I'm proud for my family, especially the three daughters that are here tonight. And I'm really proud of these players and the new kids. I am thankful to all of you for keeping this tradition going. You embrace these kids just like they did 50 years ago and that's what it's all about. My granddad would be so proud tonight."

"And when he retired in 1951, he left with players Augie Trenkamp and Orville Schram being named first team All-Ohio and three players from that team, Dick Kortokrax, Tom Weber and Don 'Tiner' Altenburger stepped into the coaching ranks themselves."

Kortokrax, who has surpassed Heckman's win total, sent a prepared statement that was read to the crowd Friday night by Board President, Bob Weber. Here are some excerpts from that statement.

"Coach Louis W. Heckman, Mr. Basketball, ended his outstanding career as a basketball coach following the 1951 season. I was so proud to be a member of the last team that Mr. Heckman coached at Ottoville High with a record of 17-4 and PCL Champs."

"I personally feel that Mr. Heckman was a pioneer in his teaching and coaching. He had ideas, theories and techniques that were years ahead of his time. How does a community say thank you and recognize an educator that gave 50 years of his life as a master teacher while serving the youth of Ottoville High?"

"How do we say thank you and honor a coach that pioneered the sport of basketball at Ottoville High? The community of Ottoville says thank you by recognizing this master teacher and Mr. Basketball through the dedication of their gymnasium in his honor."

"Personally, I say thank you Mr. Heckman for serving as my idol, my inspiration, my mentor, which gave me the opportunity to walk in your footsteps as a teacher, a principal and a basketball coach. And, when my career is over, I only hope that I can be held in the same high esteem and respect by my peers, former players and other as Mr. Heckman was. In closing, I would like to say congratulations to Mr. Heckman's family, especially his children and grandchildren who I know are so proud of their dad and grandpa."

Richard Kortokrax Steps Down as Kalida's Basketball Boy's Coach

Putnam County Sentinel – By Charlie Warnimont – April 27, 2016

Richard Kortokrax has considered stepping away from coaching basketball the last few years. And, although he was hoping to return to the Kalida bench for a 42nd season, recent conversations with school board members indicated that it probably would not happen as they were considering “going in a different direction.” With that in mind, Coach Kortokrax decided it was finally time to step away from a job he has held for four decades (it actually covered seven consecutive decades).

Kortokrax, 82, informed Kalida Superintendent Karl Lammers Friday morning of his decision to retire and it was announced at a press conference late Friday afternoon in the administration building for the school district. Family members, current and former coaches and players were on hand for the announcement Friday afternoon.

“While I still have a passion for coaching that allows me to continue to mold young men into successful teams, the Kalida School Board has decided to take the program in a different direction. I will truly miss sharing my love of the game with the players and coaches,” Mr. Lammers, a former player for Kortokrax at Kalida, read from a prepared statement. “I would like to thank all my former players from Fort Jennings, Ottoville and Kalida for the privilege of coaching them as they all share in whatever success I have been fortunate to achieve.”

“Also, I want to sincerely thank all my former coaches, including my son Rick, who has been by varsity assistant the last few years, my lifelong friend Joe Horstman and Bob Gerdeman, who have been with me since the beginning at Kalida.” “The support and love from my family has been most important throughout the years in giving me the energy and passion to approach coaching for all the right reasons. My family has stood by my side through every phase of my career.”

Coach Kortokrax retires as the winningest basketball coach in the state of Ohio with a record of 890-371, for a winning percentage of 70.6 percent, in 56 years of coaching at Fort Jennings, Ottoville and Kalida.

He coached 936 games at Kalida with a 665-271 record in 40 seasons. This past season the Wildcats were 13-10 overall and won a second straight Putnam County League title. He won a total of 20 PCL titles at Kalida, 24 overall and was the PCL Coach of the Year 13 times at Kalida, with five more at Ottoville.

Although the veteran coach said he has been toying with the idea of retiring from the game he loves the last couple of years, especially after his wife died five years ago, Kortokrax said the end came as a surprise when he was informed by the Board of Education President that they were considering going in another direction.

A special board meeting had been scheduled for Friday to discuss the matter but was cancelled when Coach Kortokrax decided to retire.

“The end came as a surprise,” Kortokrax said to a reporter’s question. “I’m not saying the board doesn’t have the right to do what they are doing, but I didn’t think it was going to happen. I told myself I wanted to go one more year, even though we had a devastating loss in the tournament again, with a group of kids I appreciated.”

“I did not feel what we were doing was that bad, my coaches and I. I thought we were doing a decent job, but what was missing was a tournament win.”

“I’m being told, I guess, it’s time for a change; there is a better way of doing it. I’m not going to argue with anyone. I’m not going to be bitter with

Richard Kortokrax Steps Down as Kalida's Basketball Boy's Coach

Putnam County Sentinel – By Charlie Warnimont – April 27, 2016

anyone. Do you know how many coaches coach at one place for 40 years?"

"I was told the change was being made because no one supported me anymore, so this kind of surprises me. I wasn't going to make an issue of it to the point where we were going to have any kind of repercussions on my part. What I want to do is to compliment this guy, Mr. Lammers, my Athletic Director, Adam Huber, guys that have supported us, my son Rick and I, for the last couple of years; we thank them for it. That was enough for me. I said it was time to go."

Ironically, the Ottoville School Board decided the same thing after Kortokrax had coached there for 13 seasons going 199-82.

He felt that would be the end of his coaching career as he was going to stay at Ottoville as a teacher only. Instead, he was approached by a group from Kalida to possibly be their high school principal and their coach.

"I wasn't quite sure if I wanted to coach at Kalida because that was one of the teams I liked to beat when I was at Fort Jennings and Ottoville," Kortokrax said with a laugh. "I wasn't too high on being their coach but I wanted to be the principal. I came to Kalida and had the opportunity to coach and continue doing what I loved to do. And it worked out so well."

"Ottoville did me a favor but I didn't know it at the time, because it kind of hurt to a degree that they told me I couldn't coach there anymore, but when I came to Kalida unbelievable things happened."

Kortokrax retired from the principal's position in 1994 and continued to coach at the school until Friday.

Highlights from Kortokrax's coaching career included being elected to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1999; being elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame from the OHSAA in 2002; and he was selected by the National High School Athletic Coach's Association as a Coach of the Year finalist for boys' basketball in 2003. He was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Kalida made four appearances at the OHSAA final four winning the championship in 1981 as his sons Robert and Randy were members of that team. He coached two teams to state runner-up finishes in 1988 and 2009.

"I appreciate very much the support of Mr. Karl Lammers and the Kalida High School Administration through this process, as well as the people of Kalida who have allowed me to spend an amazing 40 years here coaching their sons," the statement said.

"I have spent my entire career playing at Ottoville and coaching basketball in Putnam County. I am so thankful for the spirited and friendly competition between all our local schools. It has indeed been a pleasure to compete with and against each and every one of you," the statement concluded.

As the press conference wound down, the coach asked two questions. "Do you know anyone who has coached 40 years at the same place?" And turning to Lammers he asked, "Do you think anyone will ever beat 890?"

Hall Honors 26 Sweet Seasons

Hall of Fame to Induct Former O-G Coach

Lima News – Jim Naveau – April 17, 2008

When Dave Sweet was hired as Ottawa-Glandorf's boys' basketball coach in 1979, one of the other leading candidates for the job took himself out of the running because he wanted to become a pilot in the Navy. As it turned out, O-G got a pretty good pilot, too.

Sweet stayed 26 seasons, won 449 games before he retired in 2005 and coached the Titans to their first boys' state basketball championship in 2004.

Those accomplishments made him one of five inductees this year to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Patrick Henry's Dave Krauss, Canton McKinley's Dave Hoover, Chagrin Falls' Frank Phillips, former Ohio High School Athletic Association commissioner Clair Muscaro and Sweet will be inducted at a ceremony Saturday night in Columbus.

"I was quite taken back by it," Sweet said about getting the word earlier this year that he was a hall of famer. "I was quite surprised and very honored by it."

Ottawa-Glandorf won the 2004 Division II state title and was state runner-up in 1996. The Titans were the regional runner-up three times for Sweet, most

notably in back-to-back years in 2002 and 2003 when Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary and LeBron James stopped them one game short of the state tournament.

Sweet also coached three other teams that advanced to the regional semifinals. His teams won 20 or more games 10 times, including seven times in a nine-year span from 1996 to 2004. From 2002-2004, the Titans had a 96-9 record.

Sweet's coaching career began when he was hired as Ottawa-Glandorf's freshman boys' basketball coach in 1976, the year he graduated from Bowling Green State University.

Three seasons later in 1979, when Ron Niekamp left to become Lima Senior's boys basketball coach, he was handed the keys to a program that had gone to the state tournament in 1977 and 1978.

"I owe a big debt to Ron Niekamp because he recommended me. The JV coach at the time, Dale Bruskotter, was going to go into the Navy to become a pilot, so he wasn't interested in pursuing the head coaching opportunity," Sweet said. "It wasn't too long, maybe two or three weeks after Ron left, that they interviewed me and told me I had the job."

Hall Honors 26 Sweet Seasons

Hall of Fame to Induct Former O-G Coach

Lima News – Jim Naveau – April 17, 2008

Sweet, now the dean of students at Ottawa-Glandorf, decided to try for a career in teaching and coaching at the suggestion of Len Hardman, his high school basketball and football coach at Norwalk High School.

“It was my second year of college,” Sweet said about the moment he decided he wanted to coach. “My high school basketball coach asked me to start working some basketball camps with him. I kind of enjoyed that. At that time, I hadn’t decided what I wanted to do yet. He kind of talked me into getting into education and pursuing it.”

Sweet says his coaching style evolved and changed over the years. One big change came early in his career and the other was after back-to-back losing seasons in the early 1990s.

“The first few years I thought I knew it all and, obviously, I didn’t. Then I matured,” Sweet said.

“I realized I had to become my self and find out what my strengths were as a coach. I started really concentrating on the defensive aspect, the rebounding aspect and getting (the players) stronger.”

Later on, he changed a second time. “We went through a couple of down

years in the early ‘90s and I sat down with myself – I went to my office at home and sat down after the season – and said, ‘I’ve got to make some changes or I’ve got to get out.’ I knew I couldn’t continue to keep doing what I was doing and be successful.”

“I realized I had to adjust more to my players. There for a while back in the late ‘80s, I thought the players had to adjust to me and my system,” he said.

That coaching evolution, along with lots of talented players, helped make Ottawa-Glandorf a team that went deep into the tournament almost every season.

Even though he retired in his early 50s, Sweet says he doesn’t find himself wishing he was back on the sidelines. With one or two exceptions, that is.

“I missed it when we were down at the state tournament this year,” he said with a laugh, referring to O-G’s state title this season. “It’s fun being down on that floor.”

“I’ve gotten over that. If I would miss anything, it would be the interaction with the players in practice. Game nights were fun too. But I enjoyed practices; that’s where the teaching was done.”

Tom Weber Resigns at O-G

Putnam County Sentinel – February 24, 1972

Thomas C. Weber has been one of Putnam County's most successful basketball coaches but has the misfortune of retiring following three disastrous seasons.

Overall, Weber's teams have won 170 victories and lost 138 with this year's tournament play to come. Forty-six of those losses have come within the last three years.

Weber started his coaching career in Glandorf in the 1957-58 season and became an immediate winner and for the last 15 years his name has been synonymous with the round ball sports in this area.

He coached at Glandorf for seven years, became the head coach when Ottawa and Glandorf high schools consolidated here in 1964 and has held the job ever since.

Tom turned in his letter of resignation to the board of education Tuesday night. He cited health problems as his reason for resigning.

The Weber family has had more than its share of health problems and Tom himself spent the first part of this past basketball season in the hospital. It was then that he really made up his mind that this would be his last year, he said, as he realized that although basketball is really his first love as far as occupation is concerned, he has had to give up too much of his family for it.

EXCEPT TO mention his intentions to the principal and superintendent, Weber kept it secret until he made his first announcement to his players following the game at Delphos Saturday night.

"It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make in my life," Tom said afterwards. He had hoped to coach one more winner before bowing out, and he feels that that could have been next year.

Although a hard driver and often time's explosive on the basketball floor, Weber was never one to criticize any of his boys. Even last year when they did not win a game, Weber often spoke highly of them,

saying that they at least gave it all they had and stuck with it to the bitter end.

Although he has had five straight losing seasons, Weber can look back upon many winners and trophy cases at Glandorf and Ottawa-Glandorf will long attest to some of his great teams,

DURING HIS first three years at Ottawa-Glandorf he did something that has never been equaled in Putnam County and that was to win the Putnam County League three consecutive years and not lose a league game during that time.

Before that he put Glandorf on the map. Glandorf had never been much of a powerhouse in basketball, but in the 1960-61 season they finally won their first Putnam County League championship. They won the county tournament that year and were runner-up the next year and were sectional champions in '61, '62 and '64.

The final year that the Glandorf School was in existence was the greatest. Although the league championship eluded them, they won the county, sectional and district tournaments before losing in the regional finals. His Glandorf teams never finished below fourth in the league and when the school closed, Weber had piled up a 97-57 won-lost record.

In his first three years at Ottawa-Glandorf, his teams won 51 and lost only nine, but this may have been his undoing. After completely dominating the Putnam County League for that period he was politely told that Ottawa-Glandorf was no longer welcome in the league.

THE SCHOOL moved to the Western Buckeye League and Weber consistently put together one of the toughest schedules in Northwestern Ohio. With the exception of Lima Senior and Findlay, no school in this area has played more rugged competition, but during the past five years the local fortunes have fallen and the Titans have won only 24 and lost 72 in that time.

Weber's 1966-67 team is considered by many to be the greatest team ever in

Putnam County. They won 18 that year and lost only two, both to Lima Senior. That was another year that Weber was beset with family problems. One of his sons was struck deathly ill just prior to tournament and Tom had to spend the week in the hospital and was unable to prepare his team for the tournament. He still regrets this to this day.

There were just two size classifications at that time yet, and O-G was playing with the big schools. The Lima team knocked them out of the tournament and the Spartans went all the way to the regional finals.

One of Weber's players received All-State and All-American honors and several received college scholarships.

WEBER WAS elected coach of the year in Putnam County 1960-61 and was a finalist for coach of the year in the Lima area in 1963-64 and 1966-67. He received votes for coach of the year in the Northwest District in 1963-64.

He is a member of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, receiving this honor in 1965. He has been inducted into the Bike Chemical Company Century Club and the Wilson Sporting Goods 100 victory club, for both basketball and baseball receiving these honors in 1967.

In addition to coaching high school basketball, he coached baseball for eight years, and compiled a record of 130 wins and 91 losses. His baseball teams won two league championships and were runners-up four times. He also coached track two years.

Weber intends to keep his position as athletic director at the school and will continue as an industrial arts teacher. He has been director of the Ottawa summer recreation programs for four years and has re-applied for the job again this year.

In his letter of resignation Weber, recommended that David Laudick who has been his assistant for 11 years, be elevated to the position of head coach.

Sentinel Scribe Finally Closing Scorebook

Putnam County Sentinel – December 26, 1984 – By Chris Benson

There have been very few, if any, sports enthusiasts that have seen more Ottawa-Glandorf High School football and basketball games than Richard Laudick, publisher and editor of the Sentinel who is retiring Saturday.

In fact, since he started covering Putnam County League sports in 1948, he has seen hundreds of games, thousands of players and an unaccountable number of memorable events that would take days to put in ink.

Before finally marking that last out and closing the scorebook that stayed open some 37 years, the ol' sports scribe is leaving us with a few of his greatest remembrances.

When Richard Laudick began writing sports the PCL was a 13-member league. There were the current nine county high schools including Glandorf, Sts. Peter and Paul, Vaughnsville and Blanchard.

But it was not until two years later that he covered his first big event: Miller City winning the 1950 state basketball title.

Though it was 35 years ago, he still remembers. "Miller City was playing Eaton in the finals and Eaton stalled the entire game," he recalled. "And Miller city stayed in a zone. It was a slow game."

He concedes that the Wildcat club was a great team but felt that the Miller City teams of 1945 and 1946 had better personnel though did not advance to state.

As to the best team he ever saw come out of the county he says that's tough to answer. "There were so many good teams. The Leipsic teams of 1954, 1955 and 1956 when Bill Warren played had great teams. And the 1967 class at Ottawa-Glandorf that won three straight league championships was maybe the greatest."

"They lost only two games their senior year, both to Lima Senior," Laudick said. That second Lima loss came in the sectional tournament when the state had only two classes. "Butch Ruhe and Dan Ruhe, Larry Cox, Bill Croy and Dan Sager were on that team," he said. "And they were good in all sports."

He does not have to reflect long on what was his most memorable event - last year when Miller City won the state baseball title. "When Jeff Hermiller scored that winning run," he said, "he fell down rounding third base, got up and scored to win the game. For sheer drama that had to be it."

"And the two years Ottawa-Glandorf won the regionals at Bowling Green in 1977 and 1979. They really weren't expected win but they did."

He also recalls the lean years of OG basketball when in 1972 the team was carrying something like a 24-game losing streak and finally snapped it at Coldwater. "You'd thought we won the state championship," he said with a laugh.

It's tough for him to pick one great football team but he remembers the Columbus Grove teams of the 1950's. Under Coach Collin Stackhouse from 1948-1955 those teams went 42-12-2 including an undefeated string of 19 games from 1950-1952.

And track? "Pandora had great track teams in the 40's and then Columbus Grove took over in the 50's and 60's," he said. "Ottoville had some great teams after that. And Ottawa-Glandorf had some great teams in the 70's with Jeff Huggins and Harold Denhart. They were state runners-up in 1971 and state champs in 1972.

And great coaches? "There have a lot of great coaches and especially now since things have become so specialized," he said. "Dick Kortokrax, now at Kalida, is one and a coach who played for Lewis Heckman, a great coach at Ottoville."

And the greatest player? "That's impossible to say," he admitted. "There have been so many. I was in grade school but remember watching Stretch Goedde in Vaughnsville. Back then scoring ten points a game was high and he averaged around 29."

Does that Vaughnsville team compare to recent clubs? Laudick says may be not. "Vaughnsville had a fantastic team when Stretch played but it was a different style game then. It's so specialized now. The coaches and kids are better trained. That Vaughnsville team, if put on a court today, might get run off."

My boss is putting his pen down soon. His style was unique compared to other writers. He was straight forward and honest. He never wrote a story to make it cute or show favoritism that so many other sportswriters are guilty of. His style maybe did not win the hearts of many local coaches either, but again that's not the job of a good writer. It's to write facts and write it well. My boss did both.

VonSossan Retiring as Fort Jennings Basketball Coach

The Lima News – April 11, 2013 – By Jim Naveau

Retirement Comes after 309 Wins, 52 Years and a State Title

John VonSossan, the boys' basketball coach at Fort Jennings High School since the 1986-87 season is retiring.

VonSossan, who led the Musketeers to the 2000 Division IV State Championship and won 309 games in his career, is ending a coaching career that stretches over 52 years, including time as a varsity assistant, freshman and junior high coach.

"They always say you'll know when it's time but I never really came to that situation," VonSossan said. "I never had a hard time going to practice. I love the games, I love the competition. I like to be around the kids. I didn't retire now because of any special reason. I decided to let some young guy take over and go for it," he said.

Fort Jennings has settled on a replacement for VonSossan but Fort Jennings superintendent of school, Nick Langhals, would not name the candidate until the board of education formally hires him at a meeting next Wednesday.

VonSossan became Fort Jennings' head coach in the 1986-87 season. The Musketeers were 19-4 that season and won the Putnam County League title, the first of five PCL championships they won in his 27 seasons.

Fort Jennings also won four district titles in those 27 years. The pinnacle, of course, was winning the state championship. After losing to Edgerton in a regional championship game in 1999, Fort Jennings came back to win it all with a 24-3 record in 2000.

At that time, Fort Jennings had 147 students in high school and 469 from kindergarten through grade 12. To win the state, the Musketeers had to get through two of the most storied programs in Ohio small school basketball – Berlin Hiland and St. Henry.

Fort Jennings won the state title game 64-58 over St. Henry.

"I've had a pretty good ride," VonSossan said. "The thing I was most proud of probably was the stretch we had from 1998-2008. We won about 150 games in that era and were to the regional four times, reached the regional final twice and won the state. For little Fort Jennings, we had our share of athletes."

VonSossan was not a teacher. He founded his own concrete contracting company in 1963. He also was Fort Jennings' ACME League baseball coach for 30 years.

He has talked about retirement before it actually happened.

The first time was 37 years ago when his oldest son Tom, who was Ottoville's head coach for many years, reached junior high age. He told the school he didn't want to coach his children but the school refused to accept his resignation.

More recently, he considered retiring a couple of times since 2006. "I had done it a couple other times when I told them that was probably it. When I finally did it, nobody really believed me," he said.

VonSossan said one of the things he wanted before retiring was to think the program would be in good hands after he left.

"It's a community pride thing and a school thing and that's the way I want it to continue," he said. "I always talk in terms of 'We'. It's not about me; it's about the kids and everybody else. I was only a small part of it."

Don Huber Remembered and Honored

Continental's Gym was Renamed in his Memory

Putnam County Sentinel – February 9, 2000

In a moving one-hour ceremony between two basketball games, a special coach was remembered by two different schools and a gym was renamed in his memory.

When the Continental Superintendent Ed Platzer asked members of the audience who had personally known Don Huber to stand during the dedication of the Don Huber Memorial Gymnasium in Continental, hundreds of Continental and Holgate citizens stood up.

Don Huber taught science, biology and driver's education at Continental High School from 1965 until 1991. Coach Huber led the Pirate junior high, freshmen and junior varsity teams from 1967 to 1991 and coached varsity basketball from 1971 until 1991.

Coach Huber's 1972 and 1977 teams went on to the regional and state tournament and Huber's teams also won five Putnam County League titles. Huber's varsity coaching record included 285 wins and 170 losses.

Huber continued to support his beloved Pirates at basketball games after his retirement and until his death in April of 1998.

On Saturday, February 5, people from Continental and Holgate also remember Huber for his interest in the youth he taught and coached at Continental and in his home town of Holgate.

Speakers for the evening included: Marv Sebring, Master of Ceremonies and former radio announcer; Dennis Potts, former reserve coach; Paul Wayne, Holgate head coach and friend; Steve Moore, former athletic director; Doug Williams, former assistant coach; Ron Weisenburger, representing former players; Superintendent Ed Platzer.

Sebring recounted some special memories when Coach Huber would wave his towel during an exciting game. "He was a dear friend and a special kind of guy. I feel so privileged that God let me have him for a friend," said Sebring. "It is fitting to honor a man who was so instrumental in getting this gym built. And it is indeed fitting that the two communities, Holgate and Continental, which meant so much to him, are here tonight."

"The most important thing Coach Huber brought to the game was his enthusiasm. He said he was always looking for the key that would turn things around in a season, but he was the key. I will always remember this desire, love and enthusiasm. This is the house that Don Huber built," said Potts.

Steve Moore said, "Don Huber was an outstanding coach and teacher, but he was also a great human being. After I met Don, I knew I'd like to begin my career here and I know he had a tremendous impact on the lives of many other people in this community. Some of us called him 'The Bomber'. When he played basketball with his friends, he liked taking the bomb (long shots). Don always looked for the good in people and I believe he was really appreciated. You just don't find head coaches that stick in a community for as long as he did. He had

the ability to get players to believe in themselves and to have good self-esteem. He was a 'builder of people' and I can't think of a better person that exemplifies what athletics are all about," concluded Moore.

Doug Williams, current Pirate head coach, said "I knew Coach Huber for over 20 years and we shared both good and bad days. We laughed and cried together. He was the big brother I never had. His guidance and experiences really helped you to get to know someone and I'm here to honor Don's legacy. I know Don was very proud to have been in Continental, but his true greatness is the three young men sitting here tonight. He never forgot his obligations as a father. Thank you, Don, for all you've meant to me and others."

Paul Wayne, current Holgate head coach, said, "Don Huber affected my life. He took a rookie coach and taught me how to coach a team. He was my mentor. We may have been competitors on the opposing bench, but he taught me about life and about the type of person I wanted to be like." Wayne concluded, "Coach Huber's pet phrase was 'Zingo Zowie!' He would use the phrase to will good things to happen."

Former player, Con Weisenburger, said, "Coach Huber could take a group of boys and put Continental on the map. I'll never forget all the signs I saw around town in 1972. Coach always gave everyone the same chances and showed me what hard work and a sense of fair play meant. He always knew what to say and when to say it and I'd just like to thank Don's family who sacrificed so much. Thank you for all the memories."

Sue Huber, Coach Huber's wife and their three sons, Robert, John and Kenneth and other family members attended the dedication. Sue Huber, an educator in Continental Schools, accepted a plaque in honor of her husband during the dedication of the gym.

Ron Winkle, Kevin Homier, Jim Martin, Sue Huber and Ed Platzer helped organize the committee for the event.

In the darkness of the gym, slides were shown of Coach Huber and former basketball players, as two songs, 'Memories' and 'Angels Among Us' accompanied the presentation.

When the lights came back on a large wall memorial was revealed and Don Huber, coach, teacher and friend, was remembered.

Bob Seggerson's All-Time Putnam County All-Star Team

The Lima News – March 6, 2013 – By Bob Seggerson

I have always been intrigued by the basketball played in Putnam County over the years because it is fueled by a passionate fan base and has produced some of the greatest players to ever hit the hardwood in this area.

Here's my shot at naming an all-time starting five from Putnam County. Please keep in mind that I have no real expertise on the subject other than my own personal observations and connections. If anyone wants to discuss Putnam County basketball with a real expert I suggest they contact Dan Kern who has written a wonderful history on Putnam County sports. Dan's book is the size and weight of a New York City phone directory and it is an absolute treasure.

SYLVESTER "STRETCH" GOEDDE (1942 – VAUGHNSVILLE)

Any attempt at naming the best players to ever compete in Putnam County has to include this legendary athlete. Over 70 years after he played his last high school game, Goedde's name is still invoked by serious basketball fans.

Vaughnsville High School, which merged with Columbus Grove in the 1960's, won three consecutive Putnam County titles with Stretch leading the way. His Putnam County scoring mark of 1,538 points held up for an astounding 62 years and remains the second highest individual career scoring mark.

At 6-feet, 8-inches, Goedde was a giant among men and dominated the game like few others. Goedde also led his high school baseball team to the state tournament, pitching a one-hit shutout in the regional final game.

His basketball exploits earned him a scholarship to Georgetown University but he left after one year to pursue his dream of playing professional baseball. Three seasons and 19 wins later, much of it with the Toledo Mud Hens, Stretch made the decision to end his baseball career after suffering an arm injury.

He returned to play a couple of years of basketball at the University of Toledo, where he graduated. After earning a master's degree from the University of Michigan, Goedde began a successful career in education and retired as the long time superintendent of the Van Wert city schools.

KEN VENNEKOTTER (1958 – MILLER CITY)

Ken makes my team because he was not only a great player who still ranks in the top ten all time scorers in the County but because I also had the pleasure of actually playing against him.

When I was in high school, our coach, Bill Clark, often had a team of older athletes from Miller City scrimmage against us. I can still vividly recall watching this collection of veterans coming into the LCC gym for our scrimmage and think "What are these old guys doing here?"

What they were doing there was kicking our rear ends for four quarters and showing us how the game should be played. I was often matched up with Ken and grew to respect his skill and his attempts to help me with my own game.

"Cot" Marquette was Vennekotter's coach for three seasons and remembers that Ken "was chiseled out of stone and could jump out of the gym."

Miller City was a combined 58-9 in Vennekotter's three years on the varsity and won the Putnam County championship each year.

Coach Marquette recalls those years with great fondness. "I loved my time at Miller City and coaching Ken just made it that much more special," says Coach Marquette. Vennekotter closed out his high school basketball career as the "Player of the Year" in Putnam County. The years have been good to Ken. He stills looks like he could step on the floor and play the game.

DENNY POTTS (1964 – KALIDA)

Bob Seggerson's All-Time Putnam County All-Star Team

The Lima News – March 6, 2013 – By Bob Seggerson

Denny makes my team because he was one of the best round-ballers to ever compete at Kalida High School and still ranks as the fifth leading scorer in school history.

I also had the pleasure of playing with Denny in college. Potts was the captain of our squad in my sophomore year and had a positive influence on every member of that team. He was an outstanding college player but an even better leader.

He had a great pull-up jumper and was a real student of the game. Denny was a quiet but fierce competitor. My most endearing memory of Potts was when he returned to college for his senior year with a bride, Barbara, a beautiful redhead.

St. Joseph's College was an all-male school at the time, surrounded by miles and miles of nothing but cornfields. We could go months without seeing a member of the opposite sex. And then Denny arrives for his senior year with the prettiest girl in 10 counties.

Great move Denny, your best ever. It solidifies your place on my all-time Putnam County team. Potts recently retired from the Continental High School where he taught and coached for many years.

TOM HECKMAN (1965 – OTTAWA-GLANDORF)

Tom was another player I was very familiar with because I competed against him. I was matched up with Heckman and discovered that he was almost impossible to guard. Tom was always the quickest player on the floor and had an incredible shooting touch and range.

Putnam County fans recall that many of his shots came from well beyond today's three-point line but only counted for two in that era.

In spite of that limitation, Heckman still ranks as the No. 3 all-time scorer in Putnam County history with 1,537 points.

The other element of his game I recall is that Heckman had the uncanny ability to get to the free throw line. Like some many great scorers, Tom would get his defender off balance and then absorb contact while shooting. He still holds the O-G records for career attempts and makes from the charity stripe and once made 17 free throws in one game.

Tom played for Glandorf High School in his first three seasons before it merged with Ottawa to form Ottawa-Glandorf High School in 1964. His 29.6 scoring average in his senior year remains the highest ever at O-G and included four games where Tom dropped over 40 points on his opponent.

Heckman's basketball exploits earned him a scholarship to University of Dayton. Tom currently resides in Ottawa and was a long time junior high coach and also assisted with the O-G girls' basketball program.

TIM POLLITZ (2005 – OTTAWA-GLANDORF)

Pollitz is the top scorer in the history of Putnam County basketball, an impressive achievement when measured against the many great players who competed in the county over the years.

Tim helped lead the Titans to a mind-boggling 96 wins over his four-year career.

That included four Western Buckeye League titles, four sectional and district titles, one regional and one state championship.

There are many who believe that O-G would have won three state titles in that era if they did not have the misfortune of running into Akron St. Vincent and their star, LeBron James, in the regional tournament.

From an opposing coach's point of view, Tim, and his twin brother Eric, were a load. I can recall the frustration of trying to game plan against the Titans during their reign. We managed to keep the games tight but in the closing moments, Tim, who at 6'5" was unstoppable near the basket, would wander out and bury back-breaking three point shots. The Pollitz brother signed scholarships to play at Miami University.

Tim was named first-team All Mid-American Conference following his junior and senior seasons. Tim had a contract offer to play profession basketball overseas after graduating from Miami University but he turned it down. He battled serious knee problems over his last two years of college and felt that his body simply needed time to recover. Tim and his brother, Eric are following in their father's footsteps and currently preparing for the Ministry.

Basketball “King” in Putnam County

Vidette, January 15, 1975

Basketball has always been the “king” sport in Putnam County, or so it seems. Back in the early 1930’s, county play included no less than a dozen teams. And some of today’s biggest names in the prep sport, Kalida and Fort Jennings, were not yet in action.

It was generally Ottoville or Vaughnsville at the top of the heap in the basketball of the day. Other teams participating in the highly regarded county tournament in Ottawa’s old National Guard armory, included Ottawa Public, Ottawa Parochial, Crawfis College (Gilboa), Blanchard, Pandora-Gilboa, Continental, Leipsic, Glandorf, Belmore, Pandora, Miller City, Palmer and Columbus Grove.

Columbus Grove’s basketball veterans recall playing in the gym on the second floor of the present city building. Max “Red” Blosser, a regular on teams in the 1930-1931 era, recalls Bulldog home games in the cramped quarters with six or seven bleacher rows on each side of the small hall.

Blosser also remembers the time Columbus Grove played in the dedication game at Continental’s last new gym. He doesn’t recall the score although present day basketball zealots won’t quickly forget that it was a Columbus Grove team which carried the first defeat to the Continental Pirates in their 1973 gym.

Glandorf played their home games in an upstairs room of the school. A crowd of 50 fans represented about the maximum which could be squeezed into the quarters.

If such a thing as a “hot stove league” existed in basketball, Palmer or Miller City’s home court would have been the ultimate. Apparently, players in the games of the 1930’s found a stove at each end of the Miller City court easily accessible to a player who was thinking more of the basketball game than he was of protecting his own hide. Perhaps that is where the jump shot originated; recollections around county are a bit hazy on this point.

Vaughnsville, which some say had the best overall basketball record during its history before consolidation with Columbus Grove, played in a frame building adjacent to the present schoolhouse. It too had the two heating stoves for a trace of warmth. Low hung rafters and incandescent light bulbs gave special obstacles to a shooter trying to look through the glare and push the ball through the rafter to score.

Ralph Radabaugh of Gilboa, now lives in Toledo. He reportedly still works as a basketball official and was reputed to be the best shot “through the rafters” in the county. He earned his stars in the role by leading his team to success in the annual county tournaments in Ottawa. The two-day affairs would generally advance three teams to a sectional tourney simply because Putnam County had so many contending schools to begin play with. Other counties advanced only two teams as a general rule.

The Ottawa tournaments were a real credit to the endurance of the winner. The event generally began on a Friday morning, continued in the afternoon and evening. Then on Saturday, teams advancing with victories would have to play two games, sometimes in both the afternoon and evening. It was Class B basketball at its best.

A number of almost legendary figures emerge from the recollections of Putnam County’s great basketball past. Other schools remember Miller City’s Izzy Noon, who was reputed to throw bullet-like passes left-handed the length of the Leipsic gym, which came to replace the armory as the site of the county tourney. Roger Slusser, the Irwin boys and the Benroths were all names to remember for the Vaughnsville squad. But the biggest name of all, Sylvester “Stretch” Goedde of Vaughnsville, was yet to come.

In the mid 1930’s, Leipsic opened what proved to be the finest gym in the county at the time. With a ceramic tile floor, it provided a special feature remembered by most of the players of the day. The floor “sweated” in damp weather giving players of the day an almost certain way to slip through the defense.

Good old Class B basketball. There are a lot of memories which haven’t even been tapped yet!

Putnam County Earns Reputation as Hotbed of Basketball

The Lima News – Paul Smith – March, 1978

Many people, especially those foreign to the immediate area, are just now discovering how tough Putnam County basketball actually is.

Putnam County didn't exactly become a hotbed for basketball overnight. It all started back in the days of Sylvester "Stretch" Goedde and even before that.

League competition began in 1924, but Goedde's presence in the early 1940s began the creation of what now has become one of Ohio's strongest small school basketball leagues.

Goedde was a giant in what, at the time, was a game void of tall players. At 6-8, he was a starter for Vaughnsville from 1939 until 1942. In his senior year, he averaged 31.5 points per game, tallied 49 points in one game and ended his prep career with 1,538 points – a Putnam County record which remains undisturbed.

Goedde so impressed college scouts that he received a basketball scholarship to Georgetown University which, at the time, was a cage powerhouse. Because of World War II, Georgetown University became a training center and Goedde, who couldn't get into the service because he was too tall, transferred to the University of Toledo.

"For the first two years at Toledo, I didn't play basketball. But I did my junior and senior years," related Goedde, now Superintendent of Van Wert schools. "I signed a pro baseball contract with Toledo of the American Association because, in those days, you could be an amateur in one sport and a pro in another." Goedde, a tall southpaw pitcher, played for the Toledo Mud Hens each summer from 1943 until 1946, when he hurt his arm and was finished in professional baseball.

Vaughnsville, which later merged with Columbus Grove, won titles during Goedde's sophomore, junior and senior seasons. In fact, Vaughnsville captured nine of Putnam County's first 14 basketball championships.

Continental won the first PCL crown in 1924, but the Pirates had to wait until 1971 before winning another one. The Pirates, this season's champions, have won outright or co-titles in five of the last eight seasons.

Ottawa-Glandorf, the largest school in Putnam County, bowed out of the PCL in 1967 after the Titans had captured their third straight crown. Ottawa-Glandorf, which suffered some hard times on the basketball court from 1968 through

1974 (30 wins in seven years), will make its second straight Class AA State tourney appearance under coach Ron Nickamp this week.

Ottoville will also participate this week in the Class A State Tourney, giving Putnam County the distinction of having teams in the State basketball tournament two years running. Continental went to the Class A State Tourney last season.

Current members of the PCL include Kalida, Ottoville, Fort Jennings, Leipsic, Columbus Grove, Pandora-Gilboa, Miller City and Continental. Ottawa-Glandorf is the only other high school in Putnam County and the Titans compete in the Wester Buckeye League.

Although the PCL has been an established eight-team circuit for some time, the league has included nearly twice as many teams. Consolidations replaced Vaughnsville, Glandorf, Ottawa Public, Ottawa Parochial (Saints Peter and Paul) and Blanchard. Another name of the past is Palmer which consolidated with Miller City.

Two factors, according to current Putnam county coaches have gone a long way toward shaping the intense rivalries which have developed among the coaches, players and fans.

"Only four schools in the county pay football so basketball is THE sport for most of us," Ottoville mentor Phil Muehfeld says.

"Putnam County has nearly as many high schools as it does communities," Nickamp says. "The kids get in the bus and only go a few minutes to a gym packed with people. This just adds more fuel to the rivalries."

It is not unusual to find a player from one Putnam County school playing his cousin from another school. Or brother coaching brother, as was the case three seasons ago at Miller City when Coach Denny Recker piloted the Wildcats, which included Denny's two brothers, Mark and Fred. In Denny's final year at Miller City, he locked horns with another brother, Leipsic coach, Clair Recker.

Tom Weber, current principal of Glandorf Elementary School, but former Athletic Director and head basketball coach at both Glandorf High and Ottawa-Glandorf, agrees that proximity and shifting the emphasis to one sport has built Putnam County's basketball reputation.

"Every community identifies with the basketball team," Weber says. "For many years, the prime sports program of most the schools was basketball. And today only Leipsic,

Putnam County Earns Reputation as Hotbed of Basketball

The Lima News – Paul Smith – March, 1978

Pandora-Gilboa, Columbus Grove and Ottawa-Glandorf play football.” With the exception of Ottawa-Glandorf, the other three football-playing Putnam County schools haven’t established themselves on the hardwood in recent times.

Seven different teams have won the PCL basketball title three straight years. They include Ottoville (1933-35), Vaughnsville (1940-42), Leipsic (1954-56), Miller City (1962-64), Ottawa-Glandorf (1965-67), Kalida (1975-77) and Continental (1976-78). Ottoville, Vaughnsville, Leipsic and Ottawa-Glandorf each won outright titles while the others won one outright and two co-titles.

Miller City, a tiny hamlet located five miles northwest of Glandorf, is the only Putnam County team to win a state basketball championship. In 1950, the 29-0 Wildcats beat Eaton 44-36 in the Class B State Finals.

Two players who started on that state championship team, Joe Lammers and Dick Barlage, are currently members of the Miller City school board. Other starters on that team were Frank Schroeder, Junior McDonald and Ralph Meyer, now deceased.

It would be impossible to name all the players who have left their mark in the Putnam County record book, but a few of the more prominent players were Goedde, the Heckman brothers, (Ken and Tom), Bill Warren of Leipsic, Gerry Schomaeker of Ottawa Parochial, the Spitnale brothers, (Brad and Greg) at Continental, Ken Pothast and Joe Maas of Ottawa-Glandorf.

Tom Heckman, who played varsity two years at Glandorf and his senior year at O-G when it was formed in 1964-65, is the career scoring leader for the Titans. He ranks second to Goedde on the all-time point list ahead of Greg Spitnale. Brad Spitnale holds the single season Putnam County mark of 661 points.

Ken Heckman was a stalwart for the Glandorf’s Dragons before his younger brother came along. Warren led Leipsic in the Toledo Regional in 1954 and Schomaeker was one of the finest outside shooters to ever play in Putnam County. Pothast was an all-state selection last year at guard and 6-5 Maas is the current dominant figure for the state-bound Titans.

Fort Jennings has never made it to the State Tourney, but the Muskies advanced to the regionals in 1958 and in 1976. Under Coach Don Altenburger in the late 1960s, Jennings came up with some strong teams.

Ottoville lost in the first round of the 16-team State Tourney back in 1937 and advanced to the Regionals in 1954. In 1925 Leipsic made it to the State Quarter-Finals when there were eight teams in the Class B Tourney. In addition to last season, Continental also advanced to the State in 1972. The Pirates went to the Regionals in 1974 while Columbus Grove lost in the 1952 Toledo Class B Regionals. Glandorf made it to the Lima Regionals in 1964.

And who can forget the Kalida team of 1967, coached by Alan Chase. After a 10-8 regular season, including four league losses, the Wildcats advanced to the State Tourney. Along the way, Kalida won a pair of double-overtime-thrillers over Miller City and Fayette. In 1975 Kalida went to the Regionals under Coach Dick Kortokrax who was in his first season after several at Ottoville.

Ottoville and Ottawa-Glandorf, this week, hope to become the first Putnam County teams in nearly 30 years to capture State cage crowns. One thing for sure, their fans or others from Putnam County will be behind them. Known as some of the most vocal and enthusiastic supporters, Putnam County fans know their basketball.

Part-Time Basketball Coach

By James P. Holl – Timeline (A Publication of the Ohio Historical Society) January/March 2013

It couldn't happen today. The truth is so unlikely that many people still find it hard to believe. In 1923, Ralph Geesey took two teams to the Ohio state boys' basketball tournament. The schools were at West Unity and Stryker, two small villages located about seven miles apart in Williams County in the corner of northwestern Ohio.

In 1923, when the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) assumed sponsorship of the tournament, two classes were established: Class A large schools and Class B small schools with less than 150 boys enrolled. Some five hundred schools participated in the season-culminating event to determine the state champions. About three-fourths of the teams were in the Class B category. Many rural schools at that time had no gym and played wherever they could find a suitable venue: a public auditorium, YMCA, church hall, theater, barn, or perhaps at a larger school in a nearby town. Most small school faculties had one or two male teachers who often doubled as superintendent or principal. Few of them had any basketball coaching experience. But coach they did – no one else was available.

West Unity and Stryker were no exception. Both had only thirty-five to forty boys enrolled in the high school grades and that number often dropped during the year as boys and girls as well left to help with planting and harvesting chores on their farms. The West Unity team previously had played their home games in the town hall before 1921, when a new high school, complete with a gym, was built. They hired local boy Ralph Geesey at \$25 a week to coach their basketball team. His younger brother, Charles, was the center on the team.

Stryker built a new school in 1922, complete with both an indoor swimming pool and a gym. The gym also featured an indoor running track that circled the upper level; the overhanging track prevented shots from being taken from the corner of the floor. Stryker, too, was looking for a coach. Fred Salter, Geesey's brother-in-law and a teacher at Stryker, prevailed on a school official to hire Geesey at a salary of \$85 a month.

Ralph (Misel) Geesey was born on December 16, 1900, on his parents' two-hundred-acre dairy farm in German Township, Fulton County, about three miles east of West Unity. He was the third of six children born to Clarence and Minnie (Misel) Geesey. The Geesey family had come to the area around 1850 as part of a wave of immigrants mainly of German and Swiss descent who subsequently carved prosperous farms out of the nearly impenetrable Great Black Swamp that once covered much of northwestern Ohio. Geesey remained on the family farm his entire life.

He graduated from West Unity in 1917. As a youth, he loved to play basketball. A self-described "runt", he was primarily a substitute who got into few games. After graduation, however, he grew quickly to more than six feet and he began to play with the semi-pro town team: The West Unity Speed Demons. Over the next fifteen years, Geesey played on and coached a number of amateur and semi-pro teams in the area. In addition to starring for the Speed Demons, he played for the Bryan Wonder Fives, the Archbold City Drugs and the Kunkle Merchants. Later he

coached Hamler Tech, a team composed of local farm boys who played town teams and traveling semi-pros throughout much of northwest Ohio and adjoining parts of Michigan and Indiana. All the while he worked full-time on the farm. Although he was only twenty-two years old when he was hired, Geesey clearly was no basketball novice.

He worked out a Solomon-like arrangement with the two schools. At the close of school each afternoon, Geesey practiced with the West Unity team. Then he hurried home to milk the cows and have a quick meal. Next, he drove seven miles and coached the Stryker team in the evening. Later, he downplayed the busy schedule, recalling that the basketball season was an off-season for farm work. His dad, who was a big basketball fan, helped by carrying much of the workload.

Although West Unity and Stryker were only a few miles apart, they were quite different. West Unity primarily was a farm service center whose grocery store, hardware, rug store, banks and farm-implement dealers served the surrounding rich agricultural lands of northern Williams County. The town was platted in 1842 and was named after Unity, Pennsylvania - birthplace of one of the town's founders.

Stryker, on the other hand was a small, thriving manufacturing town straddling the busy main line of the New York Central Railroad. The line carried goods processed locally from timber, grain and cattle by rail to Toledo and points beyond. The town was laid out in 1853 along the Northern Indian railroad and was named for John Stryker, a New York state-born attorney and railroad executive.

Proximity and differences both made for a strong rivalry between the two towns. Nowhere was the rivalry more fiercely contested than on the basketball court. And Ralph Geesey, as coach of both teams, was caught in the middle.

To help ameliorate the situation, Geesey also arranged his schedule so his Speed Demons played on nights when his high school teams were idle. On game nights it helped, too, that Stryker had a girls' team while West Unity did not. Geesey could coach the reserve and varsity games at West Unity, travel to Stryker just as the girls' game was ending and arrive in time to coach the Stryker boys in the final game of the evening.

West Unity and Stryker – county rivals of long standing – usually played each other twice in the season. Again, Geesey's solution to that situation was novel. He coached neither team and instead sat in the stands as a spectator! The two school principals temporarily assumed coaching duties. Geesey's brother played for West Unity and his sister cheered for Stryker. No one recalls where Geesey sat. Did he begin on the visitor's side and perhaps switch sides at halftime? Either would have been in keeping with his stance of strict neutrality. In a strange twist, in 1923 both teams lost their only regular-season games to each other on their opponent's home court: Stryker won at West Unity in early January and West Unity prevailed 22-8 at Stryker a month later. Both finished with 16-1 records. Geesey later would claim that

he had coached two undefeated teams that year since he did not coach in the games each team lost.

Part-Time Basketball Coach

By James P. Holl – Timeline (A Publication of the Ohio Historical Society) January/March 2013

Geesey gave credit to his 1923 players and their talents, saying, "They were all good shooters and knew how to handle the ball." Most observers noted the two teams played aggressive defense and relied on sharp passing to obtain good open shots.

Then came March and tournament time. West Unity and Stryker, it appeared, were on a collision course to decide the district championship. But they found an out. In 1923, OHSAA rules permitted a school to enter either the Class A or the Class B tournament. The only condition was that a decision was irreversible. A team could not enter the Class A tournament at the district level and, if successful, switch back to Class B for the state finals. Geesey chose to enter his Stryker team in the Class A district tournament at Defiance College on March 2-3. He reasoned that with only seven teams in Class A and thirty-one teams in Class B, Stryker had a better chance of winning. He also thought the Stryker team was stronger physically and played better defense, hopefully enabling them to compete more successfully with the larger schools. Besides, he certainly did not want to pit his two teams against each other if he could prevent it.

West Unity breezed through the Class B district tournament, defeating Montpelier 20-12, Columbus Grove 16-9, Ridge Township of Van Wert County 14-12 and Convoy 27-14 in the finals. On the same weekend and at the same place, Stryker won the Class A district title beating Napoleon 12-8 and Defiance 20-13 in the district final game. Geesey's two teams had six wins in two days and he had coached them all – with no assistants, no trainers, and certainly without sophisticated game strategies.

The following weekend, March 9-10, both teams and the coach boarded the local train to Columbus and the state basketball tournament. None of them had ever remotely experienced such a time in their lives before. They stayed at fraternity houses on the Ohio State University campus – raw country boys, strangers to the big city. They were eating strange meals, sleeping in strange beds and saw few, if any, of their hometown fans. They had one lone cheering telegram from a team in Ney (another old Defiance County rival) wishing them luck.

The 1923 state boys' basketball tournament was a grueling test that would make a modern-day coach cringe in disbelief. For two days, thirty-two teams (16 in Class A and 16 in Class B) played at Ohio State University's gym and the state Fairgrounds Coliseum. The contests began on Friday with games at 9:00 AM and continued without a break until 9:30 at night. First-round games were scheduled at thirty-five minutes intervals. Tournament rules specified preliminary-round games consisting of two twelve-and-a-half minute periods separated by a five-minute rest period. Championship games featured two twenty-minute halves with a ten-minute intermission. With injury delays and overtimes, the final games sometimes ended close to midnight.

West Unity's first game against Amherst was scheduled to start at 10:10 AM. If successful, they next played a second-round game at 6:30 PM. Stryker's first game with Columbus West began at

3:10 PM and, if they won, they would play again at 9:30 PM. Unfortunately, Stryker lost their first-round game, so Geesey had a chance to get a decent night's sleep.

On Saturday, the chase renewed. West Unity, after defeating Amherst 26-17 and Bradford 13-12 the previous day, lost a morning semi-final game to eventual state champion, Plattsburg, by 29-11. Stryker had bowed to Columbus West, a school with nearly as many students as Stryker had residents in the entire town, by a 20 to 8 score.

Geesey took it all in stride, already used to the hectic timetable. With games schedules so close together, he told his boys not to bother changing out of their uniforms but just keep limbered up for the next round. Neither West Unity nor Stryker would win a state championship trophy in 1923. Center Charles Geesey and guard Harold Radabaugh of West Unity were named to the Class B all-tournament team. But there was no fairy-tale ending for the coach who took two teams to Columbus in the same season.

The Ralph Geesey story did not end there, however. Unable to reach a salary agreement with the schools, he took a year off and returned to his farm. In 1925, he signed on as the basketball coach at Kunkle, another small, unincorporated community in Williams County, about four miles northwest of West Unity. In five years at Kunkle, Geesey's teams compiled a 110-11 record and made trips to Columbus in 1927 and 1928. His 1927 team, which reportedly had only eighteen boys in the school at tournament time, went undefeated, finished with a 26-1 record and losing the state final to state champion Marshall from Highland County. His 1928 team had four starters weakened by the flu and Marshall repeated as state champions.

After the 1928-29 season, Geesey resigned as Kunkle's basketball coach. The decision was not of his making. The OSHAA initiated a rule that required the coach to be a member of the school faculty. Geesey returned to farming. He sold his dairy herd around 1960 but continued to raise corn and soybeans. He also remained a loyal high school sports fan, attending a football game between West Unity and Hicksville on October 4, 1974, the night before he died.

In 1973, on the golden anniversary of Geesey's unique 1923 season, sportswriters from around the state wrote of his achievements. Dennis Horger in the Toledo Blade wrote that "Geesey Had Genius Touch." Gerry Rohrs in the Farmland News noted that Geesey's record probably will never be equaled. And Allen Rupp in the Marietta Times argued that Geesey deserves to be in the Ohio Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. His old West Unity players, Maynard Short and Charlie Allen, voiced similar tributes.

Geesey's six-year coaching record at the three schools combined for 151 wins against only 15 losses. He took four teams to the state finals in six years. Yet, Ralph Geesey is not in the Ohio Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. He should be!

The ‘Waterloo Wonders’ Inspired a Generation of Players

The Lima News – Bob Seggerson, Guest Columnist – February 12, 2020

In the early history of high school basketball, the sport spread quickly and easily through the rural and farming communities across the state of Ohio. The game required a limited number of athletes and resources: five players, one ball, a couple hoops. In an era before consolidation wiped many of them off the map, it was the perfect sport for the many small, low-enrollment schools that dotted the state and struggled to field athletic teams because of a limited number of student-athletes.

Stories of makeshift basketball courts sprouting up in barn hay lofts on farms all over Ohio became a common theme. Basketball became more than just a sport in many of these small farming communities. The game grew into a source of pride and created passionate fan bases that still exist to this day. If you want proof of this dynamic, take a trip through the rural communities in Putnam and Mercer counties during the basketball season. It's serious business.

In the midst of the Great Depression in the 1930's, barely a decade after the OHSAA began sponsoring the high school postseason basketball tournament, a tiny rural school, in a poor farming community in the hill country of southern Ohio, turned high school basketball on its head. Waterloo High School, with an enrollment that included only 26 boys, fielded a team that captured the hearts and imagination of hoop fans all across the state and is given credit for catapulting the game to new levels of interest and exposure.

One newspaper described the Waterloo team as “the most talented, the most colorful and the most unusual team ever to play on an Ohio court.” A local sportswriter dubbed the boys, “The Waterloo Wonders,” and it was an apt nickname.

The story of the “Wonders” actually began years before when a group of young boys fell in love with the game of basketball. Because they did not have the proper equipment, the boys were forced to improvise. They crafted a court in the hay loft of the McMahon family farm which was located down a dirt road in tiny Greasy Ridge, just a stone's throw from Waterloo. They brought back to life an old deflated basketball by stuffing rags in it and spent hours shooting through a rim fashioned from an old barrel stave. The ball was too flat to bounce so the boys played games without a dribble, relying on passing and movement to get open. The skills of passing, moving without the ball and shooting became their calling card years later.

When the five boys began playing in high school with the proper equipment, they were more than prepared to take the state by storm. Curtis McMahon, Stewart Wiseman, Beryl Drummond and brothers Orlyn and Wyman Roberts were about to become folk heroes.

Under the direction of head coach Magellan Hairston, Waterloo captured the 1934 Class B State Championship, and finished the season with a 31-0 record. They won their games by an average of 26 points that season. The “Wonders” captured the imagination of fans with a different style of play. It was an era when the game of basketball was very physical and slow moving. Shots were taken with two hands on the ball and two feet firmly planted on the floor, a style the Waterloo team abandoned.

The Waterloo “Wonders” did more than score points at a prodigious pace. They introduced a faster game with a minimum of dribbling, relying on speed, pin point passing and spot on shooting. They also had fun playing, including antics that would not be accepted in today's game, but drew sell-out crowds whenever they competed.

The ‘Waterloo Wonders’ Inspired a Generation of Players

The Lima News – Bob Seggerson, Guest Columnist – February 12, 2020

The “Wonders” often conceded the opening tip and then stayed at half court, allowing their opponent to score first. It was not uncommon for the boys to rebound a missed shot and then give it back to the shooter for a second try. When the score got out of hand, the “Wonders” would play with two or three payers and let the other two rest on the bench or grab a hot dog or popcorn and sit and watch the game from the bleachers. Fans did not object to the “Wonders” antics. In fact, looking for a distraction from the hard times of the Depression, they stood in line for hours just for the chance to see them play.

Following their State Championship in 1934, Coach Hairston was besieged by schools all across the state begging to schedule a game against the “Wonders.” In that era, the OHSAA did not place a restriction on the number of games a high school could play. Waterloo took on all comers, scheduling a mind-boggling 66 games in the 1934-1935 season, most of them on the road. That’s right, they played 66 games. Coach Hairston crammed six players in his Ford V-8 sedan and drove all around the state, playing big and small schools and even several college freshmen teams.

The “Wonders” had a stretch of seven games in nine days, including six days in a row. They ran their win streak to 56 games, still a record, before finally losing a game. They once played two games in one night. The “Wonders” built a big lead against Chesapeake High School by halftime and left the reserves to mop up the win while Coach Hairston drove the starters to Jackson High School. They arrived at 10 p.m. to a full house waiting for them and won 45-24.

Waterloo won the 1935 Class B State Championship for the second consecutive year. The 9,000 fans who watched their championship game in Columbus was more than the total

attendance for all the Class B games played at state two years previous. They ended the season with a 63-3 record. That made them an incredible 94-3 during the two years.

After graduating from Waterloo High School, the boys turned down scholarship opportunities and began barnstorming the state as the “Waterloo Wonders.” They were given permission by the OHSAA to play high schools on their barnstorming tour but the majority of the games were against industrial squads and club teams. They passed through this area in February of 1936, taking on teams in Leipsic, Ottoville and Wapakoneta. They also played a game at Shawnee High School, taking on the Superior Body team from the Lima Recreation Department league. I could not find results from these games.

The Waterloo Wonders continued to barnstorm for the next five years. Their biggest win came against the New York Celtics, considered the dominant professional team of that era. The game was played in Cleveland before a standing room only crowd of 9,000.

The beginning of World War II ended the barnstorming tour for the “Waterloo Wonders.” Today the team is a distant memory. Waterloo High School closed in 1960 and the only reminder of the team now is a historical marker in the middle of the quiet little town. But the impact they had on high school basketball can still be heard echoing through those rural areas where many young athletes chase the same hoop dreams that inspired the “Wonders” improbable rise to fame.

In Two Games, Al Welch of Grover Hill Scored 99 Points and the Team Scored 215 Points! Oakwood 105-104 and Mendon Union 112-111

Defiance Crescent News - February 5, 1966

Oakwood Wins League Crown by Edging Grover Hill 105 – 104

How does it feel to score 104 points in a game and still lose not only the game, but the league championship as well? Just ask the Grove Hill Hornets. They managed to do both here Friday night as the Oakwood Bobcats eked out a 105-104 decision to win the Paulding County League title.

The game was tight all the way with the score being tied at the end of the half and after the three-quarter mark. Oakwood led 23-22 after one quarter, but the Hornets tied it at 49-49 at halftime. Both teams canned 25 points in the third quarter to leave the score at 74-74 after three periods. In the fourth period, Oakwood scored 31 points to 30 for Grover Hill to eke out the win.

The game went right down to the wire. With the score 104-103 in favor of Grover Hill, Oakwood's Steve Mohr hit a 20-foot jumper with a mere six seconds to go to put the Bobcats out in front 105-104. Grover Hill's Alan Welch then tried a desperation shot from the mid court line at the buzzer, but the ball went in-and-out and Grover Hill's chance for victory vanished.

Welch was the big man for Grover Hill as he poured through 39 points. Keith Miller, the area's leading scorer, hit the cords for 27 for the Hornets. Oakwood had five men in double figures for the evening. Bill Lee canned 30 markers for the Bobcats, while Doug Parrish amassed 29 points, Steve Mohr 20, Alan Burt 12 and Doug Bair 11.

For the game, Grover Hill hit a fantastic 64% from the field and 70% from the line. Oakwood fashioned a 52% figure from the field and 64% from the charity stripe.

The win gave Oakwood a 13-5 overall ledger including 7-1 in the Paulding County League. The victory also gave the Bobcats undisputed possession of the PCL championship. Grover Hill dropped to 8-9 overall and 5-3 in the PCL.

OAKWOOD 41 – 23 - 105

Parrish 10-9-29. Mohr 9-2-20. Lee 10-10-30. Bair 5-1-11. A. Burt 6-0-12. T. Burt 1-1-3.

GROVER HILL 44 – 16 – 104

Miller 13-1-27. Ladd 3-2-8. Welch 16-7-39. Johnson 2-3-7. Edwards 1-1-3. Gudakunst 2-0-4. McClure 4-1-9. Thornell 3-1-7.

Oakwood	23	26	25	31	105
Grover Hill	22	27	25	30	104

Welch Scores 60 Points Grover Hill Loses 112 – 111

Lightning can strike twice in the same place it seems. Friday night Grover Hill was edged 105-104 to Oakwood and then Saturday night the Hornets were edged a second time by Mendon Union 112-111 in overtime.

Alan Welch continued to show why he is one of the area's leading scorers though as he ripped the nets for 60 big points in Grover Hill's last regular season game. Once again, his desperation shot from 40 feet out hit the rim, but bounded the wrong way as the final buzzer sounded.

Shooting 63% for the night, Mendon Union took a slim one point margin after the first period, 23-22, but Grover Hill came back with 24 points to 22 to take a 46-45 lead at the half.

The Hornets slipped in the third period though as Mendon Union outscored them 34-20 to take a 79-66 lead. Coming alive in the fourth period, Grover Hill swished the nets for 37 points to knot the game at 103-103. Taking full advantage of foul shots, Mendon Union then outscored Grover Hill 9-8 in overtime for the victory.

While his team was making 58% of its shots from the field, Welch was ripping the nets for 27 of 43. He also made all six of this charity tosses including five in the last period and overtime.

Mendon Union took full advantage of its charity tosses and height, however. Grover Hill made 19 of 31 free throws while the winners sank 34 of 47 shots from the foul line. Mendon Union also controlled the boards with one player reaching 6-4 and another 6-3. Grover Hill's tallest cager is 6-0.

Reaching double figures for Grover Hill beside Welch was Jim Johnson with 17 points. Five of Mendon Union's player's scored in double digits. Bob Howell took top honors with 36 tallies while Dale Nuttle connected for another 20 makers.

Coach Don Lockwood's Hornets finished out their regular season with an 8-10 record while ending in a two-way tie for second place in the Paulding County League with a 5-3 mark.

GROVER HILL 46 – 19 – 111

Miller 2-3-7. Ladd 2-1-5. Welch 27-6-60. Johnson 8-1-17. Gudakunst 3-0-6. McClure 2-2-6. Thornell 2-3-7. 0-3-3.

MENDON UNION 39 – 34 – 112

Howell 9-18-36. Hoghe 4-4-12. Nuttle 7-6-20. McMichael 4-4-12. Krugh 4-1-9. Derossett 6-1-13. Dudgeon 3-0-6.

Grover Hill	22	24	20	37	8	111
Mendon Union	23	22	34	24	9	112

Legendary Coaches

There are many legendary coaches in the history of Putnam County basketball. The most successful ones coached exclusively in Putnam County. A few of them were successful at multiple schools. The following are those that accumulated a minimum of 200 wins.

Dick Kortokrax

1960 - 2016 890 - 372

Dick Kortokrax who is well known in Putnam County and Ohio as the coach with the most wins in the State of Ohio. Mr. Kortokrax coached for 56 years in Putnam County at three schools, two at Fort Jennings, 13 at Ottoville and 41 at Kalida. His record through 2016 is 890 - 372. At Ottoville, Coach Kortokrax was named the PCL Coach of the Year five times. His teams won four PCL and four Sectional Championships. At Kalida, he has been named the PCL Coach of the Year 13 times. His teams have won 20 PCL, 20 Sectional, 10 District, four Regional and one State Championship. His overall record of 890-372 ranks 1st in Putnam County and the State of Ohio.

Dave Sweet

1980 - 2005 449 - 162

Dave Sweet coached at Ottawa-Glandorf for 26 years from 1980-2005 with a record of 449-162. Coach Sweet won 11 WBL, 20 Sectional, eight District, two Regional and one State Championship. His overall record of 449-162 ranks 2nd in Putnam County.

Louis W. Heckman

1919 - 1951 448 - 169

Louis W. Heckman coached at Ottoville for 30 seasons from 1919-1951 with a record of 448-169. Coach Heckman won the PCL two times and the PCT seven times. His 1937, 19-5 team went to state and lost their first game. He was the only coach in Putnam County to coach at the same school for 30 years until one of his former players, Dick Kortokrax, passed him by completing his 41st season at Kalida. Two other teammates of Mr. Kortokrax and Ottoville graduates of 1951 were Tom Weber and Don Altenberger. Mr. Weber won 172 games at Glandorf and Ottawa-Glandorf. Mr. Altenberger won 83 boys' games and 174 girls' games at Fort Jennings for a total of 257 wins. Do you think that Mr. Heckman would have ever imagined that three of his former players would later coach in Putnam County and win nearly 1,300 games? His overall record of 448-169 ranks 3rd in Putnam County.

Roger Renz

1968 - 1991 334 - 165

Roger Renz started out in Continental where he coached for four years, 1968-1971, with a record of 58-21. He then coached Defiance for seven years, 1972-1978, with a record of 111-34. Coach Renz then coached at Findlay for thirteen years, 1979-1991, with a record of 165-110. Roger was named the PCL Coach of the Year twice. He won one PCL and one Sectional Championship. His overall record of 334-165 ranks 4th in Putnam County.

Mike Lee

1994 - 2016 and 2020 - 2021 334 - 231

Mike Lee coached at Minster for 23 years from 1994-2016 with a record of 314-206. He won 12 Sectional, 6 District and 1 Regional Championship. After sitting out for three seasons, he took the varsity coaching position at Pandora-Gilboa in 2020 where he currently has a record of 20-25. His overall record of 334-231 ranks 5th in Putnam County.

John VonSossan

1987 - 2013 309 - 300

John VonSossan coached at Fort Jennings for 27 years from 1987-2013 with a record of 309-300. Coach VonSossan was named PCL Coach of the Year three times. He won five PCL, 12 Sectional, four District, one Regional and one State Championship. Mr. VonSossan also coached the Fort Jennings' 7th, 8th and 9th boys' teams for nearly 30 years with over 400 wins. His overall record of 309-300 ranks 6th in Putnam County.

Don Huber

1972 - 1991 285 - 170

Don Huber coached at Continental for twenty years from 1972-1991 with a record of 285-170. Coach Huber was named the PCL Coach of the Year four times. He won five PCL, ten Sectional, three District and two Regional Championships. His overall record of 285-170 ranks 7th in Putnam County.

Kevin McGlaughlin

1978 - 1996 274 - 154

Kevin McGlaughlin coached at Miller City for nineteen years from 1978-1996 with a record of 274-154. Coach McGlaughlin was named the PCL Coach of the Year four times. He won four PCL, nine Sectional and four District Championships. When his son, Tyson, started coaching at Miller City in 2010 and Ottawa-Glandorf in 2012, Kevin became his assistant. His overall record of 274-154 ranks 8th in Putnam County.

Legendary Coaches

Chris Sautter

2003 – 2021 264 - 181

Chris Sautter started out in Ada where he coached for 14 years, 2003-2016, with a record of 174-144. He has coached at Columbus Grove for five years, 2017-2021, with a record of 90-37. At Columbus Grove, he has won three Sectional, one District and one Sectional Championship. His overall record of 264-181 ranks 9th in Putnam County.

Troy Schwemley

2002 - 2019 247 - 165

Troy Schwemley started out in Columbus Grove where he coached for five years 2002-2006, with a record of 63-53. He then coached at Shelby High School from 2007-2019 with a record of 184-112. At Columbus Grove, Coach Schwemley won four Sectional, one District and one Regional Championship. His overall record of 247-165 ranks 10th in Putnam County.

Tyson McGlaughlin

2010 – 2021 242 - 66

Tyson McGlaughlin started out coaching at Miller City in 2010 where he coached for two years, 2010-2011, with a record of 30-17. In his first year at MC, he won a Sectional and District Championship. He has coached at Ottawa-Glandorf for ten years, 2012-2021, with a record of 212 - 49. At O-G, he has won four WBL, ten Sectional, eight District, three Regional and one State Championship. His overall record of 242 - 66 ranks 11th in Putnam County.

Joe Braidic

1988 – 1993 1999 – 2010 2017 – 2019
241 - 225

Joe Braidic started out in Evergreen where he coached for three years, 1988-1990, with a record of 9-54. He coached at Pandora-Gilboa for 18 years in three separate stints, 1991-1993, 1999-2010 and 2017-2019 with a record of 232-171. Coach Braidic was named PCL Coach of the Year three times. He won four PCL, two BVC, seven Sectional, two District and one Regional Championship. His overall record of 241-225 ranks 12th in Putnam County.

Steve Penhorwood

1980 - 1996 232 - 143

Steve Penhorwood started out in Ottoville where he coached for five years, 1980-1984, with a record of 90-27. He then coached at Celina for twelve years, 1985-1996, with a record of 142-116. At Ottoville, he was named the PCL Coach of the Year once and won one PCL and one Sectional Championship. His overall record of 232-143 ranks 13th in Putnam County.

Ron Nienkamp

1973 - 1985 208 – 86

Ron Nienkamp started out in Parkway where he coached for two years, 1973-1974, with a record of 26-14. He then coached at Ottawa-Glandorf for five years, 1975-1979, with a record of 74-35. He took two O-G teams to state in 1976 and 1977. Coach Nienkamp then coached at Lima Senior for six years, 1980-1985, with a record of 108-37. He also took the 1982 Spartan team to state. His overall high school record of 208-86 ranks 14th in Putnam County.

From Lima Senior, he moved to the college ranks and finished his coaching career at Findlay University. At Findlay, Ron coached for twenty-six years, 1986-2011 with a record of 598-185. The Oilers won the 2009 Divisional II National Title with a record of 36-0.

Current Coaches Trying to Catch Up to Coach Kortokrax's 890 Wins

There are three men currently coaching in Putnam County who have over 200 wins. Mike Lee at Pandora-Gilboa has 334 wins, Chris Sautter at Columbus Grove has 264 wins and Tyson McGlaughlin at Ottawa-Glandorf has 242 wins.

Father/Son Combinations

There are two father/son coaching combinations in Putnam County, John and Tom VonSossan and Kevin and Tyson McGlaughlin.

John VonSossan coached at Fort Jennings for 27 years with 309 wins and his son Tom, coached at Ottoville for 14 years with 185 wins for a total 41 years and 494 wins.

Kevin McGlaughlin coached at Miller City for 19 years with 274 wins and his son Tyson has coached at Miller City for two years and Ottawa-Glandorf for eight years with a total of 222 wins. Together, they have coaches for 29 years with 496 wins.

Unique Situations

One final note as to boys' basketball coaches over the past 100 years in Putnam County, Crawfis College had a unique coaching situation in 1917 and 1922.

The 1917 boys' coach was Miss Della Luginvilla, the first and only female boys' varsity basketball coach in Putnam County.

In 1922, the Crawfis College boys' team didn't have a coach. The boys coached themselves.

Greatest Players in Putnam County

Who was the best boys' basketball player ever in Putnam County? Could the best players of the 1940's compete with the players of the 1990's? How would Kalida's Joe Verhoff have been defended with the six-foot lane? Would Greg Verhoff from Columbus Grove have scored another 100 points with the 3-point line? How could Miller City's Tyler Niese in 2004 be defended if the no contact rules of the 1970's would have been in effect? Would Ottawa-Glandorf's Tom Heckman in the 1960's been as effective with the all the body contact and hand checking of today?

There are four reasons why it is very difficult to compare players in different eras.

The first reason is that the facilities and equipment are quite different. The playing floors are longer, wider, firmer and uniform in size. The ceilings are higher and the lighting is much better. The three-second lane is twice as wide and the backboards are all glass and the same size. The ball is more uniform in size and texture. However, three items haven't changed. The rim is the same size, it is ten feet from the floor and the foul line is 15 feet from the backboard.

A second reason is the player himself. The high school athlete today is bigger, stronger and quicker than his predecessors. Genetics has something to do with this fact, but so does weight training and eating habits. It is a slow and gradual process, but irrefutable. For example, Bill Russell of the 1960's and Shaquille O'Neal are often compared. These were two of the best players at their position in their respective eras, but look at the differences in their bodies in terms of bulk and height. It is difficult to believe that Russell would be able to dominate O'Neal.

A third reason is how games are now officiated. The physical contact allowed today has made the scores of the game comparable to the 1950's. It is very difficult to drive to the basket or for post people to position themselves. Thus, the three-point line has encouraged many longer shots to be taken. The game of basketball from the late 1960's to the early 1990's is hardly recognizable today with all the contact.

The fourth reason are the many rule changes. The elimination of the jump ball after made field goals in 1937 changed the game dramatically. The game became faster without the interruption.

The widening of the three second lane in 1957 made it more difficult for the bigger players to 'hang around' the basket.

The tinkering with the rules pertaining to when foul shots are taken has had an effect. The rules have ranged from shooting after every foul to only shooting after so many have been committed. Miller City was involved in two extreme examples. In a Miller City/Continental game in 1951, Miller City shot 63 foul shots and Continental 37 for a total of 100 foul shots. In a Pandora-Gilboa/Miller City game in 2005, a total of 10 foul shots were taken.

I have selected the legendary players from the schools of Putnam County based on the following.

Any player who was named as the WBL Player of the Year, the PCL Player of the Year or scored at least 1,000 points was automatically picked.

Another important factor was if a player was honored by such groups as the PCL, WBL, BVC, NWC, District 8 Coach's Association, Newspapers of Northwestern Ohio and the All-Ohio selections.

Some players were good high school players, but really developed at the college level and a few at the professional level. These athletes were recognized also.

From 1925-1957, the county newspapers would list the all-county players at the end of the season for most of the years. Sometimes these would be called All-PCL players and sometimes All-PCT players. These would be selected by the coaches, the newspaper sport's editors and in earlier years, by "knowledgeable basketball fans".

Since the PCT ended in 1964, the PCL selection process took place shortly after the regular season and during the OHSAA tournament trail.

From 1958 to the present, the selection process for All-League Players, Player of the Year and Coach of the Year has been the same – coaches do the voting.

If you feel any players have been omitted from this list, please contact me and I will take a look at their qualifications.

Legends of Columbus Grove

Max Hartman **1935 - 1938**

Max played in an era when players were only recognized by the local newspapers and the Putnam County coaches. It was very common for these entities to put together All-Star teams following the Putnam County Tournament.

He was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Teams for four years, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938.

In 1935, Columbus Grove, 14-9, placed 3rd in the PC Tournament.

In 1936, the Bulldogs, 9-9, finished 3rd in the PC Tournament.

In 1937, CG, 8-12, finished 2nd in the PC Tournament.

In 1938, Columbus Grove, 12-9, finished 4th in the PC Tournament.

Ben Baxter **1952 - 1954 1,165 Points**

First C. Grove Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ben played in an era when players were only recognized by the local newspapers and the Putnam County coaches. It was very common for these entities to put together All-Star teams following the Putnam County Tournament.

Since there were no All-PCL Teams selected in 1952 or 1953 and CG lost its first PCT game in 1954, he did not receive any All-League awards in high school.

In 1952, Ben scored 293 points.

Columbus Grove, 22-4, won the PCL and placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament. The Bulldogs then won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Minster in the Regionals 52-40.

In 1953, he scored 527 points.

The Bulldogs, 23-3, won the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Archbold 76-57.

In 1954, Ben scored 345 points.

Columbus Grove, 15-4, lost the first Putnam County Tournament game to Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul 62-59.

For his career, Ben scored 1,165 points and the Bulldogs were 60-11.

Jerry Stechschulte **1959 – 1961 719 Points**

Jerry played in an era when there were very few individual or local awards.

He began his varsity career at Columbus Grove in 1959 when he scored 84 points.

In 1960, he scored 211 points.

In 1961, Jerry scored 424 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Jerry scored 719 points. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 39-31.

Greg Verhoff **1970 – 1972 917 Points**

Greg started his varsity career at Columbus Grove in 1970 when he scored 8 points.

In 1971 Greg scored 444 points. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Columbus Grove, 12-9, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Crestview, 78-69.

In 1972, he scored 465 points. Greg was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

For his career, Greg scored 917 points. During his tenure, CG was 25-14.

Rich Kleman **1979 – 1981 1,084 Points**

In 1979, Rich started playing varsity basketball at Columbus Grove when he scored 250 points with 159 rebounds.

In 1980, he scored 481 points with 322 rebounds. Rich was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC and 1st Team District 8.

Legends of Columbus Grove

In 1981, Rich scored 353 points with 272 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Rich scored 1,084 points with 753 rebounds.

Eric Fortman **1984 – 1986 1,079 Points**

Eric started his varsity basketball career at Columbus Grove in 1984 when he scored 263 points with 85 rebounds, 40 steals and 17 assists.

Columbus Grove, 20-3, won a PCL, NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 60-49. Earlier in the season, CG had defeated Ottoville 74-71 in an epic EIGHT OVERTIME GAME!

In 1985, Eric had his best season when he scored 443 points with 147 rebounds, 83 steals and 20 assists. He was name 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, 2nd Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

In 1986, he scored 373 points with 127 rebounds, 44 steals and 25 assists. Eric was named 1st All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team NWC, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 19-4, won a NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Wayne Trace in the Districts 54-51.

For his career, Eric scored 1,079 points with 359 rebounds, 157 steals and 62 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 54-13.

Blaine Maag **2002 – 2005 1,051 Points**

Ranks #7 with an 88.11 FT% in a Season
Ranks #8 with an 87.81 FT% in a Season

Blaine started his varsity career at Columbus Grove in 2002 when he scored 158 points with 60 rebounds, 13 steals and 25 assists.

In 2003, Blaine scored 341 points with 122 rebounds, 26 steals and 49 assists. He was named 1st Team All-NWC.

Columbus Grove, 6-17, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Delphos St. Johns, 56-31.

In 2004, he scored 323 points with 88 rebounds, 32 steals and 77 assists. Blaine was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 1st Team All-NWC.

The Bulldogs, 12-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Fort Jennings, 62-52.

In 2005, he scored 229 points with 68 rebounds, 23 steals and 97 assists. Blaine was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 17-5, won a NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Fort Jennings, 69-62.

For his career, Blaine scored 1,051 points with 338 rebounds, 94 steals and 248 assists.

Kyle Meyer **2004 – 2006 955 Points**

In 2004, Kyle started playing varsity basketball at Columbus Grove and scored 73 points with 73 rebounds.

Columbus Grove, 12-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Fort Jennings, 62-52.

In 2005, Kyle scored 335 points and pulled in 264 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, NWC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Bulldogs, 17-5, won a NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Fort Jennings in the Districts, 69-62.

In 2006, he scored 547 points and pulled in another 270 rebounds. Kyle was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, NWC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Bulldogs to a 21-6 record while winning a Sectional, District and Regional Championship. Columbus Grove lost to South Webster 83-65 in the State Finals.

For his career, Kyle scored 955 points with 607 rebounds. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 50-21.

After high school, Kyle attended Ohio Northern for four years 2007 – 2010. In 2010, Meyer was named to the 1st Team All-OAC for the second consecutive year, making him a three-time All-Conference selection. Kyle was

Legends of Columbus Grove

named the Ohio Athletic-Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Year for 2009-2010.

He scored 1,216 points in his 90-game career.

Following college, Kyle played semi-professional and professional basketball for five years. In 2012 and 2013, he played for the Lima Explosion averaging 17 and 34 points per game respectively. In 2014, Meyer played in the Professional Basketball League and was voted to the All-Premier Basketball League 2nd Team. In 2015 and 2016, he made the All-Midwest Premier Basketball League All-Star 1st Team while averaging 20 points per game. In 2016, he also was drafted by the Niagara River Lions, a member of the National Basketball League, one of the top professional basketball leagues in Canada.

Eric Maag **2004 – 2007 1,184 Points**

Ranks #2 with 21 Free Throws in a Game
Ranks #8 with 45 Points in a Game
Ranks #7 with 19 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #2 with 169 Free Throws in a Season
Ranks #6 with an 88.13 Free Throw % in a Season
Ranks #9 with 224 Field Goals in a Season
Ranks # 6 with 379 Free Throws in a Career

In 2004, Eric started playing varsity basketball at Columbus Grove when he scored 19 points.

In 2005, Eric scored 183 points.

The Bulldogs, 17-5, won a NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Fort Jennings in the District, 69-62.

In 2006, Eric scored 539 points with 84 rebounds, 61 steals and 78 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC and 2nd Team District 8.

Columbus Grove, 21-6, won a Sectional, District and Regional Championship, but lost to South Webster in the State Finals 83-65.

In 2007, Eric scored 443 points with 88 rebounds, 44 steals and 66 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio. The Bulldogs, 13-9, won a Sectional Championship but lost to Fort Jennings in the Districts, 55-51.

For his career, Eric scored 1,184 points with over 200 rebounds, 125 steals and 175 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 63-30.

Luke Kohls **2008 – 2011 1,006 Points**

Luke Kohls started his freshman year at Columbus Grove in 2008 when he scored 78 points.

In 2009, Luke scored 248 points with 48 rebounds, 40 steals and 27 assists.

In 2010, He scored 297 points with 186 rebounds, 54 steals and 36 assists. Luke was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team NWC, NWC Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

In 2011, Luke scored 383 points with 202 rebounds, 58 steals and 60 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-NWC, NWC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio and Player of the Year. What a fantastic season!

Columbus Grove, 21-2, won a PCL, NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Continental in the District Tournament, 49-40.

For his career, Luke scored 1,006 points with 450 rebounds, 152 steals and 123 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 53-35.

After high school graduation, Luke took his basketball talents to Findlay University for four years, 2012-2015.

Connor Kohls **2010 – 2012 415 Points**

Ranks #7 with 8 Three-Pointers in a Game

Connor started his varsity basketball career at Columbus Grove in 2010 when he scored 44 points.

In 2011, he scored 92 points with 13 rebounds, 10 steals and 9 assists.

Columbus Grove, 21-2, won a PCL, NWC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Continental in the Districts, 49-40.

In 2012, Connor scored 279 points with 84 rebounds, 49 steals and 117 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 2nd Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Legends of Columbus Grove

Columbus Grove, 19-5, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Arlington, 51-44.

For his career, Connor scored 415 point. During his tenure, CG was 55-14.

Will Vorhees **2012 – 2014 903 Points**

Will Vorhees started playing varsity basketball for Columbus Grove in 2012 when he scored 98 points and pulled in 62 rebounds.

Columbus Grove, 19-5, won a PCL and a Sectional Championship, but lost to Arlington in the District Finals 51-44.

In 2013, Will scored 400 points with 193 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 17-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Leipsic in the Districts, 66-59.

In 2014, he scored 405 points with 197 rebounds. Will was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 14-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Districts, 55-33.

For his career, Will scored 903 points with 452 rebounds. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 50-23.

After graduation, Will took his skills to Notre Dame College where he had one of the most extraordinary careers of any player from Putnam County.

He was named to the All-Atlantic Region Team three times. In 2016, he was 2nd Team and in 2017 and 2019 he was 1st Team.

Will was named 1st Team All-Mountain East Conference three times – 2016, 2017 and 2019.

He was named the Player of the Year in the Atlantic Region and Mountain East Conference in 2019.

He was a 2nd Team All-American in 2017 and 1st Team All-American in 2019.

Will scored 2,761 points and pulled down over 1,000 rebounds for his career. In 2019, he scored 30 points or more 14 times and 40 or more four times.

His number - #41 - was retired in 2019.

Jace Darbyshire **2012 – 2015 1,038 Points**

Ranks #9 with 26 Consecutive Free Throws

Jace started his varsity basketball career at Columbus Grove in 2012 when he scored 6 points with 2 rebounds, 5 steals and 2 assists.

Columbus Grove, 19-5, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Arlington in the District Finals, 51-44.

In 2013, he scored 180 points with 43 rebounds, 26 steals and 70 assists.

Columbus Grove, 17-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Leipsic 66-59.

In 2014, Jace scored 321 points with 60 rebounds, 44 steals and 69 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Bulldogs, 14-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Districts, 65-34.

In 2015, he had his best season when he scored 531 points with 74 rebounds, 46 steals and 85 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-NWC, NWC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 17-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the Districts, 49-42.

For his varsity career, Jace scored 1,038 points with 179 rebounds, 121 steals and 226 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 48-26.

Blake Reynolds **2018 – 2021 1,585 Points**

Ranks #3 with 888 Rebounds in a Career

Ranks #4 with 410 Assists in a Career

Ranks #2 with 406 Free Throws in a Career

Ranks #2 with 1,585 Points in a Career

Ranks #6 with 565 Field Goals in a Career

Legends of Columbus Grove

Blake Reynolds started playing varsity basketball for Columbus Grove in 2018 when he scored 371 points with 159 rebounds, 23 steals and 50 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8.

In 2019, Blake scored 330 points with 252 rebounds, 45 steals and 90 assists. He was named 1st All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 19-6, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Maumee VCD in the Regionals 58-48.

In 2020, he scored 433 points with 232 rebounds, 56 steals and 135 assists. Blake was named 1st Team All-PCL and Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio.

The Bulldogs, 26-0, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship. CG also won its Regional Semi-Final game against Antwerp 55-50. Columbus Grove was scheduled to face Parkway in the Regional Championship game. However, the season was ended by the OHSAA due to the Corona Virus.

In 2021, Blake scored 451 points with 245 rebounds, 46 steals and 135 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC and Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 1st Team All-Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 25-3, won a Northwest Conference, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. The Bulldogs defeated Glenwood in the State Semi-Finals 58-53, but fell to Botkins in the State Championship game, 60-44.

For his career, Blake scored 1,585 points with 888 rebounds, 170 steals and 410 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 81-23.

Tayt Birnesser started playing varsity basketball for Columbus Grove in 2018 when he scored 237 points with 89 rebounds, 18 steals and 21 assists.

In 2019, Tayt scored 368 points with 111 rebounds, 22 steals and 35 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 19-6, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Maumee VCD in the Regionals 58-48.

In 2020, he scored 411 points with 138 rebounds, 48 steals and 48 assists. Tayt was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

The Bulldogs, 26-0, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship. CG also won its Regional-Semi Final game against Antwerp 55-50. Columbus Grove was scheduled to face Parkway in the Regional Championship game. However, the season was ended by the OHSAA due to the Corona Virus.

In 2021, Tayt scored 366 points with 97 rebounds, 29 steals and 39 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-NWC, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Columbus Grove, 25-3, won a Northwest Conference, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. The Bulldogs defeated Glenwood in the State Semi-Finals 58-53, but fell to Botkins in the State Championship game, 60-44.

For his career, Tayt scored 1,382 points with 435 rebounds, 117 steals and 143 assists. During his tenure, Columbus Grove was 81-23.

Tayt Birnesser
2018 – 2021 1,382 Points

Ranks #1 with 10 Three-Pointers in a Game (Twice)
Ranks #7 with 8 Three-Pointers in a Game
Ranks #5 with 76 Three-Pointers in a Season
Ranks #2 with 20 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #10 with 68 Three Pointers in a Season
Ranks #4 with 159 Three Pointers in a Career

Legends of Continental

Ray Johnston

1954 – 1957 1,275 Points

First Continental Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ranks #4 with 240 Field Goals in a Season

Ranks #5 with 610 Points in a Season

Ray played in an era when there were very few individual honors to win except for school and league awards.

In 1954, Ray scored 82 points with 27 rebounds.

In 1955, he scored 200 points with 100 rebounds.

In 1956, Ray scored 610 points with 327 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Continental, 16-8, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Ney in the Sectionals 65-63.

In 1957, Ray scored 383 points with 228 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

For his career, Ray scored 1,275 points with 682 rebounds.

Gerry Grant

1960 – 1962 1,008 Points

Gerry played in an era when there were very few individual honors to win except for school and league awards.

In 1960, Gerry scored 327 points and was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1961, he scored 337 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1962, Gerry had his best season when he scored 344 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

For his career, Gerry scored 1,008 points. During his tenure, Continental was 32-27.

Darl Bragg

1968 – 1970 1,230 Points

Ranks #6 with 19 Field Goals in a Game

Darl played in an era when there were very few individual honors to win except for school and league awards.

In 1968, Darl scored 302 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1969, he scored 444 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL for the second time.

In 1970, Darl had his best offensive season with 484 points and was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

For his career, Darl scored 1,230 points. During his tenure, the Pirates were 41-19.

Mike Schmidt

1969 – 1971 733 Points

Ranks #1 with 51 Points in a Game

Ranks #10 with 18 Field Goals in a Game

Mike began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 1969 when he scored 99 points.

In 1970, he scored 97 points.

Continental, 14-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to St. Henry in the Districts, 82-72.

In 1971, Mike had his greatest season when he scored 543 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

The Pirates, 17-2, won a PCL Championship.

For his career, Mike scored 733 points. During his tenure, Continental was 44-16.

Legends of Continental

Greg Spitnale

1971 – 1974 1,479 Points

Ranks #1 with 265 Fields Goals in a Season
Ranks #2 with 640 Points in a Season
Ranks #2 with 598 Field Goals in a Career
Ranks #7 with 1,484 Points in a Career

In 1971, Greg Spitnale started his varsity basketball career at Continental High School by scoring 36 points. Continental, 17-2, won a PCL Championship.

In 1972, Greg scored 367 points with over 100 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

He led the Pirates to a 19-6 record, winning a Sectional, District and a Regional Championship. Continental lost to Ridgedale in the State Semi-Finals 73-68.

In 1973, Greg scored 436 points and pulled in an estimated 240 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and 1st Team Northwestern Ohio.

Greg led the Pirates to a 15-9 record and a Sectional Championship. However, Continental lost to Riverdale in the Districts, 79-78.

In 1974, Greg had a monster senior year. He scored 640 points and pulled in over 200 rebounds. Greg was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year and 2nd Team All-Ohio. He was also the Player of the Year in the Crescent News. And to cap it off, Greg was selected to play in the prestigious North/South Ohio All-Star Game.

Continental, 24-2, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Riverdale in the Regional Finals 60-58.

For his career, Greg scored 1,479 points with nearly 600 rebounds. During his tenure, Continental was 75-19.

Greg went to Ohio Northern University after graduation.

Dave Chivington

1973 – 1975 1,031 Points

Ranks #4 with 838 Rebounds in a Career

Dave began his varsity basketball career at Columbus Grove in 1973 when he scored 240 points with 189 rebounds, 28 steals and 17 assists.

In 1974, Dave attended Continental where he scored 377 points with 175 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Continental, 24-2, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Riverdale in the Regionals, 60-58.

In 1975, he scored 414 points with 378 rebounds. Dave was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Dave scored 1,031 points with 742 rebounds. During his tenure at Continental, the Pirates were 41-8.

Brad Spitnale

1973 – 1976 1,307 Points

Ranks #8 with 45 Points in a Game
Ranks #10 with 18 Field Goals in a Game (twice)
Ranks #9 with 26 Consecutive Free Throws
Ranks #1 with 661 Points in a Season

Brad Spitnale started his high school varsity basketball career at Continental in 1973 when he scored 11 points.

In 1974, he followed that up with 63 points.

In 1975 Brad scored 572 points with 198 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Continental, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Crestview, 61-57.

In 1976, Brad scored 661 points with 230 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Continental, 18-5, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 70-57.

For his career, Brad scored 1,307 points with 440 rebounds. During his tenure, the Pirates were 74-22.

Legends of Continental

After graduation, Brad attended Defiance College where he played basketball.

Dan Troyer **1979 – 1981 1,217 Points**

Ranks #9 with 537 Field Goals in a Career

In 1979, Dan Troyer began his high school varsity basketball career at Continental where he scored 320 points with 126 rebounds.

Continental, 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Miller City in the District Finals 68-67.

In 1980, Dan scored 463 points with 231 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8. Continental, 10-13, won its 9th consecutive Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts 65-32.

In 1981, Dan scored 434 points with 288 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, he scored 1,217 points with 645 rebounds. During his tenure, the Pirates were 44-25.

After graduation, Dan attended Defiance College where he played basketball.

Chad Olds **1988 – 1990 1,139 Points**

Chad began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 1988 when he scored 258 points with 44 rebounds.

In 1989, Chad scored 361 points with 76 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1990, he scored 520 points with 158 rebounds. Chad was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Chad scored 1,139 points with 278 rebounds. During his tenure, the Pirates were 37-26.

Matt Olds **1992 – 1994 1,066 Points**

Matt began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 1992 when he scored 273 points with 67 rebounds.

In 1993, Matt scored 351 points with 194 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Continental, 12-12, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Miller City in the District Finals, 60-37.

In 1994, he scored 442 points with 260 rebounds. Matt was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Pirates, 18-8, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Upper Scioto Valley in the Regional Finals, 43-33.

For his career, Matt scored 1,066 points with 521 rebounds. During his tenure, Continental was 37-35.

Kyle Martin **1996 – 1998 723 Points**

Kyle began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 1996 when he scored 84 points.

In 1997, he scored 274 points with 92 rebounds, 44 steals and 66 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1998, Kyle scored 365 points with 108 rebounds, 38 steals and 60 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Continental, 18-6, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Delphos St. Johns, 54-33.

For his career, Kyle scored 723 points with over 200 rebounds, 100 steals and 125 assists. During his tenure, the Pirates were 39-28.

Casey Spitnale **2000 – 2003 1,127 Points**

Casey began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 2000 when he scored 194 points with 14 rebounds, 33 steals and 39 assists.

In 2001, he scored 199 points with 75 rebounds, 33 steals, 39 assists and 23 blocked shots.

In 2002, Casey scored 354 points with 138 rebounds, 67 steals, 41 assists and 12 blocked shots. He was named Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Legends of Continental

Continental, 17-8, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regional Finals to Holgate, 50-44.

In 2003, Casey scored 380 points with 164 rebounds, 28 steals, 56 assists and 19 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Casey scored 1,127 points with 391 rebounds, 161 steals, 175 assists and 54 blocked shots. During his tenure, Continental was 49-40.

Kurtis Brown **2002 – 2005 1,132 Points**

Ranks #3 with 18 Free Throws in a Game
Ranks #4 with 10 Steals in a Game
Ranks #1 with 33 Consecutive Free Throws
Ranks #3 with 30 Consecutive Free Throws
Ranks #4 with 28 Consecutive Free Throws
Ranks #2 with a 90.41 Free Throw % in a Season
Ranks #2 with 90 Steals in a Season
Ranks #8 with 189 Assists in a Season
Ranks #2 with 484 Assists in a Career
Ranks #2 with 213 Steals in a Career
Ranks #6 with 145 Three-Pointers in a Career

In 2002, Kurtis's freshman year started inconspicuously as he only scored 22 points.

Continental, 17-8, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Holgate in the District Finals, 50-44.

In 2003, he improved dramatically as he scored 227 points to go along with 49 steals and 134 assists.

The Pirates, 16-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 2004, Kurtis scored 385 points with 155 assists and 69 steals. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Continental, 15-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Van Buren in the District Finals, 44-43.

Kurtis's senior season, 2005, was incredible. He scored 498 points, dished out 189 assists and had another 90 steals. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year, 1st Team All-Ohio and Ohio's Player of the Year. What a fantastic season!

Continental, 23-3, won a PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship, losing to Africentric in the State

Tournament. The Pirates would later be declared the winner due to Africentric being forced to forfeit the game due to the use of an ineligible player.

For his career, Kurtis scored 1,132 points with 484 assists and 213 steals. During his tenure, Continental was 71-24.

After graduation, Kurtis went to Ohio Northern where he played basketball for four years.

Brock Homier **2008 – 2011 749 Points**

Ranks #1 with 250 Steals in a Career
Ranks #1 with 513 Assists in a Career

In 2008, Brock began his varsity career by scoring 139 points with 38 rebounds, 63 steals and 101 assists.

In 2009, he scored 94 points with 38 rebounds, 49 steals and 116 assists.

In 2010, Brock scored 175 points with 48 rebounds, 66 steals and 152 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Continental, 21-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 56-41.

In 2011, Brock scored 341 points with 73 rebounds, 72 steals and 144 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Pirates, 21-4, won a Sectional, District and Regional Championship, but lost in the State Semi-Finals to Berlin Hiland 70-56.

Brock was selected to play in the North/South Ohio All-Star Game.

For his career, Brock scored 749 points with 197 rebounds, 250 steals and 513 assists. During his tenure, Continental was 59-32.

Wade Stauffer **2014 – 2017 1,105 Points**

Wade began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 2014 when he scored 218 points with 51 rebounds, 22 steals, 29 assists and 5 blocked shots.

Legends of Continental

In 2015, he scored 188 points with 78 rebounds, 42 steals, 37 assists and 6 blocked shots.

In 2016, Wade scored 315 points with 94 rebounds, 43 steals, 38 assists and 9 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 2017, he scored 384 points with 116 rebounds, 63 steals, 45 assists and 10 blocked shots. Wade was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Continental, 15-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the District Finals, 53-31.

For his career, Wade scored 1,105 points with 339 rebounds, 170 steals, 149 assists and 30 blocked shots.

Mitchell Coleman **2018 – 2021 1,242 Points**

Ranks #8 with 72 Three-Pointers in a Season

Mitch began his varsity basketball career at Continental in 2018 when he scored 94 points with 26 rebounds, 11 steals and 12 assists.

In 2019, he scored 362 points with 96 rebounds, 16 steals and 46 assists. Mitch was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 2020, Mitch scored 387 points with 81 rebounds, 27 steals and 42 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 2021, he scored 399 points with 79 rebounds, 32 steals and 46 assists. Mitch was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Mitch scored 1,242 points with 193 three-pointers, 282 rebounds, 86 steals and 146 assists.

Legends of Fort Jennings

Ken VonLehmden **1967 – 1969 1,068 Points**

First Ft. Jennings Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ken played in an era where there were very few individual honors to be won. He started his varsity high school basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1967 when he scored 36 points.

In 1968, Ken scored 508 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Fort Jennings, 16-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 49-48.

In 1969, Ken scored 524 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Musketeers, 20-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Fort Recovery in the Districts, 79-72.

For his career, Ken scored 1,068 points. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 50-17.

Bill Kramer **1968 – 1970 1,435 Points**

Ranks #9 with 29 Rebounds in a Game
Ranks #6 with 372 Rebounds in a Season
Ranks #10 with 344 Rebounds in a Season
Ranks #1 with 1,056 Rebounds in a Career
Ranks #4 with 387 Free Throws in a Career
Ranks #10 with 1,435 Points in a Career
Ranks #8 with 524 Field Goals in a Career

In 1968, as sophomore, Bill began his high school basketball career at Fort Jennings with a bang! He scored 356 points and pulled in 372 rebounds. Bill was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Fort Jennings, 16-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 49-48.

1969, Bill scored 503 points and grabbed another 344 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL for the second time.

The Musketeers, 20-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Fort Recovery in the Districts, 79-72.

In 1970, he scored 576 points and gathered in 340 rebounds. Bill was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Fort Jennings, 19-5, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to St. Henry in the District Finals, 65-55.

For his career, Bill scored 1,435 points and pulled in an astounding 1,056 rebounds. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 55-16.

Bill also went to Defiance College and played basketball.

Duane Luebrecht **1972 – 1974 1,049 Points**

Duane began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1972 when he scored 210 points with 121 rebounds, 10 steals and 21 assists.

In 1973, Duane scored 346 points with 255 rebounds, 35 steals and 28 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1974, he scored 493 points with 290 rebounds, 30 steals and 34 assists. Duane was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

Fort Jennings, 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Lincolnview in the Districts, 74-55.

For his career, Duane scored 1,049 points with 666 rebounds, 75 steals and 83 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 40-27.

Jim Kramer **1973 – 1975 883 Points**

Jim began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1973 when he scored 2 points.

In 1974, he scored 379 points with 273 rebounds, 38 steals and 32 assists. Jim was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Fort Jennings, 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Lincolnview in the Districts, 74-55.

In 1975, Jim scored 502 points with 310 rebounds, 29 steals and 43 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Legends of Fort Jennings

The Musketeers, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 67-65.

For his career, Jim scored 883 points with 583 rebounds, 67 steals and 75 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 49-20.

Bill Warnecke **1978 – 1979 799 Points**

Bill began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1978 when he scored 283 points with 181 rebounds, 29 steals and 37 assists.

Fort Jennings, 14-9, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 71-53.

In 1979, he scored 516 points with 279 rebounds, 49 steals and 43 assists. Bill was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Bill scored 799 points with 460 rebounds, 78 steals and 80 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 32-13.

Tom VonSossan **1979 – 1981 976 Points**

Ranks #8 with 382 Assists in a Career

Tom began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1979 when he scored 277 points with 170 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1980, he scored 300 points with 74 assists. Tom was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1981, Tom scored 399 points with 138 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 18-5, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 73-46.

For his career, Tom scored 976 points with 382 assists. During his tenure, FJ was 47-19.

Keith Norbeck **1982 -1984 1,135 Points**

Ranks #1 with 21 Field Goals in a Game

Ranks #7 with 46 Points in a Game

Keith started his high school varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1982 when he scored 164 points with 52 rebounds, 46 steals and 43 assists.

In 1983, Keith scored 445 points with 75 rebounds, 52 steals and 40 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

In 1984, Keith had his best season when he scored 526 points with 115 rebounds, 43 steals and 39 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Keith scored 1,135 points with 242 rebounds, 141 steals and 131 assists.

Tim Utrup **1986 – 1988 813 Points**

Ranks #2 with 49 Points in a Game

Ranks #7 with 9 Steals in a Game (Three Times)

Tim began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1986 when he scored 5 points with 1 rebound, 5 steals and 1 assist.

In 1987, Tim scored 249 points with 63 rebounds, 70 steals and 90 assists.

Fort Jennings, 19-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Wayne Trace in the Districts, 57-53.

In 1988, he scored 559 points with 138 rebounds, 84 steals and 108 assists. Tim was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Co- Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Tim scored 813 points with 202 rebounds, 159 steals and 199 assists. During his tenure, the Musketeers were 31-13.

Legends of Fort Jennings

Eric Schroeder **1990 – 1992 1,146 Points**

Ranks #10 with 360 Assists in a Career

In 1990, Eric scored 320 points with 48 rebounds, 34 steals and 115 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1991, he scored 402 points with 74 rebounds, 50 steals and 138 assists. Eric was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 16-6, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Hardin Northern in the Districts, 70-55.

In 1992, Eric scored 424 points with 90 rebounds, 49 steals and 107 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Musketeers, 15-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Upper Scioto Valley in the Districts, 74-55.

For his career, he scored 1,146 points with 212 rebounds, 133 steals and 360 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 39-27.

Kevin Knippen **1997 – 1999 640 Points**

Kevin began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1997 when he scored 83 points with 37 rebounds, 9 steals and 3 blocked shots.

In 1998, Kevin scored 142 points with 81 rebounds, 7 steals, 3 assists and 10 block shots.

Fort Jennings, 19-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the Districts, 68-48.

In 1999, he scored 415 points with 187 rebounds, 19 steals, 13 assists and 13 blocked shots. Kevin was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Musketeers, 23-2, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Edgerton, 49-43.

For his career, Kevin scored 640 points with 305 rebounds, 35 steals, 16 assists and 26 blocked shots. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 52-18.

Kevin Grothause **1998 – 2000 1,204 Points**

Kevin started his high school varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1998 when he scored 254 points with 58 rebounds, 28 steals and 36 assists.

Fort Jennings, 19-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the Districts, 68-48.

In 1999, Kevin scored 461 points with 75 rebounds, 31 steals and 41 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

The Musketeers, 23-2, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Edgerton in the Regionals 49-43.

In 2000, Kevin scored 489 points with 82 rebounds, 60 steals and 40 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 24-3, won a Sectional, District, Regional and State Championship. The Musketeers defeated St. Henry 64-58 in the State Finals.

For his career, Kevin scored 1,204 points with 215 rebounds, 119 steals and 117 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 66-9.

Matt Metzger **1999 – 2001 1,124 Points**

Matt Metzger started his varsity high school basketball career at Fort Jennings in 1999 when he scored 140 points with 61 rebounds, 27 steals and 51 assists.

The Musketeers, 23-2, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Edgerton in the Regionals 49-43.

In 2000, Matt scored 461 points with 209 rebounds, 67 steals and 104 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 24-3, won a Sectional, District, Regional and State Championship. The Musketeers defeated St. Henry 64-58 in the State Finals.

Legends of Fort Jennings

In 2001, Matt had his best season when he scored 523 points with 237 rebounds, 67 steals and 102 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 12-12, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the District Finals 62-43.

For his career, Matt scored 1,124 points with 507 rebounds, 161 steals and 257 assists. During his tenure, Fort Jennings was 59-17.

After graduation, Matt attended Findlay University where he played four more years of basketball.

Ryan Schroeder **2001 – 2004 1,023 Points**

Ryan began his varsity basketball career at Fort Jennings in 2001 when he scored 132 points with 48 rebounds, 8 steals, 7 assists and 1 blocked shot.

Fort Jennings, 12-12, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Delphos St. Johns, 62-43.

In 2002, Ryan scored 226 points with 113 rebounds, 28 steals, 30 assists and 19 blocked shots.

In 2003, he scored 262 points with 132 rebounds, 30 steals, 30 assists and 22 blocked shots.

In 2004, he scored 403 points with 159 rebounds, 32 steals, 35 assists and 27 blocked shots. Ryan was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Fort Jennings, 20-5, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Holgate in the Regionals, 35-33.

For his career, Ryan scored 1,023 points with 452 rebounds, 98 steals, 102 assists and 69 blocked shots.

Legends of Kalida

Dan Stechschulte **1951- 1954 1,028 Points**

First Kalida Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ranks #1 in with 179 Free Throws in a Season

Dan played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

In 1951, Dan scored his first basket and scored two points.

In 1952, he scored 181 points.

In 1953, Dan scored 270 points.

In 1953, Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Columbus Grove 64-47.

In 1954, he scored 575 points. Dan was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1954, Kalida, 23-4, won the PCL Championship. They placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Ottoville 62-60.

For his career, Dan scored 1,028 points. During his final three years, Kalida was 43-25.

Jim Fanger **1953 – 1956 1,019 Points**

Jim played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

He started his varsity high school career at Kalida in 1953 when he scored 9 points.

Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the PCL Tournament, but lost to Columbus Grove in the Sectionals 64-47.

In 1954, Jim scored 250 points.

Kalida, 23-4, won the PCL, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, won the Sectionals, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts 62-60.

In 1955, he scored 338 points.

The Wildcats, 18-3, won the PCL, but was upset by Miller City in the Putnam County Tournament, 66-64.

In 1956, Jim scored 422 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

For his career, he scored 1,019 points. During Jim's tenure, the Wildcats were 55-16.

Tom Recker **1953 – 1956 987 Points**

Tom played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

Tom's varsity basketball career at Kalida began in 1953 when he scored 13 points.

Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Columbus Grove in the Sectionals, 64-47.

In 1954, he scored 311 points

The Wildcats, 23-4, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Ottoville, 62-60.

In 1955, Tom scored 294 points.

Kalida, 18-3, won a PCL Championship, but lost to Miller City in the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1956, he scored 369 points. Tom was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

For his career, Tom scored 987 points. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 68-25.

Denny Potts **1961 – 1964 1,158 Points**

Denny Potts started his high school varsity career at Kalida High School in 1961 with 56 points.

In 1962, Denny scored 230 points.

Kalida, 13-12, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Coldwater, 66-62.

In 1963, he scored 374 points. Denny was named 1st Team All-PCL. Kalida, 21-4, won the PCL and Putnam

Legends of Kalida

County Tournament, but lost to Marion Local in the Sectionals, 69-66.

In 1964, Denny had his best season when he scored 498 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Kalida, 18-6, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament and won a Sectional Championship. The Wildcats lost to Celina ICHS in the Districts, 72-63.

For his career, Denny scored 1,158 points. During his tenure, Kalida was 63-33.

After graduation, Denny attended St. Joseph's College, 1965-1968, and played basketball and baseball.

Denny Knott **1974 – 1976 1,173 Points**

Denny started his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1974 when he scored 214 points with 100 rebounds.

In 1975, he scored 481 points with 239 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-7, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Riverdale in the Regionals, 51-50. This was Dick Kortokrax's first season at Kalida.

In 1976, Denny scored 478 points with 205 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 16-5, won its second consecutive PCL Championship.

For his career, Denny scored 1,173 points with 544 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida's record was 44-22.

Greg VonderEmbse **1977 – 1978 698 Points**

Greg began his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1977 when he scored 306 points with 185 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1978, he scored 392 points with 171 rebounds. Greg was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 1st Team District 8.

Kalida, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Ottoville, 67-57.

For his career, Greg scored 698 points with 356 rebounds. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 37-7.

Tim Stechschulte **1977 – 1979 960 Points**

Tim's varsity career at Kalida began in 1977 when he scored 292 points with 133 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1978, Tim scored 358 points with 176 rebounds. He was named 1st All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

The Wildcats, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 67-57.

In 1979, he scored 310 points with 187 rebounds. Tim was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 17-5, won a PCL Championship.

For his career, Tim scored 960 points with 496 rebounds. During his career, the Wildcats were 54-12.

Barry VonderEmbse **1978 – 1980 789 Points**

Barry's varsity basketball career at Kalida began in 1978 when he scored 35 points.

Kalida, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 67-57.

In 1979, he scored 223 points with 141 rebounds.

The Wildcats, 17-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 1980, Barry scored 531 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 1st Team District 8.

Kalida, 25-2, won a Section, District and Regional Championship, but lost in the State Tournament to Summit Country Day, 72-66.

For his career, Barry scored 789 points with 400 rebounds. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 62-10.

Legends of Kalida

Randy Kortokrax **1982 – 1983 768 Points**

Randy Kortokrax's legendary career in basketball began in 1982 at Kalida High School where he scored 357 points. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Randy led the Wildcats to a 20-3 record. The Wildcats won a PCL and Sectional Championship. However, Kalida was defeated by Delphos St. Johns in the District Semi-Finals 49-47.

He followed that up with 404 points in 1983. Randy was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 20 – 3, had another great season by winning a PCL and a Sectional Championship. However, Kalida lost to Delphos St. Johns for the second year in a row in the District Semi-Finals, 63-61.

In his high school career, Randy scored 768 points and pulled in 533 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 40-6.

Randy's next level of competition, college, however, is where he really excelled. From 1984 – 1987, Randy Kortokrax was "Mr. Everything" on the basketball court for the Findlay Oilers.

The following are a few of his most prestigious awards: 1985 - Honorable Mention NAIA All – American. 1986 - 2nd Team NAIA All – American and Player of the Year/Hoosier-Buckeye Conference. 1987 - 1st Team NAIA All – American and Player of the Year/Hoosier-Buckeye Conference

For his career, Randy averaged 23.4 and 10.9 rebounds per game, while leading the Oilers to an 83 – 32 record for the seasons of 1984 -1987.

Randy was inducted into the University of Findlay's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Joe Verhoff **1981 – 1983 1,129 Points**

In 1981, Joe Verhoff began his legendary career as a sophomore at Kalida High School by coming off the bench. He scored 160 points and pulled down 195 rebounds.

The Wildcats, 27 – 1, won a PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. The 1981 season was a complete success when Kalida won the State Championship by defeating C.A.P.E. 58 – 44.

In 1982, Joe greatly improved his game by scoring 439 points and grabbing 274 rebounds. He was named 1st Team PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Kalida, 20 – 3, won another PCL and Sectional Championship. However, the Wildcats were defeated by Delphos St. Johns in the District Semi-Finals, 49-47.

In 1983, he had a monster season by scoring 530 points and pulling down 175 rebounds. Joe was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year. Joe's final award was being named 1st Team All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 20 – 3, had another great season by winning a PCL and Sectional Championship. However, Kalida lost to Delphos St. Johns for the second year in a row in the District Semi-Finals, 63-61.

Joe's career offensive statistics were fantastic as he scored 1,129 points and hauled in 644 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 67 – 7!

After high school graduation, Joe went to Rio Grande which participated in the Mid-Ohio Conference - MOC and played basketball for four years, 1984 – 1987. His college accomplishments and statistics were even better than in high school.

During his tenure, Rio Grande captured the MOC and District 22 Championships in 1985 and 1987.

He scored 2,198 points, which ranks 4th and grabbed 1,164 rebounds, which ranks 3rd, at Rio Grande. Joe was 1st Team All-MOC in 1985, 1986 and 1987. He was the Most Valuable Player of the MOC in 1986 and 1987. Joe was also a Co-Captain of the 1987 team.

Brian Vorst **1986 – 1989 1,258 Points**

Ranks #3 with 210 Steals in a Career
Ranks #6 with 813 Rebounds in a Career

Brian Vorst started his varsity basketball career at Kalida High School in 1986 when he scored 81 points and grabbed 71 rebounds.

Legends of Kalida

In 1987, he scored 299 points and pulled in another 150 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Special Mention in Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 14-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the Districts, 53-48.

In 1988, he scored 450 points with 292 rebounds. Brian was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Co-Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats won the PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. Kalida lost to Columbus Wehrle in the State Finals 71-54. Brian was named to the All-State Tournament Team.

In 1989, Brian scored 428 points and grabbed another 300 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Wildcats, 21-4, to another PCL, Sectional and District Championship. Kalida lost to Lima Central Catholic in the Regional Finals, 64-56.

For his career, Brian scored 1,258 points with 813 rebounds and 210 steals. During his tenure, Kalida was 75-20. He also played in the Ohio North/South All-Star Game.

After graduation, Brian continued playing basketball at Findlay University.

Gene Stechschulte **1990 – 1992 1,000 Points**

Ranks #3 with 87 Steals in a Season

Gene started his high school varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1990 when he scored 124 points with 47 steals and 71 assists.

Kalida, 12-11, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Leipsic in the District Finals, 67-62.

In 1991, Gene scored 358 points with 192 rebounds, 50 steals and 71 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats, 14-7, won a PCL Championship.

In 1992, he scored 518 points with 216 rebounds, 87 steals and 94 assists. Gene was named 1st Team All-PCL,

1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Oho.

Kalida, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Regional Semi-Finals, 38-36.

For his career, Gene scored 1,000 points with 408 rebounds, 184 steals and 236 assists. During his tenure, Kalida was 47-21.

Following graduation, Gene went to Ashland University to play baseball. He was then drafted and played major league baseball for several years. He hit a homerun in his first official time at bat on the very first pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals!

Scott Unverferth **1994 – 1996 1,041 Points**

In 1994 as a sophomore, Scott Unverferth began his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 180 points with 90 rebounds.

In 1995, Scott scored 379 points with 172 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Kalida Wildcats, 16-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1996, he scored 482 points with 228 rebounds. Scott was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Old Fort in the Regionals, 78-75.

For his career, Scott scored 1,041 points with 490 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 50-16.

Following graduation, Scott took his talents to Ohio Northern University where he played four years, 1997-2000. He scored over 1,000 points and was named 2nd Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference in 2000.

Legends of Kalida

Joel Burgei **1994 - 1997 1,125 Points**

Joel began his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1994 when he scored 101 points with 95 rebounds and 27 steals.

In 1995, Joel scored 281 points with 179 rebounds, 45 steals and 32 assists. He was named 2nd Team District 8.

Kalida, 16-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1996, he scored 357 points with 204 rebounds, 38 steals and 60 assists. Joel was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8.

The Wildcats, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Old Fort, 78-75.

In 1997, Joel scored 386 points with 214 rebounds, 55 steals and 88 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 1st Team Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 19-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Leipsic, 57-52.

For his career, Joel scored 1,125 points with 692 rebounds, 165 steals and 180 assists. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 69-19.

Jordan Basinger **2007 – 2010 1,242 Points**

Ranks #10 with 755 Rebounds in a Career
Ranks #8 with 188 Steals in a Career

In 2007, as a freshman, Jordan Basinger started his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 174 points with 122 rebounds, 34 steals and 43 assists.

In 2008, Jordan scored 267 points, with 169 rebounds, 41 steals and 33 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

He helped the Wildcats to a 17-6 record and a Sectional Championship. Kalida lost to Wayne Trace in the District Finals 56-36.

In 2009, Jordan improved his scoring to 436 points along with 237 rebounds, 48 steals and 73 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Jordan also made the 1st Team All-State Tournament Team.

Jordan led the Wildcats to a 23-5 record. They won a PCL, Sectional, District and a Regional Championship, but lost in the State Finals to Oak Hills, 45-43.

In 2010, Jordan's senior year was spectacular. He scored 365 points with 227 rebounds, 65 steals and 98 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Wildcats to 21-3 record, winning another PCL, Sectional and District Championship. Kalida lost to Ottawa Hills in the Regional Finals 41-33.

For his career, Jordan finished with 1,242 points, 755 rebounds, 188 steals and 247 assists. During his tenure, Kalida was 68-27.

Jordan went on to play basketball at Owen's Community College in 2011 and 2012.

Luke Erhart **2018 – 2021 1,140 Points**

In 2018, Luke Erhart, started his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 165 points with 89 rebounds, 13 steals and 19 assists.

Kalida, 18-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Pandora-Gilboa, 56-33.

In 2019, he scored 298 points with 145 rebounds, 26 steals and 34 assists. Luke was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats, 19-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Crestview, 61-58.

In 2020, Luke scored 320 points with 158 rebounds, 30 steals and 57 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Kalida, 18-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals for the 3rd consecutive season. Columbus Grove won 58-49.

In 2021, he scored 357 points with 139 rebounds, 27 steals and 29 assists. Luke was named 1st All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Legends of Kalida

The Wildcats, 18-6, lost in the Sectionals for the first time in four years.

For his career, Luke scored 1,140 points, with 531 rebounds, 96 steals and 139 assists. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 73-27.

Legends of Leipsic

Dale Chamberlain **1954 – 1956 930 Points**

Dale played in an era when there were few local individual awards to win other than recognition in the PCL.

Dale began his varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 1954 when he scored 221 points.

Leipsic, 22-4, won the Putnam County Tournament, the Sectional and District Tournament, but lost in the Regionals to Delphos St. Johns, 61-53.

In 1955, he scored 315 points.

The Vikings, 17-6, won the PCL and the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Cory Rawson, 77-54.

In 1956, Dale scored 394 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Leipsic, 21-4, won the Putnam County Tournament and Sectionals, but lost to Troy Luckey in the Districts, 81-59.

For his career, Dale scored 930 points. During his tenure, Leipsic was 60-14.

Ken Kuhlman **1954 – 1956 939 Points**

Ken played in an era when there were few local individual awards to win other than recognition in the PCL.

Ken began his varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 1954 when he scored 108 points.

Leipsic, 22-4, won the Putnam County Tournament, the Sectional and District Tournament, but lost in the Regionals to Delphos St. Johns, 61-53.

In 1955, he scored 337 points. Ken was named to the 1st Team-All Putnam County Tournament.

The Vikings, 17-6, won the PCL and the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Cory Rawson, 77-54.

In 1956, Ken scored 494 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Leipsic, 21-4, won the Putnam County Tournament and Sectionals, but lost to Troy Luckey in the Districts, 81-59.

For his career, Ken scored 939 points. During his tenure, Leipsic was 60-14.

Denny Haselman **1960 – 1962 852 Points**

Ranks #1 with 21 Field Goals in a Game
Ranks #5 with 47 points in a Game

Denny played in an era when there were few local individual awards to win other than recognition in the PCL.

He started his varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 1960 when he scored 48 points.

Leipsic, 24-3, won a PCL, Putnam County Tournament, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to New Bremen, 71-51.

In 1961 he scored 401 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Vikings, 10-13, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Crestview in the Sectionals, 60-50.

In 1962, Denny scored 403 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

For his career, Denny scored 852 points. During his tenure, Leipsic was 43-25.

Stan Haselman **1967 – 1970 1,057 Points**

First Leipsic Player to Score 1,000 Points

Stan played in an era when there were few local individual awards to win other than recognition in the PCL.

In 1967, Stan started his varsity basketball career at Leipsic when he scored 113 points.

In 1968, he scored 233 points.

1969, Stan scored 305 points.

Legends of Leipsic

In 1970, he scored 406 points. Stan was named 1st Team All-PCL.

For his career, Stan scored 1,057 points.

Duane Niese **1973 – 1976 1,240 Points**

Ranks #10 with 18 Points in a Quarter

Duane Niese began his high school varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 1973 when he scored 124 points with 59 rebounds.

In 1974, Duane scored 378 points with 266 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team All-BVC.

In 1975, Duane scored 394 points with 181 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 1976, Duane scored 344 points with 176 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Duane scored 1,240 points with 682 rebounds.

Tom Brown **1980 – 1982 1,032 Points**

In 1980, Tom started his high school basketball career at Leipsic when he scored 196 points.

In 1981, Tom scored 401 points with 259 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 2nd Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Leipsic, 13-9, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 54-52.

In 1982, Tom had his best season when he scored 435 points with 272 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, BVC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

The Vikings, 18-3, won the PCL and BVC Titles, but were upset in the Sectionals to Miller City when Leipsic lost 64-55.

For his career, Tom scored 1,032 points with 560 rebounds. During his tenure, Leipsic was 40-23.

Nick Kreinbrink **1995 – 1997 1,353 Points**

Ranks #5 with 47 Points in a Game
Ranks #6 with 19 Field Goals in a Game
Ranks #8 with 790 Rebounds in a Career
Ranks #8 with 315 Free Throws in a Career

Nick Kreinbrink began his varsity high school basketball career at Leipsic High School in 1995 by scoring 359 points with 187 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 1996, Nick scored 537 points with 294 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 2nd Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Leipsic, 15-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 56-54.

In 1997, Nick scored 457 points with 307 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, BVC Player of the Year, 1st District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Leipsic, 23-2, won a PCL, BVC, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Lincolnview in the Regional Finals, 69-62.

For his career, Nick scored 1,353 points with 790 rebounds. During his tenure, Leipsic was 51-19.

After high school graduation, Nick went to Northwestern University where he participated in football and baseball.

Liam Nadler **2008 – 2011 1,045 Points**

In 2008, Liam started his high school varsity basketball career at Leipsic when he scored 60 points with 25 rebounds.

In 2009, Liam scored 341 points with 207 rebounds.

Leipsic, 10-13, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Pettisville in the Districts, 59-46.

In 2010, Liam scored 299 points with 197 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-BVC.

Legends of Leipsic

In 2011, Liam had his best season when he scored 345 points with 205 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC and 1st Team District 8.

Leipsic, 16-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to McComb in the Districts, 49-48.

For his career, Liam scored 1,045 points with 634 rebounds. During his last three years, Leipsic was 38-30.

Devin Mangas **2010 – 2013 1,087 Points**

In 2010, Devin started his high school varsity basketball career at Leipsic when he scored 31 points with 6 rebounds, 6 steals and 2 assists.

In 2011, Devin scored 180 points with 22 rebounds, 23 steals and 25 assists.

Leipsic, 16-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to McComb, 49-48.

In 2012, Devin scored 336 points with 76 rebounds, 39 steals and 57 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Leipsic, 16-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 2013, Devin had his best season when he scored 540 points with 106 rebounds, 71 steals and 76 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

Leipsic, 25-5, won a PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. The Vikings lost to Villa-Angela St. Joseph's in the State Championship game 87-63.

For his career, Devin scored 1,087 points with 214 rebounds, 139 steals and 160 assists. During his tenure, Leipsic was 69-27.

Zach Kuhlman **2011 – 2014 1,131 Points**

Ranks #7 with 8 Three-Pointers in a Game
Ranks #10 with 18 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #3 with 175 Three-Pointers in a Career

Zach began his varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 2011 when he scored just 4 points with 1 rebound. However, this was just the beginning.

Leipsic, 16-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to McComb, 49-48.

In 2012, Zach scored 257 points with 39 rebounds, 32 steals and 25 assists. He was named 3rd Team All-BVC.

Leipsic, 16-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 2013, he scored 402 points with 70 rebounds, 43 steals and 30 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Vikings, 25-5, won a PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship, but lost to Villa Angela St. Joseph 87-63 in the State Finals.

In 2014, Zach had his best season when he scored 468 points with 98 rebounds, 55 steals and 66 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

For his career, Zach scored 1,131 points with 208 rebounds, 130 steals and 121 assists. During his tenure, Leipsic was 53-22.

Jordan Brown **2014 – 2016 1,039**

Jordan began his varsity basketball career at Leipsic in 2014 when he scored 262 points with 186 rebounds, 21 steals and 24 assists. He was named 3rd Team All-BVC.

In 2015, Jordan scored 323 points with 200 rebounds, 45 steals and 34 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Vikings, 13-12, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Delphos St. Johns, 63-41.

In 2016, he had his best season when he scored 454 points with 302 rebounds, 51 steals and 51 assists. Jordan was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Leipsic, 20-5, won a BVC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Districts, 61-54.

For his career, Jordan scored 1,039 points with 688 rebounds, 117 steals and 109 assists. During his tenure, Leipsic was 47-29.

Legends of Miller City

Mel Meyer **1945 – 1948 1,100 Points**

First Miller City Player to Score 1,000 Points

Mel played in an era when there were very few individuals honors to be won.

He played in 57 games, but the stats for 14 games are missing. It is documented that he scored 931 points in those 57 games and an estimated 179 in the missing 14 games.

In 1945, Mel scored 10 points.

In 1946, he scored 279 points.

Miller City, 22-4, won a PCL Title, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament and won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Ottoville, 36-28.

In 1947, Mel scored 389 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Wildcats, 14-7, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Holgate in the Sectionals, 55-37.

In 1948, he scored 437 points. Mel was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Miller City, 19-5, placed 1st in the Putnam County Tournament and won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Holgate in the District Finals, 47-45.

For his career, Mel scored 1,100 points. During his tenure, MC was 55-16.

Ralph 'Skip' Meyer **1948 – 1950 1,000 Points**

Skip played in an era when there were very few individuals honors to be won.

He played in 74 games, but the stats for 16 games are missing. It is documented that he scored 808 points in those 74 games and 193 in the missing 14 games.

In 1948, he scored 285 points.

Miller City, 19-5, placed 1st in the Putnam County Tournament and won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Holgate in the District Finals, 47-45.

In 1949, Skip scored 328 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1950, he scored 402 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Wildcats, 29-0, won a PCL, Putnam County Tournament, District, Regional and State Championship. MC defeated Eaton in the State Finals, 44-36.

For his career, Skip scored 1,000 points. During his tenure, Miller City was 62-12.

Ken Vennekotter **1955 – 1958 1,325 Points**

Ranks #1 with 415 Free Throws in a Career

Ken Vennekotter started his high school basketball career at Miller City in 1955 as a freshman when he scored 181 points.

Miller City, 12-12, finished 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament. Ken hit an 18-footer with three seconds left in the Putnam County Tournament to beat Kalida, 66-64. The Wildcats lost Deshler 46-44 in the District Semi-Finals.

In 1956, Ken scored 348 points. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Miller City, 21-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship. The Wildcats placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament. MC lost to Wilshire 73-61 in the District Semi-Finals.

In 1957, Ken scored 375 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Miller City, 16-4, won a PCL Championship, but was upset in the second game of the Putnam County Tournament when they lost to Kalida 55-46.

In 1958, Ken had his best season when he scored 421 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Miller City, 21-3, won the PCL, Putnam County Tournament and Sectional Championship. The Wildcats lost to Ridgeville in the District Semi-Finals 59-53.

Ken and his teammate Ken Kern also won the Putnam County Free Throw Contest by sinking 86/100.

Legends of Miller City

For his career, Ken scored 1,325 points. The Wildcats were 70-23 during his tenure.

John Steffen **1960 – 1962 876 Points**

John played in an era when there were very few individuals honors to be won.

He started his varsity basketball career at Miller City in 1960 when he scored 80 points.

In 1961, John scored 309 points with 152 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Miller City, 14-6, won a PCL Title.

In 1962, he scored 487 points and an estimated 150 rebounds. John was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 22-5, won a PCL, Putnam County Tournament, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regional Semi-Finals to Holmes Liberty, 69-64.

For his career, John scored 876 points with over 300 rebounds. During his tenure, MC was 43-23.

Following graduation, John went to Findlay University and played basketball for four years, 1963-1966. He was inducted into the Findlay University's Hall of Fame in 1981.

Jerry Lammers **1964 – 1967 1,079 Points**

Jerry played in an era when there were very few individuals honors to be won.

He started his varsity basketball career at Miller City in 1964 when he scored 19 points.

Miller City, 17-6, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, won a PCL Title and Sectional Championship, but lost to Celina Immaculate Conception in the Districts, 46-44.

In 1965, Jerry scored 228 points

In 1966, he scored 372 points with 100 rebounds and 116 assists. Jerry was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1967, Jerry scored 460 points with 113 rebounds and 46 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Miller City, 20-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 48-47.

For his career, Jerry scored 1,079 points with over 300 rebounds and 200 assists. During his tenure, MC was 66-21.

Clair Recker **1967 – 1969 801 Points**

Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game
Ranks #10 with 18 Field Goals in a Game

Clair Recker was a LATE BLOOMER to say the least! He didn't play as a freshman and only scored four points his sophomore year.

In 1968, his junior year, Clair scored 257 points.

However, Clair's senior year in 1969, was outstanding as he had one of the greatest scoring seasons in the history of Miller City with 540 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Miller City, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to St. Henry in the Districts, 73-48.

For his career, Clair scored 801 points. During his career, MC was 29-14.

After Miller City, Clair attended Bluffton College where he was the high scorer on three of the highest -scoring men's basketball teams in Bluffton history from 1970-1973.

In 1971, Recker earned 1st Team All-Mid-Ohio Conference honors and 2nd Team All-NAIA District 22.

In 1972 and 1973, he was 1st Team All-Hoosier-Buckeye Collegiate Conference and 1st Team All-District. Clair was also selected to play in the Sertoma Ohio/Indiana All-Star Game in Indianapolis.

For his career, Recker scored 1,667 points for an average of 20.3 points per game and led Bluffton in scoring in three different seasons. He was the first player to score 40 or more points in a game twice and six times scored 35 or more. Clair was inducted into the Bluffton Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992.

Legends of Miller City

Daryl Lammers **1968 – 1971 1,161 Points**

Daryl played in an era when there were very few individual awards such as District 8 or Northwestern Ohio. PCL awards were the only local awards passed out.

In 1968, Daryl started his varsity basketball career by scoring 9 points

In 1969 he scored 293 points.

Miller City, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to St. Henry in the Districts 73-48.

In 1970, Daryl scored 373 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1971, he scored 486 points with 307 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL for the second time.

For his career, Daryl scored 1,161 points. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 37-27.

Fred Recker **1975 – 1977 913 Points**

Fred started his varsity basketball career at Miller City in 1975 when he scored 238 points with 199 rebounds, 36 steals and 60 assists.

In 1976, Fred scored 297 points with 209 rebounds, 31 steals and 14 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1977, he scored 378 points with 225 rebounds, 55 steals, 26 assists and 17 blocked shots. Fred was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

For his career, Fred scored 913 points with 633 rebounds, 122 steals and 100 assists.

Jeff Hermiller **1981 – 1984 1,124 Points**

Jeff began his high school basketball career at Miller City in 1981 by scoring just 4 points.

In 1982, Jeff scored 264 points with 161 rebounds, 27 steals, 12 assists and 20 blocked shots.

Miller City, 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the District Finals, 74-48.

In 1983, Jeff scored 372 points with 159 rebounds, 28 steals, 16 assists and 31 blocked shots. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

The Wildcats, 19-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Semi-Finals to Ottoville 59-57.

In 1984, Jeff had his best season when he scored 484 points with 232 rebounds, 56 steals, 29 assists and 35 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Miller City, 19-6, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Monroeville in the Regional Semi-Finals, 66-64.

For his career, Jeff scored 1,124 points with 554 rebounds, 111 steals, 57 assists and 86 blocked shots. During Jeff's tenure, the Wildcats were 56-16.

Randy Siefker **1989 – 1992 1,499 Points**

Ranks #4 with 580 Field Goals in a Career
Ranks #6 with 1,499 Points in a Career

Randy Siefker began his high school basketball career at Miller City in 1989 by coming off the bench as a freshman and scoring 63 points with 28 rebounds, 9 steals and 13 assists.

Miller City, 14-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 64-43.

In 1990, Randy scored 318 points with 71 rebounds, 33 steals and 70 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats finished with a 15-5 record and a PCL Championship.

In 1991, Randy had a monster season by scoring 565 points with 219 rebounds, 47 steals and 142 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Miller City, 20-5, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to St. Henry in the Regional Finals 66-58.

Legends of Miller City

In 1992, Randy had another fantastic season by scoring 553 points with 142 rebounds, 43 steals and 86 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Co-Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio. Randy was also selected to play in the North/South Ohio All-Star Game.

In 1992, Miller City finished with a 17-6 record and a Sectional Championship. The Wildcats lost to Kalida in the District Finals 65-61.

For his career, Randy scored 1,499 points with 460 rebounds, 132 steals and 311 assists. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 66-26.

After high school graduation, Randy went to Findlay where he played for four years, 1993-1996, and scored over 1,200 points.

Mike Otto **1992 - 1994 795 Points**

Mike's varsity basketball career began in 1992 when he scored 155 points with 171 rebounds, 37 steals, 31 assists and 26 blocked shots.

Miller City, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 65-61.

In 1993, Mike scored 316 points with 209 rebounds, 49 steals, 66 assists and 27 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats, 20-5, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Lima Central Catholic in the Regional Finals 76-53.

In 1994, Mike scored 324 points with 185 rebounds, 53 steals, 54 assists and 44 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Miller City, 16-5, won a PCL Championship.

For his career, Mike scored 795 points with 565 rebounds, 139 steals, 151 assists and 97 blocked shots. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 53-16.

Aaron Lammers **1997 – 2000 1,348 Points**

Ranks #1 with 10 Three-Pointers in a Game
Ranks #7 with 8 Three-Pointers in a Game
Ranks #1 with 23 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #1 with 97 Three-Pointers in a Season
Ranks #7 with 75 Three-Pointers in a Season
Ranks #1 with 247 Three-Pointers in a Career

Aaron Lammers began his varsity high school basketball career at Miller City High School in 1997 when he scored 38 points with 15 rebounds, 7 steals and 11 assists.

In 1998, Aaron scored 372 points with 64 rebounds, 26 steals and 64 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, Honorable Mention District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 1999, Aaron scored 524 points with 108 rebounds, 34 steals and 51 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

In 2000, Aaron scored 414 points with 107 rebounds, 33 steals and 44 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Aaron scored 1,348 points with 294 rebounds, 100 steals and 170 assists. During his tenure, Miller City was 44-41.

After graduation from Miller City, attended college where he played basketball and Urbana for two years and then at Defiance for one year.

Tyler Niese **2002 – 2004 710 Points**

Tyler began his varsity basketball career at Miller City in 2002 when he scored 1 point.

In 2003, he scored 179 points with 134 rebounds, 9 steals, 8 assists and 16 blocked shots.

In 2004, Tyler scored 521 points with 178 rebounds, 16 steals, 27 assists and 23 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Legends of Miller City

For his career, Tyler scored 710 points with 314 rebounds, 25 steals, 35 assists and 39 blocked shots. During his career, Miller City was 38-26.

Andy Hermiller **2004 – 2007 1,125**

Andy started his varsity basketball career at Miller City in 2004 when he scored 78 points with 18 steals, 18 assists and 11 blocked shots.

In 2005, Andy scored 272 points with 171 rebounds, 30 steals, 11 assists and 18 blocked shots.

In 2006, Andy scored 369 points with 200 rebounds, 34 steals, 34 assists and 12 blocked shots. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 2007, Andy had his best season when he scored 406 points with 178 rebounds, 34 steals, 30 assists and 9 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Andy scored 1,125 points with 607 rebounds, 116 steals, 93 assists and 50 blocked shots.

Legends of Glandorf, Ottawa Public and Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul

Glandorf High School

Joe Stechschulte **1953 – 1955 847 Points**

Ranks #4 with an 88.64 Free Throw % in a Season

Joe played in an era when there were very few individual honors to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

In 1953, Joe scored 167 points.

In 1954, he scored 308 points.

In 1955, Joe scored 372 points with 167 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Glandorf, 16-5, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament and advanced to the Sectionals, but lost to Hamler, 45-44.

For his career, Joe scored 847 points with over 300 rebounds.

Ken Heckman **1957 – 1959 1,087 Points**

First Glandorf Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ken played in an era when there were very few individual honors to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

In 1957, 1958 and 1959 Ken scored 314, 280 and 491 points respectively for a total of 1,087 points.

In 1959, he was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Ken scored 1,087 points. During his tenure, Glandorf was 33-25.

Bill Goecke

1960 – 1962 788 Points

Bill played in an era when there were very few individual honors to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

In 1960, Bill scored 64 points with 83 rebounds.

In 1961, he scored 299 points with 260 rebounds.

Glandorf, 22-4, won the PCL and Putnam County Tournament Championship, but lost in the Sectionals to North Baltimore, 64-52.

In 1962, Bill scored 425 points with 148 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Dragons, 16-9, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament and advanced to the Sectionals, but lost to Coldwater, 64-58.

For his career, Bill scored 788 points with 491 rebounds. During his tenure, Glandorf was 45-25.

Ottawa Public High School

Dave Brennan **1955 – 1958 823 Points**

Dave played in an era when there were very few individual honors to be won outside of Putnam County.

Dave started his varsity basketball career at Ottawa Public in 1955 when he scored 55 points.

In 1956, he scored 132 points

In 1957, Dave scored 271 points and was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

In 1958, he scored 368 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

For his career, Dave scored 823 points.

Legends of Glandorf, Ottawa Public and Ottawa Saints Peter and Paul

Ottawa Saints Peter and Pauls

Jerry Schomaeker
1958 – 1960 1,344 Points

For his career, Jerry scored 1,344 points and was one of the most dominant offensive players in the history of the Putnam County Tournaments.

During his tenure, the Trojans were 48-22.

First Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul Player
to Score 1,000 Points

Ranks #4 with 20 Field Goals in a Game
Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game
Ranks #10 with 44 Points in a Game
Ranks #10 with 18 Field Goals in a Game (Twice)
Ranks #6 with 19 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #6 with 239 Field Goals in a Season
Ranks #7 with 601 Points in a Season

Jerry Schomaeker started his varsity basketball career at Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul High school in 1958 when he scored 224 points.

In 1959, Jerry scored 519 points and was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The rally cry for SPPS in 1959 was “59 is Trojan Time”! Ottawa SPPS was 23-3 and won the PCL, the Putnam County Tournament and a Sectional Championship. They lost to Elmore in the District Semi-Finals 63-57.

Jerry’s scoring feats in tournament play were fantastic. He scored 79 points in the PCLT with a high of 26 points against Miller City in the Championship Game. He followed that up with 32 points against Cory Rawson in the Sectionals and 18 against Elmore in the Districts.

In 1960, Jerry scored 601 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Jerry’s scoring in the Putnam County Tournament was unbelievable. In game two against Continental, he scored 30 points. In game three, he scored 43 points as the Trojans defeated an 18-5 Kalida team by a score of 62-52. Ottawa SPPS lost to Leipsic in the finals 55-43. Jerry ended up with 93 points in the Putnam County Tournament. SPPS lost to Lafayette in the Sectional Semi-Finals 57-50.

Dexter Dunken, All-Stater Coming to Ottawa-Glandorf?

Putnam County Sentinel – By Chris Benson – April 1, 1975

It was announced Tuesday, April 1, that 6-8 sophomore, Dexter Dunken, from Seneca Falls, New York is transferring to Ottawa-Glandorf High School this coming fall.

The basketball phenomenon was all-state this past season, averaged an unbelievable 34.5 points, 19 rebounds, six assists and five blocked shots per game. He played every position for the Seneca Runnin' Rebels.

The reason for his moving to Ottawa is that his father, Darnell Dunken, is being transferred to the Philips ECG Plant here from the Philips plant in Seneca Falls.

In one game this past year, Dunken scored 67 points which included 26 of 27 field goal performance with nine slam dunks, one of those a double 360.

The Dunkens are expected to move to Ottawa following the end of the current school year.

If you haven't caught on yet, this was an APRIL FOOLS JOKE that Sport's Editor, Chris Benson, pulled on the readers of the Putnam County Sentinel on April 1, 1975.

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

Tom Heckman **1963 – 1965 1,537 Points**

First Ottawa-Glandorf Player to Score 1,000 Points

Tom played at Glandorf in 1963 and 1964. After the consolidation, he played for O-G in 1965.

Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game - OG
Ranks #10 with 18 Field Goals in a Game - OG
Ranks #4 with 613 Points in a Season - Glandorf
Ranks #5 with 150 Free Throws in a Season - OG
Ranks #7 with 236 Field Goals in a Season - Glandorf
Ranks #9 with 598 Points in a Season - OG
Ranks #9 with 224 Field Goals in a Season - OG
Ranks #5 with 1,537 Points in a Career – OG
Ranks #3 with 592 Field Goals in a Career - OG
Rank #7 with 353 Free Throws in a Career - OG

Tom Heckman or “Tom Terrific” as the Putnam County Sentinel called him, was truly one of the greatest high school basketball players to ever play in Putnam County.

He actually played for two different high schools. In 1962, 1963 and 1964, Tom played for Glandorf High School. In 1965, he played for Ottawa-Glandorf High School, a consolidation of Ottawa High School and Glandorf High School.

Tom did not play varsity basketball until his sophomore year, 1963, at Glandorf. He was named to the 2nd All-PCL Team, scoring 326 points.

In 1964, Tom scored 613 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team All-District.

Glandorf, 23-5, won the PCL Title, Putnam County Tournament, Sectional and District Championship. The Dragons lost to Celina Immaculate Conception in the Regionals, 60-55.

In 1965, Tom scored 598 points. At the local level, Tom was selected to the 1st Team All-PCL and named the Player of the Year by a unanimous vote. At the District level, he was selected to the Class AA 1st Team. At the State level, Tom was named by the United Press International to the Class AA 2nd Team and the Associated Press put him on the 3rd Team.

No scorer in the PCL has ever been so dominating as “Tom Terrific” was in 1965. In eight PCL games he poured in 266 points for a 33.3 average – Miller City 41, Continental 41, Columbus Grove 40, Ottoville 39, Kalida 27, Pandora-Gilboa 27, Leipsic 26 and Fort Jennings 25.

Ottawa-Glandorf, 16-4, won its 1st PCL Championship.

During his tenure, Ottawa-Glandorf was 39-9.

Tom received a four-year grant in aid to the University of Dayton. He led the freshman team in scoring in 1966 and played three more seasons on the varsity.

Dave Ruhe **1964 – 1967 1,073 Points**

Ranks #3 with 31 Rebounds in a Game
Ranks #9 with 350 Rebounds in a Season
Ranks #2 with 898 Rebound in a Career

Dave played in an era that did not have many local honors for the players except for the PCL. 1964 was the third year of consolidation between Ottawa Public and Ottawa SPPS – they were now the Ottawa Lancers.

He started his varsity basketball career at Ottawa in 1964 when he scored 122 points with 91 rebounds and 37 assists.

In 1965 at Ottawa-Glandorf, Dave scored 215 points with 229 rebounds and 37 assists.

The Titans, 16-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1966, Dave scored 344 points with 228 rebounds and 52 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Titans, 17-3, won its second PCL Championship.

In 1967, he had his best season when he scored 392 points with 350 rebounds. Dave was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Ottawa-Glandorf, 18-2, won its third consecutive PCL Championship, going 24-0 during this time period.

For his career, Dave scored 1,073 points with 898 rebounds and 256 assists. During his tenure, Ottawa-Glandorf's record was 51-9.

Ken Pothast **1975 – 1977 1,354 Points**

Ranks #4 with 240 Field Goals in a Season
Ranks #6 with 604 Points in a Season
Ranks #8 with 539 Field Goals in a Career
Ranks #10 with 1,356 Points in a Career

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

Ottawa-Glandorf's basketball teams had struggled for the past seven years, 1968-1974 with only 30 wins. However, in 1975, Ron Niekamp, took over the coaching duties and Ken Pothast started playing varsity basketball. A dynasty was born.

Ken began playing varsity basketball at Ottawa-Glandorf in 1975 when he scored 336 points and led the Titans to a 9-10 mark.

In 1976, Ken scored 414 points. He was named 1st Team WBL. The Titans were still struggling to get over the hump, but did finish the season with a 9-11 mark.

1977 was the breakout year for Ken and for the Ottawa-Glandorf Titans. He scored an astounding 604 points, grabbed 168 rebounds and handed out an incredible 128 assists. He was named 1st Team WBL, WBL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NWO Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio. Ken was also selected to play in the Ohio North/South All-Star Game.

Ottawa-Glandorf, 22-3, won the WBL and a Sectional, District and Regional Championship. O-G lost to Cathedral Latin 85 – 67 in the State Semi-Finals.

This was Ottawa-Glandorf's first 20-win season, first WBL, first District, first Regional and second Sectional Championship in the school's history

For his career, Ken scored 1,354 points with over 200 assists and 200 steals. During his tenure, the Titans were 40-24.

After graduation, Ken played for Bowling Green State University in 1978. This wasn't a good fit for him and he transferred to Findlay University where he played for the Oilers from 1979-1981 scoring over 1,000 points.

Terry Morman **1984 – 1986 1,030 Points**

Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game (Twice)
Ranks #10 with 18 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #9 with 146 Free Throws in a Season

Terry began his basketball career at Ottawa-Glandorf in 1984 when he scored 55 points.

In 1985, Terry scored 493 points with 50 steals and 63 assists. He was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Ottawa-Glandorf, 21 – 2, won the WBL and a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Lima Central Catholic, 54-50.

In 1986, he scored 482 points with 67 steals and 80 assists. Terry was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 1st Team All-Ohio. Terry was also selected to play in the North/South Ohio All-Star Game

The Titans, 22 – 1, won the WBL and a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Coldwater, 66-51.

For his career, Terry scored 1,030 points, pulled down 289 rebounds, handed out 159 assists and had 120 steals. During his tenure, the Titans were 68 – 10.

Terry was a four-year starter at Defiance College from 1987 – 1990. He scored 1,542 points in his career with 267 three-pointers. He holds the season record for three-pointers with 86 in 1988 and 68 in 1989. Terry was also named Honorable Mention All-District in 1988.

Ryan Maag **1994 – 1996 1,022 Points**

Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game

Ryan started his varsity basketball career at Ottawa-Glandorf in 1994 when he scored 212 points with 81 rebounds, 31 steals, 53 assists and 7 blocked shots.

The Titans, 13-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Archbold, 62-52.

In 1995, Ryan scored 348 points with 129 rebounds, 25 steals, 67 assists and 19 blocked shots. He was named 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Ottawa-Glandorf, 15-11, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Clyde, 58-54.

In 1996, he scored 462 points with 180 rebounds, 57 steals, 99 assists and 30 blocked shots. Ryan was named 1st Team All-WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

The Titans, 25-2, won a WBL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship, but lost at State to Orville, 64-63.

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

For his career, Ryan scored 1,022 points with 390 rebounds, 113 steals, 219 assists and 56 blocked shots. During his tenure, O-G was 53-23.

After graduation, Ryan attended Findlay University where he played basketball for four more years, 1997-2000. For his career, Ryan scored 1,188 points and was selected to the 2nd Team All-GLIAC.

Tyson McGlaughlin **1998 – 2000 1,239 Points**

Ranks #9 with 26 Consecutive Free Throws
Ranks #7 with 143 Three-Pointers in a Career

Tyson began his high school career at Ottawa-Glandorf in 1998 when he scored 331 points, dished out an incredible 173 assists and had 52 steals. Tyson was named 1st Team WBL and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

The Titans, 21-4, were WBL, Sectional and District Champions. O-G lost to Cleveland Benedictine 65 – 57 in the Regional Semi-Finals.

In 1999, Tyson scored 492 points with 53 steals and 98 assists. He was named 1st Team WBL, WBL Co-Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NWO Co-Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio.

In 2000, He scored 416 points with 49 steals and 86 assists. Tyson was named 1st Team WBL, WBL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NOW Co-Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio.

Ottawa-Glandorf won a WBL Championship with a season record of 15 – 7.

For his career, Tyson scored 1,239 points, handed out 357 assists and had 154 steals. During his tenure, the Titans were 53-15.

After graduating from Ottawa-Glandorf in 2000, he took his skills to Findlay University where he played for four years. Tyson started three years while scoring 1,134 points, which included 238 three-pointers and was 1st Team CLIAC his senior year.

Todd Schumaker **1999 – 2002 1,016 Points**

Rank #3 with 449 Assists in a Career

Todd Schumaker started playing varsity basketball for Ottawa-Glandorf in 1999 when he scored 63 points, coming off the bench

In 2000, Todd scored 262 points with 97 rebounds, 59 steals and 122 assists.

The Titans, 15-7, won a WBL Championship.

In 2001, he scored 334 points with 130 rebounds, 48 steals and 117 assists. Todd was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

O-G, 23-2, won a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Willard 57-49 in the Regional Semi-Finals.

In 2002, Todd scored 357 points with 118 rebounds, 56 steals and an incredible 177 assists. He was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Titans, 23-2, won a WBL, Sectional and District Championship. The Titans lost to Akron St. Vincent St. Mary's in the Regional Finals 77-58.

For his career, Todd scored 1,016 points, grabbed 382 rebounds, dished out 449 assists and had 173 steals. Ottawa-Glandorf was 79-15 during Todd's tenure.

Tim Pollitz **2001 – 2004 1,693 Points**

Ranks #2 with 258 Field Goals in a Season
Ranks #3 with 251 Field Goals in a Season

Ranks #8 with 600 Points in a Season
Ranks #10 with 593 Points in a Season
Ranks #1 with 1,693 Points in a Career
Ranks #1 with 728 Field Goals in a Career

In the 2001 season, Tim Pollitz began his career at Ottawa-Glandorf with the first eleven games on the JV team. When he got his chance with the Varsity, it started with a BANG – ten consecutive field goals and 20 points against Lima Shawnee. He finished that season with 113 points with 70 rebounds, 17 steals, 27 assists and 6 blocked shots.

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

O-G finished with a 23–2 record along with a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, losing to Willard in the Regional Semi-Finals, 57-49.

In 2002, Tim dramatically improved his game to the tune of 387 points with 152 rebounds, 31 steals, 30 assists and 10 blocked shots. He was 1st Team WBL and District 8. Tim was also selected to the Lima News Dream Team.

Ottawa-Glandorf finished with a 24–2 record along with a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, losing to Akron Vincent St. Mary's in the Regional Finals, 77-58.

In 2003, he had another fantastic season by scoring 593 points with 197 rebounds, 42 steals, 59 assists and 26 blocked shots. He was again 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio. Tim was also selected to the Lima News Dream Team and the Toledo Blade Dream Team.

O-G finished with a 22–4 record along with another WBL, Sectional and District Championship, but they were defeated by Akron Vincent St. Mary's in the Regional Finals for the second year in a row, 69-59.

It is difficult to believe, but in 2004, Pollitz had an even better season than the year before. Tim hit the 600-point mark with 267 rebounds, 40 steals, 81 assists and 27 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio. Tim was also selected to the Lima News Dream Team, the Toledo Blade's Dream Team and was the Crescent News Player of the Year.

The Titans with a 27–1 record, won its fourth consecutive WBL, Sectional and District Championship. In O-G's fourth consecutive trip to the regionals, they were finally able to overcome Akron St. Vincent Mary's and win the Regional Championship, 54-52. The Titans then cruised to the State Finals where they defeated Canal Fulton for the coveted State Championship, 75-42. He was also Co-Player of the Game with his brother, Eric, in the State Championship game.

Tim represented the Ottawa-Glandorf Titans by playing in three Ohio All-Star games against Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia.

For his career, Tim scored 1,693 points with 686 rebounds, 130 steals, 197 assists and 69 blocked shots. During Tim's tenure, Ottawa-Glandorf was 96–9.

After high school, Tim went to Miami University where he played four years, 2005-2008. In 2005, Tim was awarded the Arthur and Olga Adkins award as the Freshman of the Year.

In 2006, he was named to the Honorable Mention Team in the Mid-American Conference.

In 2007, Tim was 1st Team MAC and the William Rohr Most Valuable Player for the season.

In 2008, he was again named to the 1st Team MAC and was chosen as Miami's MVP. Tim's final prestigious award was being named to the 2nd Team NABC for District 10. He finished his career with 1,411 points.

Eric Pollitz **2001 – 2004 1,220 Points**

Ranks #2 with 215 Assists in a Season

Eric Pollitz scored just two points in his freshman year at Ottawa-Glandorf in 2001.

In 2002 as a sophomore, Eric scored 245 points with 95 rebounds, 14 steals, 38 assists and 14 blocked shots.

Ottawa-Glandorf finished with a 24–2 record along with a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, losing to Akron Vincent St. Mary's in the Regional Finals, 77-58.

In 2003, Eric improved tremendously. He scored 446 points with 206 rebounds, 81 assists, 42 steals and 27 blocked shots. Eric was named 1st Team WBL, 2nd Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

O-G finished with a 22–4 record along with another WBL, Sectional and District Championship, but they were defeated by Akron Vincent St. Mary's in the Regional Finals for the second year in a row, 69-59.

In 2004, he scored 527 points with 214 rebounds, 61 steals, 96 assists and 20 blocked shots. Eric was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio. He was also Co-Player of the Game with his brother, Tim, in the State Championship game.

The Titans with a 27–1 record, won its fourth consecutive WBL, Sectional and District Championship. In O-G's fourth consecutive trip to the regionals, they were finally able to overcome Akron St. Vincent Mary's and win the Regional Championship, 54-52. The Titans then cruised to the State Finals where they defeated Canal Fulton for the coveted State Championship, 75-42. He was also Co-Player of the Game with his brother, Eric, in the State Championship game.

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

For his career, Eric scored 1,220 points with 515 rebounds, 117 steals, 215 assists and 61 blocked shots. During his tenure, the Titans were 73-7.

After graduation, Eric played college basketball at Miami University in Ohio for four years. He played in 102 games, scoring 405 points and grabbing 236 rebounds.

Noah Bramlage **2012 – 2015 1,439 Points**

Ranks #6 with 17 Free Throws in a Game
Ranks #7 with 147 Free Throws in a Season
Ranks #5 with 820 rebounds in a Career
Ranks #5 with 381 Free Throws in a Career
Ranks #9 with 1,439 Points in a Career

Noah Bramlage's basketball career started at Ottawa-Glandorf in 2012 when he scored 160 points with 139 rebounds, 14 steals and 29 assists.

The Titans were 19-7, winning a Sectional, District and Regional Championship. Ottawa-Glandorf lost 74-66 to Portsmouth in the State Semi-Finals.

In 2013, Noah scored 283 points with 199 rebounds, 23 steals, 60 assists and 4 blocked shots.

Ottawa-Glandorf was 26-3, winning a Sectional, District, Regional and State Championship. O-G defeated Versailles 67-46 to claim its third State Championship.

In 2014, Noah scored 478 points with 224 rebound, 22 steals, 69 assists and 44 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team WBL, 1st Team District 8 and 1st Team Northwestern Ohio.

O-G was 16-11, winning a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Lima Central Catholic 55-40 in the Regional Finals.

In 2015, he scored 518 points with 258 rebounds, 23 steals, 89 assists and 26 blocked shots. Noah was named 1st team WBL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

The Titans went 19-7 with another Sectional and District Championship. O-G lost to Lima Central Catholic in the Regional Finals, 72-63.

For his career, Noah scored 1,439 points with 820 rebounds, 82 steals, 247 assists and 74 blocked shots. During his tenure, O-G was 80-28.

After graduation from Ottawa-Glandorf, Noah received a scholarship to play basketball at Princeton University. He participated all four years, 2016-2019.

Jay Kaufman **2016 – 2018 1,057 Points**

Jay began his varsity career at Ottawa-Glandorf in 2016 by scoring 222 points with 213 rebounds, 27 steals, 29 assists and 14 blocked shots.

The Titans, 21-6, won a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Bay Village in the Regionals, 76-65.

In 2017, he scored 441 points with 232 rebounds, 36 steals, 75 assists and 16 blocked shots. Jay was named 1st Team All-WBL, WBL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

The Titans, 21-3, won a WBL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Elida in the District Semi-Finals, 46-41.

In 2018, Jay scored 394 points with 139 rebounds, 24 steals, 63 assists and 8 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-WBL, WBL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NWO Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio.

The Titans finished with a 24-2 record, winning another WBL, Sectional and District Championship. O-G lost to Archbold in the Regional Semi-Finals 78-68.

For his career, Jay scored 1,057 points with 584 rebounds, 87 steals, 167 assists and 38 blocked shots. During his tenure, the Titans were 66-11.

Owen Hiegel **2016 – 2019 1,029 Points**

Ranks #2 with 31 Consecutive Free Throws

In 2016, Owen Hiegel gave the Titans a glimpse into the future when he scored 11 points as a freshman.

The Titans, 21-6, won a WBL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Bay Village in the Regionals, 76-65.

In 2017, he improved his game and scored 171 points with 67 rebounds, 16 steals and 82 assists.

Legends of Ottawa-Glandorf

The Titans, 21-3, won a WBL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Elida in the District Semi-Finals, 46-41.

In 2018, Owen scored 373 points with 84 rebounds, 47 steals and 87 assists. He was named 1st Team All-WBL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Titans finished with a 24-2 record, winning another WBL, Sectional and District Championship. O-G lost to Archbold in the Regional Semi-Finals 78-68.

In 2019, he led the team in scoring with 474 points along with 83 rebounds, 49 steals and 104 assists. Owen was named 1st Team All-WBL, WBL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NWO Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Ohio. He was also selected to play in the Ohio North/South All-Star Game.

The Titans, 21-4, won the WBL and a Sectional Championship, but lost to Coldwater in the District Finals, 70-67.

For his career, Owen finished with 1,029 points, 243 rebounds, 114 steals and 280 assists. During his tenure, O-G was 87-15.

After graduation, Owen went to Defiance to play college basketball.

Legends of Ottoville

August Trenkamp 1945 – 1946

In 1945, August began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville when he scored 25 points.

Ottoville, 16-6, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Pettisville, 36-32.

In 1946, August scored 111 points. He was named 1st Team All-Ohio.

The Big Green, 24-3, won the Putnam County Tournament, a Sectional and a District Championship, but lost to Hamler in the Regionals, 31-29.

During his tenure, Ottoville was 40-9.

Jim Trenkamp 1945 – 1947 716 Points

Jim began playing varsity basketball at Ottoville in 1945 when he scored 18 points.

Ottoville, 16-6, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Pettisville, 36-32.

In 1946, Jim scored 347 points and was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

The Big Green, 24-3, won the Putnam County Tournament, a Sectional and a District Championship, but lost to Hamler in the Regionals, 31-29.

In 1947, he scored 351 points and was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

Ottoville, 24-2, won the PCL, the PCT, a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Holgate in the Districts, 52-46.

For his career Jim scored 716 points. During his tenure, Ottoville was 64-11.

Orval Schram 1945 – 1947

Orval began playing varsity basketball at Ottoville in 1945 when he scored 2 points.

Ottoville, 16-6, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Pettisville, 36-32.

In 1946, Orval scored 134 points.

The Big Green, 24-3, won the Putnam County Tournament, a Sectional and a District Championship, but lost to Hamler in the Regionals, 31-29.

In 1947, Orval scored 179 points. He was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team and to the 1st Team All-Ohio.

Ottoville, 24-2, won the PCL, the PCT, a Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Holgate in the Districts, 52-46.

For his career, Orval scored 315 points. During his tenure, the Big Green was 64-11.

Jerry Honigford 1955 – 1958 1,055 Points

First Ottoville Player to Score 1,000 Points

Jerry played in an era when there were very few individual honors to be won. He began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville in 1955 when he scored 243 points.

He followed his freshman year up by scoring 278, 306 and 228 points in the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 respectively.

For his career, Jerry, the first Ottoville player to score over 1,000 points, scored a total of 1,055 points. During his tenure, the Big Green's record was 48-33.

Legends of Ottoville

Jim Wannemacher **1961 – 1963 932 Points**

Ranks #10 with 18 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #7 with 147 Free Throws in a Season

Jim began his varsity career at Ottoville in 1961 when he scored 102 points

In 1962, he scored 303 points.

In 1963, he scored 527 points with 278 rebounds. Jim was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Jim scored 932 points.

Following graduation, Jim went to Dayton and played four years of basketball.

Steve Turnwald **1964 – 1966 1,052 Points**

Steve started his varsity high school basketball career at Ottoville in 1964 when he scored 186 points.

Ottoville, 18-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 1965, Steve scored 418 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Ottoville, 20-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Minster in the Districts, 73-69.

In 1966, Steve scored 448 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Ottoville, 21-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Celina Immaculate Conception, 62-52.

For his career, Steve scored 1,052 points. During his tenure, Ottoville was 59-13.

Following high school graduation, Steve attended Dayton University where he played four years of basketball.

Jerry Hoersten **1966 – 1968 1,100 Points**

Ranks #6 with 19 Field Goals in a Game
Ranks #4 with 379 Rebounds in a Season

Jerry started his varsity high school basketball career at Ottoville in 1966 when he scored 277 points. Ottoville, 21-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Celina Immaculate Conception, 62-52.

In 1967, he scored 312 points. Jerry was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1968, Jerry scored 511 points with 379 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and the PCL Player of the Year.

Ottoville, 22-2, won the PCL and a Sectional Championship, but lost to Coldwater in the Districts 72-54.

For his career, Jerry scored 1,100 points. During Jerry's tenure, Ottoville was 55-13.

Joe Horstman **1980 – 1981 931 Points**

Ranks #8 with 234 Field Goals in a Season

Joe began his varsity high school career at Ottoville in 1980 when he scored 349 points. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8.

Ottoville, 22-1, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts 69-62.

In 1981, he scored 582 points. Joe was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Big Green won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 72-51.

For his career, Joe scored 931 points. During his tenure, Ottoville was 36-11.

Tim Turnwald **1981 – 1983 1,061 Points**

Tim started his varsity basketball career at Ottoville High School in 1981 when he scored 202 points.

Ottoville, 14-10, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the District Finals, 72-51.

In 1982, Tim scored 374 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Legends of Ottoville

In 1983, Tim had his best season when he scored 485 points with 195 rebounds. He was named 1st Team PCL, 1st Team District 8, Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Ottoville, 21-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the District Finals, 71-65.

For his career, Tim scored 1,061 points. During his tenure, the Big Green was 48-22.

Dave Schlagbaum **1983 – 1985 712 Points**

Dave began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville in 1983 when he scored 63 points.

Ottoville, 21-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Delphos St. Johns, 71-65.

In 1984, he scored 266 points.

The Big Green, 20-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Miller City in the District Finals, 56-40.

In 1985, Dave scored 383 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, he scored 712 points. During his tenure, Ottoville was 56-13.

Chris Horstman **1996 – 1999 1,015 Points**

Chris began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville when he scored 175 points with 50 rebounds, 20 steals and 13 assists.

In 1997, he scored 241 points with 71 rebounds, 30 steals and 19 assists.

In 1998, Chris scored 290 points with 128 rebounds, 40 steals, 26 assists and 11 blocked shots.

In 1999, he scored 309 points with 150 rebounds, 37 steals, 26 assists and 37 blocked shots. Chris was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

For his career, Chris scored 1,015 points with 399 rebounds, 127 steals, 84 assists and 48 blocked shots.

Brent Schnipke **2001 – 2003 1,035 Points**

Brent started his high school basketball career at Ottoville in 2001 when he scored 229 points with 160 rebounds, 19 steals, 15 assists and 66 blocked shots.

In 2002, Brent scored 388 points with 225 rebounds, 34 steals, 12 assists and 80 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Ottoville, 14-8, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Delphos St. Johns 68-60.

In 2003, Brent had his best season when he scored 418 points with 242 rebounds, 33 steals, 59 assists and 62 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Brent scored 1,035 points with 627 rebounds, 86 steals, 86 assists and 208 blocked shots. During his tenure, the Big Green was 38-27.

Following graduation from Ottoville, Brent attended Findlay University where he played basketball for four years.

Josh Vorst **2003 – 2006 1,371 Points**

Ranks #9 with 312 Free Throws in a Career
Ranks #9 with 1,371 Points in a Career

Josh began his varsity career with very limited play in 2003 as a freshman. He scored just 75 points with 27 rebounds, 9 steals and 29 assists.

In 2004, Josh scored 316 points with 80 rebounds, 29 steals and 68 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

The Big Green, with a 16-7 record, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Arlington, 56-42.

In 2005, Josh had another banner season by scoring 477 points with 120 rebounds, 51 steals and 46 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, Special Mention Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Legends of Ottoville

Ottoville, 19-5, won a Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Continental, 47-40.

In 2006, Josh had a tremendous season. He scored 503 points with 124 rebounds, 45 steals and 72 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio, NWO Player of the Year, 1st Team All-Ohio and Ohio's Player of the Year.

Ottoville, 21-1, won a PCL Championship, but lost in the Sectional Finals to Columbus Grove, 66-50.

For his career, Josh scored 1,371 points with 351 rebounds, 134 steals and 215 assists. During his tenure, the Big Green was 71-19.

Scott Pohlman **2008 – 2011 1,064 Points**

Scott began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville in 2008 when he scored 76 points with 17 rebounds, 5 steals and 19 assists.

In 2009, Scott scored 214 points with 46 rebounds, 13 steals and 18 assists.

In 2010, he scored 382 points with 91 rebounds, 18 steals and 33 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Ottoville, 11-11, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Fort Recovery in the Districts, 57-44.

In 2011, Scott scored 392 points with 107 rebounds, 29 steals and 30 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

For his career, he scored 1,064 points with 261 rebounds, 65 steals and 100 assists.

Nick Moorman **2015 – 2018 1,039 Points**

Nick began his varsity basketball career at Ottoville in 2015 when he scored 130 points with 54 rebounds, 13 steals and 19 assists.

In 2016, Nick scored 303 points with 84 rebounds, 24 steals and 43 assists.

In 2017, he scored 337 points with 86 rebounds, 18 steals and 29 assists. Nick was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8.

In 2018, Nick scored 269 points with 87 rebounds, 24 steals and 61 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

The Big Green 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Crestview, 72-67.

For his career, Nick scored 1,039 points, 311 rebounds, 79 steals and 152 assists.

Josh Thorbahn **2018 – 2021 1,477 Points**

Ranks #10 with 44 Points in a Game
Ranks #7 with 8 Three-Pointers in a Game
Ranks #8 with 1,477 Points in a Career
Ranks #7 with 556 Field Goals in a Career

Josh started his varsity basketball career at Ottoville in 2018 when he scored 303 points with 123 rebounds, 24 steals, 77 assists and 24 blocked shots.

Ottoville, 18-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Districts, 72-67.

In 2019, he scored 414 points with 178 rebounds, 37 steals, 68 assists and 35 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

In 2020, Josh scored 272 points with 143 rebounds, 29 steals, 65 assists and 23 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

The Big Green, 20-4, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 44-40.

In 2021, he scored 488 points with 134 rebounds, 36 steals and 78 assists. Josh was named 1st All-PCL and Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Ottoville, 21-3, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Columbus Grove in the District Finals, 61-48.

For his career, Josh scored 1,477 points with 477 rebounds, 126 steals, 288 assists and 113 blocked shots. During his tenure, Ottoville was 76-19.

Legends of Crawfis College, Blanchard & Pandora

Crawfis College High School had high school basketball teams from 1916-1939. It was then renamed Blanchard High School and had teams from 1940-1951. Pandora High School had basketball teams from 1915-1951. In 1952, Blanchard and Pandora consolidated to form Pandora-Gilboa High School

Don Harmon – Crawfis College 1931 – 1934

Don played in an era when the only honors given to the players was recognition following the Putnam County Tournament. There are few statistics available and many game results missing.

In 1931, Crawfis College was 9-9 and lost the first game of the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1932, the Blue Eagles were 1-5 with many games missing.

In 1933, Don was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

Crawfis College was 9-5 and lost the first game in the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1934, Don was again named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

The Blue Eagles were 19-2, but lost the first two games of the Putnam County Tournament.

During his tenure, Crawfis College was 38-21.

Bob Stahl – Blanchard High School 1946 – 1949

Bob played in an era when the only honors given to the players was recognition following the Putnam County Tournament. There are few statistics available.

In 1946, Blanchard, 8-12, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Swanton, 43-30.

In 1947, Blanchard, 12-9, placed 3rd again in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Ottoville, 46-34.

In 1948, Bob scored 233 points and was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

Blanchard, 18-3, won the PCL and placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Vaughnsville in the Sectionals, 41-33.

In 1949, he scored 151 points and was named to the All-Putnam County Tournament Team.

The Eagles, 17-6, won the PCL and placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Leipsic in the Sectionals, 55-38.

For his career, Bob scored 384 points. During his tenure, Blanchard was 55-30.

Rollie Reichenbach – Pandora 1939 – 1941

Rollie played in an era when the only honors given to the players was recognition following the Putnam County Tournament. There are few statistics available and several game results missing.

In 1939, Pandora, 5-9, lost the second game of the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1940, Rollie was named to the All-PCL Team

The Fleetwings, 11-5, placed 4th in the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1941, he was again named to the All-PCL Team.

Pandora, 8-8, won two and lost two in the Putnam County Tournament.

During his tenure, Pandora was 24-22.

Legends of Pandora-Gilboa

Roger Hermiller **1969 - 1971 899 Points**

Ranks #1 with 37 Rebounds in a Game
Ranks #1 with 437 Rebounds in a Season

Roger Hermiller began his varsity high school basketball career in Pandora-Gilboa in 1969 when he scored just two points.

In 1970, Roger scored 355 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1971, Roger had his best season when he scored 437 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Pandora-Gilboa, 13-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Grover Hill, 97-84.

For his two-year varsity career, Roger scored 899 points. During his tenure, P-G was 30-30.

Steve Fenstermaker **1985 – 1987 1,223 Points**

First P-G Player to Score 1,000 Points

Ranks #7 with 805 Rebounds in a Career

In 1985 as a sophomore, Steve Fenstermaker started his basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa with a bang! He scored 408 points with 285 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, Honorable Mention District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 1986, Steve scored 417 points and pulled in another 260 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

In 1987, Steve scored 398 points and gathered in 260 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, BVC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Steve scored 1,223 points with 805 rebounds. During his tenure, the Rockets were 32-31.

Eric Hermiller **1988 – 1990 922 Points**

Eric started his high school varsity basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa in 1988 when he scored 7 points.

Pandora-Gilboa, 15-8, won the BVC and Sectional Championship, but lost to Liberty Benton, 46-43.

In 1989, Eric scored 368 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and 1st Team All-BVC.

In 1990, Eric had his best season when he scored 547 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Eric scored 922 points. During his tenure, the Rockets were 23-20.

Ryan Murray **1993 – 1996 1,081 Points**

In 1993, Ryan Murray started his high school varsity basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa where he scored 122 points with 30 rebounds.

In 1994, he scored 245 points with 125 rebounds. Ryan was named 3rd Team All-BVC.

In 1995, Ryan scored 303 points with 168 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 1996, he had his best season when he scored 411 points with 172 rebounds. Ryan was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Ryan scored 1,081 points with 495 rebounds.

Adam Basinger **1999 – 2002 973 Points**

In 1999, Adam Basinger started his high school varsity basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa where he scored 154 points with 52 rebounds, 19 steals and 57 assists.

Pandora-Gilboa, 14-10, won a District Championship, but lost to Edgerton in the Regional Finals, 56-50.

Legends of Pandora-Gilboa

In 2000, he scored 195 points with 54 rebounds, 32 steals and 80 assists. Adam was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team All-BVC.

In 2001, Adam scored 273 points with 76 rebounds, 53 steals and 85 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention in Northwestern Ohio.

P-G, 14-8, lost to Delphos St. Johns in the District Semi-Finals, 44-42.

In 2002, he scored 351 points with 57 rebounds, 47 steals and 110 assists. Adam was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC and Player of the Year, 1st Team in Northwestern Ohio, 1st Team District 8 and Player of the Year and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

Pandora-Gilboa, 17-6, in the District Finals to Continental, 80-79.

For his Career, Adam scored 973 points with 239 rebounds, 151 steals and 332 assists. The Rockets were 58-31 during Adam's tenure.

Tyler Bradic **2003 – 2006 1,020**

Ranks #7 with 9 Steals in a Game
Ranks #10 with 69 Three-Pointers in a Season
Ranks #2 with 209 Three-Pointers in a Career
Ranks #5 with 194 Steals in a Career

In 2003, Tyler started his varsity basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa when he scored 218 points with 52 rebounds, 37 steals and 22 assists.

In 2004, he scored 171 points with 37 rebounds, 29 steals and 15 assists.

In 2005, Tyler scored 263 points with 73 rebounds, 74 steals and 36 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC, 2nd Team District 8 and 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio.

In 2006, he had his best season when he scored 368 points with 73 rebounds, 54 steals and 61 assists. Tyler was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and 3rd Team Northwestern Ohio.

For his career, Tyler scored 1,020 points with 235 rebounds, 194 steals and 134 assists.

Josh Lee **2007 – 2010 1,228 Points**

Ranks #10 with 18 Points in a Quarter

Josh Lee was a very mature freshman in 2007 when he started his basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa. He scored 250 points with 140 rebounds, 29 steals and 28 assists.

Pandora-Gilboa, 12-11, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 52-37.

In 2008, Josh scored 340 points with 142 rebounds, 41 steals and 35 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC and 1st Team District 8.

Pandora-Gilboa, 17-4, won a PCL Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Sectionals, 53-52.

In 2009, Josh scored 317 points with 197 rebounds, 28 steals and 45 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention All-Ohio.

P-G, 19-4, won a PCL and Sectional Championship, but lost to Kalida in the Districts, 44-37.

In 2010, Josh scored 321 points with 111 rebounds, 24 steals and 21 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention All-Ohio.

The Rockets, 17-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Miller City in the District Finals, 43-42.

For his career, Josh scored 1,228 points with 590 rebounds, 122 steals and 129 assists. The Rockets were 65-25 during Josh's four years.

Following graduation, Josh attended Findlay University where he played football.

Drew Johnson **2015 – 2018 1,566 Points**

Ranks #3 with 1,566 Points in a Career
Ranks #5 with 576 Field Goals in a Career
Ranks #9 with 312 Free Throws in a Career

In 2015, Drew scored 276 points with 145 rebounds, 24 steals, 35 assists and 11 blocked shots.

Legends of Pandora-Gilboa

In 2016, he scored 355 points with 175 rebounds, 16 steals, 20 assists and 15 blocked shots. Drew was also named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team All-BVC and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

In 2017, Drew scored 444 points with 204 rebounds, 29 steals, 26 assists and 34 blocked shots. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team All-BVC, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Rockets, 16-7, won a PCL Championship, but lost in the Sectionals to Ottoville, 63-57.

In 2018, he scored 491 points with 155 rebounds, 32 steals, 23 assists and 17 blocked shots. Drew was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team BVC, BVC Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Rockets, 26-2, to a PCL, BVC, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. Pandora-Gilboa lost to Marion Local in the State Semi-Finals 56-54.

For his career, Drew scored 1,566 points with 679 rebounds, 111 steals, 104 assists and 77 blocked shots. During his tenure, P-G was 53-45

After graduation, Drew went to Huntingdon College.

assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team All-BVC, 2nd Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

For his career, Jared scored 1,091 points with 254 rebounds, 126 steals and 335 assists. During his tenure, the Rockets were 65-33.

Jared Breece

2016 – 2019 1,091 Points

In 2016, Jared started his high school varsity basketball career at Pandora-Gilboa when he scored 205 points with 49 rebounds, 17 steals and 51 assists.

In 2017, Jared scored 229 points with 60 rebounds, 44 steals and 97 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team All-BVC.

The Rockets, 16-7, won a PCL Championship, but lost in the Sectionals to Ottoville, 63-57.

In 2018, Jared scored 296 points with 54 rebounds, 29 steals and 113 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team All-BVC.

Pandora-Gilboa, 26-2, had its best season in the school's history. The Rockets won a PCL, BVC, Sectional, District and Regional Championship, but lost in the State Semi-Finals to Marion Local 56-54.

In 2019, Jared had his best offensive season when he scored 361 points with 91 rebounds, 36 steals and 74

Legends of Vaughnsville

Bill Collar 1936 – 1938

Bill played in an era when the only honors given to the players was recognition following the Putnam County Tournament. There are no individual statistics available.

Bill started his varsity basketball career at Vaughnsville in 1936.

In 1936, Vaughnsville, 16-1, won the PCL and Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Swanton 35-33.

In 1937, Bill was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Vaughnsville, 5-4, lost the first game of the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1938, Bill was again named 1st Team All-PCL.

The Vikings, 14-6, placed 2nd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Malinta in the Sectional Finals, 38-22.

During his tenure, Vaughnsville was 35-11.

Willis Sakemiller 1939 – 1941

Willis played in an era when the only honors given to the players was recognition following the Putnam County Tournament. There are no individual statistics available.

Willis started his varsity basketball career at Vaughnsville in 1939.

In 1939, Vaughnsville, 9-8, lost the first game of the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1940, Willis was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Vaughnsville, 18-5, won the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Holgate in the District Finals, 29-27.

In 1941, Willis was again named 1st Team All-PCL.

Vaughnsville, 18-3, won the PCL Title and its 2nd consecutive Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Districts to Delta, 51-48.

During his tenure, the Vikings were 45-16.

Sylvester ‘Stretch’ Goedde 1939 – 1942 1,538 Points

First Vaughnsville Player to Score 1,000 Points
First Player in PC History to Score 1,000 Points

Ranks #2 with 49 Points in a Game
Ranks #2 with 20 Points in a Quarter
Ranks #3 with 629 Points in a Season
Ranks #4 with 1,538 Points in a Career

Mr. Sylvester Goedde is truly the most legendary player in Putnam County history. His accomplishments rank with the top players that have ever played in Putnam County. Sylvester's era was just after the center jump was eliminated. His individual season scoring feats cannot be determined except for his senior season when he scored 629 points.

In 1939, Vaughnsville, 9-8, lost the first game of the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1940, Stretch was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Vaughnsville, 18-5, won the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Holgate in the District Finals, 29-27.

In 1941, he was named 1st Team All-PCL and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Vaughnsville, 18-3, won the PCL Title and its 2nd consecutive Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Districts to Delta, 51-48.

In 1942, Stretch was named 1st Team PCL for the 3rd consecutive year, 1st Team All-Ohio and Ohio's Player of the Year.

Vaughnsville, 18-3, won the PCL Title and its 3rd consecutive Putnam County Tournament, but lost again in the Districts to Holgate, 33-31.

For his career, Stretch scored 1,538 points. During his tenure, Vaughnsville was 63-19.

Following high school, he was given a scholarship to Georgetown University, but due to World War II, the University was converted to an armed service base. Stretch then began a dual career as a professional baseball player with the Toledo Mudhens and a college basketball player with the University of Toledo for the years 1943-1948.