

St. John's Takes Ball Game

Ottawa Boys Battle to End of Up-Hill Fight

Putnam County Sentinel – February 2, 1923

PUGILIST IS REFEREE

The High School boys' basket ball team went to Delphos Tuesday night and brought back the short end of a 38 to 31 count in a game with St. John's High School. The score was not indicative of the relative powers of the two teams.

The boys from Ottawa outplayed and out served their opponents during practically all the game, according to reports of spectators but could not overcome advantages given to the Delphos in numerous decisions of the referee, by unusual floor conditions and by a wooden backstop not authorized by rules of the game.

GAME IS HALTED FOR REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF REFEREE

On several occasions the game was halted by physical contacts bordering on the avowed specialty of the referee, that is, pugilism.

The refereeing was not of the high class that the Ottawa boys have met on all their foreign visits this year. The style of the main official of the game dates back at least ten years, according to reports and would hardly have been considered average refereeing even at the that time.

PROMISE NEUTRAL OFFICIAL

Terms of the contract provided for a neutral official, as has been the practice in all games both at home and abroad for several years. Some time after the start of the game, however, Ottawa requested the appointment of an umpire and this was granted.

"We admit that a game between the two teams on the St. John's floor would be a close game and ought to be a good game," Edwin Sommers, Superintendent of the Ottawa High School said.

NO STING OF DEFEAT

"But after this game we do not feel the sting of defeat. We feel, however, that as long as the Dark Age tactics mentioned above are not strongly and forcibly protected against, both during and after the game, Putnam County High Schools will find it useless and purposeless to have athletic relations with the Delphos School."

"It is planned to have neutral officials, when the St. John's aggregation come to Ottawa," he said.