

Who Should be Boss?

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Now and then rumblings are heard as to the fact that coaches in the county school system do not have enough authority over the sports and athletic events in the county and that too much of the say-so is retained by the school administrators.

This was emphasized again last week when the coaches at their spring meeting voted unanimously to move the entire basketball tournament out of Putnam County to a gym large enough to handle the crowds. Their vote was meaningless; however, as such a move would be up to the school officials.

There are arguments on both sides of the question as to who should have the final say on athletic matters.

At first look it would appear that it would be a matter for the coaches, since the athletics are a part of their jobs.

HOWEVER, with the great turnover in the coaching jobs in the county, none of them are ever around long enough to know just what the established policy and practices are here. Except for a few men who have retained the title of athletic director and are not actively coaching, there are no real veteran coaches in Putnam County. Most of them have not been around for more than three years.

Six Putnam County schools have a new coach in at least one sport this year, while three others have moved into head coaching jobs after have been in the school for a few years.

With this in mind, it is possible to see why there is a change in opinion from the coaching association almost every year. If the coaches were permitted a free hand in changing athletic policy every time a new majority of opinion developed, the county's athletic program would

soon become a jumbled mess. This also can be seen from another action taken by the coaches at their meeting last week.

They voted to give three basketball league trophies next year, instead of two. This is just a reverse action from one taken a few years ago.

In 1954, a tie developed for first place in the league between Ottoville and Kalida. This made Columbus Grove the runner-up and they were awarded the second-place trophy, while the other two received identical championship cups.

The very next year three teams – Kalida, Leipsic and Glandorf – were tied for first place and three more – Continental, Vaughnsville and Ft. Jennings – were tied behind them going into the final game of the season, and they should have stayed that way.

HOWEVER, Glandorf was upset by Pandora in the final game, making a two-way tie for first and one team as runner-up. If the upset had not occurred, six teams – one-half the league – would have received trophies.

Seeing what could possibly happen, the coaches at their very next meeting voted that, in the future, only two league trophies would be given, and, if a tie developed for first place, no runner-up trophy would be given in order that the value of a trophy might not be deflated.

That was five years ago. Most of the coaches in the schools now were not around then, and did not know what kind of a policy had been established. So it was changed again. We are not opposed to change, but established policy is preferable and fairer.