

Football in Putnam County 1921 - 2024

When a sports fan in Putnam County thinks of the schools having a football team, they think of Columbus Grove, Leipsic, Ottawa-Glandorf and Pandora-Gilboa. They would be shocked to discover that there had been five other schools that have had a football team over the years – Continental, Ottawa SPPS, Ottawa Public, Ottawa and Pandora.

#1 In 1922, Continental had a team coached by C.C. Romaker. Newspaper reports have them playing three games with a 0-3 record. The Pirates supported football from 1922-1931.

#2 In 1926, Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul' first football team, coached by George Heckman, had a 1-1-1 record. They played the Leipsic reserve team three times. The Trojans supported football from 1926-1930.

#3 Ottawa Public supported a team for one year in 1945. The Indians were coached by Sheldon Hall and had a record of 0-6.

#4 In 1963, Ottawa Sts. Peter and Paul and Ottawa Public consolidated to form the Ottawa Lancer football team. This was a prelude to the consolidation with Glandorf the following year. This Ottawa team was coached by Bob Williams with a record of 0-9.

#5 In 1964, Ottawa and Glandorf consolidated to form the Ottawa-Glandorf Titans. O-G's first coach was Bob Williams and they finished with a 4-5 record. Ottawa-Glandorf has supported a football team ever since.

#6 In 1922, Pandora had a team coached by C. D. LaRue with a record of 3-4. The Pandora Fleetwings supported football from 1922-1950.

#7 In 1951, Pandora and Blanchard consolidated to form the Pandora-Gilboa school system. P-G's first team was coached by Sheldon Hall with a record of 3-6. The Rockets have supported a football team ever since.

#8 In 1924, Columbus Grove had a team coached by William Turner with a record of 1-9. The Bulldogs have supported a football team ever since.

#9 In 1921, Leipsic had a team coached by Ralph E. Blauvelt with a record of 1-4. The Vikings have supported a football team ever since. However, from 1942-1944, they did not field a team due to World War II.

In compiling this information on football in the early years in Putnam County, I used three sources – old newspapers, yearbooks and current school records.

The newspapers in Putnam County that I used were as follows: The Vidette, The Putnam County Sentinel, The Continental News-Review, The Leipsic Messenger and The Pandora Times. The various newspapers did not always report the results of athletic contests in earlier years. Thus, many games were missed.

The yearbooks from each school were very helpful, though many are also missing. Many of the pictures that are used in this book came from a yearbook or from interested individuals.

The recent history of football in Putnam County also comes directly from the coaches and their assistants. Ned Stechschulte of Columbus Grove, Joe Kirkendall of Leipsic, Ryan Keck of Ottawa-Glandorf and Matt Hershey of Pandora-Gilboa provided me with many of the stats for this book.

If you detect any mistakes, omissions or have any additional information, please contact me, Dan Kern.

Cell Number – 419-969-0480 or Email – danrkern268@outlook.com