

First Annual PC Tournament

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Guidry won't be on the mound this Saturday, Jackson won't be at the plate and Lasorda won't be in the dugout. Garagiola won't be behind the mike and none of the major TV networks will be there.

There's an added plus to this baseball feature though, like box seats behind home plate for only a dollar, six unbeaten teams and no commercials. The heroes won't be the big money stars of the sports pages; they'll be a brother, a friend and the kid next door.

The first annual Putnam County Baseball Tournament opens this week and the extravaganza planned for this weekend could be the best thing to happen to area baseball in a long, long time.

Baseball fans who have ever wondered who the best team in the county is will get a chance to find out as eight of the county's diamond crews take part in the tournament. The tournament opens Thursday, hits full stride with a three-game bonanza on Saturday and peaks next Saturday with the finals.

"We talked about it last year," Ottawa-Glandorf's Dale Bruskotter stated, "and all the coaches seemed to like the idea of a county-wide tournament. It's just getting started in this area but I think it has a great future. It'll give the teams a taste of tournament fever before the state

tournament begins and it'll give the fans a chance to see some good baseball."

Columbus Grove and Pandora-Gilboa open the tournament Thursday, squaring off in a 4:30 match up. The rest of the first round will be played Saturday when Ottawa-Glandorf and Fort Jennings meet at 11:00, Miller City and Leipsic (both past state champions) clash at 1:30 and Ottoville and Kalida battle at 4:00. The upper bracket winners will meet at 11:00 on Saturday, April 21, the lower bracket champions at 1:30. A tournament champion will be decided in the final match at 4:00 on Saturday, April 21.

Leipsic and Kalida are both 1-0 on the young season, Ottoville, Miller City, Fort Jennings and Pandora-Gilboa are 0-0, and O-G and Grove are 1-1. Trophies will be awarded to the top two teams in the single elimination tournament. Individual trophies will also go to the winning team.

For the price of admission, the tournament beats anything around. Parents will be charged just one dollar, students fifty cents and, for an afternoon America's favorite pastime, that's hard to beat.

The first Putnam County High School baseball tournament was actually in 1943. It was the preliminary tournament to the OHSAA District Tournament