

Statistics for Putnam County Baseball 1910 - 2026

When I first started this project on baseball, many were surprised that I was able to find material on high school baseball in the early 1900's. They were correct in terms of season and career statistics, but team and individual game results were reported as early as 1910 in the local newspapers.

At one time or another, there were nine newspapers in Putnam County. Five to seven were in print at the same time from 1910-2013. Today Columbus Grove, Leipsic, Ottawa and Pandora have local papers. All nine county newspapers are on microfilm at the Putnam County Library.

In the past, most of the coaches and/or school personnel have been lackadaisical in keeping baseball scorebooks and statistic sheets on file at the school from year to year. Games would be reported to the newspapers, but the permanent records would be "filed away". Today, most coaches/schools are doing a MUCH better job of keeping track of the records because of the computer.

COLUMBUS GROVE'S first seasonal stat sheet is in 1971. From 1971 to the present, 16 are missing along with many of the scorebooks. Tom Weber Jr. put together a paper compiling school records in many areas from the 1970's to the early 1990's. The Vidette covered the team very well.

CONTINENTAL'S first seasonal stat sheet is in 2005. All scorebooks and stat sheets previous to this are missing. Over the years, the News-Review covered the baseball team, but not in great detail. Continental no longer has a local newspaper.

FORT JENNINGS'S first seasonal stat sheet is in 1988. From 1988 to the present, 12 are missing along with many of the scorebooks. Tom Sakemiller put together a paper compiling school records in many areas from the 1970's to the late 1980's. Fort Jennings did not have a local newspaper, but was covered in the Putnam County Sentinel.

KALIDA'S first season stat sheet is in 1973. From 1973 to the present, 16 are missing along with many of the scorebooks. Jim McBride put together a paper compiling school records in many areas from the early 1990's to 2013. Kalida had a newspaper from 1931-1947 called the Western County News. It covered the baseball team, but not in great detail.

LEIPSIC'S first season stat sheet is in 1976. From 1976 to the present, two are missing along with many of the scorebooks. However, each game is placed in a folder so individual game records can be ascertained. Leipsic has put together a paper compiling a few school records through this time period. The Vikings were well covered by the Leipsic Free Press or Messenger.

MILLER CITY'S first season stat sheet is in 1973. All stat sheets and scorebooks are on file from 1973 to the present, none are missing. Dan Kern has put together a very detailed listing of school records for Miller City. The Wildcats did not have a local newspaper, but was covered in the Putnam County Sentinel.

OTTAWA-GLANDORF'S first season stat sheet is in 1965. From 1965 to the present, 11 are missing along with many of the scorebooks. Stan Myer put together a paper compiling school records through 2006. The Titans have been well covered by the Putnam County Sentinel.

OTTOVILLE'S first season stat sheet is in 1978. From 1978 to the present, eight are missing along with many of the scorebooks. Ottoville did not have a local newspaper, but was covered in the Putnam County Sentinel.

PANDORA-GILBOA'S first stat sheet is in 1997. From 1997 to the present, all have been found. Many of the scorebooks are missing. The Rockets have been well covered by the Times and Vidette.

There are no statistical sheets or scorebooks available for any of the schools that have been absorbed by the current schools. Yearbooks did have some statistical information, but their usefulness was more in determining opponents and scores.

After compiling all the stats and records made available to me by the schools, I was not satisfied. There were too many missing pieces of history. I decided to try to see if I could fill in the missing years by just using newspaper reports. I picked the Leipsic team of 1980 since the Vikings did not have a stat sheet for that year. I charted every game that was reported in the Free Press and the Sentinel. Not every hit by every player was recorded, but outstanding individual efforts were recorded. For example, the

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article might indicate that “Joe Doe” had four hits, or “Dick Smith” had two homers. Most articles would go into detail on how runs were scored so that I could figure out who scored a run, who had a rbi, who stole a base, who walked, etc. After doing the entire season, I then determined some season stats for each player. They were not complete, but I was getting most of the stats for the more prolific players.

I then made a wise, but **VERY TIME CONSUMING**, decision. I decided to chart every year for all the Putnam County schools. Since I was dealing only in the spring of the year, I first made a copy of the game report from every newspaper in Putnam County from 1900-2007. In the early days, the baseball games would be on the first page, but many times the articles were buried in the paper because a regular sport's page didn't exist until the 1950's. I became very good at scanning a page and picking out the games without actually reading the entire paper. The reports were then taken home, read, charted and put in the computer. When one year was finished, I would start the next. If I had a stat sheet for a particular year, I didn't compile the season stats from the papers, only the individual game stats. My method was tedious, but effective.

Once the statistics were all in the computer, I had to decide how to present them. I first selected five major areas: Team and individual game records; Team and individual season records; Individual career records. Within each major area, I then broke it down to specific categories: Batting average, hits, singles, doubles, triples, homers, total bases, walks, stolen bases, runs, runs batted in, wins, defensive strike outs, innings pitched, runs scored in an inning. Each category did not necessarily apply to a specific area.

Due to the thousands and thousands of various stats, I had to put it in a manageable format. After much deliberation, I decided to put a category in order by school and year. For example, if you had five hits in game and want to find it, this is how to

go about it: (1) Find the area for INDIVIDUAL GAME records (2) Find the category for MOST HITS IN A GAME records (3) Find your school - each school is listed alphabetically within a category (4) Find your years in school - years are listed in ascending order. Hopefully, your information is there.

From 1910-1960, there were not many high school games played in comparison to today. It was unusual for a team to play more than league and tournament games. Thus, there were not that many games to even find in the first 50 years. This is one reason why it is difficult to compare the season stats from one era to another.

However, game stats are comparable. Don Crawfis of Pandora has the most hits in game with 6 in 1935. However, I have no season stats for him. Elmer Klausing of Leipsic struck out 22 batters in a game in 1939. Again, I have no seasonal stats for him. This is the main reason why I wanted to go back into the beginning of baseball in Putnam County to help us find, recognize and memorialize the many great players of the past so that they may be forever remembered.

As I have mentioned many times through out this book, if I have made a mistake or left out a piece of information, I apologize. Please let me know so that I can correct it in my master copy.

Now take a few hours and start leafing through the statistical history of Putnam County baseball. Compare the strikeout stats of the legendary Stretch Goedde of Vaughnsville in 1942 to Leroy Johnston of Miller City in 1985. How did Ruben Gonzalez of Leipsic and Mark Niese of Miller City stack up in number of wins? Who had the best stats - Jarrod Wehri of Ottoville, Chad Ehrnsberger of Kalida, Dan Hermiller of Miller City, Todd Schumaker of Ottawa-Glandorf or Ross Guisinger of Kalida?

The spring baseball season was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic dealing with COVID