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## Survey of The Qualifications of Kansas High School Coaches With Recommendations For Certification

John J. Roth  
*Fort Hays Kansas State College*

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SURVEY OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF KANSAS  
HIGH SCHOOL COACHES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

being

A Master's Report presented to the Graduate  
Faculty of Fort Hays Kansas State College in  
partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Science

by

John J. Roth Jr.

Fort Hays Kansas State College

Date

5/13/59

Approved

Don Adlee  
Major Professor

Ralph J. Coder  
Chairman Graduate Council

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION OF THE PROBLEM

Coaching of athletics demands many hours of work both on and off the field and covers a multitude of activities with which the coach must be familiar. In competitive athletics we work with a select group, so it follows that our best leadership should be in this area. Due to the public's demand for good athletic teams and the emphasis that has been placed on winning, it seems only logical that a person going into the coaching field should have some type of training to better prepare himself for the job at hand. There are of course exceptions to the rule in many professions, where an untrained person will be a successful leader, but it is the average person we have to train in order to further the profession, give him security and enable him to do a better job, what ever it may be.

#### Statement of the Problem

The question, should athletic coaches be required to have basic qualifications, has been a very controversial one for a number of years. With the increased knowledge of youth and better education methods, has come the certification of instructors in other fields. Along with this has progressed the idea that athletic coaches should have some type of basic requirements, because they have as their responsibility the health and welfare of our youth for a number of hours almost daily.

Due to the shortage of teachers in Kansas, people in the education

and coaching fields have been rather reluctant to enforce any requirements for athletic coaches, therefore in many instances an instructor is hired for classroom teaching and if he has any knowledge of a sport, he is also given the job of coaching athletics. The administrators hire instructors, but the instructors are more apt to be fired for poor coaching than for poor classroom work. Athletic coaching demands more than a vague knowledge of a sport. To be an athletic coach, a person should have at least a knowledge of the fundamentals and theory of the sport he is to coach, and also a working knowledge of how to prevent injuries and how to take care of them in case they should happen. How can a coach prepare himself in the afore mentioned way? By completing a physical education major is one way. Many high school coaches of athletics in the State of Kansas have completed a physical education major or minor even though it is not required.

The author, a physical education graduate student and a future coach, has undertaken this study in an attempt to find out whether the athletic coaching profession is a recognized profession which demands well trained and high caliber personnel and also has set standards for entrance, or is it a pseudo profession. Is there only a deceptive resemblance between the coaching profession and a bonafide profession? It would follow, that if there are no definite standards which must be met to enter the field, then coaching as a profession has only a deceptive resemblance and does not represent a bonafide profession. The men

entering the coaching profession surely need some type of qualifications, if they are to up-grade the profession and make their contributions to society.

### Explanations

In this study, the author has attempted to find out what the Kansas high school coaches and assistant coaches of football, basketball and track think about the idea of certification for athletic coaches. If they favor certification, what do they think the qualifications should be in order to certify an individual as an athletic coach? Many of these coaches are certified in physical education, of which athletics are a part. Many people, in and out of the field of athletics, think of athletics and physical education as two separate fields. To clarify this misconception, the author quotes the following to support his contention that athletics and physical education are one and the same field, the only difference being the emphasis placed on the various phases of each.

Athletics are considered a part of physical education.<sup>1</sup> Athletic activities should be conducted as a part of physical education under the direction of teachers with special preparation in the field of physical education.<sup>2</sup> True, the athletic coach may have no physical education classes to teach; the intramural director's

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<sup>1</sup>Education Policies Commission, School Athletics, Problems and Policies, N.E.A., 1210 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C., 1954, p. ix.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 82.

primary concern may be intramural athletics; nevertheless, both athletic coaches and intramural directors are physical educators just as much as those who teach instructional classes. The only difference is in the emphasis, but each deals with a phase of the total physical education program of the school.<sup>3</sup>

An attempt was also made to find out whether they consider physical education training sufficient for an athletic coach. The opinions of the high school administrators were also sought in an attempt to discover what they think of the idea of athletic coaches being certified in order to be able to coach a scholastic sport in Kansas high schools.

#### Limitation of the Research

This study is limited to the senior high school football, basketball, track and their assistant coaches of the State of Kansas. There are 877 such coaches in the state, according to the roster compiled by the Kansas State Activities Association. Each coach was sent a questionnaire. Of the questionnaires sent out, 404 were returned with the opinions of the individual coaches concerned fully expressed in most instances. Due to the number of questionnaires returned, this should be a good representative survey of the State of Kansas. Aside from the element of human error, this study should be quite accurate,

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<sup>3</sup>Henry Shenk, "Characteristics of A Good Athletic Program," University of Kansas Bulletin of Education, Vol. 11, February, 1957, p. 48.



because the coaches concerned should have expressed their true desires, in as much as this study will probably not affect them directly and they will not be held responsible for the manner in which they answered. The data of this study, with the exception of a part of the first question, is limited to the opinions and answers expressed by the coaching personnel of the State of Kansas who returned the completed questionnaires.

#### Similar Studies

To the knowledge of the author and his advisor, Dr. Don Adee, no similar studies have been published as far as this area of study is concerned. Other research work has been completed on the relationship between physical education and athletics, but no study has been found which is based on the qualifications of the scholastic athletic coaches of an entire state. Studies pertaining to the actual certification of coaches appear to be non-existent with the exception of the one by Dr. Adee,<sup>4</sup> which is a survey of existing certification procedures for coaches in the forty-eight states.

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<sup>4</sup>Dr. Don Adee, "Should Coaches Be Certified in Physical Education," The Kansas Teacher, Vol. 56, November, 1957, p. 18-19.

## CHAPTER II

### RESEARCH EMPLOYED

There are many different ways to collect information for a study. Each method has an express purpose and is bound by certain limitations, which restrict it to some extent. The author, in an attempt to get the desired information, has used the survey method in an attempt to express the views of the people in the profession.

#### Method Used in Collecting Information

The information for this study was collected through a questionnaire which was compiled by the author and sent to scholastic athletic coaches of Kansas. The questionnaire was composed of nine questions, which in the opinion of the author, were sufficient to collect the information desired. All questions were simple and required no long or complicated answers.

The following questionnaire, with accompanying letter was sent to the high school athletic coaches of Kansas.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE ON COACH'S CERTIFICATION

(Please complete and return by mail, thank you.)

1. Are you certified to teach physical education in Kansas? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. Do you teach any physical education classes? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
3. Do you think coaches should teach physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Give reasons for your answers, please.

4. Do athletics count toward high school physical education requirements in your school? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If they count, to what extent do they count? Please explain.
5. Do you think coaches should be certified in physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answers, please.
6. If you don't think coaches should be certified in physical education, what requirements should they have? Please explain.
7. How many years have you been coaching? \_\_\_ years What sports?
8. Would you be in favor of a coaching minor similar to the following, instead of a regular physical education major or minor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Add, delete or comment as desired.

Fundamentals of Sports (football, basketball etc., in a laboratory type class)	2	hours
Theory of the Sports	3	"
Human Anatomy	3	"
Kinesiology	3	"
Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries	3	"
Public Relations	2	"
Psychology of Coaching	2	"
Organization and Administration of High School Athletics	3	"
	<hr/>	
	21 hours	

9. Does your high school administrator favor certification for coaches? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, what reasons does he give?

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return questionnaire to: Dr. Don Adee  
Chairman of the Division of  
Health, Physical Education and Recreation  
Fort Hays Kansas State College  
Hays, Kansas

The questionnaire was preceded by the following letter.

Dear Sir:

This survey is the result of the article, "Should Coaches Be Certified in Physical Education," Kansas Teacher, November, 1956. This article was the result of a national survey in regard to the certification of coaches. As a follow up for the State of Kansas interested groups are trying to find out what the coaches and administrators of Kansas think of the idea of coaches being certified either in physical education or in coaching; the latter would consist of a minor or major composed entirely of courses related to coaching. John Roth, a graduate student, and I are securing this information from coaches and administrators in the State of Kansas.

Your cooperation and prompt reply in completion of the following questionnaire will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience a stamped envelope has been enclosed.

Thank you,

Dr. Don Adee  
Chairman of the Division of  
Health, Physical Education and Recreation  
Fort Hays Kansas State College  
Hays, Kansas

Besides the information collected as the result of the survey, a personal record check was made by the author of all coaches who did not answer the questionnaire, in an attempt to determine how many Kansas high school coaches are certified in physical education. This record check was made at the state office of Certification and College Accreditation, with the approval of the Director, F. Floyd Herr.

To help clarify the matter of certification in physical education, the author refers to the Kansas physical education requirements which are:

Class A: Twenty semester hours, including five semester hours in the field of health, physiology, first aid or hygiene and ten semester hours in the field of physical education, including teaching methods in physical education.

Class B: Twelve semester hours, with five semester hours in the field of health, physiology, first aid or hygiene and seven semester hours in the field of physical education, including teaching methods in physical education.

Class C: Eight semester hours, with three semester hours in the field of health, physiology, first aid or hygiene and five semester hours in the field of physical education, including teaching methods in physical education.

Note: There are no preparation requirements for coaches other than qualifying to teach in the position held.<sup>5</sup>

The classification referred to above, is the academic classification of schools and not the classification for athletics. There are a considerable number of senior high schools in Class B and C in the State of Kansas and they all field athletic teams of some type.

#### Method Used in Explaining the Information

The data compiled as the result of the survey is divided into as many categories as was thought feasible in order to show the relationship desired. Most of the individual questions of the questionnaire are categorized in the following manner: Coaches certified in physical education and coaches not certified in physical education; coaches who have been coaching 1 through 3, 4 through 7, and more than 7 years; and

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<sup>5</sup>State of Kansas Department of Education, Certification Handbook, March, 1955, p. 44.

also athletic classification of schools divided into AA, A, B, and BB, whose coaches come under the various categories. These individual categories are sometimes further divided, in order to use the answers as a cross reference. To illustrate this, one category may be cross referenced by checking the coaches certified in physical education by school classification, as compared to those not certified in physical education.

## CHAPTER III

### THE DATA

The data of this survey is in no way intended to degrade or ridicule any individual, individuals or educational institution. The author is merely attempting to explain the present existing conditions of athletics and the qualifications of Kansas secondary coaches. It is intended that the following data devulge only such information and no more.

Not all questions will have the same number of answers, due to the fact that some of the questions were left unanswered by a small number of the coaches who completed the questionnaires.

In stating the opinions of coaches for the individual questions, the opinions will be listed in order from the most frequent to the least frequent.

The results were tabulated in the manner as previously explained in an attempt to find out whether any significant difference of opinion resulted from any given group and also to find out whether the size of the school was a determining factor in answering the questions.

## Question One

Are you certified to teach physical education in Kansas? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Question number one was to determine how many coaches are certified in physical education. Some coaches did not know what this meant but they stated that they had a physical education minor, this of course certifies them in physical education.

The results of question number one are as follows:

Total number yes 370, no 34.

By school classification: Class AA Yes 77, No 4.

Class A Yes 97, No 7.

Class B Yes 104, No 7.

Class BB Yes 91, No 16.

By years of coaching: Coaching 1 through 3 years, Yes 94, No 9.

Coaching 4 through 7 years, Yes 143, No 8.

Coaching more than 7 years, Yes 133, No 17.

As a result of the personal record check at the state office of Certification and College Accreditation, the following data was obtained:

Total number of scholastic athletic coaches certified in physical education, 665.

Total number of scholastic athletic coaches not certified in physical education, 99.

Total number of scholastic athletic coaches of which no record was found, 113.

The number for whom no information is available is quite high due to the fact that the roster as compiled by the Kansas State High School



Question 1 continued (Are you certified to teach physical education in Kansas? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_.)

Activities Association, did not always include the initials or the first name of the individual coaches concerned, therefore if they did not answer the questionnaire, it was impossible to check the academic records of these coaches.

As the data indicates, that there are a total of 877 coaches in the state, of these 404 answered the questionnaire.

#### Question Two

Do you teach any physical education classes? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

This question was to determine how many coaches are teaching physical education classes as such, excluding athletic participation, which in some instances counts toward physical education requirements.

The results of question number two are as follows:

Total number yes 256, no 144.

Certified coaches yes 242, no 124.

Coaches not certified but teaching physical education classes, 14.

By school classification: Class AA Yes 24, No 56.

Class A Yes 60, No 46.

Class B Yes 91, No 15.

Class BB Yes 81, No 27.

## Question Three

Do you think coaches should teach physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Give reasons for your answers, please.

This question was to determine what the coaches in the field think about the idea of the same individual being in charge of both physical education classes and athletics, regardless of the fact that if they are not qualified they could not legally do so. Many of the coaches did not quite understand the question and therefore answered it from the standpoint of a coach having to be qualified in physical education.

The results of question number three are as follows:

Total number yes 219, no 66.

Coaches certified in physical education, but not teaching physical education, yes 73, no 34.

Reason in favor of teaching physical education as expressed by coaches certified in physical education, but not teaching it, are as quoted as follows:

- a. "Coaching and physical education go hand in hand."
- b. "Most coaches should be the best qualified because of their training."
- c. "The objectives of physical education and athletics are about the same."
- d. "Keeps coaches in contact with boys."
- e. "Coaches should know what a good physical education program is."
- f. "Most coaches are more enthusiastic about physical education work."
- g. "Most coaches can do a better job of demonstrating."
- h. "It is necessary to teach both in many small schools."
- i. "Coaches can select boys for athletics from physical education classes."
- j. "Especially in larger schools, coaches have the necessary background."
- k. "Coaches often don't have sufficient time to teach academic classes."
- l. "Physical education usually works in well with coaching."
- m. "Promotes good relations between athletes and non-athletes when the coach is in charge of both."
- n. "Yes, if they can keep the two separated."

Question 3 continued (Do you think coaches should teach physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answers, please.)

Reasons against teaching physical education as expressed by coaches certified in physical education but not teaching any such classes are as follows:

- a. "Too fatiguing, coaches get tired of having physical activity all day."
- b. "Coaches may use physical education classes to promote sports."
- c. "Coach does a better job of teaching other courses."
- d. "Class room teaching gives a coach a better understanding of school problems."
- e. "The two are not closely related so why put them together."
- f. "Coaches do a better job of coaching when they don't teach physical education."
- g. "Athletics are extra-curricular."

Coaches certified in physical education and teaching physical education, yes, 196, no 23.

Reasons in favor of teaching physical education as expressed by coaches certified in and teaching physical education are as follows:

- a. "Yes, because of the close relationship that exists between the two."
- b. "Coaches are best qualified to do so."
- c. "Coaches have a better knowledge of human capacity and treatment of injury."
- d. "As long as they realize it is physical education and not athletics."
- e. "Coaches should be prepared to do so."
- f. "Coaches enjoy teaching physical education more than any other class."
- g. "If coaches have the proper ideals, they will teach physical education just as thoroughly as any other class."
- h. "It gives coaches a better chance to become acquainted with boys in a class situation."
- i. "It is necessary that the coach do both in many small schools."
- j. "Coaches can watch for athletic talent."
- k. "A coach doesn't have sufficient time to take care of academic classes."
- l. "Solves discipline problems since all boys come in contact with the coach."
- m. "If the coach is not qualified to teach physical education, he should not be allowed to coach."
- n. "Yes, but only if the coach is interested in physical education."

Question 3 continued (Do you think coaches should teach physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answers, please.)

- o. "Coaches are more capable than most other teachers."
- p. "Keeps them in one department and gives students a morale boost to have a coach teaching physical education."
- q. "Most coaches understand the objectives of physical fitness."

Of the coaches not certified in physical education 22 agreed that this was a good idea and 9 were opposed.

Reasons in favor of teaching physical education as expressed by coaches not certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "Most coaches have a sufficient background."
- b. "Coaches are more interested in physical education than other teachers."
- c. "Athletics are a part of physical education."
- d. "Yes, if the two programs are to harmonize."
- e. "This would require fewer teachers in small schools."
- f. "It is a coach's line of work."
- g. "This would help with conditioning and the coach would also get to know the boys better."
- h. "It is almost necessary that the same individual be in charge of both programs in small schools."
- i. "This would give coaches a chance to work with other boys."

Reasons against teaching physical education as expressed by coaches not certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "There is a tendency to emphasize sports too much in the physical education program."
- b. "Being around boys too much may cause disciplinary problems."
- c. "Coaches are teachers of young men, not subjects."
- d. "Coaches don't have sufficient time to teach physical education classes."
- e. "Why put the two together when they are not related."

By years of coaching the answers were distributed as follows:

Coaching 1 through 3 years, yes 84, no 13.

Coaching 4 through 7 years, yes 112, no 19.

Coaching more than 7 years, yes 95, no 34.

## Question Four

Do athletics count toward high school physical education requirements in your school? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If they count, to what extent do they count? Please explain.

This question was merely an attempt to find out how many schools give academic credit for participation in athletics and how much credit, and also how many schools give credit for physical education where the coach is not certified in physical education.

The results of question number four are as follows: yes 188, no 211.

Academic credit is given for athletic participation to the following extent:

- a. As long as a boy is out for athletics he does not have to take physical education. (In approximately half of the schools.)
- b. One-fourth of a credit per year for athletic participation.
- c. One unit for one year's participation.
- d. Athletics constitute our physical education program.
- e. Freshmen are the only ones that have physical education classes as such.
- f. One-half credit per year for a whole year's participation.
- g. One-half credit for participation in two sports.
- h. Use class periods for athletic practice.
- j. One-half credit is given for participation in football and basketball.

Schools where athletics count toward physical education requirement, but the coach is not certified in physical education, 18.

By school classification:   Class AA    2.  
                                   Class A     1.  
                                   Class B     3.  
                                   Class BB  12.

## Question Five

Do you think coaches should be certified in physical education?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answer, please.

This question was asked in an attempt to find out how many coaches thought they should be certified in physical education, regardless of whether they taught it or not and irrespective of their reasons for answering the way they did.

The results of question number five are as follows:

Total number yes 329, no 58.

Coaches certified in physical education, yes 316, no 41.

The opinions in favor of a physical education background as expressed by coaches certified in physical education are as follows:

- a. "Physical education training gives the proper background for coaching." (Approximately one-third expressed this view point.)
- b. "Coaches should have a knowledge of first aid, treatment and care of injuries, and general overall qualifications so that they will not have to experiment with athletes."
- c. "Because of the educational values that are connected with athletics, it is therefore necessary that coaches be properly trained."
- d. "Athletics are a part of physical education."
- e. "Teachers need certification in other fields, is this an exception?"
- f. "Coaches need an understanding of the human body, diet, physical capacities and physical fitness."
- g. "This would improve the field, both in personnel and salary."
- h. "A close relationship exists between the two."
- i. "Lets make coaching a profession, not just something someone is willing to do for extra cash."
- j. "Coaching demands preparation just as much as any other field."
- k. "This would help standardize the two fields."

The following remarks are typical of those which accompanied the answers.

Question 5 continued (Do you think coaches should be certified in physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answer, please.)

- a. "I would not want to hire a lawyer who had been trained in veterinary medicine, therefore I do not feel that a coach should have his major field in some other area."
- b. "Would you want a carpenter to work on the motor of your car?"
- c. "People in other fields don't hire unqualified personnel, why do it in school work with coaches."
- d. "An English teacher can't teach math, so why let an agriculture teacher coach."

The opinions of coaches opposed to a physical education background as expressed by coaches certified in physical education are as follows:

- a. "Coaching and physical education are two different fields and are not related."
- b. "Should have some physical education, but not to the extent of a minor."
- c. "Being certified in physical education doesn't make an individual a successful coach."
- d. "Playing experience is all that is necessary in order to be a coach."
- e. "Coaches generally get plenty of physical education training, because the two are correlated in most schools."
- f. "Coaches should be qualified in their subject field."
- g. "A coach may be a good teacher in another field and still like coaching."
- h. "Don't think it is necessary and can't see any reason for it."
- i. "Many good coaches are not interested in physical education."
- j. "Why should it make any difference in what a coach is qualified?"
- k. "A major in psychology would be just as good."
- l. "This would not be practical because schools need teachers in other fields."

Coaches not certified in physical education, yes 13, no 17.

The opinions of coaches in favor of a physical education background as expressed by coaches who are not certified in physical education.

- a. "Coaches should have proper knowledge and techniques of coaching and how to take care of injuries."

Question 5 continued (Do you think coaches should be certified in physical education? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Give reasons for your answer, please.)

- b. "Every job demands qualifications, is coaching an exception."
- c. "Physical education gives a coach an adequate knowledge of coaching."
- d. "This should apply only to coaches in small schools."
- e. "This is a secondary requirement in some states, why not in Kansas?"
- f. "Physical education is just as important as any other phase of education."

The opinions of coaches opposed to a physical education background as expressed by coaches who are not certified in physical education.

- a. "College competition is sufficient training for coaches."
- b. "Physical education and athletics are two different fields."
- c. "Can't see any reason for it."
- d. "Too many small schools, consequently no good physical education program exists because the coach teaches too many other classes."
- e. "Coaches need only about eight hours of physical education."
- f. "Coaches should have a working background."
- g. "There aren't enough teachers now so why raise the standards."
- h. "This is not necessary, coaches need only a knowledge of first aid and hygiene."
- i. "Coaches may be prepared in any field and still be able to coach."
- j. "Good coaches are good physical education teachers any way."
- k. "I am not certified in physical education, therefore I am against it."
- l. "In many church colleges, coaches cannot get enough physical education for a major."

#### Question Six

If you don't think coaches should be certified in physical education, what requirements should they have? Please explain.

This question was to determine what qualifications coaches thought they should have, if they were not in favor of question five. Not many coaches answered this question, stating that the preceding question was a sufficient answer. Thirty-five coaches answered this question, 25 of these are certified in physical education. Their answers are as follows:

- a. "Coaches should have a thorough knowledge of the body and how to take care of injuries."



Question Six continued (If you don't think coaches should be certified in physical education, what requirements should they have? Please explain.)

- b. "Coaches should have physical education, but not enough for a minor."
- c. "Many good coaches never did have any physical education."
- d. "Being a certified teacher in any field should qualify a person to coach."
- e. "Coaching courses are sufficient as far as training for a coach is concerned."
- f. "Collegiate experience qualifies a person to be a coach."
- g. "A person can get enough information from a coaching school in order to be a coach."
- h. "Present state requirements are adequate."
- i. "My physical education major did not teach me any sports."
- j. "Biological sciences would be just as helpful as a physical education minor."

#### Question Seven

How many years have you been coaching? \_\_\_ years. What sports?

This question had no bearing on the rest of the questionnaire. It was included as an aid in tabulating the individual questions when the answers were categorized as to the number of years the individual coaches had been in the field.

#### Question Eight

Would you be in favor of a coaching minor similar to the following, instead of a regular physical education major or minor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Add, delete or comment as desired.

Fundamentals of Sports (football, basketball, etc., in a laboratory type class)	2	hours
Theory of the Sports	3	"
Human Anatomy	3	"
Kinesiology	3	"
Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries	3	"

Question Eight continued (Would you be in favor of a coaching minor similar to the following, instead of a regular physical education major or minor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Add, delete or comment as desired.)

Public Relations	2 hours
Psychology of Coaching	2 "
Organization and Administration of High School Athletics	3 "

This question was asked in an attempt to find out whether the coaches in the field would prefer a physical education minor that would be composed of courses related to coaching, instead of a regular physical education major or minor. This physical education minor as set up would not qualify an individual to teach physical education as such, because it does not meet all the state physical education requirements for certification. This coaching minor would only be used as a preparatory background for coaches who are not interested in regular physical education work as related to teaching physical education classes.

The results of question number eight are as follows:

Total number yes 292, no 83.

Coaches that are certified in physical education, yes 272, no 78.

The opinions in favor of a coaching minor as expressed by coaches who are certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "This is an excellent idea and should be required of all coaches."
- b. "This program seems to cover the field fairly well."
- c. "A program like this would be helpful to all coaches."
- d. "Good idea, but only as a minor."
- e. "This should be required of all coaches that are not physical education majors."
- f. "This minor plus practical experience would be very good."
- g. "I wish I would have had such a program."
- h. "This would be alright for coaches only and not physical education teachers."

Question Eight continued (Would you be in favor of a coaching minor similar to the following, instead of a regular physical education major or minor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Add, delete or comment as desired.)

- i. "I like the idea, but more time should be spent on sports."
- j. "This program is a good start in the right direction."
- k. "Including public relations and psychology of coaching, is a good idea."

The opinions opposed to a coaching minor as expressed by coaches who are certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "These courses are required of a physical education major."
- b. "This is not enough preparation in the field."
- c. "No, not in place of a physical education major."
- d. "This should be considered a physical education and not a coaching minor."
- e. "There are not enough major sports fundamentals in this program."
- f. "No, coaches should have a regular physical education minor."
- g. "Coaches should have a physical education major, they can't do justice without it."
- h. "Most of these courses are impractical for the present situation."
- i. "I would go as far as to limit the coaching and physical education field to those who have competed actively in varsity competition."
- j. "There is no difference between this and a physical education minor."
- k. "There is no need for some of the courses that are included."
- l. "These courses should not be required, but should be selective."
- m. "This is no place for a short cut."
- n. "Colleges at present are in line with their physical education majors and minors."

Coaches not certified in physical education, yes 20, no 5.

The opinions in favor of a coaching minor as expressed by coaches who are not certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "An excellent idea, this would be helpful to all coaches."
- b. "This is a good idea, but a coach doesn't need that much physical education."

The opinions opposed to a coaching minor as expressed by coaches who are not certified in physical education, are as follows:

- a. "A coach should take coaching courses because of his love for athletics and not for a coaching minor."
- b. "This is not at all necessary for coaches."

Question Eight continued (Would you be in favor of a coaching minor similar to the following, instead of a regular physical education major or minor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Add, delete or comment as desired.)

As can readily be seen, the opinions of coaches not certified in physical education were almost nil. The majority just answered yes or no and did not at all elaborate as far as this phase of the question is concerned.

By years of coaching: Coaching 1 through 3 years, yes 71, no 26.

Coaching 4 through 7 years, yes 109, no 25.

Coaching more than 7 years, yes 112, no 32.

The following is a list of courses that coaches wanted to add and/or replace other courses that were included in the proposed minor.

Fundamentals of Sports (2 hours for each sport) (15)  
 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries and Tapeing. (13)  
 Care, Purchase, Storage and Inventory of Equipment. (12)  
 First Aid. (7)  
 Physiology and Psychology of Exercise. (6)  
 Officiating. (4)  
 Corrective Therapy. (3)  
 Philosophy of Coaching. (3)  
 Mental Growth and Development. (3)  
 Guidance. (3)  
 Psychology. (3)  
 Advanced courses in Football, Basketball and Track. (2)  
 Safety. (2)  
 Scientific Principles of Coaching. (2)  
 Public Relations. (2)

Some coaches expressed the opinion, that the following courses should be deleted from the proposed minor.

Theory of Sports. (8)  
 Psychology. (7)  
 Kinesiology. (7)  
 Anatomy. (5)  
 Public Relations. (5)  
 Administration of High School Athletics. (3)  
 Fundamentals of Sports. (3)

## Question Nine

Does your high school administrator favor certification for coaches? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If not, what reasons does he give?

This question was added in an attempt to find out what views the administrators have on this question of coaches having to be certified in a specific area before they are allowed to coach. By adding this question to the coach's questionnaire, it was thought possible that adequate results could be acquired without a separate questionnaire.

In some instances, the coach and the administrator are the same person, therefore there may be a partial overlapping of question five and or eight.

The results of question nine are as follows:

Total number yes 290, no.49.

Opinions in favor are as follows:

- a. "Better qualified people would be in charge of athletics."
- b. "A man trained in physical education is usually better qualified to handle and take care of a squad of boys."
- c. "A physical education major should be basic."
- d. "Yes, especially a prescribed minor in a related area."
- e. "This would prevent coaches from being hired only on the basis of their past record."
- f. "This would be a definite step toward increased professionalization of coaching."
- g. "Yes, because good athletes don't always make good coaches, they also need other qualifications."

Opinions expressed by administrators who oppose certification, are as follows:

- a. "This would not be practical in Kansas, the situation should remain as is."
- b. "Many coaches are interested only in player participation."
- c. "No, there is a shortage of teachers now."
- d. "I don't believe it is necessary."

Question Nine continued (Does you high school administrator favor certification for coaches? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, what reasons does he give?

- e. "Some courses may be necessary, but certification is not necessary."
- f. "No amount of required hours make a coach."
- g. "No, physical education and athletics are two different fields."
- h. "No, coaches should know their subject field and then they can pick up physical education if so desired."
- i. "No, why foul up a good thing."
- j. "It is the man and not the courses that make the coach."
- k. "A person doesn't have to be a physical education major in order to be a good coach."
- l. "No, athletics are over-emphasized now."

The following remark accompanied one of the answers. "Do you favor certification of piano, class plays, P.T.A., or class sponsors? A degree teacher who teaches can surely coach. A good teacher can coach if he knows sports."

By school classification: Class AA yes 53, no 8.

Class A yes 74, no 10.

Class B yes 86, no 12.

Class BB yes 77, no 19.

The above figures will have to be divided by two in order to get a more accurate picture, because that is about the ratio in which the coaches from the respective schools answered. In class AA this figure is slightly higher.



## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The information in the preceding chapter gives us a good representative picture of the views and qualifications of the athletic coaches in the secondary schools of Kansas. As the result of this information, we can draw a number of conclusions. To aid in arriving at these conclusions, the author has summarized the results of the questionnaire in the following manner.

#### Summary

Question one results show that coaches certified in physical education outnumber coaches not certified in physical education over 10 to 1. As would seem logical, the number of coaches certified in physical education by school classification, is approximately the same, with class BB schools having a slightly higher (16 out of 91) number of coaches not certified in physical education.

The individual coaches concerned were divided into three experience groups in an attempt to get a cross-sectional view. The one-through-three-years group is considered as beginners and the over-seven-years group, as coaches who are quite likely to stay in the business. According to the questionnaire results, each of the latter age groups has almost exactly 150 total, with the older group having the highest number of coaches not certified in physical education. The beginning group has only a few over one hundred coaches. From these figures, it can also be seen that the majority of coaches are not beginners and that the oldest group has the

greatest number of coaches not certified in physical education (17 out of 133) and also has the highest per cent (11.3) of non-certified personnel. Of course it is possible that these figures might not hold true, if a greater number of coaches had answered the questionnaire.

According to the personal records check, the ratio in favor of coaches certified in physical education is also quite conclusive (over  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 1) not counting those of which no record could be found. A figure close to this should hold true in their case because over 750 records were checked and the unknowns add up to only 113. From this we can see that the majority of our secondary athletic squads are in the hands of men having a background sufficient to do the job at hand. This may be quite a surprise to many people, and a pleasant one, to find out that in all athletic school classifications the coaches certified in physical education greatly outnumber those that do not meet physical education certification requirements.

Including all school classifications, the certified coaches who teach physical education outnumber those not teaching physical education almost 2 to 1 (242 to 124). This does not hold true when divided into school classifications, because in Class AA and A, the majority of coaches do not teach physical education, as can be seen by the figures which read: Class AA, yes 24, not teaching physical education 56; Class A, yes 60, not teaching physical education 45. In the other two school classifications this is just reversed with the majority of coaches teaching physical education. In Class B, the coaches teaching physical education outnumber the others 6 to 1, and



in Class BB, a little over 3 to 1. There are 14 coaches who teach physical education who do not meet certification requirements in physical education.

The total figure of 219 to 66 in favor of coaches teaching physical education shows us that a vast majority of coaches would prefer to teach physical education although they may not be doing so at present. This may be a surprise to a few administrators because they are at present trying to separate physical education and coaching by having different individuals in charge of each. Even the coaches who do not teach physical education classes, those certified and those not certified, are in favor of coaches teaching physical education classes. Teaching physical education classes does not necessarily mean that this is all a coach should teach because in most schools there are not enough physical education classes to warrant such a job on a full time basis.

When dividing the coaches into the various age groups, we find that the majority of all ages favor coaches teaching physical education classes. The over-seven-year age group has the highest number opposed to teaching physical education classes. From this we can conclude that the younger coaches especially prefer teaching physical education as compared to other subjects. Most coaches are under the impression that they are the best qualified to teach physical education and that they do not have sufficient time to adequately prepare and teach other classes all day. The few coaches who oppose this idea believe that teaching physical education classes is too tiring and that coaches may also use their

physical education classes to promote athletics.

Almost half of the schools give academic credit for athletic participation in varying degrees. The total figures will have to be cut in half because approximately two coaches per school answered the questionnaire. In all but 18 cases, the coaches are certified in physical education, as can be expected, the greatest number of these not certified are in the smaller schools.

Coaches favor physical education certification requirements for coaches five to one. This includes all coaches, certified and non-certified. When separating the two, almost two-thirds of the non-certified coaches are in favor of a physical education background. The number of non-certified coaches is small however and has little significance.

The majority of coaches expressed the view that physical education training gives them the proper background for coaching. Another view expressed was that a person trained in this field learns how the body functions, how to take care of it and the actual knowledge and skills used in athletics.

The few coaches that are opposed to this idea think that physical education and athletics are two different fields and there is no reason to have the same type of training. A great number of these coaches think that some physical education training is necessary but not to the extent of a minor or major in the field of physical education.

The coaches who answered question six, which dealt with requirements other than physical education, expressed the view that coaches

should have a thorough knowledge of the body and how to take care of injuries. Others thought that some physical education would be helpful but did not believe a minor was necessary. The author wonders how a coach can acquire an adequate knowledge of the body, how to take care of injuries and the basic principles of sports, without getting enough hours to qualify for physical education certification.

Taking into consideration the opinions of all coaches, they approved of a coaching minor, as outlined, by a margin of 3 1/2 to 1, or 292 in favor and 83 opposed. The ratio remains the same when separating the certified and non-certified coaches, and taking the totals of the certified coaches. Of the 25 non-certified coaches who expressed their views, 20 were in favor and 5 were opposed to the coaching minor.

The certified coaches who were in favor of the coaching minor, were of the opinion that this is an excellent idea and would prove helpful to all coaches.

The proposed coaching minor should not replace a regular physical education major or minor according to the opinion expressed by the few certified coaches who opposed it. Other coaches felt that the proposed coaching minor did not provide enough preparation in some areas.

Some of the coaches who are not certified in physical education agreed that requiring a coaching minor was a good idea, but that they would not need that much physical education. A few of the non-certified

coaches who were opposed to this plan thought that the coaching minor was not at all necessary and that a coach should take coaching courses not because he has to but, "because he loved athletics".

When dividing the coaches into age groups we find that the majority of all age groups favor the idea of a coaching minor. The ratio in favor was smallest among the youngest age group indicating, possibly, that the older coaches appreciate a background which qualifies them for their job.

Many coaches thought that there should be more fundamentals of sports with two hours for each sport. This was the original idea of the author when he set up the coaching minor. Next in demand were more hours in prevention and care of injuries and also purchase, care, storage and inventory of equipment. Other ideas were expressed but they were not nearly as numerous as the aforementioned.

As can be expected, some of the courses were deleted from the minor, the main ones being theory of sports, psychology, kinesiology and anatomy.

To satisfy the needs and meet the approval of all coaches concerned would be next to impossible, but the fact that a great majority of coaches approved of the coaching minor, some with reservations, is quite a gratifying and shows that they at least favor the idea.

The school administrators favor certification for coaches by the ratio of almost 6 to 1. The total figures, as tabulated for

question nine, will have to be cut in half due to the fact that this is approximately the number of coaches per school that answered. This is a conservative estimate and will not change the ratio.

The administrators who favored this idea thought that this would put better qualified individuals in charge of athletic squads. They also were of the opinion that such certification should be in the field of physical education.

The main ideas expressed by the administrators opposed to certification were that coach's certification would not be practical in Kansas and the situation should remain as is because there is a shortage of teachers now.

When dividing the administrators into school classifications, we find that Class AA, A, and B, are almost all 7 to 1 in favor, while Class BB falls to a margin of 4 to 1 in favor of coach certification.

#### CONCLUSIONS

As the result of this study we can conclude that: the majority of coaches are certified in physical education including all school classifications; almost twice as many coaches teach physical education as compared to those that do not; a majority of coaches prefer teaching physical education as compared to other subjects; almost half of the schools give academic credit for athletic participation; over 5 out of 6 coaches are in favor of physical education certification



## CHAPTER V

### RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the recommendations of the National Education Association, Educational Policies Commission as stated in their publication School Athletics, and in view of the opinions of a majority of Kansas secondary school administrators and 329 of their coaches, who answered the questionnaire, it seems logical to assume that the State of Kansas should require coaches of interscholastic athletics to meet certification requirements as they stand now for physical education or as they could be set up under a coaching minor.

To implement such a requirement in the State of Kansas would not be difficult or would not inflict a hardship on any great number because:

1. Ninety-one per cent of coaches answering the questionnaire meet present certification requirements for physical education.
2. Only 99 out of 764 coaches, whose records were found and checked at the state office of Certification and College Accreditation, do not at present meet physical education certification requirements.
3. The majority of administrators, almost six to one, favor certification requirements for coaches.
4. Five out of six coaches favor the establishment of certification requirements for coaches.

If certification of coaches is recommended by authorities, including the men in the business, then it seems imperative that something be done about the establishment of certain certification requirements, which men who coach, must meet prior to assuming this position of leadership in interscholastic athletics.

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