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A SURVEY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL IN NORTH DAKOTA CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS DURING 1955

by

CHARLES F. PRIVRATSKY

B. S. Dickinson State Teachers College, 1951

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

1957

Approved by:
Vincent Wilson
Chairman, Board of Examiners
Ellis Waldon
Dean, Graduate School
AUG 1 4 1957
Date

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Gratitude is also expressed to the superintendents, principals, and coaches of the North Dakota Class C high schools for their fine co-operation in this study.

Sincere thanks are expressed to my wife for the many hours devoted to typing of the manuscript.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Six-man football is the only varsity sport conducted in the fall in many small high schools. It is not a complicated game, taking much less time to develop the plays and formations than its parent game, eleven-man football. As many small high schools do not have highly specialized coaching, an individual with limited experience can coach a six-man team, thereby giving these boys the opportunity they need and want to enjoy the benefits of this sport which is an essential part of a small high school's athletic program. Six-man football is a fairly inexpensive sport, comparatively safe, fun to play and interesting to watch. The game contributes to the mental, physical and social development of the individual. Duncan has this to say about football in general:

Football is accepted as a sport which has educational value, yet only about one-third of our high schools play football. The answer may be found in the statistics as to the size of high schools.

The small school with less than 200 students cannot play regular eleven-man football satisfactorily because there are insufficient boys to meet football needs.

Six-man football balances the year-around sports

Ray O. Duncan, Play Six-Man Football, (Chicago, Illinois: The Athletic Institute) p. 9.

program of a small high school. The game teaches boys give and take, sportsmanship, determination, teamwork and many other lessons which cannot be found in books.2

Football helps to develop a school and community spirit which is sometimes lacking in areas that do not have football. Small communities find that a football game attracts many spectators which increases interest in the community.

Mr. Ray O. Dencan, State Director of Physical Education, State of Illinois states:

I believe that a high school needs football in the fall in order to present a complete physical education, athletic and sports program. The experience of schools playing the game bears this out.

Boys need a contact sport like football. If football is not available, the basketball season is invariably too long. This prevents a balanced sports program.

Six-man football is found in eleven per cent of the high schools in the United States. Minnesota has two hundred high schools playing six-man football, more than any other state. Montana has the highest percentage of schools playing six-man football with forty-nine per cent.4

²Kurt W. Lenser, <u>Practical Six-Man Football</u>, (Stratton, Nebraska, 1938) p. 10.

³Ray O. Duncan, Play Six-Man Football, (Chicago, Illinois: The Athletic Institute) pp. 9-10.

⁴H. V. Porter and Stephen Spler, Six-Man Football and Soccer, (National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, 1957) p. 55.

class C high schools in North Dakota are those having enrollments of less than seventy-five students. There are forty-four of these schools in North Dakota, or nineteen per cent, that play six-man football. This sport should be a part of the athletic program in the small schools of North Dakota as it provides participating activity for all boys of high school age who desire to take part in such a program.

The writer felt that a study of six-man football in the North Dakota Class C schools would be a contribution to the planning of a more complete program in these schools.

1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to obtain information on the organization, administration, facilities and equipment of six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools.

Questionnaires were sent to all high schools in the above classification. The information obtained could be used in the establishment and improvement of six-men football.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM

To make an analysis of the organization, administration, facilities and equipment, it was necessary to survey the six-man football program in North Dakota Class C high schools. This was done by the use of a questionnaire which was divided

into two main parts, namely (1) the organization and administration of six-men football in North Dakota Class C high schools; and (2) the facilities and equipment available for six-men football in North Dakota Class C high schools.

with the results obtained from the questionnaire, certain standards of organization and administration, facilities and equipment for the six-man football program could be developed and improved. The extent which selected factors affect the six-man football program, such as: (1) the size of schools; (2) inadequate finances; and (3) lack of interest by students could be determined.

III. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

This study proceeded on the supposition that (1) adequate information concerning the organization and administration of six-man football in the North Dakota Class C high schools could be obtained by a survey using questionnaires; (2) the organization and administration of the program is inadequate in many instances and could be improved; (3) the results obtained could be used in improving and developing better programs; and (4) because of size, the majority of schools surveyed are more able to field six-man football teams than eight, nine or eleven-man teams.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Athletic fund. This study assumes that money set aside for the specific purpose of carrying out the athletic program is kept in a certain fund known as the athletic fund.

Class C school. Any high school in North Dakota which has an enrollment of less than seventy-five students.

Conference. A conference is an association of athletic teams with duly elected officials organized for the benefit of the players and schools. The conference makes regulations, carries out a schedule of games among member schools and determines a conference champion.

<u>Facilities.</u> The part of the physical plant necessary for six-man football.

Linesman. The linesman, if used, is the official who has primary jurisdiction over the neutral zone and infractions of the scrimmage formations.

North Dakota High School Activities Association.

An organization of North Dakota high schools set up to organize, control and supplement the dramatic, literary, music and physical education programs of the schools and giving due emphasis to those tendencies which promise best

to promote the mental and physical health and social wellbeing of all students.5

Referee. A referee is the official with the final authority for administering a game.

School district fund. The school district fund is money that is made available to the school by some form of taxation for the operation of the school and its related programs.

Umpire. An umpire is the official who has primary jurisdiction over the equipment and conduct of the players.

V. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study was limited to the organization, administration, facilities and equipment in North Dakota Class C high schools in 1955 and does not include the techniques of playing the game.

VI. NEED FOR THE STUDY

As far as the writer has been able to determine, the following reasons indicate the need for this study: (1) no

⁵Constitution And By-Laws of North Dakota High School Activities Association, (Published by the Board of Directors, 1955) p. 7.

similar survey of this type has been made in North Dakota;

(2) a survey of this kind could aid in determining the status of present programs and thus determine if there is a need for improvement and development; (3) an attempt will be made to show the need for the organization and administration of sixman football; and (4) an endeavor was made to provide information which should be of value as a guide to coaches, school administrators, school boards and other interested persons.

It is hoped that this study will stimulate further interest in these areas to warrant additional research.

VII. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

Questionnaires, a copy of which is in the appendix, were sent to all of the 226 Class C high schools in North Dakota. In this study 185 or eighty-three per cent responded and of the forty-four Class C schools playing six-men football thirty-seven or eighty-four per cent co-operated. Unless otherwise stated, future references to schools playing six-man football will refer to the thirty-seven schools that answered the cuestionnaire.

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Six-man football is a comparatively new American sport which has made remarkable progress since its inception in 1934. Since that time many harmful features have been discarded and new plans have been developed to meet the needs of small schools.

The entire history of the game of football is a story of change. At first it was only a kicking game, later running was introduced and with the introduction of the egg-shaped ball, the passing part of the game developed. The number of players varied to meet local situations and there were no set rules. The first organized teams included twenty-five players who used any type of ball and any size of field. There was much opposition to the rule reducing the number of players because of the men eliminated from play. The point values of field goals and of touchdowns were changed many times.

Mr. Stephen Epler is recognized as being the person most instrumental in developing the game of six-man football. Mr. Epler, who played end for Cotner College, Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1932, recognized the danger in the American game of eleven-man football for immature, undeveloped youngsters and the need for a game better suited to small

schools, and proceeded to originate a form of this sport where play provided the maximum of action and the minimum of injury.

In devising his new game, Mr. Spler decided the small team meant the game would be free for a running and passing attack. He ruled that a man receiving the ball from the center should make a clear pass to another player before the ball can be advanced beyond the line of scrimmage. This eliminates hiding the ball and reduces the danger of injuries. He does not have to clear pass to another player if he attempts a forward pass. To encourage kicking, four points were given for a field goal.²

The six-man football team includes two ends, a center, a quarterback, a halfback and a fullback; three men on the line of scrimmage, three back of it. The regulation field is 240 feet by 120 feet. The basic rules of the eleven-man game apply to the six-man sport and the equipment is similar.

The official six-man football rule book has been issued annually since 1938.3

On the evening of September 26, 1934 the first sixman football game was played at Hebron College, Nebraska, who loaned the use of its field and equipment to the players

lFrank G. Menke, The Sncyclopedia of Sports, (A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1953) p. 417.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

of the four schools that participated. Chester and Hardy formed one team and the schools of Belvidere and Alexandria formed the other. The game was played before a crowd of over one thousand spectators and ended in a tie score of 19-19.4

The originator of the game, Stephen Spler, did not create the sport with the audience appeal idea. Epler stated:

It was to be just clean and safe fun for youngsters. Spectators were not important. It merely was necessary for the boys to arrive at the playing field and go into action, and usually they arrived.

Therefore, six-man football not merely survived, but went on to increasing popularity. This is so because boys like to kick a ball, they like to throw it and the game gives them generous chances. They have done much with the sport in advancing it into national popularity.

As stated in the Athletic Journal, the expansion of six-man football since it's beginning in 1934 has been rapid.

The growth of six-man football occurred largely from 1935 to 1940. In 1937 the game was being used as an interscholastic sport by 586 high schools in twenty-eight different states. Three out of every one hundred high schools had teams. By 1940, 1,911 high schools were reported

⁴Ray O. Duncan, Play Six-Man Football, (Chicago, Illinois: The Athletic Institute) p. 9.

Frank G. Menke, <u>The Encyclopedia of Sports</u>, (A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1953) p. 418.

playing the game. In 1953 ten out of every one hundred schools fielded teams, or 1,818 high schools in thirty-six states.6

The drop in the total number of schools participating is probably due to the larger enrollments in high schools resulting in a shift to eight, nine or eleven-man football.

The midwest and Rocky Mountain states still lead in six-man football participation. During the last decade the gain for the whole nation was twenty-one per cent. 7

⁶Stephen Opler, "The Growth of Interscholastic Sports," Athletic Journal, Vol. XXXIV No. 8 (April, 1954), P. 34.

⁷Six-Man Football and Soccer, 1957, p. 55.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Introduction: In preparing this study, the writer assumed that common athletic administrative problems occur with regularity in small high schools.

In organizing an adequate six-man football program, policies can not be established until administrators, coaches and school boards agree upon the needs of the sport. These people must be made aware of problems such as: finances, officials, health standards, eligibility, facilities and equipment that arise in the administration and organization of such programs.

The superintendent of a small high school should be responsible for the organization of the six-man football program in his school. The coach as the direct head is primarily responsible to the superintendent on matters such as method of instruction, purchasing and care of equipment, health, safety and conduct of the players.

The school board, superintendent and coach should recognize that certain objectives may be realized from a six-man football program, such as: (1) the educational value of football; (2) the improvement in the physical condition of players; (3) a definite unity in spirit to the students and the school; (4) individual qualities of loyalty, courage,

leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship; and (5) greater participation of students in a well-rounded athletic program.

Six-man football may be the means of teaching traits as team work, leadership, loyalty and courage. A team that is physically superior may loose because the opposition excels in team work and spirit. Quick thinking and intelligent strategy often contribute more to a team's success in six-man football than sheer strength. The enthusiasm and interest the game engenders in boys may replace the unwholesome gang activities not uncommon among juveniles. I

As in any other sport in a school athletic program, six-man football will become a valuable asset to those schools that choose to participate.

The governing body for the organization and administration of athletics. The North Dakota High School Activities Association, until recently known as the North Dakota High School League, was formed in 1908. It is an organization which contributes to the education of high school boys of North Dakota by: (1) administrating a program of interscholastic athletics; (2) elevating the standards of good sportsmanship; (3) protecting member schools, students, and personnel from exploitation; and (4) encouraging pride in scholastic achievement.²

¹John Shaw, (ed.), Selected Team Sports For Men (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1952), p. 100.

North Dakota High School Activities Association, 1955, pp.3,7.

This organization has the authority to determine the qualifications of coaches; interpret eligibility rules regulating interscholastic relations; govern the status of major officials in all inter-school contests; and to determine who shall be an amateur or a professional athlete.

Participation. Stephen Epler stated: "In 1937 North Dakota had the greatest number of schools playing, 120".4

In 1955, out of 226 North Dakota Class C high schools, there were only forty-four or eighteen per cent that played six-man football. This shows that there is a definite need for reestablishing the program in this state.

According to the enrollments of schools that do not play six-man football, as compiled from the questionnaires, the average number of boys per school was twenty-five and some of these schools had as many as forty boys enrolled. Of those schools playing the game, the average number of boys was thirteen and twenty-one was the greatest number of boys in any one school.

<u>Conference</u>. In order that the athletic program in high schools may function properly athletic conferences should be formed to insure maximum benefit of competition

^{3&}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, pp. 18,20.

⁴Stephen Epler, "The Growth of Interscholastic Sports," Athletic Journal, Vol. XXXIV No. 8 (April, 1954), p. 34.

to the players and schools. Some of the functions of a conference would be: (1) to establish standard rules and regulations; (2) to select officials for conference games; (3) to determine a conference champion and purchase awards and trophies; (4) to schedule games and to simplify scheduling; (5) to establish and keep records; and (6) to investigate and act on violation of rules.

In every state there are numerous high school athletic conferences composed of schools of approximately the same size and located in the same section of the state. The nature and the purpose of the high school conference are essentially the same as those of a college conference. When schools are organized into leagues, athletic competition can be regulated, and many of the objections to interscholastic athletics, such as competing against larger schools and traveling long distances, can be eliminated. High school conferences have done much to place athletics on an educational basis and thus win the co-operation of educators.

The values of a conference would be to improve sportsmanship, encourage friendly relations between schools, improve athletic conditions within schools, fairer competition would result, and it would increase interest in the six-man football program.

Of the thirty-seven North Dakota Class C schools playing six-man football, twenty or fifty-four per cent stated they were in a conference. There were four conferences, namely: (1) the Sastern Dakota with nine participating

⁵Edward F. Voltmer and Arthur A. Esslinger, The Organization And Administration of Physical Education, (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1949) p. 210.

schools, (2) the Southeastern which consists of five schools, (3) the Sheyenne Valley and (4) the Little Six, the latter two having three schools in each.

The average number of games played with teams in the conference was four and one was the average number of games played against teams outside the conference. Some schools indicated they did not play outside their conference. Only fifty per cent of the schools reported they played the same number of opponents within their conference and the majority of the teams did not play any team in their conference more than once. Of the twenty-five per cent that did play the same opponent more than once within their regular conference, only one additional game was played by each.

A conference champion was selected in each of the four conferences. The Eastern Dakota Conference and the Southeastern Conference determined their champions by the percentage basis. The schools in the Sheyenne Valley and Little Six Conferences determined their champions by the number of games won and lost. If there were a tie in the conference standings, a play-off between the two top teams was the more common way of determining the champion. One conference designated co-champions without a play-off.

All conferences award an official conference trophy.

Written constitutions would seem to play a vital part in the settling of differences that arise from time to time among member schools. The Southeastern, Sheyenne

Valley and Little Six Conferences have written constitutions; the dastern Dakota Conference does not, but is in the process of developing a written constitution.

Regular meetings are held by the four conferences, two meeting twice a year and two meeting once each year. At these meetings both the superintendent and coach represent their school in the majority of cases. The schedule of six-man football games is made out the previous spring by three conferences and one makes out the schedule during the first of the football season.

Schools not affiliated with a conference. Although organizing a conference involves considerable time and effort it will prove its worth. Lenser makes the following suggestions regarding the organization of a conference:

Perhaps it will be up to the coach to provide the initiative for organization of the six-men football league. He should contact other schools interested in the game and set a date for an organization meeting agreeable to them.

A whole day should be set aside for this meeting -its effects will be felt for years. A whole day and
perhaps the evening will be required to establish a
solid foundation for the league.

The successful league should be small, the member schools close together, there must be a common interest, and no individual differences or feuding.

Present at the organization meeting should be representatives of interested schools, a college or university coaching staff man (or secretary of state athletic organization) who is familiar with the game, athletic goods company representatives, and prospective officials.

⁶Kurt W. Lenser, <u>Practical Six-Man Football</u>, (Stratton, Nebraska, 1938) p. 10.

As stated in the survey, of the seventeen schools playing six-man football that were not affiliated with a conference, fourteen reported that Class C high schools within their travel area were limited and the remaining schools stated that a lack of interest was evident.

Schools not participating in six-man football.

Figure 1, page 19, presents the percentage of schools who discontinued or were not playing six-man football and the reasons why. The main reasons given were that schools became too small and finances were inadequate.

Finances. The financing of six-man football is a serious problem in many small high schools. After the expense involved in buying equipment and obtaining facilities has been taken care of, this varsity sport, if possible, should be self-supporting. If the board of education does not support the program, a plan of financing the sport has to be obtained.

The ideal method of financing six-man football is for the school board to assume the responsibility. However, in communities where school boards do not finance the sport, a number of plans have been successfully followed, such as dances, plays, card parties, boxing shows, candy and food sales, season tickets, magazine sales and benefit pictures at the local theatre.

In many communities local service organizations such as Junior Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc., have assumed the responsibility of promoting football and getting it started. After it is introduced and the initial expense of equipment met, the oport should maintain itself.7

⁷Ray O. Duncan, Play Six-Man Football, (Chicago, Illinois: The Athletic Institute) p. 13.

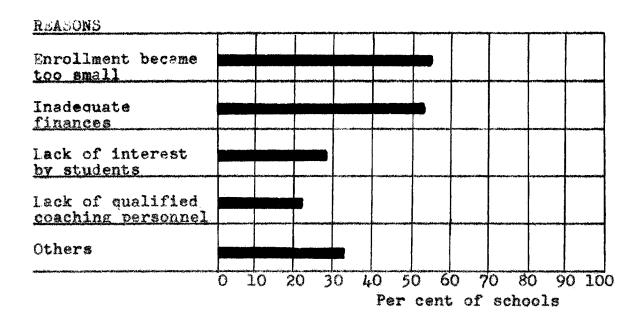


FIGURE 1

THE REASONS FOR CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS NOT PLAYING OR DISCONTINUING SIX-MAN FOOTBALL. BY PERCENTAGE

NOTE: "Others" includes the following reasons:
(1) lack of administrative support, (2) school buses leave too soon, (3) lack of interest of other schools in area, (4) takes too much school time, and (5) boys needed for farm work.

Table I, page 21, shows the source, and percentage of each source, when available, used by each school in supporting the six-man football program. As the football program is not self-supporting in thirty-five of these schools, money had to be obtained from other funds.

Out of the thirty-seven schools, only thirteen obtained any funds from six-man football receipts. Six schools used special events entirely and fifteen used them partially for financial support.

In many instances bask thall evidently more than pays for itself. Seven of fifteen schools obtained over fifty per cent of their support for six-man football from this source and eight schools used this means to a lesser degree.

Only three of the twenty-five schools that indicated the percentage of receipts from various sources obtained more than fifty per cent of their finances from six-man football.

It will also be noted that a few schools obtained money from the activity fund, state funds, and federal funds to support their football program.

Initial and annual cost of financing. The initial cost of establishing a six-man football program would probably place a heavy burden upon small schools. Essential items such as equipment, blocking and tackling dummies, goal posts and the field would all have to be provided. In 1938

TABLE I

SOURCES OF FUNDS TO FINANCE THE SIX-MAN FOOTBALL PROGRAM IN NORTH CAKOTA CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS

						ક		
SCHOOLS	SIX-MAN FOOTBALL RECEIPT	BASKET GALL RECEIPTS	Sc #00L 0157R1CT FUNDS	SPECIAL EVENTS	OONATIONS FROM GUSTNESS	ACTIVITY FUNOS	STATE FUNOS	FEDERAL
Alamo		Y		X				
Amenia			X(100)	-		AMERICAN PROPERTY OF PERSONS		Andrews and Associated Spiriters
Anesa		Ť		Y	ation and State of the Assessment of the Assessm			kapaja gipikaugus ministra ministra
Arthur		1 (75)		I (25)				*****
Bowdon	X					X	Strategies - Contractions	
Buffalo				X(100)			Application of the Property of the State of the	Averilla language in a resource of the
Cogawell								
Pordville	X (10)	X (60)	and the second s	1 (30)			**************************************	lerikale uskryale waren, o'r in Kengala
Fort Totten			and the second s					X(100)
Fullerton		X (75)	X (25)					
Qackle	X			X			Marian San Caranta and Maria	
Gardner	X (90)	X (10)						
Gilby	X (80)	X (20)						
Goodrich	X (1)	X (80)	X (19)					
Hannaford			X	X				
lavanna.				X(100)				
lavies .			X	X				
Foodle		X (50)	X (25)	X (25)				
Hobs				X(100)				
Mindred			X	X(100)				
Leonard				1(100)				
MeVALLe		X		X				
Minnewauken			X(100)					
Monango	X (20)			x (80)				
Paga	I (20) X(100)							
Reeder	Company of the control of the contro		X(100)					
Recent						X(100)		
Rock Lake	X (25)	X (75)			*****************			
Rutland		and the last of the second second second		X(100)				
Sarles		X(100)	**************************************					
School for								
_the Deaf		X				Q4 (file or little of Party or enthalps of the supplication	I I	
Sheldon	X (20)	X (40)		X (40)				
Shevenne	X (5)	-	X (90)	X (5)				
Sykeston		X		<u> </u>				
Tower City	<u> </u>		I (95)					
Mheatlend	X			X	-		210 Am 1 300 from 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
<u> Wimbledon</u>				X(100)				

NOTE: This table should be read as follows: X indicates where funds were obtained; the figures in parenthesis after the checks, when available, indicate percentage from varying sources.

Lenser stated: "The problem of finances is of prime importance in a small school. Three or four hundred dollars are necessary to introduce six-man football." Undoubtedly the cost in 1955 would be much greater.

After the initial costs are taken care of, the lesser amount needed to finance the program each year is easier to obtain.

Figure 2, page 23, indicates the annual cost ranged from fifty dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars. The majority of schools spent from one hundred to two hundred dollars annually in financing their six-man football program.

Officials. Every effort should be made to make the game of six-man football clean and sportsmanlike. It is the duty of the officials as well as the coaches to help attain these goals.

The questionnaire revealed that twenty-nine of the thirty-seven schools playing six-man football hired their officials from the North Bakota Officials Association.

Only five of the thirty-seven schools hired home town officials.

A school should always be certain to hire officials who are registered with the state association. In some states the use of non-registered officials automatically cancels any insurance benefits that normally would result because of an injury in that contest.9

⁸Kurt W. Lenser, <u>Practical Six-Man Football</u>, (Stratton, Nebraska, 1938) p. 30.

⁹Robert A. Madding, "High School Athletic Administrative Problems," Athletic Journal, XXXV No. 9 (May, 1955), p. 32.

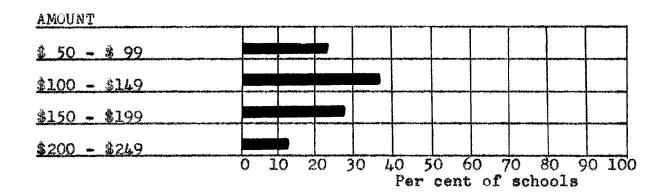


FIGURE 2

THE ANNUAL COST OF FINANCING SIX-MAN FOOTBALL PROGRAMS IN NORTH DAKOTA CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS

Most of the schools playing six-man football evidently believe the hiring of a home town official is not a good policy. Loyalty to the home team may influence decisions and psychologically, he is a hazard to the players of both teams.

Twenty-nine schools hired officials from the officials association and eight did not. The majority of the schools using North Dakota Officials Association members paid officials ten dollars per game and seven of the schools paid five dollars per game. Twenty-five of these twenty-nine schools also paid their officials mileage. Seven cents a mile was the amount paid by most of these schools. The eight schools who did not hire their officials from the officials association paid them five dollars per game and five cents a mile.

Eighty-one per cent of the schools indicated they used two officials to work games. Only seven schools employed one official.

If financially possible, the home school should engage at least two officials to work a game, as a better contest would be assured for players and spectators. An official finds it very difficult to witness the play of both the offensive and defensive teams at the same time. One official would undoubtedly miss a number of important "calls" which could affect the outcome of the game. 10

¹⁰Lenser, op. cit. p. 54.

employed their officials through contracts with the North Dakota Officials Association, whereas three schools have written agreements with the officials other than association contracts. As twenty-six of the schools did not employ contracts it appears that administrators and coaches are not aware of problems that could arise such as the failure of an official to report for a game.

Thirty-three schools hired their officials during the football season and four hired them the preceding spring.

Lenser believes the latter method to be the best.

Officials should be contracted the same as games, immediately after the schedule has been definitely worked out, perhaps at the league organization meeting.

A letter should be sent the official several days before each game he is to work containing all vital information concerning the game -- date, time, teams participating, and location of the field.

Health standards. Every boy should pass a health examination given by a physician before he is allowed to take an active part in six-man football, or any strenuous activity sponsored by the school. By allowing a boy that is not physically fit to play, the boy, the sport, and the coach may be harmed.

No pupil shall be allowed to represent his school in school or grade athletics or other strenuous activities until there is on file with the superintendent or

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 54-55.

principal a statement signed by a practicing physician and his parents or legal guardian certifying that he has passed an adequate physical examination since August 20 of the current school year; that in the opinion of the examining physician he is physically fit to participate in such activities; and that he has the consent of his parents or legal guardian to participate. 12

All of the thirty-seven Class C schools playing sixman football required health examinations, thus abiding by the North Dakota High School Activities Association ruling. Thirty-four of these schools required the examinations before the football season.

It is a well-known fact among athletic administrators that sports' accidents may be reduced as much as 50 per cent or more if a health examination is given before participation. It is desirable, therefore, that a health examination be provided for all participants in strenuous sports activities.13

These health examinations were paid for by twenty-two of the schools and the students paid for their own in the remaining schools. "The expense of such examinations should be paid out of the athletic funds rather than by the boys themselves."14

Health records of players should be on file so that the administration and coach can check on any players health status at all times. Such a record is important to a player,

¹²Board of Directors, <u>Constitution and By-Laws of</u>
North <u>Dakota High School Activities Association</u>, (Article XI, 1955) p. 21.

¹³W. L. Hughes, J. F. Williams, Sports Their Organization And Administration, (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1944) p. 116.

¹⁴John P. Childs, "Safety Methods in Football Administration," Athletic Journal, XXXIII No. 2 (October, 1952), p. 20.

for example, in case of a re-occurring injury which might not otherwise have been detected by the coach. As stated in the Constitution and By-Laws of the North Dakota High School Activities Association: The school administration should keep a record of the physical examination and parental consent. 15

Insurance. Of the thirty-seven North Dakota Class C high schools playing six-man football thirty-six provided athletic insurance for players which was obtained through the North Dakota High School Activities Association. One school, being a government supported school, was insured by the federal government.

Recent statistics report there has been a rapid development of athletic insurance plans which cover a great number of high school athletes. Forty-three states have some form of athletic accident coverage. In a majority of states the state athletic association promotes the accident benefit plan but in thirteen states the protection plans are administered by private protection companies. 16

The majority of the schools playing six-man football reported their insurance plan covered all injuries received

¹⁵Board of Directors, op. cit., p. 32.

¹⁶Voltmer and Esslinger, The Organization And Administration of Physical Education, (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1949) p. 199.

in games, practice sessions, and transportation to and from games. Of the schools surveyed, one-third stated their insurance plan also provided compensation of five hundred dollars in case of death.

In most accident protection plans coverage is provided for all injuries received in supervised practices and regularly scheduled interscholastic games.17

Eligibility. Eligibility standards should be established in every school that has a sports program. If standards are not established, and adhered to, much dissension and confusion that otherwise might not have occurred among schools can develop. If the desire to participate in varsity athletics is great enough the individual will strive to attain higher scholastic grades that meet the minimum eligibility standards of his school.

Of the schools playing six-man football all had eligibility requirements. The majority followed the recuirements adopted by the North Dakota High School Activities Association:

Section V: He shall be doing passing work in at least fifteen hours per week, the passing grade to be computed from the opening of the semester and to relate to such subjects only as severally and individually shall have a credit value of one-half unit per semester.

Note: This means three subjects, each of which is equal to a half-unit of credit a semester, on the basis of sixteen credits required for graduation.

¹⁷Ibid.

Fractional credits, such as & unit each in physical education and glee club, for example, may not be combined or added together to form the necessary credits required for eligibility. Pupils below the ninth grade must be passing in all subjects to be eligible. 18

Five of the thirty-seven schools set eligibility requirements higher than those established by the North Dakota High School Activities Association. These schools required the maintenance of a "C" average by those participating in varsity sports.

In the majority of cases the teachers turned in eligibility sheets to the coach regularly. In other instances, the coach contacted the teachers directly.

Travel. The transportation of boys to and from football games involves many problems such as: (1) the means of transporting players; (2) cost of such transportation; (3) supervision; (4) the time element; (5) distance traveled; and (6) ample space for equipment.

The greatest percentage of schools playing six-man football used privately owned cars as a means of transporting their teams, whereas the others used school buses. School buses are not used to a great extent in North Dakota as there is very little consolidation and the enrollments of these schools are much too small to warrant the purchase

¹⁸Board of Directors, op. cit., p. 22.

of one. "A school bus is the ideal, economical method of transportation for the squad."19

Of those schools that transported their players by private cars, seventy-three per cent paid the drivers five cents per mile. A few schools paid seven cents mileage.

The author feels that allowing high school students to drive private cars carrying team members involves problems of breaking training rules, excessive speed, and general misbehavior unless fully chaperoned. If possible, a faculty member, parent, or coach should be in each of the cars transporting the players. Some schools require the presence of the coach and an additional faculty member on trips. In some instances this has been considered to be a reflection on the coach. "The rule adopted by many schools requiring the presence of a faculty member on all athletic trips was an indictment of the character and conduct of coaches and players alike."20

Of the schools playing six-man football, twenty allowed high school students to drive private cars being used to transport the team; of those schools fourteen stated students had to be chaperoned and six did not require supervision of the players.

¹⁹Lenser, <u>Practical Six-Man Football</u>, (Stratton, Nebraska, 1938) p. 124.

²⁰Hughes and Williams, op. cit., p. 224.

None of the schools reporting had overnight trips on their schedule. On the average the longest trip was sixtyfive miles.

Only nine schools paid for the players' meals before or after games and the average amount alloted per person was fifty cents.

CHAPTER IV

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Equipment. Any game that involves contact demands that the player be properly equipped and that adequate facilities be available to take care of injuries normally treated by the trainer. This equipment should be purchased with protection of the players in mind. A school should purchase the best equipment that it is financially able to afford and if it cannot buy adequate equipment, the safety of the participants is endangered and the sport should be discontinued.

<u>Personal equipment</u>. Of the thirty-seven schools playing six-man football, six furnished all the personal equipment of the players and thirty-one did not furnish all items.

Figure 3, page 33, lists eleven items of personal equipment and the percentage of schools which furnished each of these items.

The majority of these schools required their boys to change equipment, such as supporters, sweat socks, sweat shirts, and T shirts once a week. The coach has the responsibility of making sure the equipment is laundered at frequent intervals for personal hygiene.

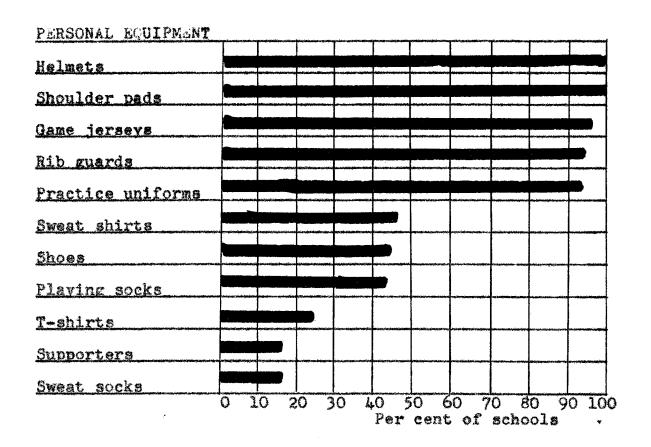


FIGURE 3

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT ITEMS PROVIDED PLAYERS FROM SCHOOL FUNDS

Thirty of the thirty-seven schools playing six-man football used the leather eleven-man shoe exclusively. One school used tennis shoes, another the regulation six-man shoe and the rest a combination of the above types.

For a number of years the six-man rules provided that all players wear canvas shoes with soft rubber soles. Several manufacturers have developed canvas shoes with a soft rubber cleat to give added traction. Rules now permit the use of either canvas or leather football shoes. Opposing teams should wear the same type of shoes.

Practice and training equipment. Practice and training equipment should be the best quality a school can afford and should be selected by the coach. The major items a school should have to conduct an adequate six-man football program, other than personal equipment such as suits, would be blocking and tackling dummies, heat lamps and medical supplies.

Figure 4, page 35, lists practice and training equipment and the percentage of schools which furnished each of these items.

Facilities. The need for adequate facilities for a six-man football program is very often overlooked.

Thirty of the schools reported turf playing fields and seven had dirt fields. Thirty-six schools reported use

¹John Shaw, (ed.), Selected Team Sports For Men (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1952) p. 101.

PRACTICS AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT

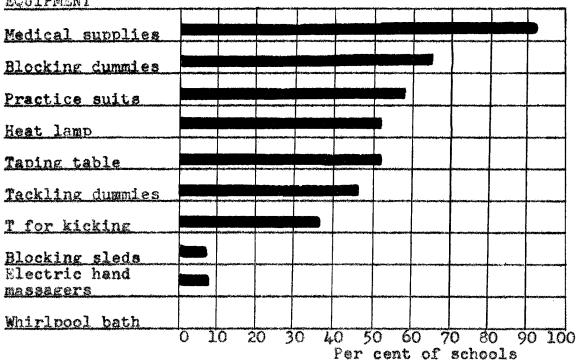


FIGURE 4

PERCENTAGE OF PRACTICE AND TRAINING ECUIPMENT ITEMS PROVIDED PLAYERS FROM SCHOOL FUNDS

of side line markers which should be kept far enough away from the side lines so there is no danger of injury. Flags for goal line markers were used by twenty-eight of the schools.

Safe facilities for practice and playing areas are a "must" in safe football. The football field should be a level, grassed field, free from all obstructions, rocks, holes, and it should be a distance from any side line markers, fences or any other obstruction that a player may run into.2

Thirty-six of the thirty-seven schools indicated use of dry lime to mark the field and one used wet or slaked lime. "Unslaked lime should never be used in marking the field because of the danger of burning the skin of a player who comes in contact with the markings."3

The majority of schools used wooden goal posts. "As an extra precaution goal posts can also be padded where a player may hit."4

Only one of the thirty-seven schools playing sixman football had a lighted field. The greatest majority of schools played games in the afternoon and, therefore, lights were unnecessary. Small schools find it very difficult to support a six-man football program let alone finance a

²John P. Childs, "Safety Methods in Football Administration," Athletic Journal, XXXIII No. 2 (October, 1952), p. 53.

^{3&}lt;u>Ibid</u>.

⁴Ibid.

lighted football field.

The majority of schools had seating facilities for spectators. Twenty-four indicated they had a restraining line to keep spectators and cars off the playing field. Restraining lines are essential for the safety of spectators and players.

Of the thirty-seven North Dakota Class C schools playing six-man football, all carried first aid kits when traveling on trips. Bench blankets were carried by twenty-nine per cent and two sets of game jerseys by thirteen per cent. None of the schools carried a stretcher.

Locker room facilities were provided in thirty-three of the thirty-seven schools playing six-man football.

Figure 5, page 36, shows that of these schools, twenty-one had adequate locker room space. "There should be twelve square feet per pupil, based on peak loads."5

The storage or wire basket type of lockers were provided in eighteen of the thirty-one schools answering this portion of the questionnaire. A few used the individual dressing and storage type and some used the multiple unit lockers. Seventy per cent stated that each student had an individual locker. Voltmer and Esslinger have this to say

⁵Clarence Bartholomew, "Standards for Locker and Shower Rooms," The Journal of Health and Physical Education, 12:29, January, 1941. p. 25.

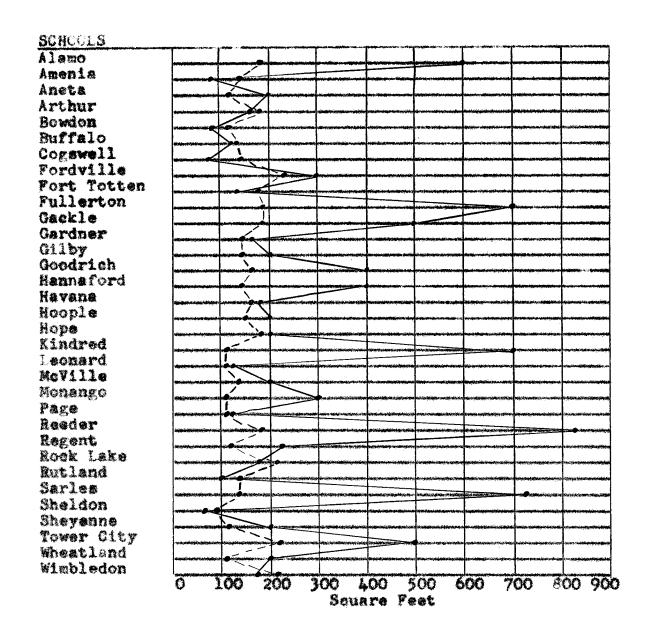


FIGURE 5

A SQUARS FOOTAGE COMPARISON OF THE LOCKER ROOM SPACE NEEDED AND AVAILABLE IN NORTH DAKOTA CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS

NOTE: Solid line indicates square feet of locker room space available; broken line indicates adequate square feet of locker space.

about lockers:

lockers and baskets vary greatly in the matter of sizes, materials used in construction, and methods of handling. The wire type allows clothes to dry much better than the metal louvre type, but they are easier to break into and admit more dust and water. larger, full-length lockers are more convenient and adequate than the small 12 x 12 x 36 inch type but also more expensive. The problem, then, is to provide that combination of lockers and baskets that meets most adequately the needs of the various groups concerned, while not entailing too great expense.

It is generally agreed that the varsity athletes should have individual lockers placed in the varsity locker room. Full length lockers are recommended, but if funds will not permit them, half-length lockers can be made to do. Each locker should have a good strong lock on it. The master key-combination type is recommended. The inside of the door should be painted white to improve visibility.

Of the thirty-seven schools playing six-man football, only seven provided an adequate number of shower heads. Two schools had no shower heads whatsoever and two of the schools reported six heads which was more than the minimum requirement. Hughes and Williams state that one shower head for every three persons during the peak load is ideal. 7

Approximately one-third of the schools playing sixman football had training rooms.

Fifty-seven per cent of the schools stated storage facilities for football equipment was provided. The size

⁶Voltmer and Esslinger, The Organization and Administration of Physical Education, (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1949) p. 176.

⁷Hughes and Williams, Sports Their Organization and Administration, (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1944) p. 369.

of the storage rooms ranged from six square feet to three hundred square feet, the average amount of storage space being eighty-six square feet.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. SUMMARY

The purposes of this study have been (1) to obtain information on the organization, administration, facilities and equipment of six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools, and (2) to summarize, make conclusions and recommendations which could be used in the establishment and improvement of such programs.

The data necessary to determine the status of existing six-man football programs was obtained by sending question-naires to persons responsible for six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools. The questionnaire was divided into two major parts, namely the organization and administration of six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools and the facilities and equipment available for six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools.

By reading literature of authorities on six-man football, many acceptable principles and policies that could be used in the development of a six-man football program were determined. Using these basic principles and policies as a criteria, adequacies or inadequacies of existing six-man football programs were determined.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Six-men football in North Dakota Class B and C schools decreased from 120 schools in 1937 to 57 schools in 1955. This decrease may be due to reasons such as: lack of school consolidation; the introduction of eight-man football; population moving from rural to urban areas; a slight census drop; lack of interest on the part of school personnel in organizing and administering such programs; and some schools are definitely too small to field a six-man football team.

On the average the schools playing six-man football had thirteen boys enrolled and the schools not playing twenty-five. This indicates that in many cases reasons other than a lack of man power keeps schools from participating.

Evidence, supported by the survey, showed that twenty of the thirty-seven six-man football schools reporting were in a conference. Many schools said they were not in a conference because the travel distance between schools was too great. This does not seem to be a legitimate reason as the number of schools reporting played at least five games; if they are playing this many games the schools must be in a travel area small enough to organize a conference. None of these schools had to stay overnight on any trip. Evidently some schools are not taking the initiative and time to organize a conference.

The annual cost of financing six-man football would

not be too great a burden on the school after the initial cost had been considered.

The study indicated the majority of schools were interested in improving the officiating of the game because most of the schools hired referees and umpires who were members of the officials association recognized by the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

Because all schools playing six-man football required health examinations of their players, and the greatest majority of these schools kept a record on every boy receiving a health examination, the need for a health examination and a health record are realized.

School personnel realize the importance of providing athletic insurance for their players as all thirty-seven schools playing six-man football had insurance and thirty-six of these schools obtained their insurance through the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

All schools playing six-man football adopted the North Dakota High School Activities Association regulations regarding eligibility requirements, however, five of these schools set higher standards. This would seem to indicate that some schools are placing greater emphasis on higher eligibility requirements so that a participant must attain higher goals scholastically.

The majority of schools used private cars in

transporting their teams and a few used school buses.

Schools would not be confronted with as many problems if buses were purchased. Although school buses are an ideal way of transportation, most of the small schools in North Dakota are not consolidated and their enrollments are much too small to insure them the maximum benefits of a bus.

As indicated by the study, all the schools purchased adequate personal, practice and training equipment necessary to carry out a satisfactory six-man football program.

Coaches evidently realize the values of providing players with equipment suitable for this type of contact sport.

School facilities for six-man football are given minor consideration in some instances. If the interest in the game is going to continue adequate facilities must be provided. Inadequate facilities such as dirt playing fields and lack of other facilities such as goal posts, seating for spectators and restraining lines to insure safety for the players and spectators were evident. Twenty-one of the schools had adequate locker room space; only seven had an adequate number of shower heads (two schools had none). Approximately half of the schools had storage facilities for football equipment and one-third had training rooms.

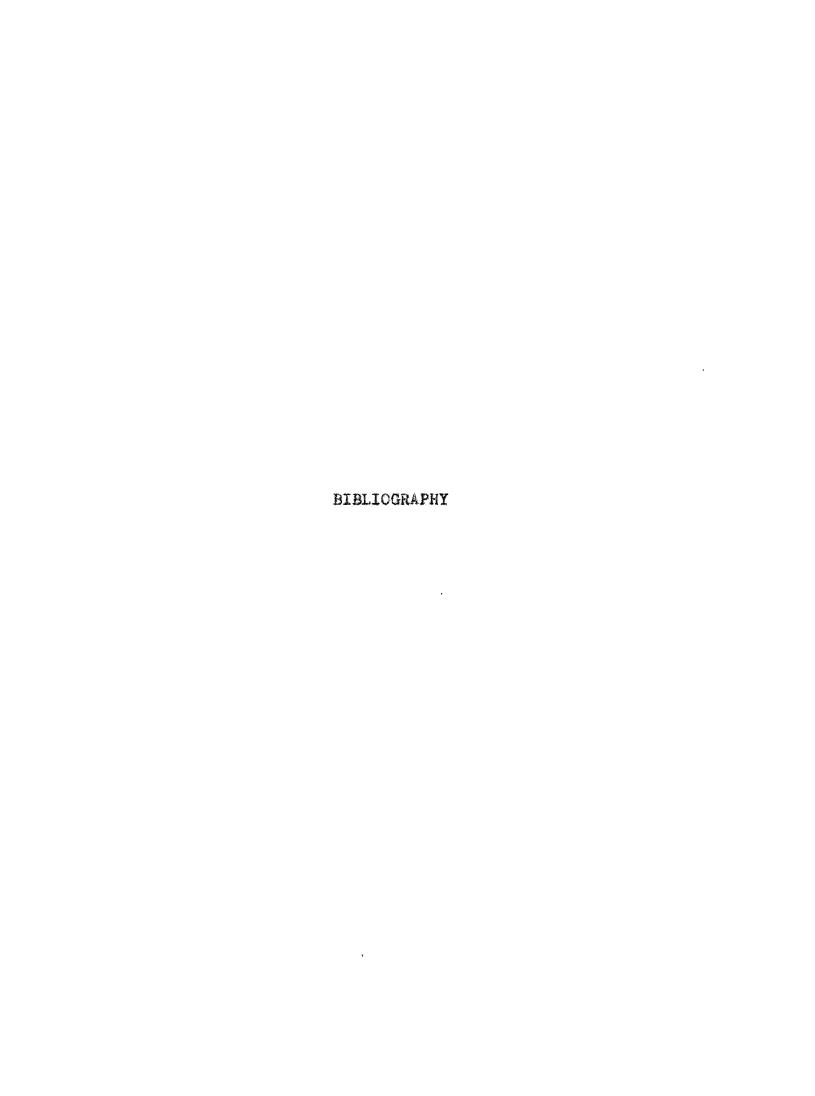
III. RECUMBENDATIONS

In view of the findings of this study, the following

recommendations are hereby submitted.

- 1. More North Dakota Class C high schools should have six-man football programs as it provides for a more balanced sports program.
- 2. School administrators, coaches, and the public should be made more aware of the needs of students for a competitive sports program that includes six-man football.
- 3. The author recommends that all schools should adopt the eligibility requirements set up by the North Dakota High School Activities Association.
- 4. Schools participating in a six-man football program should be in organized conferences.
- 5. The local school board should assume the responsibility for any deficit that might occur if other financial sources are not adequate.
- 6. There should be a standard rate of paying officials for officiating and travel.
- 7. All schools should be required to obtain their officials from an accredited officials association.
- 8. All schools should pay for the health examination of those participating in varsity sports.
- 9. No players should be permitted to travel to and from games in unchaperoned cars.
- 10. Many of the schools should be more concerned with adequate facilities and some should give more consideration to equipment.

- 11. Schools should provide all personal equipment needed by the players.
- 12. It is recommended that wet lime be used in marking the football playing field.
- 13. Schools playing one another should agree on a standard type of football shoe.
- 14. Adequate seating for spectators should be provided as this would increase the football receipts; help to stimulate more interest in the game; and keep spectators away from the side lines of the playing field.



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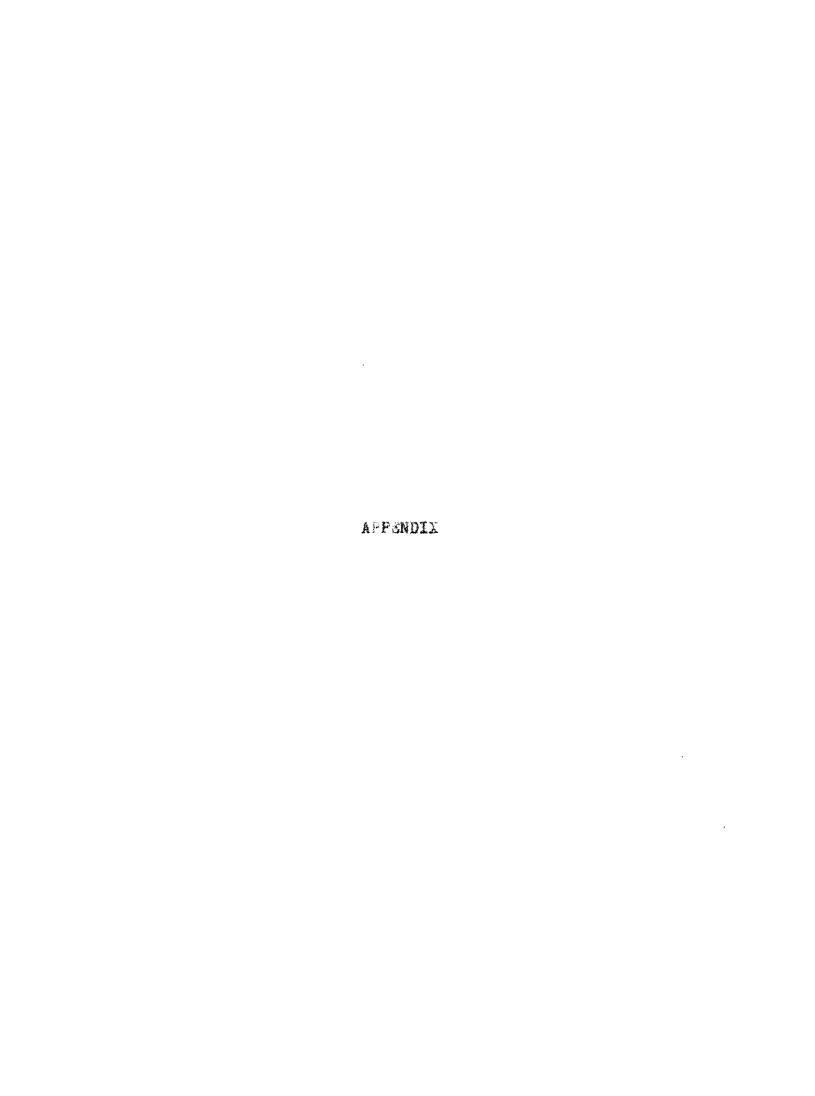
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Appendix A

Dear Sir:

As a part of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Health and Physical Education at the Montana State University I have selected the following thesis topic:

A SURVEY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL IN NORTH DAKCTA CLASS C HIGH SCHOOLS DURING 1955

The purpose of this study is to make a critical analysis of the organization and administration of six-man football in North Dakota Class C high schools, to provide information to be used in the establishment or improvement of such programs.

To make this study as valid and reliable as possible it is essential that I have your co-operation in completing this questionnaire.

It is hoped that it will provide an opportunity to compile information that will be of practical value to all persons concerned with coaching or administrating six-man football.

I shall appreciate your co-operation in filling out this questionnaire and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible.

I would be glad to send you a summary of the results of this study when it is completed, if you so desire.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely.

Charles Privratsky

Appendix B

QUESTIONNAIRE

I.	General Information			
	1.	Name of school fown		
	2.	Name of person completing ouestionnaire a. Official position of the person in the school		
	3.	Total enrollment in the 1955 school year a. Number of boys b. Number of boys participating in six-man football		
	4.	Do you play six-man football? yes no a. If you answer no to question number four please answer questions five and six only.		
	5.	Did you play six-man football at one time and then discontinued it?		
	6.	If you have not played or did play and then discontinued playing please check the reasons or reason why? inadequate financeslack of interest by the studentsenrollment became too small to field an adequate teamtook too much school timelack of qualified coaching personnellack of administrative supportschool buses leave too soonothers (please specify)		
II.	Cor	<u>Conference</u>		
	1.	Are you in an organized football conference? yes no a. If you answer no please omit the remainder of this Section and answer the cuestions starting with Section III.		
	2.	If was, what is the name of your conference?		

3.	Ple	ase answer the following questions.
	a.	How many teams in your conference?
	b.	How many games do you play within your conference?
	c.	How many gemes do you play outside your conference?
	d.	Does each team play the same number of games within the conference?
	0.	
		than once? a. Does it have a bearing on the
		conference standings?yesno b. If yes, what bearing does it have? (Please describe)
	f.	(1) If yes, on what basis?
		percentagenumber of games won or lostpoint system
		others (please specify)
		(2) If there is a tie in your conference stand- ings, what method do you use to determine the champion?
		playoff between two top teams designate co-champion without playoff flip of a coin
		others (please specify)
		(3) Do you officially award a conference trophy?yesno
	8•	The state of the s
	h.	
		(1) If yes, how often are meetings held?
		once a year twice a year three times a year other (please specify)
		other (please specify)
		(2) Who represents your school at conference meetings?
		auperintendent coach principal
		principal
		other (please specify)

	i. If in an organized conference when do you make out the schedule of games? during the football seasonbefore the practice sessions beginthe previous springother (please specify)
III.	Schools not affiliated with a conference
	l. Please check the reasons why you are not in a conference.
IV.	<u>Finances</u>
	1. Is your six-man football program self-supporting? yes no a. If not, where does money come from to support it? (Please indicate the approximate percentage from the following.) six-man football receipts basketball receipts school district funds special events such as carnivals, etc. donations from businessmen others (please specify)
	2. What does it cost to finance your six-man football program annually? \$ 50 to \$ 99 \$ 100 to \$149 \$ 150 to \$199 \$ 200 to \$249 more (please specify)
V.	<u>Officials</u>
	1. Are all your officials members of the North Dakota Officials Association? yes no a. If not, where do you obtain your officials? esch school provides an officialall home town officials others (please specify)

	-55-
2.	If officials are members of the North Dakota Officials Association, what, on the average, do you pay them?
	a. Do you pay your officials mileage?
3.	If you use officials not belonging to the officials association, what, on the average, do you pay them? \$ 5 per game \$ 10 per game \$ 15 per game more (please specify)
	a. Do you pay these officials mileage?
4.	How many officials do you employ to work a game? onetwothree
5.	Do you have contracts with your North Dakota Association officials?
6.	If officials do not belong to the North Dakota Officials Association do you have a contract with them?
7.	When do you hire your officials? the preceding springduring the football seasonprevious to a gameother (please specify)

VI. Health Standards

	1.	Do you require health examinations of your boys			
		play	ring six-man football?yesno		
		8.	If yes, when are health examinations given?		
			before the football season		
			after the football season		
			middle of the football season		
			other (please specify)		
			Acuer (breeze pheerr)		
		h.	Who pays for the health examination?		
		b.	and bays for one meaton exemination:		
			school		
			student		
		c.	Do you keep a record on every boy receiving a		
		_	health examination?		
		d.	Who administers the health examination?		
			doctor		
			nurse		
			other (please specify)		
			**		
	2.	Are	all participants covered by athletic insurance?		
	,		yes no		
		8.	Do you obtain your insurance from the North		
		W. #	Dakota High School Activities Association?		
			yes no other (please specify)		
			Ass no other (brease shecria)		
		L	To an advance do more abbade more describer a		
		b.	If no, where do you obtain your insurance?		
			(please specify)		
		C.	Does your insurance plan cover the following?		
			all injuries received in games		
			all injuries received in practice sessions		
			transportation to and from games		
		d.	Does your insurance plan provide compensation		
			in case of death? yes no		
			(1) If yes, what is the compensation?		
VII.	Per	sonal	L Equipment		
	Annual Committee				
	1.	Does	s your school furnish all the personal equipment		
		need	ied in playing six-man football? was no		
		A	ied in playing six-man football?yesno If no, what articles does the school provide?		
		Talk (B)	supporters shoulder pads		
			sweat shirts game jerseys		
			T-shirts practice uniforms		
			shoes playing socks		
			helmets other (please specify)		
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

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	2.	How often do you require your boys to change their personal equipment? (For example: their supporters, sweat socks, sweat shirts, T-shirts) once a week twice a week three times a week other (please specify)
	3.	What type of football shoe do you use?eleven-man shoe (leather)tennis shoeregular six-man football shoe (canvas)
VIII.	Eli	gibility
	1.	Do you have any six-man football eligibility requirements in your school?
	2.	Who obtains the information on eligibility? superintendentprincipalcoachother (please specify)
	3.	Do the teachers turn in eligibility sheets regularly?
IX.	Tra	vel
	3.	How do you transport your team?

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	b. If yes, how much do you pay them per mile? three cents both ways five cents both ways seven cents both ways eight cents both ways more (please specify)
3.	Do you allow high school students, carrying team members on football trips, to drive private cars? yes
	a. If yes, are they chaperoned?
4.	Does the school pay for meals before and or after games? yes no a. If yes, how much does the school allow per player?
5.	What is the approximate distance you have to travel on your longest trip?fifty milesseventy-five milesone-hundred milesmore (please specify)
6.	Do you have to stay overnight on any of your trips?
Pac	<u>ilities and Equipment</u>
l.	What practice and training equipment do you use? blocking dummies heat lamp tackling dummies taping table blocking sleds medical supplies practice suits whirlpool bath for kicking electric hand massagers others (please specify)
2.	What travel equipment do you take on trips? first aid kittwo sets of game jerseysbench blanketsglovesstretcherother (please specify)
3.	What type of playing field do you have? turfsanddirt a. If turf field, do you have facilities for
	watering the field?
4.	Do you have a lighted football field? ves no

X.

	5•	What type of marking material do you use to lime your field? wet lime dry lime other (please specify)		
	6.	Do you use side line markers?		
	7.	Do you use flags for goal line markers?yesno		
	8.	What type of goal posts do you have?wood		
	9*	Do you have seating facilities for spectators? yesno a. If yes, approximately how many spectators can you seat? b. Do you have a restraining line that spectators and cars have to stay behind?yesno		
XI.	Loc	Locker and Shower Room Facilities		
	1.	Do you have locker room facilities for your boys?		
	2.	What is the size of your locker room in square feet?		
	3.	What type of lockers do you have? storage or wire basket type multiple unit individual dressing and storage type		
	4.	Does each student have an individual locker?yesno		
	5.	How many shower heads do you have?		
	6.	Do you have a training room?		
	7•	Do you have adequate storage facilities for your football equipment?yesno		
	8.	What is the approximate size of your storage room in square feet?		
		Please check if you wish a summary of this report.		