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Is the criticism of little league baseball justified?

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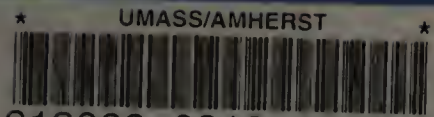
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IS THE CRITICISM OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL JUSTIFIED?

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IS THE CRITICISM OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL JUSTIFIED?

by

George F. Bush

A problem submitted in partial fulfilment
of the requirements of the Master of
Science Degree

University of Massachusetts

1955

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CHAPTER I

DEFINITION AND HISTORY OF LITTLE LEAGUE

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DEFINITION AND HISTORY OF LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League Baseball is Big League Baseball adapted to the mental and physical capacities of boys twelve years of age and under. It is regulation baseball with several exceptions necessary in order that the strength of the young players will not be overtaxed, exceptions such as size of the field, distance of pitcher's plate from home plate, number of innings, distance between bases and equipment.

Little League Baseball was organized in 1939 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The organizer was Carl Stotz, who realized that boys twelve and under needed more than anything else competition in their own age group, with the field and other equipment trimmed down to their size. He also had seen many youngsters sit on the sidelines unable to get in the game because they were too small or too young. Thus Stotz organized Little League Baseball for boys in that age group. His first move was to interest a few friends, then he interested his hometown businessmen as a group in his idea for baseball for boys. The start in Williamsport was a three team league with twelve uniformed players on each team and the games played on a diamond two-thirds the size of a regulation diamond.

The idea was an immediate success and the growth of Little League has been steady. The 1953 season showed 2800 leagues organized comprising 11,448 teams with about

200,000 boys twelve years of age and under on the roster of regular "first" teams. In addition to this, well over 60,000 boys found places on "farm" teams. Little Leagues have been organized in forty-six states across the country, also in Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

What are the ideals and objectives of Little League Baseball? Little League Baseball is designed for the local community. It must never be commercialized. It is completely amateur and non-profit. Baseball is provided for boys. Besides the boys participating in the game, adults contribute their services as umpires, league officials and fans.

The application of the principles of Americanism, so far as the boy is concerned, is apparent from the first call for candidates for the team. Youngsters from all walks of life, without regard to race or religion report for practice with the common goal of making the team. The social or economic position of the parents has no bearing in this competition. The teams are composed of young boys from every section in the area of the league and the formation of these teams helps to eliminate boyish gangs and cliques. Such Un-American traits as thinking that a fellow who attends another church is different are greatly eliminated, such ideas that a youngster who comes from a

different race is not a person with whom to associate would be corrected. All these basic elements of Americanism are maintained through the close association the boys have on the baseball diamond. Just as the youngsters are being welded together in the community, so are the residents, with a more tolerant understanding of the problems of others. Men and women from the ranks of both management and labor sit side by side during a game and become acquainted through a mutual interest in youth.

Since all Little Leagues are uniformed, the players know that should they engage in malicious mischief, they would lose the privilege of wearing their uniform. It has been found that in communities where a Little League Baseball program has been established, the boys behave better and help make their towns a better place in which to live.

The players, since they are in the formative years of their lives, are particularly susceptible to attention from adults. Their managers and coaches should set examples in conduct, sportsmanship, and behavior. In Little League Play, each boy learns some of the lessons of fair play, discipline, and teamwork.

A sponsor of a Little League team must limit his sponsorship, or his aid to it in any way, to what can be gained in friendly feeling of the public toward him. He donates the money to provide uniforms and equipment but he

does not govern the team he sponsors. He cannot appoint managers. In return for his contribution the members of the team he sponsors may wear his business name on the front of their uniforms.

CHAPTER II

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND METHOD OF PROCEDURE

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND METHOD OF PROCEDURE

Criticisms -- The author will choose an opinionnaire method to solve his problem, "Is the criticism of Little League Baseball justified?" because it will be the best possible method. Here are a few criticisms: 1. "An over-organized, overcompetitive program like Little League places too great an emotional strain on eight to twelve year olds."¹

2. The household routine is upset as cited by Dr. Charles Bucher, associate professor of education and coordinator of undergraduate and physical education at New York University. "The two sons are players, each in a different league, the father umpires. The mother attends all the games and keeps score. This goes on all week-----. Practices were held at 5:30 so the boys often took dinner on the run."²

3. Coaches lack training. "Most of them are chosen because they have a knowledge of baseball. Quite a few concentrate on building reputations as winning strategists."³

(1) Bucher, Charles A., "Little League Baseball Can Hurt Your Boy", Look, Vol. 17, No. 16, August 11, 1953, p. 76.

(2) Ibid, p. 76.

(3) Ibid, p. 76.

Instances were cited of coaches breaking rules, heckling players and cursing umpires.

4. Emphasis is put on "winning". "It is more important that his recreation be guided toward other objectives: the fun of playing rather than the winning."⁴

Statement of the Problem -- Is the criticism of Little League Baseball justified? The author chose this problem because Little League Baseball is a widely discussed subject today. Also the writer is a summer playground director in his hometown and has a local playground Little League program which is not connected with the national program. Thus, the author is greatly concerned over some of the national criticism about the participation in Little League Baseball. The writer is also a teacher-coach in the seventh and eighth grades and has many of these same boys in class. Therefore, he is interested in discovering whether Little League Baseball might have any effect on their school work.

Procedure -- In an opinionnaire, the author will seek to gain the opinion of various groups of people concerning controversial questions in Little League Baseball. Therefore, in the construction of the opinionnaire, the questions will have to be clear, accurate, short, and concise, so that

(4) Ibid, p. 74.

the meanings of each question will be clear. An opinionnaire differs from a questionnaire in that answers derived from the questions are based on facts. Thus a simple Yes or No answer will be decided upon because many people will become discouraged if they have to write a long answer.

The first step of the author will be to get as much reading material on the problem that can be found. A letter will be written to the Little League National Headquarters in Pennsylvania to send pamphlets and magazines which will give the origin, aims, objectives, administration details and other pertinent information concerning Little League Baseball. Articles will be saved from newspapers and magazines which would deal with controversial questions about the Little League. The author will visit towns where Little Leagues exist and talk with Little League supervisors and playground directors about their Little League program. As a result, the author will be able to compile a number of questions which he thinks will best give an answer to his problem. Questions will be made to get the opinion about Little League Baseball from groups of people who are civic, social, athletic and educational minded in their community. Therefore, different questions will be made out for each group to gain their viewpoint. They will be people who are directly and indirectly concerned with Little League, the

parents of Little League boys, the sponsors of Little League teams, the presidents of the Little Leagues and the teachers of the Little League players.

Next, the author will select three nearby communities to make his survey about Little League Baseball. In each community, Little League Baseball has existed on a National basis for some years and thus will be a good testing ground for some of these controversial questions. These three communities will be Amherst, Athol, and Northampton. They will be identified as Towns X, Y, Z, when the results of the opinionnaire are analyzed so as not to aim any criticism on any particular community. Letters will then be written to the Agents of the Players of the Little Leagues in each community and the names, addresses of the players, league officers, parents and sponsors of the Little League program will be obtained. Visits will be made to the Superintendents of the Schools in these communities in order to obtain permission and the names and addresses of the teachers of the Little League players. Later these communities, Amherst, Athol, and Northampton will be revisited and the author will secure such information as the geographical location, population, industries from their libraries. Interviews will also be made with their recreation directors to obtain information about their summer recreational baseball program.

Constructing The Opinionnaire -- After all this information is gathered the next step will be to take the rough draft of the opinionnaire to my adviser. Each question will be carefully checked and some revisions made before the opinionnaire reaches its completed form. In order to ensure a reply to the opinionnaire, a self-addressed stamped envelope will be enclosed with each letter that is sent out. Opinionnaires will be sent to all of the 252 parents in the three communities, to eighteen sponsors in each town, to the Presidents of the Little Leagues in those communities and to ninety-one teachers of Little League players in Amherst, Athol, and Northampton. Later a follow-up letter will be sent to the parents to hasten their reply to the opinionnaire. With the answers to the opinionnaire, the author intends to compute, compile, and analyze the results of this survey of three communities in Western Massachusetts. Conclusions would then be made as to the results. This would give the author a clear picture as to whether the criticism of Little League Baseball is justified in the opinion of certain groups of people who are directly and indirectly connected with Little League Baseball in the three communities. The author hopes that some time in the future, he may be able to organize a Little League in his town so that it would be a part of the National Franchise. The author would like to find the an-

swer to this problem and then present the results to the citizens of the community who are interested in the organization of a Little League on a National basis.

CHAPTER III

CHARACTERISTICS OF TOWNS STUDIED

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Northampton -- The city of Northampton is situated in the heart of the Connecticut Valley, forty miles from Hartford, 100 miles from Boston, 150 miles from New York City. As of 1950, there were 29,063 people living in this city. The predominating nationalities of foreign born are Irish, French, Polish, Italian and English. The city of Northampton covers an area of 35.5 square miles and it has over thirty industrial establishments which employ a total of 4,250 men and women. Some of the principal products from these industries are paper boxes, brushes, candy and bricks.

Education -- There are five colleges and institutions located in this community. Smith College, a liberal arts college for girls is the largest with an enrollment of approximately 2000. Others include Northampton Commercial College, a commercial school with about 250 students, Northampton School for Girls with an enrollment of about 120, Burnham School which has approximately 130 students, and the Clarke School for the Deaf with about 150 pupils of all grades. Also there are twelve public schools, including one senior high school and three parochial schools. There are about 775 pupils in the senior high school and about 2400 boys and girls in the elementary schools.

Recreation -- The baseball recreational program is

under the supervision of William McDonald, Recreation Director for the city of Northampton. The summer playgrounds have organized leagues in four age groups, eight to ten, ten to twelve, twelve to fourteen, fourteen to sixteen in addition to the organized Little League and Babe Ruth League. There are 300 youngsters on twenty-four teams. Equipment and transportation are provided by the recreation department in addition to trained instructors and umpires. Numerous baseball clinics are held at the various play areas to teach the boys how to play the game correctly. The winners in the three top divisions compete in the Daily News annual baseball tournament in Springfield as a climax to the baseball season.

Amherst -- The town of Amherst is located just east of the Connecticut midway between the north and south boundaries of the state, and is located seven miles from Northampton. It is made up of the three villages of South Amherst, North Amherst and Cushman. Amherst is on a knoll in the Connecticut Valley with the river on the west, the Mt. Holyoke range to the south, Mt. Toby range to the north, and the Pelham range to the east. The 1950 United States Census shows a population of 10,856. A majority of the people are of English descent but there is also a large segment of Polish extraction. Amherst is mainly an agricultural and educational community with agriculture

being extensive on the outer borders of the town where onion farming, tobacco, market gardening and dairying are carried on.

Education -- This community is preeminently an educational center. Two colleges are located in Amherst, the University of Massachusetts with an enrollment of about 4200 and Amherst College, a private liberal arts college for men of approximately 1000. There are nine public schools including one high school and one junior high school. As of September, 1953 there were about 1400 pupils enrolled in the Amherst schools. The senior high school had 276 students, the junior high school had 342 pupils and the enrollment in the elementary schools was 796 boys and girls.

Recreation -- The baseball recreational program is under the supervision of Stanley Ziomek, Recreation Director for the town of Amherst. The summer baseball league under the supervision of the recreation commission consists of six teams with fifteen boys to each team. All games are played mornings from Monday through Saturday. Two supervisors are in charge of all six teams. Instruction in baseball fundamentals is emphasized. Most of the boys are between 8 and 10 years old. The teams are not uniformed but each team has a different colored cap and all teams have T shirts furnished by the recreation depart-

ment. A schedule of eighteen games is played during the summer season. This program is carried on in conjunction with the Little League Baseball during the summer.

Athol -- The town of Athol is situated in the Millers River Valley in northern central Massachusetts about eighty miles from Boston. It covers an area of 33.75 square miles and is mainly an industrial community. Athol is built up around a group of widely diversified industries particularly in the mechanical tool trade. The principal products from these industries are soles, shoes, drills, gears, milling cutters, milling saws, mill machinery, metal stamping and many others. The present estimate of the population is 11,554 people with the predominating nationalities being French, Italian and Lithuanian.

Education -- In the educational field, Athol has ten public school buildings, including junior and senior high schools. The enrollment in the high school is around 600 students while there are about 1800 boys and girls from grades one through eight.

Recreation -- Athol, as in the other two communities studied, has leagues organized for boys who do not play Little League Baseball. These leagues are sponsored by the playground commission. Games are played in the mornings and are supervised by playground instructors. Special emphasis is also placed on teaching fundamentals. A schedule

of games between the teams in the leagues are played during the summer weeks. The number of games may vary during each year.

CHAPTER IV

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANSWERS ON THE OPINIONNAIRE

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANSWERS ON THE OPINIONNAIRE

In their analysis of Little League Baseball some educational and physical education leaders, professionals in various areas of childhood education, recreation and health and youth serving organizations have criticized this game as being overorganized, overcompetitive, and placing too great an emotional strain on youngsters. Organizations of national and regional scope in the field of recreation and education have gone on record as opposing some of the practices of Little League Baseball. They have mentioned that most of the coaches of the Little League players are chosen because they have a knowledge of baseball and not because they have training in health, physical education or recreation and have knowledge of child growth and development. Emphasis is placed on winning rather than fun of playing. These same leaders say that Little League Baseball has become too commercialized and that the sponsors of Little League teams are more interested in making a name for themselves rather than sponsoring a team which would serve the best interests of the health of the child, the education and welfare. Commercialized Little League players have been called "baby sandwich boards." Critics have said that by concentrating on a relatively few talented kids, Little League in many communities has seriously restricted if not eliminated a recreation program for other

children and other age groups. Some organizations point out that the total experience involved in practice periods and in the games played are not directed toward the interest of the boy but that the boys are being exploited by adults for their amusement or for the promotion of their own particular vested interests. These same critics say that the responsibility of the community is to provide equal opportunities for the recreation of all children, irrespective of their degree of competence in a particular activity. Many communities do not have any summer recreation program but do sponsor teams for Little League play thus depriving many youngsters of the equal opportunity to play baseball. These critics say that money is poured into Little League to the neglect of municipal recreation programs and consequently nine tenths of the children who do not make a Little League team get no recreation at all.

The author, in his attempt to analyze Little League Baseball thoroughly, made out opinionnaires and sent them out to certain groups of people in three communities, who are directly and indirectly connected with Little League Baseball. Opinionnaires were sent to all of the 252 parents in the three communities, to eighteen sponsors, to the Presidents of the Little Leagues in those communities, and to ninety-one teachers of Little League players in Amherst, Athol and Northampton. In order to get the

physiological, sociological, emotional, educational, and athletic effects of Little League Baseball on these youngsters, different questions were made out for each group in the community.

Emotional Effects -- On the whole, most of the parents in the three communities in the survey did not feel that Little League play had any serious effect on their sons during the Little League season. The communities are identified as Towns X, Y, Z so as not to aim any criticism on any particular community. In Table I is listed some of the questions which were sent to the parents of Little League players. These questions concerned some of the emotional effects which youngsters might receive from participation in Little League Baseball. The majority of Little League players did not become grouchy, were not tired out too much by playing in Little League, did not become restless at night, did not lose any sleep over Little League play and did not eat less during the Little League season. The parents were almost evenly divided in their opinion as to whether their sons gained weight during Little League play. Fifty-five parents answered in the affirmative while seventy-nine parents replied in the negative. Normally, a young growing boy will gain weight during the summer season but this did not hold true in this instance. Continual practices and participation in

TABLE I

Emotional And Physical Effects of Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Did playing in Little League make him grouchy?	0	37	7	60	2	34	9	131
Did playing in Little League make him nervous?	4	33	14	54	0	35	18	122
Did playing in Little League tire him out too much?	0	38	5	62	0	37	5	137
Did Little League play make him restless at night?	1	36	8	58	2	35	11	129
Did Little League play cause him to lose sleep?	0	37	4	63	0	36	4	136
Did he lose weight during the Little League season?	3	33	12	54	2	35	17	122
Did he gain weight during the Little League season?	12	25	24	36	19	18	55	79
Did your son eat less during the Little League season?	2	36	5	58	2	35	9	129

Little League play could be a factor in the boys not gaining weight during the summer months. However, it is noted that the majority of parents were of the opinion that their sons did not lose weight during the Little League season. Another interesting fact from Table I is that eighteen parents signified that playing in Little League made their sons nervous. Most of these parents, however, mentioned that nervousness came about before a ball game and during the game and was not evident at any other time. This is a normal reaction for almost any person young or old before some important occasion as an athletic event or an examination or participation in a student play or in an interview for a job.

Sociological Effects -- In the opinion of the majority of parents who returned their opinionnaires to the writer, Little League Baseball definitely had a good sociological effect on Little League players. Table II shows clearly the fine sociological effects a player receives from playing Little League Baseball. This effect was a good one since the parents believed that playing in Little League made their sons get along better with other children and with adults. Little League play also made the boy more serious about being on time. The ability to get along with other people whether it be children or adults is an objective which practically everyone strives to achieve. It is one

TABLE II

Sociological Effects of Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Did playing in Little League make him get along better with other children?	31	6	60	5	30	4	121	15
Did playing in Little League make him get along better with adults?	28	7	58	6	30	5	116	18
Did Little League play make him more serious about being on time?	31	5	54	9	30	5	115	18

of the three basic social needs which people must fulfill in a satisfactory way if they are to have any happiness and enjoyment in life. Thus, through the playing of Little League Baseball, boys get an early start on how to get along with people. They get to meet the parents of other players, the coaches, managers, sponsors of their own team, the men who act as umpires and they learn early the problems which an umpire faces in a ball game. The Little League players learned to get along with other players on their own team and learned to respect and cooperate with them, regardless of race, religion, color or social and economic status.

Parental Effects of Little League Baseball -- Playing in the Little League had definite parental effect on the youngster in his relations with his parents and in the relations of the parents with their boy. Table III shows the parental effects of Little League Baseball.

TABLE III

Parental Effects of Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Did playing in Little League cause him to neglect work about home?	6	32	12	53	5	32	23	117
Did Little League games upset your household routine?	23	15	25	36	10	27	58	78
Did you as parents attend at least half of the games in which your son plays?	31	7	54	10	33	4	118	21
Do you put any pressure to win on your boy in Little League play?	4	32	4	59	2	35	10	126

The majority of parents agreed that playing Little League Ball did not cause their sons to neglect any work about the home. However, the parents were almost divided equally in their opinion as to whether the Little League games upset their household routine. Since most of the Little League games were played early in the evening, just at the time when the supper meal was served, fifty-eight parents said that these games did upset their normal household routine because special meals had to be prepared for the youngsters. In some cases boys ate hurriedly and thus did not eat their meals properly. This could have been the reason why some Little League boys did not gain weight during the summer months. However, some parents in answering this question replied that Little League games upset their household routine happily because then they were able to attend the Little League games together. They said they would rather eat late twice a week than miss seeing their son play in a Little League game and they would do the same thing to hear a speech by President Eisenhower or give blood to the Red Cross. Thus critics were partly justified in saying that Little League games did affect the household routine of families. One critic cited instances where "families plan their vacations to coincide with the Little League World Series, where the father umpires and the mother attends all the games and keeps score, where often

the Little League player took his dinner on the run."⁵

The opinionnaire also revealed that the majority of parents attended at least half of the games in which their son played. This revealed not only the great interest which parents had in the Little League but also the great interest parents had in seeing their boy play baseball. Parents who ordinarily would have little in common met in the bleachers and became acquainted through a mutual interest in youth. Families were brought closer together as a result of continuous attendance at these baseball games. This was a wholesome effect because many of the problems of juvenile delinquency stem from the fact that families drift apart and parents have no concern whatsoever about the doings of their children.

Another interesting fact gained from the opinionnaire is that 126 parents replied that they did not put any pressure to win on their boy in Little League play. This is noteworthy because one of the criticisms of Little League Baseball is too much "parental pressure" on the boys to "win" or "shine" in Little League play. Critics tell of the Little Leaguer picked up by a driver on a road one night. When asked why he was walking alone so late, the

(5) Bucher, Charles A. "Little League Baseball Can Hurt Your Boy", Look, Vol. 17, No. 16, August 11, 1953, p. 74.

nine year old replied, "It's three miles to my home, but my Daddy is making me walk because he saw me miff a fly in today's game and when I get home, I won't get any supper either."⁶ The fault in this criticism is that it is the fault of the parent not the fault of the league that the boy was punished. This type of parent would punish his boy just as cruelly for striking the wrong note in his piano lesson or for misspelling a word in school. Thus as revealed by the answers from this question, "too much parental pressure" cannot be used as an argument against Little League Baseball.

Attitude of Parents Towards Little League Baseball --

Most of the parents were almost unanimous in agreement that Little League Baseball was a good thing for boys, that Little League play helped their son, did not hurt him, unanimous in two towns, and they would allow him to play in Little League next year if he was eligible, also unanimous in two communities. The answers received from the questions in Table IV reveal almost the unanimous approval of Little League Baseball in the opinion of the parents in Towns X, Y, and Z. The writer feels that if such a healthy effect exists in any kind of program, it should be allowed to continue in spite of criticisms from some people and organi-

(6) Bucher, Charles A. "Little League Baseball Can Hurt Your Boy", Look, Vol. 17, No. 16, August 11, 1953, p. 75.

TABLE IV

Attitude of Parents Towards Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Do you feel that Little League helped him?	35	2	65	0	35	2	135	4
Do you feel that Little League play hurt him?	0	38	0	64	0	37	0	139
Would you let him play in Little League again next year if he was eligible?	38	0	61	3	37	0	136	3
In general, do you feel that Little League baseball is a good thing for boys?	36	0	62	1	37	0	135	1

zations. In this instance, Little League Baseball benefits the Little League players, the parents, friends and the community as a whole. In the opinion, therefore, of almost all of the parents, the benefits derived from Little League Baseball far outweigh some of the disturbing factors as pointed out earlier in this chapter by the critics.

Educational Effects of Little League Baseball -- In their opinion of the educational effects of Little League

Baseball on their sons, the majority of parents on half of the questions replied that Little League play did not interfere with his school homework nor did it contribute towards lower marks. The parents were almost evenly divided in other aspects of school work. Table V gives the opinion of the parents in communities studied towards the educational effects of Little League Baseball.

TABLE V

Educational Effects of Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Do you feel that Little League play improved his attitude towards his school?	18	16	33	20	22	13	73	49
Do you feel that Little League play interfered with his school homework?	3	24	3	60	0	36	6	130
Do you believe that Little League play contributed towards lower marks?	0	38	3	60	2	35	5	133
Do you believe that Little League play contributed towards better marks?	8	26	25	27	14	19	47	72

Forty-seven parents answered that they believed that Little

League play contributed towards better marks while seventy-two parents replied that they did not believe it contributed towards better marks. Also seventy-three parents felt that Little League play improved the attitude of the boy towards his school, while forty-nine parents took the negative viewpoint. There had not been many criticisms about the effect of Little League on education since most of the baseball was played during the summer vacation when school was not in session. However, it seems from the answers received on the opinionnaire, that Little League Baseball had an indirect educational effect on the player. It was a good effect as shown from the statistics mentioned previously in this paragraph. At least, it was almost unanimously agreed by the parents in communities in the survey that Little League Baseball was not harmful in that it did not interfere with his school homework nor did it contribute towards lower marks. This was true because most of Little League play occurred in the summer months and not at a time when the boy was attending school.

Commercial Aspects of Little League Baseball -- A criticism of Little League Baseball was that the Little League was being exploited for the benefit of the adults or sponsors. For example, critics said that "This highly competitive Midget Sports program, in the last analysis

is actually nothing but an adults' fun."⁷ Another critic called the Little League players "baby sandwich boards"⁸ because of some of the writings on the backs of the Little League uniforms such as "Schultz's Sandwich Shop" and "Ye Old Colonial Grille". Still another critic said that there was gambling going on at Little League games in Utica, New York. However, only five parents agreed with these critics in their answer to this question on the opinionnaire. The other 124 parents in these three communities did not feel that their sons were exploited for the benefit of the adults or the sponsors. Thus in these three communities surveyed the criticism cannot be justified from the results of this question.

Opinion of the Teachers on the Effects of Little League Baseball -- A total of fifty-six teachers in the communities of X, Y, and Z returned their opinionnaires on the effects of Little League Baseball on 254 Little League boys in their classroom. The number of Yes and No refer to the total number of Little League Players in the classes. In their replies, there are some interesting facts to note. It is to be remembered, however, in noting

(7) Katherine Montgomery, "Little League Baseball", Look, Vol. 17, No. 18, August 25, 1953, p. 12.

(8) Bucher, Charles A. "Little League Baseball Can Hurt Your Boy", Look, Vol. 17, No. 16, August 11, 1953, p. 77.

these observations that Little League Baseball would have more of an indirect effect on the boys in the classroom since Little League ball is played mainly in the summer. The results of the questions on the opinionnaire to the teachers are shown in Table VI. The majority of teachers believed that participation in Little League did not contribute towards lower marks and the teachers were unanimous in their opinion that playing in Little League did not contribute towards better marks. This is significant because in the opinionnaire sent to the parents, seventy-two parents thought that Little League Baseball did contribute towards better marks while forty-seven parents answered in the negative. The teachers and the parents on this question had opposite points of view. Possibly the parents could see improvement in the marks of their sons over a period of two or three years while the teacher could see no improvement in a period of a few months. Most of the teachers did not feel that Little League play cut down the attention of the player to homework. This was probably so because Little League play was in the summer and also because many of the teachers noted that they did not give any homework.

The majority of teachers in the communities surveyed did believe that Little League made the boys get along better with other boys their own age. This was a healthy

TABLE VI

Opinion of the Teachers on the Effects
of Little League Baseball

	Town X		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Contributed towards lower marks?	6	67	29	44	0	103	35	215
Contributed towards better marks?	0	55	0	62	0	104	0	221
Cut down his attention to homework?	21	45	14	34	7	84	42	163
Helped make him get along better with boys his own age?	60	11	31	17	66	37	157	65
Helped make him get along better with the other teachers?	29	13	10	33	14	89	53	135
Made him more alert in class?	19	35	0	63	0	82	19	180
Contributed towards making him a better future citizen?	64	7	44	19	75	4	183	30
Gave the boys "swelled heads"?	30	43	26	33	60	43	116	119
Developed more self-confidence in the boys?	69	6	45	20	92	11	206	37

effect to get from any type of recreational program. However, most of the teachers were of the opinion that Little

League Baseball did not make the youngster get along better with the other teachers. As to whether Little League play made him more alert in class, the teachers in two communities were unanimous in their opinion that it did not make him more alert in school. Thus, though Little League play might make the boy more alert on the ball field it was no help in the class. One of the objectives of Little League play is that it will contribute towards making the boy a better future citizen. The majority of teachers agreed that this objective can be attained through playing Little League Baseball.

The teachers were almost evenly divided as to whether Little League play had given the boys "swelled heads". There were 116 Yes and 119 No. The writer feels that there is a greater chance to develop a "swelled head" in Little League play than in some other form of recreation because of the widespread publicity given to Little League Baseball. Boys see their names in the paper or hear their names over the radio or hear themselves talked about by friends and thus the opportunity is given to develop "swelled heads". The teachers felt that this unhealthy effect gained from Little League play was carried over into the classroom. Of course, boys and girls can also develop "swelled heads" from doing other things besides playing Little League Base-

ball. An honor student, a drum majorette, a pupil who excels in dramatics, all might develop "swelled heads". In many cases, it depends on the youngsters and not on the situation whether boys and girls will get "swelled heads".

Most of the teachers felt that Little League play had developed more self-confidence in the boys. This is a wholesome effect to gain out of Little League play since it is important to have self-confidence in whatever a person does. Lack of confidence hinders many youngsters in the classroom, makes them shy and makes them afraid to mix with other youngsters and to do anything on their own.

On the whole, the opinion of the teachers on the effect of Little League Baseball on the player in the classroom is favorable. The majority of teachers in Towns X, Y, and Z were of the opinion that Little League play did not contribute towards lower marks, did not cut down his attention to homework, helped make him get along better with boys his own age, will contribute towards making him a better future citizen and helped to develop more self-confidence in the boys.

Relationship of Sponsors Towards Little League Baseball -- Opinionnaires were sent to eighteen sponsors of Little League teams in the communities studied and a total of twelve were answered. Questions shown in Table VII deal with the role of the sponsors in Little League Base-

TABLE VII

Relationship of the Sponsors Towards
Little League Baseball

	Town Z		Town Y		Town Z		Total Results	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Did sponsoring a Little League team benefit your organization?	1	2	5	0	4	0	10	2
Did sponsoring a Little League team harm your organization?	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	11
Do you donate towards the recreational program in your community?	2	1	5	0	4	0	11	1
Do you criticize your coach for not winning a game?	0	3	0	5	0	4	0	12
Do you criticize any of your players for not winning a game?	0	3	0	5	0	4	0	12
Do you attend at least half of the games your team plays?	0	3	4	1	1	3	5	7
Do you sponsor a team for the benefit of the boys?	2	1	5	0	4	0	11	1
Do you sponsor a team to advertise your own organization?	0	2	1	4	0	4	1	10

ball. Table VII, shows the relationship of the sponsors towards Little League Baseball. Most of the sponsors had sponsored Little League teams for three or more years or from the beginning of the Little League program in their community. Critics had said that Little League baseball was too commercialized but eleven out of twelve sponsors, sponsored the team for the benefit of the boys and only one organization out of eleven sponsors sponsored a team to advertise his own organization. Thus in the communities studied the sponsors were of the opinion that this criticism cannot be justified. Critics had also said that Little League meant important business for a lot of local merchants. Five-sixths of the sponsors who returned their opinionnaire replied that sponsoring a Little League team did benefit their organization. Whether this benefit was financial or in the form of better relations in the community, the writer does not know. If it was financial benefits, then the critics were justified in their criticism. The sponsors were unanimous in their opinion that sponsoring a Little League team did not harm their organization. Another criticism of the Little League program was that money was poured into this program while the over-all recreation of the town was neglected. In the communities surveyed, this criticism cannot be justified because eleven out of twelve sponsors donated

towards the recreational program in their community. However, it is unknown whether this donation to the recreational program was as much as the money given to sponsoring a Little League team. It is known though from the recreational directors in these towns that they all had a recreational program and a baseball program which included all youngsters. No one was neglected. The type of program in these communities was mentioned in Chapter III. Critics may be justified in the amount of donation by the sponsors.

The sponsors unanimously answered that they did not criticize their coach nor their players for not winning a game. Critics of Little League Baseball told of an instance where a sponsor told a Little League player his team would have won the game if the boy did not muff a fly. The child, very embarrassed, broke into tears. This kind of action was not taken by the sponsors of Little League teams in the communities in the survey, thus the criticism cannot be justified in this instance.

Qualifications of Coaches -- Critics of Little League Baseball were dissatisfied with the coaches of the Little League players because some lacked training in health, physical education or recreation and knowledge of child growth and development. Most of them were chosen because they had a knowledge of baseball said the critics. In-

stances were cited by critics where coaches cursed umpires, heckled opposing players, tried to win at any cost, tried to build reputations, and broke Little League rules about using players. In a survey conducted by the Little League Headquarters as to the disadvantages of Little League Baseball, this one ranked first, "Parents, managers, and adult fans frequently create disturbing situations in opposition to aims of programs".⁹

In a question which the writer addressed to the parents and teachers on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys, many of the answers pertained to the coaching of the Little League teams. These were some of the comments from the parents and teachers in these three communities:

1. Managers prefer to win, they should let everyone play.
2. Coaches are not good sports.
3. Coaches should be interested in the boys, in their problems and show the boys how to be good losers.
4. Coaching on average is very inadequate but when one considers that the coaches' time is

(9) Scott, Harry A. "Not So Little", Teachers College Record, Vol. 55, No. 5, February, 1954.

given freely, one cannot be too critical.

5. Little League set-up is dependent on those in charge, their handling of the boys and their attitude towards the whole program.
6. Coaches must be qualified persons to work with boys.
7. Coaches should know the meaning of fair play, good sportsmanship and should be men of high character.
8. Unfortunately in this community, there are not enough coaches of high calibre.

These were most of the criticisms concerning the coaches in the Little Leagues in the communities studied. However, the majority of parents, teachers and sponsors had no criticism about the coaches though there were very few who complimented the coaches of the Little League teams. Are then the critics justified in criticizing the Little League because the coaches were not qualified and did not set good examples for their players? The writer feels that they are not because it is not the fault of the Little League program but the fault of the coaches. The aim of the Little League is that "the managers and coaches of the teams set examples in conduct, sportsmanship and behavior which the players copy. The adults character is

infinitely more important than their knowledge of baseball".¹⁰ "Little League must not be used for personal advancement."¹¹ Another important qualification mentioned in the objectives of the Little League is that the "coach must be more concerned with what happens to the character and personality of his players than the won and lost record of the team."¹² Thus the fault lies not only with the coaches but also the administrators of the Little League program who select unqualified coaches. They are not carrying out properly the objectives of the Little League program in their communities.

Attitude and Action of the Fans -- Criticism had also been leveled at the Little League because of the action of the fans, including the parents of players. Dr. Bucher cited an instance of an umpire who quit his job in the middle of a game. "He felt it was unfair for the kids to have to hear the kind of language being hurled at him by spectators, including parents of players. Booing of officials is now a common practice."¹³

(10) This Is Little League - 1953, Little League Baseball, Inc., 1953, p. 6.

(11) Ibid, p. 2.

(12) Ibid, p. 13.

(13) Ibid, p. 77.

Parents and teachers who returned their opinionnaires also commented on similar situations in their Leagues. These were some of their criticisms concerning adults and fans:

1. Too many adults interfere.
2. Adults should set good examples at all times.
3. A few suggestions should be given to parents on how they could best help their sons, coaches and team.
4. Better education of parents in relation to game attendance.
5. Parental patience.
6. If we would keep our hands off, everything would be ideal.
7. Some fathers do more harm to their sons than good by coaching and yelling from the bleachers.

As in the comments on the coaches, the majority of the parents, teachers and sponsors found no fault with the actions of adults and fans. The writer again does not feel the criticism by Dr. Bucher justified because again it is not the fault of the Little League program but the fault is with the fans, whether they be parents or otherwise. Fans will boo in practically any game today, whether it be baseball, basketball or football. The program cannot be blamed. Certainly the objective of the Little League

is not to advocate booing, heckling, hissing at baseball games. The action and attitude of the fans at games should be helpful to Little League Baseball and not detrimental. The writer sent an opinionnaire to the presidents of the Little Leagues in communities X, Y, and Z with questions concerning the qualifications of coaches in their leagues, and the actions and attitude of the fans. Unfortunately, the writer did not receive any replies even after a follow-up letter was sent. The only opinions about the coaches and attitude of fans at games which the writer received were in the answers received from parents and teachers in the question on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys. These comments the writer noted in the paragraphs entitled Qualifications of Coaches and Attitude and Action of the Fans. Thus the writer was unable to tabulate any results of the opinionnaire sent to the Presidents of Little Leagues in Towns X, Y, and Z.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Restatement of the Problem -- Is the criticism of Little League Baseball justified? Educational, physical education leaders, professionals in various areas of childhood education, recreation and health and youth serving organizations have criticized Little League Baseball as being overorganized, overcompetitive, and placing too great an emotional strain on youngsters. Critics have mentioned that most of the coaches of the Little League players are chosen because they have a knowledge of baseball and not because they have training in health, physical education or recreation and have knowledge of child growth and development. They say that emphasis is placed on winning rather than the fun of playing. These same leaders say that Little League Baseball has become too commercialized and that the sponsors of Little League teams are more interested in making a name for themselves rather than sponsor a team which would serve the best interests of the health of the child; the education and welfare. Some organizations point out that the total experience involved in practice periods and in the games are not directed toward the best interests of the boy but that the boys are being exploited by adults for their amusement or for the promotion of their own particular interests. Critics have said that by concentrating on a relatively few

talented boys, Little League in many communities has seriously restricted if not eliminated a recreation program for other children and other age groups. They say that money is poured into Little League to the neglect of municipal recreation programs and thus nine-tenths of the children who do not make a Little League team get no recreation at all. These were most of the criticisms about Little League Baseball played all over the United States and in some territories.

Summary -- The majority of parents of Little League players in the towns studied were of the opinion that their sons did not receive any serious emotional effect from Little League play, they did not become grouchy, restless, tired out and did not lose any sleep nor any weight during the Little League season. It is noted, however, that some boys did not gain any weight while they played in the Little League. Little League Baseball contributed towards a better social relationship between the players and parents, the players and other children and the players and adults. It enabled the boy to get along better with other people and contributed towards making the boy more serious about being on time. Little League Baseball contributed towards better relationships between families in the community and enabled families to become acquainted through a mutual interest in youth.

Families were brought closer together as a result of continuous attendance at Little League games. This is a wholesome effect because many of the problems of juvenile delinquency stem from the fact that families drift apart and parents have no concern whatsoever about the doings and whereabouts of their children. Parents did not put any pressure to win on their boy in Little League play but they did agree that Little League upset their household routine.

The parents were almost unanimous in agreement that Little League Baseball is a good thing for boys, that Little League play helped their son, did not hurt him physically, they would allow him to play in Little League next year if he was eligible and that their sons were not being exploited for the benefit of the adults or sponsors.

Since Little League Baseball is played mainly during the summer months, its effect on the education of the boy was indirect and very small. It did not interfere with his school homework, it did not contribute towards lower marks, the majority of parents and teachers did not feel that Little League play contributed towards better marks and the majority of parents felt that Little League play improved the attitude of the youngster towards his school. The teachers of the Little League players were unanimous in their opinion that playing in Little League did not contribute towards better marks. Most of the teachers did

not feel that Little League play cut down the attention of the boy to homework, did not make the youngster get along better with other teachers, did not make him more alert in class but were of the opinion that Little League play did help to make the boy get along better with other boys his own age, and that Little League play will contribute towards making the boy a better future citizen and contributed towards developing self-confidence in the boys. The teachers, however, felt that Little League Baseball contributed towards developing a "swelled-head" in youngsters.

Sponsors of Little League Baseball sponsor teams for the benefit of the boys according to the replies on their opinionnaire. They did not sponsor teams to advertise their own organization. Sponsors did donate to the recreational program in their community though the amount was unknown. The sponsors did not criticize coaches nor their players for not winning a game. All the communities in the survey had a recreational program and a baseball program which included all youngsters. Main criticism of the Little League program in the communities studied was directed at the coaches because they were unqualified and did not carry out the objectives of the Little League program. Too much emphasis was given to winning and as a result usually only nine boys played the game. Criticism,

also was leveled at the committee which chooses the coaches in each community. The objectives and ideals of Little League Baseball were not being fulfilled in this instance and criticism should not be leveled at the Little League program but at the coaches and administrators of the Little League in their own community. Criticism was also directed at the behavior and attitude of the adults and parents of Little League players. In these criticisms, however, which the writer has just mentioned the majority of parents, teachers, and sponsors found nothing wrong with the action and attitude of the adults or the qualifications and actions of the coaches. The critics were very much in the minority.

Conclusions -- As a result of the answers from the opinionnaire which was sent to the parents, sponsors and teachers of Little League players the writer feels that some conclusions may be drawn even though only three towns were surveyed. While it is recognized that generalizations cannot be safely made upon the basis of the small number contacted by this study, it is doubtful if more replies would have altered appreciably the number or character of the answers. The writer feels that as a result of the answers to his opinionnaire, the criticism of the Little League Baseball program as outlined in This Is Little League, the Bible of Little League Baseball, cannot be

justified. The only criticisms of Little League Baseball in the towns studied were directed towards the coaches of Little League teams, at the boy who developed a "swelled head", and because baseball upset the household routine. The writer feels that this is mainly not the fault of the Little League program but the blame should fall on the committee which chooses the coaches in the local Little Leagues. Qualified and competent coaches are stressed in the objectives of the Little League program. It is the duty of these administrators of the Little League program in each community to make sure that these aims of the Little League are carried out properly. Maybe the administrators of the National Little League program in Pennsylvania might be lax in that they do not check or enforce their aims and objectives on the Little Leagues all over the country. Again, the developing of a "swelled-head" cannot be blamed on the Little League program. The fault lies either with the boy himself or with the press or radio, who in many instances over-publicized the Little League. Boys and girls may develop "swelled heads" over marks in school, or being cheerleaders or being twirlers or being class officers. The fault is with the boys and girls themselves though the type of program may contribute towards the development of "swelled heads". The writer feels then, that critics selected isolated cases in

Little League Baseball and magnified their weaknesses and distorted their overall effect. The aims and ideals of the Little League program are on the whole healthy and wholesome but the administrators, adults, parents, have created some disturbing situations in opposition to these aims. If all play is strictly according to the Little League rules adopted at Williamsport, there will be little trouble.

However, in general, critics are not justified in criticizing the Little League according to the results of the opinionnaire. Little League does provide recreation with better and safer fields and equipment and for the most part, leadership is adequate. It provides a satisfying outlet for the energy of the boys in sport competition and thus will not create any juvenile delinquency problems. Baseball provides them with recreation, helps to develop them physically and mentally, teaches them to keep alert and to learn the values of fair play, and good sportsmanship. Playing Little League Baseball provides beneficial socializing experiences for boys and tends to be an integrative factor in the community. Little League Baseball contributes to the development of habits of promptness, obedience, confidence and provides physical benefits for boys. It does make better players of boys since most of

the time they are under proper supervision. Also Little League Baseball is an aid in eliminating barriers among groups and brings families closer together through a common interest. Little League play contributes towards making the boys better future citizens and good Americans. The acceptance of Little League Baseball by the youths, their parents, sponsors and teachers and the resulting benefits, are sufficient arguments in its favor.

Recommendations -- The writer feels that he is in a position to make recommendations to the Little League program as he is a teacher-coach in a junior high school, has had training in education, physical education and health, is a playground director during the summer months, has watched many Little League games, has surveyed three towns where Little League Baseball is played according to the National rules and has received answers and comments in opinionnaires about the Little League program from people directly and indirectly connected with Little League play. He thus makes these recommendations:

1. Coaches should be chosen not only for their knowledge of baseball but because they have some training in health, physical education or recreation and have knowledge of child growth and development. This is important since good coaches can set examples in conduct, sportsmanship and behavior which the players can copy. Qualified

coaches should be concerned with what happens to the character and personality of his players than the won and lost record of the team. This recommendation may be hard to follow as coaches of Little League teams volunteer their services and receive no pay. Qualified coaches are hard to find and in many instances the sponsors choose their own coaches mainly because they have a knowledge of baseball. Many of our coaches in the schools today are more interested in winning than in developing the character and personality of boys.

2. The committee to procure team managers which screens and recommends the appointment of team coaches should make sure that only qualified coaches are selected. This is very important as these men, the coaches, have the closest contact with the boys.

3. Parents of Little League players and fans should be educated as to proper behavior at ball games and to the objectives of the Little League program. The writer feels that if this was carried out intelligently, much of the criticism which is directed at the Little League would be eliminated. Parents and everyone else connected with the Little League should be made to realize that the objective is not to win, but to build good citizens and good Americans. People in the community can be made acquainted with and helped to understand the facts

relating to the arguments for and against Little League Baseball through programs of public education and public relations.

4. All post season games, All Star games, tournaments and the awarding of honors should be eliminated. Much of the emphasis on "winning at all costs" and trying to be a Ted Williams or a Leo Durocher would be eliminated if this recommendation were carried out because then, everyone could play and it would not make any difference who won the league.

5. Coaches should stress the fundamentals of baseball rather than the stress of winning. This is because the players will know about the game and how to play the game correctly. Too many players are more interested in winning rather than in knowing the skills. This is important at this age.

6. All players on the roster of Little League teams should participate in all games. This would give everyone an opportunity to play and not restrict Little League play to just nine boys.

7. Coaches should see that the boys practice as often as they play. Too often the boys play without knowing what the game is all about. During these practice sessions, fundamentals can be emphasized.

8. The umpire-in-chief should be interested

enough to develop the younger umpires. The umpires should be able to control not only the players but also the fans.

9. The press should be educated as to the ideals and objectives of the Little League program. In many instances the press never informs the people about the aims and objectives of the Little League program and thus the action and attitude of the adults is criticized. Also the press should not overemphasize the Little League program. Too many boys get "swelled heads" through publicity received in the newspapers.

10. An official scorer should be appointed who has a knowledge of the game, who knows the difference between a base hit and an error.

11. Little League should be developed more for the local aspect rather than for the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Communities in local areas do not have the manpower, coaches and facilities to compete with larger cities. Only 8 teams all over the United States and territories can compete in the championship. More boys would be able to play baseball then if play was restricted in the local areas.

12. Little League players should prepare and maintain the grounds, thus, they will appreciate what is being done for them.

13. The National Little League Headquarters at

Williamsport should be allowed to enforce the rules of their program and to see that their aims and objectives are carried out properly by the Little League organizations all over the country. Inspections and surveys could be made by the administrators and other officials on all of the Little League programs. If the Leagues are poorly administered and supervised and if they are not conducted according to the Little League rules, then they could be abolished.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

AUTHOR'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION

APPENDIX I

AUTHOR'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The author wishes to express his appreciation to the following persons, without whose cooperation this study would not have been possible:

William Berry

Edward Bourdeau

Paul Bourdeau

Louis Bush

Ralph Goodrich

William McDonald

Harold Moody

Charles Oliver

Charles Stone

Stanley Ziomek

APPENDIX II

OPINIONNAIRE ON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

APPENDIX II

Opinionnaire on Little League Baseball

Dear Parents of Little League Players,

I am making a survey on Little League Baseball in your community for my Master's Degree in Education at the University of Massachusetts because there are many controversial questions concerning the effect of Little League Baseball on the younger boys all over the country. I am undertaking this study in your area and I would appreciate your sincere help and cooperation in obtaining your opinion about Little League Baseball in your locality. This opinionnaire covers many of the questions in Little League play that I would appreciate if you would answer promptly, in order that I may be able to draw up the conclusions to my study. An addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
George Bush

PARENTS

Name of Town _____

Age or Ages of Sons who are playing _____

Grade or Grades of Sons _____

Number of years in Little League Baseball _____

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Did your son eat less during the Little League season?	_____	_____
2. Did he gain weight during the Little League season?	_____	_____
3. Did he lose weight during the Little League season?	_____	_____
4. Did Little League play cause him to lose sleep?	_____	_____
5. Did Little League play make him restless at night?	_____	_____

APPENDIX II - (Continued)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
6. Did Little League play tire him out too much?	_____	_____
7. Did playing in Little League make him nervous?	_____	_____
8. Did playing Little League make him grouchy?	_____	_____
9. Did playing in Little League make him get along better with other children?	_____	_____
10. Did playing in Little League make him get along better with adults?	_____	_____
11. Did Little League play make him more serious about being on time?	_____	_____
12. Did playing in Little League cause him to neglect work about home?	_____	_____
13. Did Little League games upset your household routine?	_____	_____
14. Do you as parents attend at least half of the games in which your son plays?	_____	_____
15. Do you put any pressure to win on your boy in Little League play?	_____	_____
16. Do you feel that your son is being exploited for the benefit of the adults or sponsors?	_____	_____
17. Do you feel that Little League play helped him?	_____	_____
18. Do you feel that Little League play hurt him?	_____	_____
19. Would you let him play in Little League again next year if he was eligible?	_____	_____
20. In general, do you feel that Little League Baseball is a good thing for boys?	_____	_____

APPENDIX II - (Continued)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
21. Do you feel that Little League play improved his attitude towards his school?	_____	_____
22. Do you feel that Little League play interfered with his school homework?	_____	_____
23. Do you believe that Little League play contributed towards lower marks?	_____	_____
24. Do you believe that Little League play contributed towards better marks?	_____	_____
25. Do you have any suggestions on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys? If so, please state in the space below.	_____	_____

APPENDIX III

OPINIONNAIRE ON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

APPENDIX III

Opinionnaire on Little League Baseball

Dear Teachers of Little League Players,

This opinionnaire is being sent to you because I have been informed that you had boys in your classes last spring who played Little League Baseball.

I am making a survey on Little League Baseball in your community for my Master's Degree in Education at the University of Massachusetts because there are many controversial questions concerning the effect of Little League Baseball on the younger boys all over the country. I am undertaking this study in your area and I would appreciate your sincere help and cooperation in obtaining your opinion about Little League Baseball in your locality. This opinionnaire covers many of the questions in Little League play that I would appreciate if you would answer promptly, in order that I may be able to draw up the conclusions to my study. An addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
George Bush

TEACHERS

Town _____

Name of School _____

Grade Taught _____

- | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1. Approximately how many Little League boys do you have in homeroom or subject matter classes? | _____ | _____ |
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| 2. Do you feel that participation in Little League Baseball contributed towards lower marks? | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Do you feel that participation in Little League Baseball contributed towards better marks? | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Did Little League play cut down his attention to homework? | _____ | _____ |

APPENDIX III - (Continued)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
5. Did playing in Little League help make him get along better with boys his own age?	_____	_____
6. Did playing in Little League help make him get along better with the other teachers?	_____	_____
7. Did Little League play make him more alert in class?	_____	_____
8. Do you feel that Little League play will contribute towards making him a better future citizen?	_____	_____
9. Do you feel that Little League play has given the boys "swelled heads"?	_____	_____
10. Do you feel that Little League play has developed more self-confidence in the boys?	_____	_____
11. Do you have any suggestions on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys? If so, please state in the space below.	_____	_____

APPENDIX IV

OPINIONNAIRE ON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

APPENDIX IV

Opinionnaire on Little League Baseball

Dear Sponsors of Little League Teams,

I am making a survey on Little League Baseball in your community for my Master's Degree in Education at the University of Massachusetts because there are many controversial questions concerning the effect of Little League Baseball on the younger boys all over the country. I am undertaking this study in your area and I would appreciate your sincere help and cooperation in obtaining your opinion about Little League Baseball in your locality. This opinionnaire covers many of the questions in Little League play that I would appreciate if you would answer promptly, in order that I may be able to draw up the conclusions to my study. An addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
George Bush

SPONSORS

Town _____

Name of Team _____

Number of Years a Sponsor _____

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Did sponsoring a Little League team benefit your organization?	_____	_____
2. Did sponsoring a Little League team harm your organization?	_____	_____
3. Do you donate towards the recreational program in your community?	_____	_____
4. Do you criticize your coach for not winning a game?	_____	_____
5. Do you criticize any of your players for not winning a game?	_____	_____
6. Do you attend at least half of the games your team plays?	_____	_____

APPENDIX IV - (Continued)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
7. Do you sponsor a team for the benefit of the boys?	_____	_____
8. Do you sponsor a team to advertise your own organization?	_____	_____
9. Do you have any suggestions on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys? If so, please state in the space below.	_____	_____

APPENDIX V

OPINIONNAIRE ON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

APPENDIX V

Opinionnaire on Little League Baseball

Dear Presidents of Little Leagues,

I am making a survey on Little League Baseball in your community for my Master's Degree in Education at the University of Massachusetts because there are many controversial questions concerning the effect of Little League Baseball on the younger boys all over the country. I am undertaking this study in your area and I would appreciate your sincere help and cooperation in obtaining your opinion about Little League Baseball in your locality. This opinionnaire covers many of the questions in Little League play that I would appreciate if you would answer promptly, in order that I may be able to draw up the conclusions to my study. An addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
George Bush

PRESIDENTS OF LITTLE LEAGUES

Name _____

Town _____

Number of Years Little League in Operation _____

Number of Years a President _____

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Do your coaches have training in health?	_____	_____
2. Do your coaches have training in physical education?	_____	_____
3. Do your coaches have knowledge of child growth and development?	_____	_____
4. Do you feel that the umpires are contributing to the success of Little League Baseball?	_____	_____
5. Do you feel that the action and attitude of the fans is helpful to Little League Baseball?	_____	_____

APPENDIX V - (Continued)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
6. Do you have any suggestions on how Little League Baseball could better improve the boys? If so, please state in the space below.	_____	_____

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Albert W. Purvis
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Date May 27, 1955

