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The Ohio State University, Ph.D., 1977
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF GIRLS' INTERSCHOLASTIC BASKETBALL IN OHIO: 1940 TO 1976

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of The Ohio State University

By

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* * * * *

The Ohio State University

1977

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writing of a dissertation cannot be accomplished without cooperation and help from many. This dissertation is no exception. The author is most deeply indebted to the following persons: Dr. Bruce Bennett for his encouragement, enthusiasm, and invaluable suggestions; Dr. Barbara Nelson and Dr. Mary Yost for their participation as members of the reading committee; Dr. Harold Meyer, Miss Dolores Billhardt, and other staff members of the Ohio High School Athletic Association for their complete cooperation; family, friends, and fellow faculty members in the Women's Physical Education Department at Baldwin-Wallace College for their encouragement and understanding, Baldwin-Wallace College Administrators for their cooperation and support; Carol F. Heskett for her perceptiveness in proofreading; Mrs. Ruth Harwood and Mrs. Reta Stewart for their cooperation in the typing of the manuscript; and finally to the many persons who contributed their knowledge and interest to the project by being available for interviews and supplying personal documents for use by the author.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The present time is an important era in the development of girls' sports. Events such as the women's liberation movement, the increased amount and visibility of women's professional sports, and the publishing of Title IX Guidelines have forced changes in this area at an almost unbelievable rate. It is my hope that this study will in some way contribute information about the past that will enable today's decisions concerning girls' sports to be in the best interest of the present and future generations of competitors. It is also my intention to recognize the contributions of the many individuals who have fostered the growth of girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio.

PURPOSE

This study attempts to describe the extent of, and conditions surrounding, basketball competition for girls in the high schools of Ohio from 1940 to June 1976. Included are such considerations as who administered the programs, who coached the teams and what their qualifications were, what rules were used, how the program was financed, what facilities were used, who officiated games, and whether tournament competition existed. The Ohio High School Athletic Association, as the organization regulating interscholastic competition in Ohio, has also been studied.
An effort has been made to relate the extent and type of competition to conditions existing in society at large. Some of the conditions considered are the attitudes regarding the feminine role and popularly held beliefs concerning women's health. Any cause-effect conclusions which seem to be warranted by the facts have been drawn. Current trends have been analyzed and some limited projections made.

SCOPE

The study was limited geographically to the state of Ohio. An effort was made to study schools from various locations throughout the state and to include high schools from rural, urban, and suburban settings.

The time period studied was 1940 to 1976. This was a period of phenomenal growth for girls' interscholastic basketball. It spans an era which began in 1940 with the Ohio High School Athletic Association forbidding girls to participate interscholastically in "any game played with a basketball" to the sponsorship by the same organization in 1976 of a state tournament for girls.

National organizations such as the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport and its predecessors were studied insofar as their policies influenced conditions in Ohio.

METHOD

The historical method was employed. A search of library books, periodicals, newspapers, and other materials was made. The archives of the Ohio High School Athletic Association were utilized. Interviews
were made with persons who have been actively involved in Ohio interscholastic basketball as players, coaches, officials, or administrators.

**ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

In the text which follows several organizations will be mentioned frequently. The following abbreviations will be used throughout the text when reference is made to the respective groups:

**OHSAA** - The Ohio High School Athletic Association

**NFSHSSAA** - The National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations

The following groups are or have been subdivisions of AAHPER (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation) or its predecessors.

**NSWA** - National Section on Women's Athletics (1932-1953)

**NSGWS** - National Section for Girls and Women's Sports (1953-1957)

**DGWS** - Division for Girls and Women's Sports (1957-1974)

**NAGWS** - National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (1974- )

The following three terms are used frequently in the text of this paper. They are used with the meanings noted below:

**Play day** - A form of extramural competition in which teams are composed of representatives of more than one school.

**Sports day** - A form of extramural competition in which school teams participate as a unit.

**Interscholastic sports** - Extramural competition between groups who have been selected and coached to play a series of scheduled games against similar groups from another school.
CHAPTER II
BACKGROUND TO THE 1940 DECISION

"Girls' interscholastic basketball shall be discontinued after September 1, 1940. The penalty for violation is suspension."

Why did the controlling body of interscholastic sports in the State of Ohio find it necessary to make such a regulation? Why did the regulation apply only to basketball? How many schools were competing interscholastically in girls' basketball at this time? These are some of the questions brought to mind when one reads of this rather drastic action taken by the Board of Control of the Ohio High School Athletic Association through referendum action of the member schools. This chapter will explore the conditions existing prior to 1940 with regard to girls' basketball in the State of Ohio. In addition, national conditions that seem to have had some influence on the Ohio scene will be explored.

EARLY GIRLS' PLAY

Girls' involvement with basketball was not something that had begun shortly before the 1940 ruling. James Naismith described how girls began playing the game very shortly after its invention:

... The gymnasium in which basketball was originated, ... was in a basement, and a door led from the balcony directly

---

1Ohio High School Athletic Association, Constitution and Rules, 1940-41 (Columbus: Ohio High School Athletic Association, 1940), p. 22.
to the sidewalk. One day some young women teachers from
the Buckingham Grade School passed the gymnasium on their
way to lunch. Hearing the shouts in the gymnasium, they
stepped through the door into the balcony to see just
what was causing the commotion. They discovered a
basketball game in progress; it was only a few minutes
until they were clapping and cheering for one side or the
other.

The visit to the gymnasium became a daily occurrence
for the teachers, and about two weeks after they had
first come, a group of them asked me why girls could
not play basketball. I told them that I would find an
hour in which the gym was not in use, if they would like
to try the game. The girls were enthusiastic, and the
hour was set.

When the time arrived, the girls appeared at the
gymnasium, some with tennis shoes, but the majority with
street shoes. None of them changed from their street
clothes, costumes which were not made for freedom of move­
ment. I shall never forget the sight that they presented in
their long trailing dresses with leg-of-mutton sleeves, and
in several cases with the hint of a bustle. In spite of
these handicaps, the girls took the ball and began to shoot
at the basket. None of the other fundamentals was observed;
often some girl got the ball and ran half way across the
floor to shoot at the basket.

The practice of this group was very regular, and it
was not long before some of the girls became proficient at
the game. The team practiced passing and shooting until
it was decided that it would like some competition. Other
teachers were brought in, and two girls' teams were formed.

In March, 1892, the boys were conducting a basketball
tournament, and among the spectators were many women. At
the conclusion of the boys' play, it was suggested that
the girls have a tournament. A team was organized from a
group of stenographers; but since there were not enough
of them, some of the wives of the faculty were asked to
play. One young lady who took a prominent part on the
newly organized team was a Miss Sherman, whom I later asked
to become Mrs. Naismith. Throughout her life she remained
actively interested in the game, and often commented on the
progress the game had made.

The contest between the two girls' teams was the first
really scheduled game. Soon afterward the game for girls
began to spread almost as rapidly as the boys' game.2

2James Naismith, Basketball: Its Origin and Development (New York:
It did not take too long until the game reached the Midwest. While it is difficult to determine the exact date when interscholastic play began, there is evidence that such contests were being played in the early 1900's. Ethel Perrin provided evidence that it was being played interscholastically in the Detroit area in 1908. In her article, "The Confessions of a Once Strict Formalist," she gave insight that problems associated with the interscholastic game for girls developed while the game was no more than an adolescent. She described the audiences, who were girls only, as "a screaming mass of maniacs."

EARLY INTERSCHOLASTIC PLAY IN OHIO

Following World War I, the programs of both boys' and girls' interscholastic basketball grew very rapidly in Ohio. By 1930 it was common for rural schools to have girls' teams and some city schools had teams as well.

During the developmental years of the late 1920's and early 1930's many undesirable practices crept into the girls' interscholastic athletic program. People were particularly critical of poor leadership, supervision, facilities and officiating; over-emphasis on winning; and girls participating beyond the limits of their endurance.

---


5In many of the quotations used in this paper the possessive form is omitted from the term girls' basketball. The corrections will be made without the use of the [sic] notation from this point on.

6Advisory Committee on Girls' Sports and Physical Education of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, p. 7.
A foretaste of another criticism leveled against the interscholastic program was evident as early as 1916 in the writing of Florence A. Somers, a teacher at West Technical High School in the Cleveland system. At the time of the writing of this article, the author described the situation with regard to athletics for girls as follows:

They show a comparatively recent development of thought along the line of women's activities; and at the present time they are far from the perfected state of organization and administration to which we hope to bring them in the course of a few more years.7

... I believe that too much time is being devoted now to coaching class teams, instead of attempting to find ways and means for a larger number of girls to play. Is it not better for one hundred girls to play basket ball, however poorly they may play it, than for ten girls to play it well.8

Somers further emphasizes her concern for the masses rather than the highly skilled when she said,

... We must adapt our playing rules and conditions for games to suit the weaker girls in the school. We should give our time and attention to strengthening them; the girls who are already strong can take care of themselves. Make them coaches, officials, anything to keep them busy and happy, but do not take your valuable time in coaching them in the fine points of the game.9

INTERNATIONAL PLAY

In spite of such beliefs being espoused by the professional women in physical education, basketball continued to grow interscholastically.


8Somers, p. 370.

9Somers, p. 372.
and the skill level increased to the point where international play began. Ohio was the focal point for this initial event.

The first appearance of a women's basketball team representing the United States in international competition was in a four-game series held in Cleveland and Brooklyn in April of 1926, between the Newman-Stern girls' team from Cleveland, and the Edmonton Grads—a team made up of graduates from McDougall Commercial High School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This series was billed as a match for the "world's championship"—a title which the Grads had claimed since 1922—and was decided on a total point basis for four games. The U.S. team captured the series with a total score of 73-60 while winning three games of the four played.10

The Grads, founded in 1914, played boys' rules with five on a team. They played all comers and had a winning string of seventy-eight consecutive victories at one time. The defeat at the hands of the Newman-Stern team, coached by Ray Watts, was their first serious setback. The Cleveland team also had quite a winning string going. In the second game of this series, when they were defeated by the Grads, their forty-one game winning streak was broken.11

While the games described above were the first international games played in the United States, teams from Cleveland and Warren had journeyed to Canada to play the Grads as early as 1923. According to


11Alexander M. Weyand, The Cavalcade of Basketball (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1960), p. 209. (There is a discrepancy in the final total score for this series. Weyand reports it as 72-60 in favor of Newman-Stern, while Miller and Horky have it as 73-60 in favor of Newman-Stern. The 72-60 score is supported by the scores reported in Sitting on Top of the World, team book of the Edmonton Grads, Fourth Edition, June 20, 1938, p. 14.)
a team book published by the Grads they twice defeated both the Cleveland Favorite Knits and the Warren National Lamps. These games were part of the inaugural "Underwood Trophy" series. This trophy had been donated by the Underwood Typewriter Company in order to encourage basketball among girls' teams, particularly those teams in the United States and Canada.12

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS

While these teams were not made up of high school students, there was development of high level play for interscholastic players. This was in the form of national interscholastic championships for girls. According to Miller and Horky, these championships were held in 1924 through 1926.13 There is some evidence to suggest that a tournament was also held in 1927.14

The Youngstown area was the center of Ohio's involvement in these national tournaments. The 1925 tournament was held in Hempstead, Long Island, New York. The team from Struthers High School (near Youngstown) was invited to participate after winning the Ohio Championship in a tournament held in Bucyrus.

The Struthers girls were invited to play in the state championship tournament, held in Bucyrus, after they had won all their games during the season. Then they [sic] became state champions after defeating Bucyrus and were invited to participate in the national tournament being held in Hempstead, Long Island.


13Miller and Horky, p. 10.

Money was raised (no one remembers how) to send nine members of the squad, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. made an unscheduled stop at the old Struthers station . . . to pick up the team and also to return them home. Large crowds, including rival teams from Warren, Niles and Girard, were there to see the girls off and, much to their surprise, also to welcome them home even though they were "almost winners."

The starting six were Bessie Albrecht, captain, Vivian Troby, Evelyn Conway, Monica White, Valma Smith and Margaret Creed. The six-player, two-court game was played at that time.

Margaret Creed Secrist recalled her experiences of four years on the Struthers High School team in a personal interview with the author. During her four years of play, the team had three different male coaches. All were teachers in the high school but without specific training for coaching. All were former basketball players themselves. The first she remembers as being very unenthusiastic about his job, and, as a result, she recalls learning very little from him. The last two, however, were very dedicated to the job and took it very seriously. They had strict training rules, even to a prescribed pre-game meal of soft-boiled eggs, toast and tea. The girls considered it a great honor to be on the team. The community gave the team excellent support. In fact one year the girls' team drew more support than the boys' team, so that the boys' team played the preliminary game to the girls' contest!

The girls practiced four days a week after school. (The boys practiced

---


16 Moore.
in the evening.) Games were held on Friday and/or Saturday nights. For away games, parents provided the transportation for team members.

As Mrs. Secrist remembers the national tournament in Hempstead, there were sixteen to eighteen teams competing. They came from as far away as Texas. No state had more than one team at the tournament. Team members were housed in private homes during their stay on Long Island.17

Further evidence of community support for girls' basketball is revealed by the action taken following the Struthers team's runner-up performance in Hempstead.

An interesting aftermath of the 1925 victory resulted in the entire city becoming "basketball minded for the girls' team," and in 1926 the Struthers Businessmen's Association invited the Girls' National Tournament to come to Youngstown and play the tournament in the Rayen-Wood Auditorium.

The businessmen signed a $20,000 note to finance the tournament and promised that no one would lose money on the project. They also promised that any money left over would be donated to the Struthers Kiwanis Club Scholarship Fund, to be held in the Struthers branch of the Dollar Savings & Trust Company.

Harold Milligan, former mayor of the city, verified the agreement, as his father, the late Lee Milligan, was one of the signers of the note.

Although there is no longer a Kiwanis Club in Struthers, the fund is still in existence and, according to bank manager Thomas Sweder, it is managed by the manager of the bank, the superintendent of schools and the mayor of the city, whoever they may be. The fund has helped many a student of the city and has always, with only one exception, been paid back by those benefited.

The 1926 national tournament was a success; Struthers girls again won the state championship and were invited to play in the national tournament but again were runners-up, losing by one point to Sharon, Pa., in the final game.18

17Margaret Creed Secrist, former basketball player and coach, personal interview, New Springfield, Ohio, March 19, 1977.
18Moore.
An interesting facet of the 1926 tournament in Struthers was the absence of the defending team from Hempstead. An article in The New York Times provides some of the facts concerning their decision not to come to Ohio but leaves many unanswered questions.

The girls' basketball team of the Hempstead High School will not compete in the national championship games to be held in Struthers, Ohio, during the last week in March. Principal J. T. P. Calkins announced today that he would not reconsider his decision not to allow the girls to compete. The committee of local businessmen, headed by T. James Campbell, which has been trying to persuade the School Board and Mr. Calkins to relent, has, Mr. Campbell said, yielded to the "overpowering reasons presented by the school authorities."

The decision of the committee to cease their endeavor to have the team compete came at a meeting of the Lions Club at noon today.

Mr. Calkins as president of the club, had appointed the committee of three men following the tournament in Hempstead a year ago, in which the Hempstead team was victorious, to make arrangements for the girls to compete this year. The committee withdrew its petition, which contained more than a thousand names, at the meeting today and announced its conviction that the team should not compete.

... The invitation to compete was received three weeks ago. At that time Mr. Calkins announced that he did not consider it advisable to send the girls on the long trip to Struthers.19

One might assume that it was not a fear of defeat which motivated the above decision, as it is unlikely the business community would so adamantly support an inferior team. One wonders whether there might have been an incident which occurred at the previous year's tournament, which caused Principal Calkins to take the position he did.

While no record of any Ohio high school team being involved was found, the 1926 national champions, Sharon, Pennsylvania, did go to a

tournament held in Wichita, Kansas, in March of 1927.\(^{20}\)

**LOCAL PLAY IN OHIO**

The study of national championship teams, while a glamorous part of the history of girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio, does not tell the story of what was going on for the vast majority of girls playing basketball in the twenties and thirties. On the whole, there were more teams in the smaller schools than in the larger ones. Most of the coaching positions were held by men. Often they were the coach of both the boys' and girls' teams.\(^{21}\)

The validity of the above position was supported by Mr. George D. Bates, now an Associate Commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Mr. Bates recalls coaching both the boys' and the girls' basketball teams in Pickaway County (just south of Columbus) in the thirties. Most all the schools in that county had male-coached teams who played on Tuesday and Friday nights. The girls' team practiced the same amount of time as the boys' and would sometimes practice at the same time. Girls would work at one end of the floor and the boys at the other.

The community was enthusiastic in its support of the teams. It was very common for people to bring a brown bag of food and come to watch an evening of basketball. This would include a girls' game, a boys' game, and sometimes a third game of boys' reserves. Unlike the

\(^{20}\)"Years Ago."

boys, the girls' teams in Pickaway County were not involved in any tournaments.22

Mary Nell Griffin, a player on the Norwood High School (Cincinnati area) team and leading scorer in the county in the early thirties, became the coach of the St. Bernard Public High School in 1936-37. Her predecessor had been a male with no physical education training and a win-at-any-cost philosophy. The community was very positive in their support of the girls' team. They would come to watch a skillful game played prior to the boys' game on Friday nights. The girls played using girls' rules but were officiated by the same men officials who later did the boys' game. The team practiced four days per week, alternating after school practice hours with the boys. Financial support for the team came from gate receipts.

This program was terminated in 1938. Ms. Griffin felt that finances were a contributing factor. Men ran the athletic association and were not interested in the girls' program. Ms. Griffin could not interest the school in both an intramural and interscholastic program. The principal felt that there was not enough gym space to accommodate both programs.23

There were other exceptions to the male coach model which Wilson pictured for this era.24 Christine Wall taught physical education and coached at what is now Fairmont West High School in Kettering. She

22George D. Bates, Associate Commissioner, Ohio High School Athletic Association, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.

23Mary Nell Griffin, former coach and physical education teacher in the Cincinnati area, personal interview, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, August 8, 1976.

24Wilson, p. 48.
remembers her team playing in county tournaments in 1930.25

In the Lima area Lois Landfair played on the girls' team at Shawnee High School from 1929 to 1933. They had a woman coach as did most of the schools they played from this Northwestern Ohio area. They played the preliminary games to the boys' games, playing against the same school as the boys. It was, according to Ms. Landfair, as much of an honor to participate on the girls' team as it was for a boy to participate on the boys' team. The team always participated in county tournaments but would not advance as was customary for the boys' team.

Ms. Landfair relates an interesting story about Shawnee's participation in the county tournament. Because of the tournament format, teams were required to play more than one game per day. One year the Shawnee team knew that its arch rival, Bluffton, was the only team in the county who could beat them. The coach decided that in the semi-final game she would start the second team in order to rest the first team for the final against Bluffton. The strategy backfired as the team they were playing in the semi-final game built up a lead which the first team, when put into the game, could not overcome.26

The Shawnee team played fifteen regular season games in 1933, fourteen games in 1934, and fourteen games in 1940.27

In the Canton area Mary Graham told of playing on the Waco High School team from 1929 to 1931. This was a small Class "B" high school


27Quilma, Shawnee High School Yearbook 1933, 1934, and 1940.
with a male coach. They too played the preliminary game to the boys' contest. She reported that the crowd for the girls' game was about the same as that for the boys'. Waco also participated in a county tournament.28

Just south of Canton in the Carroll and Tuscarawas County areas, Harold A. Meyer reported that in 1934, when he was with the Dennison School System, they no longer had a girls' basketball team. He recalled, however, that Carrollton, a school on their schedule, did have a team. A few of the other schools Dennison played had girls' teams.29

In 1930-31 when Margaret Creed Secrist was teaching at Boardman High School near Youngstown, she was the coach of a girls' team. The girls' team played using girls' rules, but the officiating was done by men. According to Mrs. Secrist the same men did not always do both the boys' and girls' games. The good officials limited their officiating to either the boys' rules or the girls' rules.30

Wilson, in her thesis, quotes Rachel Bryant, retired Consultant in Physical Education and Girls and Women's Sports for the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation,

I think my experiences may have been atypical. I always had a qualified woman physical education teacher from grades 2-12 and when I was coaching a team (1928-31) all of the schools in the county where I taught had women coaches for the girls' team. This was in Lake County (Mentor, Painesville, Willoughby).31

28Mary Graham, former player, telephone interview, March 5, 1977.

29Harold A. Meyer, Commissioner, Ohio High School Athletic Association, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.

30Secrist.

31Wilson, pp. 48-49.
While there is no question that there were significant numbers of male coaches in the twenties and thirties, one wonders from the evidence accumulated if their numbers were as significant as is generally implied.32

In discussing the common procedure of having the girls play the so-called "curtain raiser" to the boys' game, Wilson commented,

... The girls' game was definitely a drawing card for the featured boys' event. However, the spectators, not educated in understanding girls' basketball, compared the playing ability and strategy to the boys'. The results were often unfavorable, causing a highly emotional situation for the players.33

All persons interviewed by the author who had first-hand experience with girls' interscholastic play during the twenties and thirties gave no hints of this problem being present in their situation.

Wilson goes on to discuss outside pressures and influences brought to bear on the school teams;

... public opinion was very influential in increasing the popularity of girls' basketball. Since this was the era when any sports were popular, and, since basketball was fun to watch, people were willing to pay to attend the games. It was an entertainment, a spectacle. Parents were interested in watching their daughters perform, business men helped to promote the games because the events brought people into the town and encouraged business, the Chambers of Commerce were interested in the teams, especially if they were winning, because they brought recognition and prestige to the town. This latter issue was especially prominent in smaller towns. Many communities had new gymnasiums and exerted pressure on the schools to sponsor girls' basketball teams. This pressure stemmed from the pride in their new plants. They had spent a great amount of tax dollars for the new

32Wilson, p. 48; Jane D. White, "Basketball Fast and Fifty," Journal of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, XXII (April, 1951), 40. (White was head of the Physical Education Department at Lake Erie College in Painesville.)

33Wilson, pp. 49-50.
facilities and felt they should be used in the interest of the community.\textsuperscript{34}

The entertainment value mentioned by Wilson was supported in this author's research. This was especially true in the descriptions of their situations given by the aforementioned Bates, Secrist, Graham, and Landfair. The only instance encountered of the business community being involved to any great extent in the interscholastic program was the national tournament experience in Struthers.

It was evident from the interviews that girls' basketball was very important to the communities who had teams. It was played very competitively. There were intense rivalries. These were prominently mentioned by Graham and Landfair. Evidence that star players were given extra recognition was present in the newspaper account by Moore concerning the national tournaments and in interviews with Griffin, Secrist, and Bates. This supports the findings of Wilson.

Newspapers devoted many lines to girls' basketball games. Most of the teams had a star player, a record to match, or a revenge game to play. Between 1922 and 1933 Columbus newspapers devoted much publicity to the rivalry between the girls' basketball teams of Bexley High School and Grandview High School. These games played as preliminary events to the boys' games, were as well attended and enthusiastically received by the spectators as the featured game.\textsuperscript{35}

\textbf{INAUGURATION OF CONTROLS}

With the amount of basketball competition underway in the twenties, the need for some type of controls became apparent. On the national level several groups were concerned with what was happening. Professionals

\textsuperscript{34}Wilson, p. 50.

\textsuperscript{35}Wilson, p. 52.
in the field of physical education were concerned with the practices apparent in some programs. Speaking of the 1910 to 1925 era, Watts says:

Out of the wide participation of women and girls in interschool competition grew problems which drew harsh criticism and the suggestion that such contests be abolished. Women leaders in the field of physical education were quick to sense the need for some measure of control to safeguard the health and physical well-being of girls and women and to curb the evils of commercialization and exploitation. But their [sic] was no indication that they were in favor of abolishing competitive sports for girls and women.\(^36\)

While one might assume that basketball was only one of the sports programs which was in need of control, such was not the case, as Jensen points out in speaking of what was going on in the twenties.

During those years basketball competition was the chief provocateur of standards. The development of the two, basketball and standards for competition, were nearly inseparable.\(^37\)

In commenting on what had happened from 1900-1920, with regard to standards for women's basketball, Jensen states:

. . . the women did make some of the same mistakes the men had made. There was much criticism but little action by potential women leaders. Programs were developed locally. The only models, and often the only coaches, were the men. Though the suggestions to guide and control women's athletic programs appeared wise in print, too many programs imitated the men's model.\(^38\)

Jensen goes on to point out that on the national level during the twenties and thirties three groups had great influence on women's sports


\(^{38}\) Jensen, p. 71.
programs. These groups were the Amateur Athletic Union who supported and encouraged competition for women, the Women's Athletic Committee of the American Physical Education Association, and the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation.

... The encounters in conflict and cooperation among these groups and other organizations influenced the extent and nature of competition which existed for girls and women between 1920 and 1940.

Though there were attempts by the women's organizations to distinguish among their services in order that each might serve a unique function, the distinctions did not endure. For example, from the beginning it was evident that the manner in which a game was played was as important to the basketball subcommittee of the Women's Athletic Committee as were the rules. The Women's Athletic Committee was never exclusively a rules making body nor did the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation confine its policy interests to non-school groups. Both organizations were inclined to condemn interscholastic and intercollegiate athletic competition before research proved it guilty. On the other hand, the importance of trained leadership was repeatedly emphasized. Conflict, cooperation and merging interests typified these twenty years of high ambition.

Standards for competition were formally compiled during this period. Considering preceding events, nearly all that remained was to condense and formulate existing points of view into a comprehensive whole and to give some group the authority to carry out the policies. The standards were stipulated, but no organization assumed responsibility for their enforcement in schools and colleges. Hence, the standards were recommendations only, a situation which was to impose limitations on their potential effectiveness.39

The paradoxical nature of the situation involving the national organizations concerned with women's and girls' sports was recognized by Leigh, also. She points out that

... the controversy over the control of women's athletics was based on honest, differing opinions of dedicated people. Though the philosophy of the Women's Division was progressivist

39Jensen, pp. 74-75
in nature, the organization proved to be a conservative one having strong traditional and repressive overtones. It was designed to restrict the growth of women in a direction which was not socially acceptable, namely, competitive athletics. Those who are interested in the history of physical education and sports are led to believe that the physical educators of the country were overwhelmingly in opposition to American women participating in competitive meets, because of the extensive writing on the subject by leaders in the field. That the leaders opposed competition for women is certain, because of written statements and opinions on the matter; however little is known about the reactions of the average woman physical educator in the field.  

The criticism of the competitive situations as they existed oftentimes placed the blame where it belonged, on the conditions surrounding the experience, and did not advocate the abolition of the competitive experience. An example is Myrtle Hummer's 1926 article in the American Physical Education Review. In it she pointed out the problems of over-emphasis on winning and the fact that the competitive experiences were available to only a few individuals. In suggesting remedies she called for better education of the administrators and more emphasis on the educational uses of competition. There is no hint in the article of the author advocating abolishing competitive experiences for girls' programs.  

The argument that interscholastic play served only a few girls was also used in a 1927 article by Grace Jones. In defense of athletics,  


she pointed to the contributions they made to the objectives of the
National Education Association. Because interscholastic play served
only a few, however, Jones advocated the play day as an alternative.\footnote{Grace Jones, "Girls' Athletics in High School," American Physical Education Review, XXXII (May, 1927), pp. 365-367.}

This idea of the play day received tremendous support from professional women physical educators and from the First Lady of the day, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, herself a former basketball player.\footnote{Inez Irwin in her book Angels and Amazons tells a turn of the century story of Mrs. Hoover. . . . The Stanford co-eds—among them Lou Henry, who as Mrs. Hoover was to become first lady of the land—took it [basketball] up. Having no gymnasium as yet, they played behind a high board fence. And although they wore the most modest costume of bloomer trousers and middy blouses, any male student who tried to witness their sports would have been rated a Peeping Tom. Enthusiastic over the game, they arranged a match with the University of California girls. This event came off in San Francisco. No man was permitted to look upon it. The doorkeepers, janitors and ushers were all women, and women writers exclusively reported it for the newspapers. At that, it caused so much unacademic sensation that the faculties forbade a return match.

Inez Haynes Irwin, Angels and Amazons (Garden City: Doubleday, Doran and Co., 1937), pp. 269-270.} The following is from the foreword of a book, Play Day: The Spirit of Sport, by Ethel Ferrin and Grace Turner.

A team for everyone and everyone on a team! This is the aim of the new plan for athletics among girls. Wherever it has been tried in the United States it has found favor with athletic directors and above all with the girls themselves. The aim, which is thoroughly American and democratic, is, in part, a development of our modern determination to give every girl—and every boy too—an equal opportunity for health. . . . The new plan for athletics to foster in our American youth the spirit of play, has been given the name of "Play Days."

In Play Days nothing is lost to those who are especially gifted with athletic ability. In fact, much is gained to them. . . . Under the Play Day plan she (the gifted athlete)
easily develops ability in many types; she becomes not a
star but a first class all-around player.\footnote{44}

The beliefs of national leaders and the Women's Division of the
National Amateur Athletic Federation is well-summarized in this plat-
form statement: (This statement was conceived at a 1923 conference of
the directors of physical education and recreation held in Washington,
D. C., at the call of Mrs. Herbert Hoover.)

That no consideration of Interinstitutional athletics
is warranted unless:
The school or institution has provided
opportunity for every girl to have a full
season's program of all-around athletic
activities;
Every girl in the school or institution
(not merely the proposed contestants)
actively participates [sic] in a full
season of activities and takes part in a
series of games within the school or
institution;
These activities are conducted under the
immediate leadership of properly trained
women instructors who have the educational
value of the game in mind rather than winning.
That on cases where the foregoing conditions obtain and
proper and responsible authorities (preferably women) deem
it desirable educationally and socially to hold inter-
institutional competitions, the following requirements
should be observed:
Medical examination for all participants.
No gate money.
Admission only by invitation of the various
schools or institutions taking part, in order
that participants may not be exploited.\footnote{45}
No publicity other than that which stresses
only the sport and not the individual or group
competitors.

\footnote{44} Ethel Perrin and Grace Turner, Play Day: The Spirit of Sport
(published in Cooperation with the Women's Division of the National
Amateur Athletic Federation by the American Child Health Association,
1929), pp. 10-11.

\footnote{45} This same idea had been expressed by Frymir at about the same
time. See Alice Frymir, Basket Ball for Woman: How to Coach and Play
That all awards granted for athletic achievement be restricted to those things which are symbolical and which have the least possible intrinsic value.

That schools and other organizations shall stress enjoyment of the sport and development of sportsmanship, and minimize the emphasis which is at present laid upon individual accomplishment and the winning of championships.\(^6\)

The authors point out that play days put this platform into operation.

The trend toward the substitution of play days for interscholastic competition was very strong in Ohio. A booklet, *Girls' Athletics*, was published by the State of Ohio Department of Education. This booklet was prepared in conjunction with the State Committee of the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation, Grace Daviess, chairwoman, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (hereafter referred to as OHSAA). The booklet was published in 1930 and 1931.\(^7\)

This booklet, incidentally, was used as a model for a similar publication in 1933 of the National Education Association.\(^8\) The Ohio booklet advocated play days, sport carnivals, and intramural leagues as substitutes for interscholastic basketball.\(^9\)

\(^{16}\)Perrin and Turner, pp. 15-17.


\(^{18}\)Athletics for Girls (New York: Department of School Health and Physical Education of the National Education Association, 1933).

\(^{19}\)State of Ohio, Department of Education, 1930, p. 40.
The play day concept came into being as a result of problems in interscholastic programs. An example of the kind of abuses existing in the interscholastic programs in this era was described by Helen L. Coops, Acting Director of Physical Education at the University of Cincinnati. She called a meeting attended by high school principals, physical directors, and others associated with physical education and health.

A report was given on the situation existing at that time in the smaller communities in Ohio and Kentucky with regard to girls' athletics. Principals were making use of the current basketball craze to advertise their schools. To do this they tried to produce winning teams at any cost.

... In this system girls are still playing basketball according to boys' rulings (a game which was originally invented as a fighting game for men). There is no medical examination or supervision—girls with bad hearts engage in just as strenuous a schedule as perfectly strong girls. In most cases, a small group of girls, representing a very small percentage of the student body, are chosen as a "varsity team," and the undivided attention of the school physical education teacher is given to the development of this group into a winning team. The result is that this group is overdeveloped, they go into competition with a "do-or-die" spirit which disregards all of the social values of play. Games become battles for the "honor of the school," to be won at any cost, instead of an opportunity for the development of a sense of sportsmanship and fair play, which is part of any well-rounded education for life.50

Once again the criticism of interscholastic play only serving a few individuals is mentioned. While one must question Dr. Naismith's having invented the game of basketball "as a fighting game for men," some of the other practices cited certainly were not to be condoned.

50"News Notes," American Physical Education Review, XXXI (May, 1926), 646.
Another concern, while not mentioned very frequently in the literature, was probably uppermost in the minds of many, considering the social climate of the day. That concern was the morality of the behavior of players and coaches. One reference to this problem was printed in *The New York Times*.

Interscholastic competition among high school girls of Wisconsin has been banned as detrimental to their morals and physical welfare by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

The association, controlling body of all State high school athletics, declared a halt on competition between rival girls' high school teams. After evils accompanying interscholastic competition had been cited, improper chaperoning, lax moral discipline on trips to other cities and the strain of excited competition were declared to be the worst evils.51

Wilson refers to this problem when she points out that some school administrators were not in favor of men coaching girls' teams. She states, "They foresaw the problem involving a player-coach relationship which often developed in a school."52

The problem of questionable morality of players and coaches was never mentioned or hinted at by any of the former players or coaches interviewed by this author. In responding to a question concerning this problem, Margaret Creed Secrist replied that she was never aware of any problems in this area.53

At least part of the uproar over conditions surrounding girls' basketball competition probably came as a result of non-school sponsored events, such as the one described by Helen N. Smith.

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52 Wilson, p. 48.

53 Secrist.
A well-known sporting goods house decided to hold a girls' basketball tournament. Investigation showed that there were to be no physical examinations of the girls who participated. Any type of rules were to be played, boys or girls or mixed. There were no regulation costumes, and one team was to appear in a sort of peach colored bathing suit. A protest was made to the sporting goods house, and I am quoting the closing paragraph of a letter written to me by the instigator of the tournament:

This company has been organizing and running all kinds of leagues for the past fifty years in order to sell their merchandise, and if they have to discontinue this practice, they will have to quit business. They have sold equipment to all the girls' teams in their league, and they are trying to procure games for these teams.54

In the concluding section of this article, the play day is advocated as being the ideal form of competition to substitute for basketball tournaments.55

The problems surrounding the basketball tournament described by Smith could just as easily have been used as an argument in favor of interscholastic play for girls, the argument being that the competition to be found outside the schools was undesirable. Therefore, the schools should provide competition of the same caliber but under more desirable conditions.

Another criticism of the highly competitive play of this era was that of emotionalism. This problem

... stemmed partially from poor leadership and partially from societies [sic] stereotype of feminine behavior. Many girls would become very upset and display their emotions


55 Smith, p. 50.
through anger or tears. . . . Such displays of emotions were encouraged by the audience because they considered it an amusing spectacle.56

Mabel Lee also discussed the tendency of girls to exhibit more emotional reactions to the competitive situation than boys do. This emotional aspect was of great concern to her.57

While some leaders were speaking out against all interscholastic competition, the initial moves in Ohio were against tournament basketball. This was evident in the 1931 edition of the booklet, Girls' Athletics, which stated:

County basketball tournaments are not worth the time, money, and energy put on them. . . . It is felt that more value to a greater number of girls can be obtained from other forms of athletics.58

C. L. Brownell, the first Supervisor of Health and Physical Education in Ohio, had been quoted in 1929 as speaking out against state tournaments for both boys and girls.

I am not in favor of state championships in high school athletics. Unquestionably the athletic program . . . should be guided by the same fundamental principles which underlie all education. As an educational procedure such championships cannot be justified.59

The opposition from the Ohio State Department of Education continued, as The New York Times reports in its April 7, 1930, issue.

56 Wilson, pp. 53-54.
58 State of Ohio Department of Education, 1931, p. 36.
County basketball tournaments for high school girls were condemned and interscholastic competition by girls considered of questionable value in a bulletin issued today by the State Department of Education.

The bulletin was issued in conjunction with the Ohio committee of the women's division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation with the approval of John L. Clifton, State Director of Education.60

Holcomb reports that in 1930 some action was taken by OHSAA concerning girls' tournaments. The commissioners issued the following questionnaire: "Should girls' basketball tournaments be eliminated?".

As a result of the responses they received, Holcomb reports that the Board of Control voted the following resolution: "After September 1, 1931, all girls' basketball must be discontinued."61

As can be noted in the above quoted material, there is a discrepancy in whether the action applied to girls' basketball in general or only to girls' tournaments. In another section of Holcomb's thesis, he quotes the Association Rules which contain the following: "After September 1, 1932, all girls' basketball tournaments shall be discontinued. A tournament is defined as an elimination contest in which a team plays more than one game per week."62 This adds to the confusion, however, as the date in this quote varies from the previous one.

The fact is, however, that this did not stop tournament play, thanks to the way tournament play was defined. While some counties were


62Holcomb, p. xvi.
discontinuing tournaments—Franklin County discontinued their county tournament in 1930, for instance—others were finding ways to continue theirs. The top eight teams from a Logan County league held a three-round tournament over a three-week period. This neatly circumvented the definition of "tournament" as defined in the rule.

This type of tournament was not opposed by OHSAA, as the following quotation from the Ohio High School Athletic Association Bulletin (forerunner of the Ohio High School Athlete) points out. "Girls may play one round per week in a county tournament." This rule was in effect through the last year of girls' play in 1940.

By the late thirties the dissatisfaction with the status quo had become so great that the OHSAA sent a questionnaire to member schools to solicit their feelings toward the situation. The following questions were submitted and the accompanying replies received: "Does your school maintain the sport (basketball) interscholastically? Yes - 363; No - 450. Do you favor dropping it interscholastically? Yes - 517; No - 250."

Of the 363 schools maintaining girls' interscholastic basketball, 165 were in favor of dropping it, while 184 desired that it be maintained. Fourteen expressed no opinion.

64 Wilson, pp. 60-61.
65 "Girls' County Tournaments," Ohio High School Athletic Association, XII (January-February, 1937), 5.
In spite of the division of opinion expressed in the survey among those schools having girls' teams, the issue was finally brought to a vote in 1939 when the following action was taken by the Board of Control.

It was moved by Kinley and seconded by Hoerner that a referendum be submitted to the Class "B" schools that "After September 1, 1940, there will be no more girls' interscholastic basketball." The motion carried unanimously. Requests from all sections of the state have been received by the Commissioner and the various members of the Board that this action be taken.68

It should be noted that the motion was to submit this referendum item to the Class "B" schools. These were the smaller schools in the state, and it was primarily in such schools that girls' interscholastic teams existed. No record of the results of this referendum is to be found either in the official minutes of the Board of Control or in the files of the Commissioner. When the rules of the Association came out for the 1940-41 school year, they contained the following rule: "Girls' interscholastic basketball shall be discontinued after September 1, 1940. The penalty for violation is suspension."69

The question of how and when the ruling came to be applied to all schools (both Class "A" and "B") was not resolved. It is not known whether the referendum question was put only to the Class "B" members of the Association, as was specified in the motion of the Board of Control, or whether it was sent to all member schools. As any girl

68"Board Minutes - February 27, 1939," Ohio High School Athletic Association Bulletin, XIV (March-April, 1939), 15.

69Ohio High School Athletic Association, Constitution and Rules, 1940-41 (Columbus: Ohio High School Athletic Association, 1940), p. 22.
who loved basketball and happened to go to high school in Ohio from 1940 until 1948 can tell you, the rule was followed by all member schools.

Why did the member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association vote to prohibit girls' interscholastic basketball? When persons who had had some intimate association with girls' programs were interviewed by this author, various answers were given.

Frank Young, who officiated girls' interscholastic games in the thirties, and later became superintendent of Miamisburg Schools, could give no reason why it should have been banned.70

Bernadine Reinhartd, a long time member of the Advisory Committee to OHSAA, while not being involved in basketball for girls during the thirties, offered this suggestion from her knowledge of the situation. She thinks that isolated instances of girls not being able to withstand the game from a physical standpoint were used as the excuse for the ban on interscholastic play, but that the real reason was that the coaches of the boys' teams wanted to have reserve boys' teams.71 These same two reasons were given by Margaret Creed Secrist, one who was involved both as a player and a coach.72 Finances were given as a contributing factor by Mary Nell Griffin.73

George Bates, who had coached girls' teams in the thirties, felt that the professional women physical educators and their regard for girls' health were to blame.74 This view was given some support by

70Frank Young, telephone interview, July 27, 1976.
72Secrist. 73Griffin. 74Bates.
Hester Jane Johnston, who taught physical education in the Canton area and was an Oberlin College graduate. She offered the perception that in the northeastern part of the state many physical education teachers were Oberlin graduates who had had Dr. Gertrude Moulton. It was Dr. Moulton's philosophy that the emphasis for girls should be on the intramural and the instructional programs. The Oberlin graduates put Dr. Moulton's philosophy into practice in many Ohio schools where they were teaching.

Evidently this situation was present in areas other than Ohio. Nora Page Hall, writing in the 1941 Official Basketball Guide for Women and Girls, after enumerating the problems associated with interscholastic basketball, says in a quasi-Biblical fashion,

And so disciples were trained in our colleges and universities and they were sent forth into the physical education field with the idea that the evils of interscholastics far outweighed the values, and no good could ever come from girls participating in interscholastic basketball.

... The deluge of noninterscholastic preachers held sway and for the past eight years interscholastic competition has been fast disappearing from the high school and college programs.

To try, nearly forty years later, to determine the definite cause or causes for the 1940 ruling is almost impossible. The previous discussion, it is hoped, will shed some light on what some of the


76Hester Jane Johnston, telephone interview, March 5, 1977.

reasons may have been. It is very important, however, not to view any of the problems mentioned in a narrow fashion. What may have been a definite problem in one area might well have been a strength in another place. For example, some have blamed women physical educators for not having the skills to do a good job of coaching, thus bringing about the hiring of men to coach the girls' team. Wilson quotes Ruth Felt, former physical education teacher at Parma Senior High School,

I played on a team well-coached by women. It was one of the most meaningful experiences in my life. Probably the reason I am still interested in physical education.  

While it is often assumed that a male coach exerted a negative influence on the girls, exactly the opposite view is given by Margaret Creed Secrist. She is quick to point out the positive influence her male coach had on her interest in physical education and her subsequent career in the field.

For whatever the reasons, 1940 was the beginning of the Dark Ages for girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio. A world war was to be waged before girls could once again compete interscholastically against others of their skill level in the sport of basketball.

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78 Wilson, p. 49  
79 Secrist.
CHAPTER III
OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
AND THE GIRLS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The OHSA is the rules-making body in the state for all interscholastic sports. While membership in this association is strictly voluntary on the part of school systems within the state, the reality of the situation is that since almost all of the schools in the state belong to this one organization the previous statement is true. As the rules-making body for interscholastic sport the OHSA has played a crucial role in the history of girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio. This chapter will chronicle the actions taken by the OHSA Board of Control (elected representatives from school systems throughout the state), its Girls' Advisory Committee, and the member schools by means of referendums, which have had a direct influence on girls' basketball.

While members of the Board of Control of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSA) probably thought that the 1940 referendum prohibiting girls' interscholastic basketball would remove girls' basketball as an agenda item from their meetings, such was not the case. In January of 1942, the minutes of the Board of Control contained a reference to a letter from Margaret Burton of Cleveland asking for a decision on whether the 1940 rule applied to such things as play days, class-teams, and all-star games. In a classic example of "passing-the-buck" or just disinterest,
... the board authorized the Commissioner to use his own judgement as to which of these types comes under the rule forbidding girls' interscholastic basketball.¹

Although this author was unable to substantiate any violations of the 1940 rule, it is evident that violations were occurring. The minutes of Board of Control meetings for March 23, 1946, and April 26, 1946, both contained reports by the commissioner of a growing tendency to violate the rule, especially at so-called play days.² In 1946 the Board of Control was also still being asked to interpret what constituted interscholastic basketball. The position of the Board was further clarified when by unanimous consent they agreed that

... whether admission is charged, a collection is taken, an audience is present, or not, girls cannot represent their schools in basketball games against other schools or groups.³

Widespread discontent began to be expressed with the 1940 rule. It had become apparent that the highly skilled girls were seeking playing experiences commensurate with their abilities. The playing conditions in these programs they were finding outside the schools were often worse than the conditions which had prevailed in the schools bringing about the prohibition of interscholastic play.⁴ A situation

¹ "Board Minutes of the Meeting on January 30-31," The Ohio High School Athlete, I (February, 1942), 7.

² "Board Minutes - March 23, 1946," The Ohio High School Athlete, V (May, 1946), 94; "Board Minutes - April 26, 1946," The Ohio High School Athlete, V (May, 1946), 112.

³ "Board Minutes - May 24, 1946," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (September-October, 1946), 5.

⁴ Advisory Committee on Girls' Sports and Physical Education of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Girls Athletics in Ohio (Columbus: Ohio High School Athletic Association, 1950), 7.
of the type described above was related to the author by Norma J. Smith. She told of playing on a team that used high school boys' rules in the Canton area during her senior year in high school. The team was sponsored by local merchants and played similar teams in the area. She sought this competition because there was none permitted in her school, Lincoln High School in Canton.

Miss Emily Peterson of Grandview High School in Columbus led efforts to get the OHSAA to change the rule on girls' basketball. The first reference to her crusade was found in Board of Control Minutes for November 22 and 23, 1916.

Miss Emily Peterson requested a more extensive program of interscholastic athletics for girls. She will present the matter in more detail at a later meeting of the Board as a whole.

Things moved quite rapidly, for at the next month's Board meeting the following action was taken:

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Buriff and unanimously carried that the commissioner and the State Supervisor of Health and Physical Education appoint a committee from Girls' Physical Education organizations in the state to prepare and present recommendations of policy pertaining to Girls' Physical Education with especial and specific reference to Girls' interscholastic athletics. This committee is to be instructed to complete its work and conferences with the Board on or before June 1, 1917.

Moved by Weiser, seconded by Bowman and unanimously carried that the expenses of this Girls' Interscholastic Athletic Committee be paid by the O.H.S.A.A.

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5 Norma J. Smith, personal interview, Canton, Ohio, December 21, 1976.

6 "Board Minutes - November 22, 23, 1916," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (February, 1917), 39.
Listed in attendance at this meeting were Emily Peterson (Grandview), Hulda Heller (Piqua), Ruth Palmer (Columbus North), Ann Paterson and Kay Marting of The Ohio State University, and Lucille Burkett (Columbus University High School). 7

This was not the first time that the Board of Control had established a girls' advisory committee. In 1932 a Women's Advisory Council was formed to advise the Board on matters pertaining to the conduct of girls' athletics. 8 This council was the first such body formed by any of the state athletic associations. 9 The 1946 committee, formed for similar reasons, was chaired by Gladys Palmer of The Ohio State University and consisted of Alva Edwards, principal of South High School in Columbus, Grace B. Daviess of University of Cincinnati, Harriet V. Fitchpatrick, Supervisor of Physical Education in Cleveland, Hulda F. Heller, teacher at Piqua High School and Emily Peterson, teacher at Grandview Heights High School. They diligently pursued their task as the Board minutes of December 27, 1946, January 31 and February 1, 1947, showed. 11 Well before the June 1 deadline which had been given them, the committee came before the Board with their proposal.

7 "Board Minutes - December 11, 1946," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (February, 1947), 40.


10 Advisory Committee, 7.

11 "Board Minutes - December 27, 1946 [sic—should read 1946]," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (February, 1947), 41; "Board Minutes - January 31 and February 1, 1947," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (April, 1947), 69.
Miss Gladys Palmer, chairman, and Miss Alva Edwards, a member, of the Interscholastic Sports for Girls Committee, presented the committee's proposal in detail. Moved by Buriff, seconded by Weiser and unanimously carried that a vote of appreciation be extended the committee for the excellent work they have done.

Moved by Weiser, seconded by Flood and unanimously carried that the Board accept the report of the committee, as clarified, and submit the proposal for referendum under date of April 18.

Moved by Davis, seconded by Buriff and unanimously carried that the committee be continued for one year for the purpose of evaluating the program, if adopted.12

In what would appear to have been an attempt to inform school administrators about the forthcoming referendum, in which they would be voting on the proposed regulations for girls' interscholastic athletics, the Board voted at their August meeting to try to secure a place on the program of the Ohio Principals' Association for their October meeting to explain the proposal.13 While it is not known whether this method of informing the school administrators was used or not, the Board evidently felt that the issue was ready for submission. At their November 14 meeting, they voted to submit the referendum to the member schools not later than December 10.14 Voting took place with the proposal being approved 434 to 390. According to the Board Minutes of December 29 and 30, the proposal was to become effective in September of 1948.15 (Details of this report are discussed in the next chapter.)

12 "Board Minutes - April 18, 1947," *The Ohio High School Athlete*, VI (May, 1947), 94.

13 "Board Minutes - August 1, 2, 1947," *The Ohio High School Athlete*, VII (September-October, 1947), 21.


The new rules had scarcely gone into effect when questions and controversies began. It would appear from the following quotation from the Board of Control Minutes that some persons were questioning whether OHSAA had the authority to legislate on such matters, or whether the Activities Association was the appropriate body.

By referendum, a program of regulations, eligibility requirements and penalties relative to Girls' Interscholastic Athletics was recently adopted. Some schools are confused as to jurisdiction. The Board was of the unanimous opinion that the Activities Association had declared through its Director at a joint meeting of the two Boards of Control, that all directly school sponsored, interscholastic, athletic, activities are wholly the responsibility of the Athletic Association. The commissioner was instructed to contact Robert Fleming, the Activities Association Director, in regard to his understanding of this specific question. . . .

The Activities Association referred to was an organization of school administrators who governed school activities such as debate tournaments, music contests, and speech contests. In addition to the authority of the association, the rules themselves were also in question.

Requests that practically every phase of the Girls' Athletic Regulations be modified were considered. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that these matters should be considered at a later date by a joint meeting of the girls' Committee and the Board of Control with the idea that possible modifications be proposed for referendum.17

The dispute over whether the OHSAA acted properly in assuming control over girls' athletics evidently was resolved in favor of the action taken by the Association. No further reference to this matter was found. Quick action was forthcoming with regard to the rules

16"Board Minutes - November 19, 1948," The Ohio High School Athlete, VIII (December, 1948), 50.

17"Board Minutes - November 19, 1948," 50.
themselves, however. The May Minutes of the Board of Control reported
that

ballots on the two proposals for Interscholastic Athletics for girls were counted.
The proposal presented by the Girls' Committee carried
by a vote of 401 to 235.
The proposal presented by petition of fifty schools
was defeated 131 to 490.18

(The substance of the changes being voted upon from the Girls' Committee is discussed in the following chapter, while the content of
the petition proposal could not be located.)

Following the initial flurry of changes to the 1948 rules, there
followed a period of stability. In May of 1952, the Board did accept
some changes proposed by the Girls' Advisory Committee and also decided
against adopting any regulations for Junior High School Girls' Athletics.19

At its July 1953 meetings, the Board took several actions affecting
girls' basketball. A system was instituted to provide more representa-
tives from high schools on the Girls' Advisory Committee. Until this
time a significant number of the committee members had been from the
ranks of college physical education departments.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Waldorf and unanimously
carried that the present Girls' Committee (Heller,
Cunningham, Peterson, Palmer, Davies, Fitchpatrick) be
authorized to meet at 9:30 A.M., Saturday, September 26,
1953, at 211 East Broad Street; that each District Board
appoint a high school representative who will begin
membership on this Committee after September 26; that the
Commissioner appoint one of these high school members as
chairman; . . . 20

18 "Board Minutes - May 27-28, 1949," The Ohio High School Athlete,
IX (November, 1949), 38.

19 "Board Minutes - May 23-24, 1952," The Ohio High School Athlete,
XII (September-October, 1952), 6.

20 "Board Minutes - July 16-17, 1953," The Ohio High School Athlete,
XIII (September-October, 1953), 8.
The final action taken at this meeting, which affected girls' interscholastic play, had to do with girls playing on boys' teams. The motion stipulated that after September 1954, no girl could participate on a boys' interscholastic team. It was noted that this did not prohibit mixed team versus mixed team as in tennis.  

The Board of Control's action seeking more input from women physical educators was not a move that was being carried out in all other states. Jacobs, writing in 1956 of conditions in the nearby state of Tennessee, pointed out that at that time trained professional women physical educators have no voice in policy making, rule selection, or decisions regarding athletics for girls in Tennessee, although there have been many attempts to correct this situation.

As a result of conditions existing in Tennessee at that time, Jacobs recommended that girls' interscholastic basketball be abolished. If this recommendation were not followed, she offered a series of steps to be taken to reform then current practices. Among these recommendations was one calling for the formation of an advisory committee to work with the executive council of the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association. It was the conditions existing with regard to basketball that were disturbing to Jacobs and precipitated her recommendations for action.

The Ohio Advisory Committee evolved into a body made up of six voting members who were officially appointed by their respective District

21 "Board Minutes - July 16-17, 1953," 8.


23 Jacobs, p. 89.
Athletic Boards of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. In addition, there were on the committee four consultants appointed by the Commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, who represented each of the following: the large city high schools of the state, Ohio colleges and universities, the Division for Girls and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and the Ohio Department of Education.24 25

The official name of this group became Ohio High School Athletic Association Advisory Committee on Girls' Sports and Physical Education. While the Committee was not empowered to make any rules, it did suggest rules to the Board of Control, who in turn submitted them to the member schools.26

Evidently Ohio was leading a trend by having the control of girls' interscholastic sports governed by the same association which supervised the boys' programs. A resolution advocating this arrangement was adopted by the National Council of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations at their summer meeting in 1964.27

In 1969 the question of whether all-girl schools were eligible for membership was discussed by the Board. No action was taken at that


25The Division for Girls [sic] and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation is now the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.


time. Actually, no action was needed as this question had been settled some forty-four years earlier.

... Up to 1925 the Association had not governed girls' athletics but voted that year to extend the rules of the Association to cover them. Day and secondary schools composed wholly of girls became eligible to membership in the Association if they were recognized by the State Department of Education.29

A major thrust in the direction of greater emphasis on the girls' program was made by the Board of Control at its August 11, 1971, meeting. Authorization was given for the hiring of an additional staff member "... with major responsibility of coordinating the girls' interscholastic athletic program."30 Less than a year later, on June 6, 1972, Dolores Billhardt was hired as an Assistant Commissioner effective August 1, 1972.31 Prior to accepting the position with OHSAA she had been a coach and physical education teacher in the Mansfield Public Schools for eight years and at Ashland College for four years.

Following the appointment of Assistant Commissioner Billhardt, the areas of concern of the Advisory Committee began to change. In the 1966 revision of the booklet, Guidelines for Girls' Sports Programs in Ohio, the Committee was still advocating the girls' athletic association as the best method of organizing the girls' program in the individual school. This plan called for the interscholastic program to be a natural


31"Board Minutes - June 6, 1972," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (September, 1972), 20.
outgrowth of a sound instructional program and an active intramural
program. The Committee also took a step away from their sponsorship
of cheerleading clinics, a task which had been one of their major
responsibilities.

A motion was passed to sponsor cheerleading clinics in
the future only if necessary. The committee expressed its
desire to concentrate on girls' sports programs.

At this same meeting, the first mention was made of possible state
tournaments for girls. Assistant Commissioner Billhardt expressed a
desire to form advisory committees for each of five sports, gymnastics,
basketball, softball, track and field, and volleyball. These committees,
it was envisioned, would, as one of their functions, set requirements
for possible future state tournaments.

In the case of basketball, this task of setting up an advisory
committee was accomplished quickly. The first Basketball Advisory
Committee was announced in the January 1973 issue of The Ohio High School
Athlete. Members of this committee were Irma Mason of Columbus, Cathy
Lirgg of Philo, Florence Stokes (Barr) of Canton, Dorothy Edwards of
Elida, Lea Turner of Albany, Diana Hastler of Dayton, and Jean Hofstetter
of Ashland, Coordinator.

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33 "Minutes OHSAA Girls' Advisory Committee, Saturday, September 16, 1972," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (November, 1972), 71.


35 "OHSAA Girls' Sports Advisory Committees," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (January, 1973), 112.
In 1976 a drastically revised version of what had previously been called Guidelines for Girls' Sports Programs in Ohio was issued. The new booklet, called Ohio Girls' Interscholastic Sports, contained no sections on girls' athletic associations. The emphasis was completely shifted to the interscholastic program. As a result of this change in emphasis, chapters were added on "Ethics for Coaches," "Medical Aspects of Girls' Participation in Sports," "Checklist of Procedures to Prepare for All Girls' Interscholastic Sports," "Recommended Responsibilities and Coaching Duties," "Medical Guidelines for Coaches," "Sample: Athletic Code for Interscholastics," and "Putting Public Relations to Work."  

It is to be noted that while Ohio has been fortunate in having women's views represented to the Board of Control of OHSAA for much of its history, there is no provision to insure that their counsel and advice will be accepted and implemented. The decision-making power lies in the hands of the Board of Control, which, to this date, has been made up entirely of men. This fact was discussed by the author with both Dolores Billhardt and Bernadine Reinhardt. In response to a question as to whether she foresaw any women being elected to the Board of Control, Ms. Reinhardt, long-time member of the Girls' Advisory Committee, replied that she did not foresee a change until there are more women school administrators, as it is the administrators who elect and run for positions on the Board of Control. Ms. Reinhardt was quick to point out, however, that she did not view this as a problem. In her experiences she has found the Board very open to women's opinions, and both the

present and the past commissioners with whom she has worked have been very supportive of the girls' program. When Ms. Billhardt was asked a similar question concerning the lack of any women in decision-making positions in OHSAA, she indicated that a few women had run for district board posts but had not been elected. It was her opinion that until the women did the political work necessary, they would not be elected. It must be noted that she did not see this as a critical issue, due to the openness of the OHSAA to receive input from the Advisory Committee and the various sports committees which had been established.

The years from 1940 to 1976 show the Board of Control of OHSAA continually responding to the changing scene of girls' interscholastic sports. While being a totally male decision-making body, they have remained sensitive to the needs of the girls' program through their Girls' Advisory Committee and more recently by hiring a woman familiar with girls' interscholastic programs to be an Assistant Commissioner.


38Dolores A. Billhardt, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.
CHAPTER IV

REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAY

All regulations governing play are approved by the OHSAA. These include both the rules of the game itself and the rules regulating the conduct of the sport. The latter includes such things as the number of games per season, whether admission may be charged for spectators, how many games may be played per week, and who may participate on the teams. This chapter will relate the game rules which have been used at various times and also trace the regulations governing girls' interscholastic basketball as set forth by OHSAA.

GAME RULES

The fact that girls, for much of the history of their participation in basketball, have played a different set of rules than the boys, is partly due to a misunderstanding which occurred in 1895.

In 1895, Miss Baer (Miss Clara Baer of Newcomb College) published a set of rules that contained several modifications of the boys' rules. One of these modifications was the division of the court into three sections. This division came about in an interesting way. On one of the diagrams of the court there appeared a dotted line running across the court in two places. This line was meant to describe the positions of the players, but it was taken as a restraining line and was introduced, therefore, into the girl's game.1

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In the above quotation Mr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, explains how some diagrams he had sent to Miss Baer were misinterpreted in such a way as to completely alter the game, as it was played by girls, for many years to come.

Another source of the divided court game was an intentional modification of Naismith's rules by Senda Berenson for use by Smith College coeds. Berenson's purpose for the modifications was to prevent roughness and to equalize the amount of running for all players. In addition to the three division court, Berenson also introduced the three bounce limited dribble.2

Prior to 1940 there was no uniformity in the rules used for girls' interscholastic play in Ohio. Many schools used the two or three section divided court game. Others used modified boys' rules for their play.3

From 1948, when interscholastic play was resumed, until 1974, when the OHSAA adopted the Federation Rules, it would be correct to say that the vast majority of schools used the rules published by the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport or its predecessors, Division for Girls and Women's Sports, National Section for Girls and Women's Sports and National Section on Women's Athletics. The only other set of rules which was ever authorized for use was known as the Girls' National Basketball Rules (GNBR). These rules came into being in 1952 when representatives from Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Oklahoma, North Dakota,

2Senda Berenson, "Basket Ball for Women," Physical Education, III (September, 1894), 107-108.

Louisiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Tennessee met to draft a set of rules. Their desire was to create rules which could easily be officiated by persons well versed in boys' basketball rules.

The reasons for the development of these rules are spelled out in the introduction to the 1953-1954 rule book.

The guiding philosophy was that the playing rules for the game of basketball should be adapted to the best interest of any group desiring to play the game; otherwise, the format, language and technicalities of the playing rules should be basically the same for all groups. This policy gives primary importance to the welfare of the participants and eliminates confusion in the minds of players, coaches, officials and fans and adds to the enjoyment of those playing and watching the games.

The problem of inadequate numbers of women officials, while not mentioned directly, can be inferred from the following quotation from the introduction to the rule book and the rules which follow.

To facilitate uniformity the basic wording and arrangement of the rules in this code are the same as for the code adopted by the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada. In sections in which the wording is identical permission for its use has been granted by the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada. An asterisk before the wording of a section of the rule indicates alterations except the changing of the pronoun from the masculine to the feminine gender. While the pronouns referring to players were changed to the feminine, the pronouns used to refer to officials remained masculine. For example,


Rule 2, Section 3, speaking of the duties of the referee, states, "... He shall decide whether a goal shall count if the Officials disagree. He shall have power to forfeit a game. ..."

Generally speaking, the format of these rules was the same as the NSGWS Rules. The biggest difference in the two sets of rules was that the Girls' National Basketball Rules (GNBR) allowed an unlimited dribble. Both games had a center division line with six players on a team.

The development of this new set of rules was not totally unexpected. Dissatisfaction with the NSGWS Rules had been brewing for some time and NSGWS had attempted to "keep the peace." Norma M. Leavitt, writing in the 1954 Official Basketball Guide, recounted the attempts which were made to get one set of rules that would be satisfactory for all girls' interscholastic play. An outline of these attempts follows:

1. Representative of NSGWS met with men leaders of girls' basketball in the state of Oklahoma. A report was made to NSGWS Legislative Board, but no action was taken.

2. A meeting was held in St. Louis with men coaches from states holding girls' tournaments and who felt NSGWS Rules did not meet their needs.

3. NSGWS sent a representative to the NFSHSA meeting in Florida to explain the NSGWS standards, philosophy, and services.

4. The NSGWS chairman met with the NFSHSA in Seattle.

5. A NSGWS representative met with the NFSHSA in Biloxi, Mississippi.

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1948 - A meeting was held in Kansas City to discuss problems of girls' basketball. Attending were NFSHSAA representatives and WNORC representatives, who were on the NSGWS Basketball Committee.

1949 - Men representatives from a group of states met in Washington, D. C., with the NSGWS Basketball Committee.

1951 - a small group of men met at Detroit with NSGWS and Basketball Committee members and it was thought that simplifying the format of our rules, changing signals for officials and consideration of rules changes could be effected to satisfy both groups. However, the men's group proceeded to publish rules which were sent out to every state federation office in the fall of 1952.8

1952 - In December representatives of the men's group, NSGWS, AAMPER, and the Basketball Committee met in Kansas City.

1953 - In June NSGWS sent a representative to a meeting of state presidents and secretaries of the NFSHSAA in Wisconsin. The men's group nevertheless decided to retain their rules for 1953-54.9

The question of which rules should be used by Ohio girls was brought before the Board of Control by Miss Gladys Palmer, chairman of the Girls' Advisory Committee, at the May 1952 Board Meeting. In the discussion of the topic, it was pointed out that, when surveyed, teachers of girls' basketball in Ohio senior high schools reported that 70 percent were currently using NSGWS rules, while only 49 percent recommended their adoption for Ohio. Because of the difference in these percentages


9 Leavitt, p. 22.
... the Committee passed unanimously the following recommendation: We recommend that Rule 2 as it appears in the handbook of 1951-52 should remain for 1952-53 as stated with a footnote as follows: For the year 1952-53 it will be permissible to use the official basketball rules for girls to be published by the Girls' Basketball Rules Committee of the High School Athletic Associations of the Federation. Schools using these rules must notify the Commissioner's Office before the basketball season. Rule books may be obtained from the Commissioner's (sic) office.\footnote{Board Minutes - May 23-24, 1952, "The Ohio High School Athlete, XII (September-October, 1952), 6.}

In the fall of the same year, Miss Palmer wrote an article in The Ohio High School Athlete bringing Ohio teachers and coaches up to date on what was transpiring.

At present there are four or more codes governing girls' basketball in the United States. A number of states have been much dissatisfied with the rules of basketball for high school girls as published by the National Section of Women's Athletics. For several years attempts have been made by these State High School Athletic Associations to have the N.S.W.A. modify its existent rules but to no avail. Miss Gladys Palmer, Chairman of the Ohio High School Girls' Athletic Committee, attended a meeting July 1 with reference to basketball for high school girls and at which meeting a dozen states were represented. (This office was also directly represented by its Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner.)

This is no attempt to encourage girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio. If your school wants to play girls' interscholastic basketball, then study the two sets of rules. A copy of the rules approved by the dozen states sanctioning girls' interscholastic basketball has been forwarded to you.

The Board of Control of the Ohio High School Athletic Association is much interested in your reaction to these Girls' Basketball Rules. Address your comments to 211 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. At the close of this school year, Ohio should adopt one book.\footnote{"Girls' Basketball Rules," The Ohio High School Athlete, XII (September-October, 1952), 20.}
Following closely on the heels of this article was another by Miss Palmer in the December issue of The Ohio High School Athlete. After reiterating the information contained in the previous article, she pointed out the necessity for teachers in the local areas to get together to decide which rules they would be playing. Once again teachers were reminded that their opinions would be important to the Advisory Committee in making a final decision concerning which set of rules would be used in Ohio in years to come.\(^\text{12}\)

Since the OHSAA had supplied all member schools with copies of the GNBR rule books, there evidently were requests that they do the same for NSWA rules. The following motion was passed unanimously by the Board of Control:

\[\ldots\text{if the N.S.W.A. will furnish this Association [OHSAA] with 1,100 copies of its basketball rules for girls the Association will see that each member school receives a copy.}\]

An article in the February 1953 Ohio High School Athlete really must be viewed as an editorial in favor of NSWA rules. The authors characterize the situation as confused with regard to basketball rules for girls in Ohio. They point out that the NSWA rules resulted from extensive study as to the physiological, psychological, and social needs of girls and women. The rules were then written with these needs in mind. The attempts of NSWA to meet with representatives of NFHSAA and resolve differences of opinion were cited. The meeting in Detroit in


\(^{13}\)Board Minutes - November 21-22, 1952," The Ohio High School Athlete, XII (December, 1952), 53.
1951 was mentioned specifically. After this meeting NSW A changed its 1952-53 rules in the following areas: rules were rearranged with cross references, officials' hand signals were changed to conform more closely with those used in the boys' game, unessential differences between boys' and girls' rules were eliminated, and a reprint of the rules was made available at a nominal cost.

The authors called attention to differences which existed in the two sets of rules. Dribbling was limited to two impetuses in the NSW A Rules as opposed to an unlimited dribble in GNBR. Tying a ball in possession of another player was illegal, according to NSW A Rules, while this was permitted in GNBR. Blocking could be called without personal contact in NSW A Rules: personal contact was necessary in GNBR. NSW A Rules contained no provision for any of the following violations which GNBR considered illegal: three second lane, ten second back court time limit, and over-and-back. In the opinion of Hurst and Wagner, the most important of the thirty-eight differences in the two sets of rules were those which tended to bring roughness and personal contact into the game using the GNBR code.14

Jacobs had the same observation when she compared the two sets of rules. She stated that a

... great difference in the speed and roughness of the game is because of the variation in the following three major rules: unlimited dribble, tie balls, and the guarding of opponents by encircling or trapping at a boundary line.15

14Lora Ruth Hurst and Betty M. Wagner, "N.S.W.A. and Basketball for Girls," The Ohio High School Athlete, XII (February, 1953), 87-88.

15Jacobs, pp. 83-84.
No decision was made following the 1952-53 season, so that, at its July 1953 meetings, the Board of Control once again authorized the use of either set of rules for 1953-54.16

From all indications the extent of use of the GNBR was quite limited. Survey results from OHSAA dated 1955 report that 138 schools used NSGWS, 28 used modified NSGWS, 42 used GNBR, and 11 reported using modified GNBR.17 In the Official Basketball Guide September 1956-57, Ohio reported that 3,680 players were using NSGWS Rules and 20 players were using other rules.18 While mention is made of the fact that these data were collected from State Basketball Chairmen and were therefore admittedly incomplete, the comparison of the numbers revealed a tremendous difference in the popularity of the two sets of rules in favor of the NSGWS Rules. The research of this author revealed similar results. None of those interviewed had ever used the GNBR, and only a few were aware that such rules ever existed.

Although the GNBR Committee was composed of members of the NFHSAA and did business at their NFHSAA conference, it was not officially connected with that organization. The NFHSAA had always had a good relationship with NSWA and refused any recognition of the GNBR Committee.

16"Board Minutes - July 16-17, 1953," The Ohio High School Athlete, XIII (September-October, 1953), 8.


because of NSWA's opposition to them.\textsuperscript{19}

The Ohio forces who were so opposed to ONBR were successful, as no further mention is made by the Board of Control of rules until 1969, when the following motion was passed:

\begin{quote}
... to accept the recommendation of the Girls' Advisory Committee recommending the approval of the experimental Girls' Basketball Rules for Girls' Interscholastic Basketball Contests during the 1969-70 season upon mutual agreement between the competing schools.\textsuperscript{20}
\end{quote}

The experimental rules mentioned above provided for rules changes involving the use of the thirty second shooting clock, taking time out for all violations, the penalty for all violations being taken at the sidelines, elimination of tagging as a foul, and other relatively minor changes. This procedure of having the rules be experimental for one year and then becoming official the following year was frequently used by the Division for Girls and Women's Sports.

The successor of NSWA and NSGWS, the Division for Girls' and Women's Sports (DGWS), became concerned once again in 1970 when NFHSAA decided to publish basketball rules for girls.\textsuperscript{21}

These fears were well founded as on December 13, 1973, the Board of Control of OHSAA voted to make the National Federation Rules for Girls' basketball official.

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\end{thebibliography}
Basketball the official rules in Ohio for the 1974-75 season. The Federation playing rules for girls were the same as the Federation playing rules for boys. This change made at this time did not affect the actual play of the game nearly so much as would have been the case if the change had come about earlier. By 1973 the two sets of rules (Federation and DGWS) had become quite similar.

The question must be asked as to why this change came about in 1973 with relatively little controversy. Bernadine Reinhardt, a member of the Advisory Committee, feels that the lack of adequate numbers of DGWS officials was a major factor. This, coupled with the realization that it would be easier for everyone to understand the game if only one set of rules were used to govern all play at the high school level and the factor of similarity of rules mentioned above, undoubtedly made the decision easier to accept for those whose loyalties had always been with DGWS. In effect, the DGWS rules had become so similar to Federation Rules that the difference was no longer enough to quibble over.

The transition to Federation Rules was made easier by the acceptance of all DGWS Rating Boards as local officials' associations by the OHSAA Board of Control. More than a year's time was given to the DGWS boards to make application for the transfer.

22"Board Minutes, December 13, 1973," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (February, 1974), 14.4.


The 1974-75 basketball season was probably the first time in the history of basketball in Ohio that both boys and girls were playing under the same rules throughout the state in interscholastic contests.

CONDUCT OF THE SPORT

In 1947 the Advisory Committee put forth the following rationale in support of their effort to reinstate girls' interscholastic basketball on a modest basis after its eight-year absence:

First: The girl of senior high school age is reaching out beyond her childhood horizon for new experiences of a social nature; she has a real need to enjoy and to learn from girls outside her immediate community; and with proper supervision we can, in a very wholesome way, use the medium of sports as one means to provide her with this opportunity.

Second: The high school girls should not be subjected to the emotional and physical strain of intense competition.

Third: The participation of many girls in a variety of team and individual sports is a more desirable educational goal than concentration on one sport for a highly select group. High school sports should condition girls for their recreational activities in the post-school years.

We enlist your interest in the spirit as well as the letter of the following rules and regulations.

This introduction to the proposed rules places emphasis on the philosophy of competition of that era. The placement of the social benefits to be derived from the competitive experience, as the first item mentioned, should not be overlooked. The memories of the complete emphasis on the sport of basketball in the programs of the twenties and

25 Members of the Committee at this time were Grace B. Daviess, Alva R. Edwards, Harriet V. Fitchpatrick, Hulda Heller, Emily Peterson, Hazel D. Rex, and Oladys E. Palmer, Chairman.

26 "Proposal to Expand Interscholastic Program for Girls," The Ohio High School Athlete, VI (May, 1947), 96.
thirties is very evident in the third point mentioned above. The idea of girls not being able to withstand the same kind of emotional and physical strain as boys is very evident in the second point. Conspicuous by its absence is any reference to the needs of the highly skilled athlete.

The proposed regulations included the following provisions:

1. The Association shall not organize any city, district or state championship tournaments for high school girls in any sport.

2. No school belonging to this Association shall permit within the school the organization of girls' athletic teams or leagues for the purpose of playing school tournaments to determine city, district or state championships. The penalty for infraction of this rule shall be suspension of the entire school from Ohio High School Athletic Association activities during the current school year.

3. No school belonging to this Association shall participate in the approved interscholastic sports events for girls unless the school employs a woman teacher of Physical Education. Penalty: Same as rule 2.

4. Girls enrolled in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve in schools belonging to the Association may participate in the approved interscholastic sports events.

5. A school may invite one or more than one school for the purpose of playing in one activity or more than one activity. No school shall schedule more than three interscholastic events during the school year in the same activity.

6. These events may be arranged on Saturday or during any day of the school week so long as the entire program is finished by 6:00 P.M. or before dark.

7. In connection with each event an informal social activity must be planned for all participants. This should be designed for the purpose of providing an opportunity for the participants of each school to become acquainted.

8. There shall be no paid admissions at the gate and no collections shall be taken up during the event.

9. Interscholastic games between girls' teams shall not be played prior to or following a game between boys' teams.
10. There shall be no men coaches for girls' interscholastic activities.

11. No team of girls shall compete against a team of boys, but teams made up of both boys and girls may participate in standard events in the following activities: archery, badminton, bowling, deck tennis, equitation, figure ice skating, figure roller skating, golf, horseshoe pitching, riflery, shuffleboard, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

12. No invitation shall be accepted if it necessitates an overnight trip.

13. The form of transportation used shall be approved by school authorities.

14. A woman teacher of Physical Education, or another woman faculty member appointed by the Principal, must accompany her school group.

15. Only women officials, or high school girls approved by the Physical Education teachers of the schools concerned, shall be used as officials in the contests.

16. In team games only rules approved for girls' use by the National Section on Women's Athletics of The American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation shall be used. (Address: N.S.W.A., 1201-16th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.)

17. No awards shall be given for participation in any interscholastic game.

18. Each participant shall file with the high school Principal a written statement, on form provided, from her parent or guardian approving her participation in interscholastic events.

19. It is recommended that each participant file with the high school Principal a statement from a physician, based on an examination given during the current school year, approving her participation in competitive sports.

20. Any girl who is not a regular participant in the same activity in the school's intramural program for the current year is ineligible.

21. During interscholastic events no girl may play in more than one game of basketball, hockey, soccer, softball, speedball or volleyball.

22. Any girl who is a member of a team in a league organized outside the school may not participate interscholastically in the same activity during the same season.
23. Any girl who accepts any award for her school participation from any source outside the school is ineligible.

24. Any girl who is under penalty of discipline in her school, or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible.

25. The school extending an invitation shall file an official form describing each interscholastic event. This form, provided by the Association, shall be filed in the state office within a week after the event. (This requirement will provide the Association with information for evaluation of this experimental program.)

26. Violation by any school of rules 4 through 25 shall mean the suspension of girls' interscholastic activities for this school for the remainder of the current school year. Girls of member schools shall not play schools which have violated these rules without incurring the same penalty.

April 14, 1947.

Going back to Chapter II, "Background to the 1940 Decision," one can go right down the line in identifying the criticisms of the early programs of interscholastic basketball with the proposed rules as stated above. Following is a list of the criticisms previously cited in this paper and the number of the proposed rule(s) designed to alleviate the criticism:

Poor leadership - Rule 3, 10
Officiating - Rule 15
Over-emphasis on winning - Rule 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
Girls pushed beyond limits of their endurance - Rule 5, 19, 22
Program serving only a few girls - Rule 20
Outside influences on the program - Rule 2, 6, 8
Morals - Rule 3, 10, 14

Writing an article in support of the proposed new rules, Gladys Palmer assured Ohio high school principals that these new rules would not mean a return to the conditions of the thirties, as had been reported in some Ohio newspapers. She goes on to assure the administrators that "the adoption of these regulations will assure the school principals that there cannot be a return to any of the 'do or die' contests in basketball or in any other sport." She also stressed that if the recommendations were approved, the Advisory Committee would continue for a year in order to evaluate the rules and suggest possible revisions.

The new rules as proposed were passed by referendum December 29, 1947. In the same issue of The Ohio High School Athlete that contained the new rules, there was also an article which, from its tone, gave the impression that there was dissatisfaction with the new regulations before they had really gone into effect.

Now just what can be done about these regulations if, in your opinion, they are not satisfactory for the state of Ohio? If you will read Article 12 on page 9 of the 1948-49 Constitution and Rules (every member school has no less than one copy) you will note that an amendment may be initiated "by a petition signed by fifty member-schools." We cannot revoke the whole plan adopted by referendum for girls' interscholastic athletics or any other referendum within a period of three years from date of adoption but we can modify or amend at any time by referendum. If your local problem as regards this

28Gladys Palmer, "Important Girls' Interscholastic Athletics," The Ohio High School Athlete, VII (September-October, 1947), 9.

29Palmer, p. 9.

30"Girls' Interscholastic Athletics," The Ohio High School Athlete, VIII (September, 1948), 1.
girls' program or any other program elicits the support of fifty schools to the extent of complying with Article 12 page 9, then the proposal must be submitted.\textsuperscript{31}

Evidently there was a good response to the Advisory Committee's efforts to secure opinions regarding the new rules. The Committee, now composed of Gladys Palmer of Ohio State University, chairman, Martha Cunningham of Trumbull County, Grace Daviess of the University of Cincinnati, Harriet Fitchpatrick of Cleveland, Hulda Heller of Piqua, Emily Peterson of Grandview, and Mrs. Frances Strine of Marion County, met with the Board of Control on April 23, 1949, for the purpose of discussing their evaluation of the rules, which had gone into effect in September 1948, and their suggestions for revisions. The Advisory Committee had sent a questionnaire to all schools and had studied reports and letters which had been sent to the OHSAA. Their proposal for revision of the rules came as a result of their study of the information obtained from these sources. After considering the report item by item, the Board of Control agreed to submit it for referendum.

The revised rules differed from the 1948 rules in the following respects: Omitted from the revision was Rule 3 having to do with the requirement that a school must employ a woman teacher of physical education, Rule 6 requiring contests on school days to be completed by 6:00 P.M. or by dark, Rule 12 prohibiting overnight trips, Rule 20 requiring all interscholastic participants to be intramural participants as well, and Rule 22 prohibiting participation on teams outside the school.

\textsuperscript{31}"The Girls' Interscholastic Program," \textit{The Ohio High School Athlete}, VIII (September, 1948), 7.
The new Rule 6 stated that

all sports shall be taught, coached and officiated by qualified faculty women whenever and wherever possible. It is recognized that this is sometimes impossible in schools enrolling 150 or fewer girls. All coaches shall be certified teachers locally employed by the Board of Education and their entire salary shall be paid by that body.\(^{32}\)

This modified the strict sanction against men coaches and officials in the original rules.

New Rule 10 stressed the fact that an interscholastic program should benefit the participants.

The results of competition should be judged by the school administration in terms of benefits to the participants rather than by the winning of championships, or the athletic or commercial advantage to schools.\(^{33}\)

This rule replaced the previous rules against tournaments.

The revised rules made it mandatory that participants have physical examinations prior to participation in some sports including basketball. Scholastic eligibility requirements were set forth as an addition to the rules. The number of games permitted in basketball was raised from three to eight per season. Some awards were permitted under the new rules, but there were strict limits on their monetary value and sweaters and jackets were specifically forbidden. The penalties for violations of the rules were made uniform. All rule violations were punishable by disqualification of the school from further participation in girls' interscholastic contests for the sport in which the violation occurred.


\(^{33}\)Proposed Revision, p. 98.
No time limit regarding the length of the disqualification was mentioned.\textsuperscript{34} This change protected the boys' program from suffering due to violations by the girls' teams. This very thing had happened earlier in the history of OHSAA in connection with girls' basketball. In a game played November 10, 1939, between Monroe Township and Zanesfield, Monroe Township used an eighth-grade girl as one of its players. Only students in grades nine through twelve were permitted to play interscholastically. The Monroe Township School was placed on probation for one year as a result of the incident.\textsuperscript{35}

These proposed changes were presented to the member schools for a referendum, along with a proposal presented as a result of a petition by fifty member schools. The Advisory Committee proposal passed 401 to 235. The proposal coming by petition was defeated 131 to 490.\textsuperscript{36} (No copy of the petition proposal could be found.)

The regulations in effect in 1960 when the Advisory Committee published the booklet, \textit{Girls' Athletics in Ohio}, were the same ones which had been approved in 1949.\textsuperscript{37} The only exception was the provision made in 1952 to permit the use of QMBA, if desired.\textsuperscript{38} It was not until 1962

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{34}Proposed Revision, p. 98.
\textsuperscript{35}"Board Minutes, January 6, 1940," Minute Book Number 2, in the files of OHSAA, p. 139.
\textsuperscript{37}Advisory Committee, 1960.
\end{flushright}
that the Advisory Committee and the Board of Control began work on revisions of the regulations. At their November meeting, members of the Board of Control received a copy of the revisions proposed by the Advisory Committee.\(^3\) The Board of Control, in what may have been an effort to prevent the extensive and immediate changes which followed the institution of the 1948 regulations, voted at their December meeting to provide funds for the Advisory Committee to conduct six district meetings for the purpose of securing additional suggestions for the Proposed Revision of Regulations for Girls' Interscholastic Athletics.\(^4\) The following October the Board of Control unanimously passed the following resolution:

> That the Revised Regulations for Girls' Interscholastic Athletics be submitted to the member schools of the Association for a referendum during December of the 1963-64 school year. Since very few new rules and regulations have been added, and since the revisions consist of editorial changes to clarify former interpretations, rules and regulations, the ballot will be either FOR or AGAINST the entire proposal.\(^5\)

The proposal was approved by member schools by a vote of 494 to 51.\(^6\) Some of the changes made were:

- A rule was added prohibiting participation on an independent team.
- A statement to the effect that all boys' rules applied to girls, also, unless otherwise noted in the girls' rules section, was included.

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3. "Board Minutes - November 26, 1962," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXII (February, 1963), 120.


5. "Board Minutes - October 23, 1963," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXIII (December, 1963), 83.

Only DOWS rules were to be used for all contests.

One paid admission contest per sport per year was permitted.

The rule on awards was changed to read as follows:

Approved athletic awards which may be accepted by the pupil from any source consist of those usually given such as letters, ribbons, scrolls, banners, medals, charms, gold basketballs, baseballs, track insignia, lapel pins, plaques, cups, trophies and college scholarships provided the amount of the scholarship is paid directly to the college of choice by the donors.43

Penalties for rule infractions were changed to vary according to the seriousness of the infraction. They could vary from warning through probation to suspension.44

The next rule changes came about in September 1969, to become effective June 1, 1970. These changes included prohibition of scrimmages against college level and adult independent teams, permission for paid admissions, mandatory game contracts between schools, increased number of contests in any one sport from eight to twelve, and two contests per week permitted if not played on consecutive days.45 These rules were approved in the referendum by a vote of 369 to 52. Of the 823 ballots mailed 437 were returned (16 returned ballots were void).46

The increase in the amount of competition in basketball and other girls' interscholastic sports could be seen in the frequency of the

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rules' changes occurring during this era. Another referendum concerning the girls' rules was put before the member schools in December 1973.

In this vote the length of the season was expanded to include three pre-season scrimmages and one post-season tournament. The tournament was limited to five games or less. The rule on number of games per week was amended to read that contests could not be scheduled on consecutive school days, thus making a Friday-Saturday game schedule possible. The length of the conditioning period was changed once again. This time the requirement was set at one full week before competing in any inter-scholastic contest. The changes were approved 530 to 67.47

The increased number of ballots returned in the 1973 referendum (597) as compared to the 437 returned in 1969 was indicative of the increased interest and amount of girls' competition. (See also Chapter VIII, page 122.)

An interesting vote was taken on May 17, 1973, with regard to girls' basketball. This motion was stated as follows:

Moved by Don Gatchell, seconded by Blair Irwin that basketball be designated a contact sport. Motion approved 3-2 on a roll call vote. Gatchell-yes; Irwin-yes; Webster-yes; Bachman-no; Sponsoller-no.48

The event which precipitated this vote was reported elsewhere in the same issue of The Ohio High School Athlete.

Ohio HB #708 introduced into Legislature permits girls to be on the same athletic teams as boys in public and private high schools in non-contact sports. The bill

47"December 1973 Referendum Results," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (February, 1973), 154.

specifically bars state or local boards of education, the OHSAA and the State Department of Education from barring qualified females from participating. Does this bill open the door for future bills and other Legislature rule changes? 49

While this bill was never enacted into law, it did mark the beginning of intense efforts on the part of all concerned to provide equal opportunities for girls in the area of athletics in Ohio high schools.

For the first time a complete set of specific regulations for basketball was published in November 1973. These had been approved by the Board of Control in June 1973. 50 The complete set of regulations was:

ELIGIBILITY - All participants must be eligible under the rules of the OHSAA.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND MEETS must be approved by the OHSAA according to Rule 9, Section 2 (of Girls' Section). Approval forms can be obtained by contacting the Association office.

CHECKLIST for basketball will be provided and mailed to all member schools sponsoring girls' basketball teams along with a current rule book.

RULES - DOWS Basketball Rules Reprint for the 1973-74 school year.

OFFICIALS - Approved officials shall be used in all girls' interscholastic basketball contests whenever and wherever possible. A listing of Basketball Officials (women) can be found in the OHSAA Approved Officials Book. Fees are established by the local school.

SEASON - (Recommendation) December - March.

CONDITIONING PERIOD - A minimum of two (2) full weeks (10 days) of conditioning and practice before the first game.

49 "Board Minutes - April 26, 1973," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (September, 1973), 19.

50 "Board Minutes - June 13, 14, 15, 16, 1973," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (September, 1973), 23.
LIMIT OF PARTICIPATION - A girl shall not be permitted to participate in more than four quarters during any one day. Any part of a quarter is to be considered as a full quarter. In an overtime game, the extended time shall be considered an extension of any of a girl's four quarters.

A basketball player may participate in both reserve and varsity games in any one day. However, an individual school could make their own ruling requiring that a girl may play in either varsity or reserve, but, [sic] not part of both.

REFERENCE - In addition to the OHSAA Girls' Rules and Regulations as written in the 1973-74 Constitution and Rules, refer to Boys' Rule 16 - BASKETBALL, which applies to Girls' Basketball.51

The provisions for length of season and length of the conditioning period were delineated further the following year. The length of time for conditioning and practice was lengthened to three weeks. Practice was not permitted prior to January 2 and the season was to end by the last Saturday in March. These rules were recommended for 1974-75 and mandatory for 1975-76.52

In December 1974 the Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee, which had been formed during the 1972-73 school year, brought a proposal for a state basketball tournament to the Board of Control. They recommended that the first tournament be held in 1975-76. The proposal included the suggestion that schools be divided into three classifications with sectional, district, regional, and state tournaments for each classification. No action was taken on the proposal at this meeting. Action was taken, however, to make the basketball regulations which had previously

51"Girls' Basketball Regulations," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (November, 1973), 70.

52"Girls' Interscholastic Sports Seasons," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (April, 1974), 197.
been designated as mandatory for the 1975-76 season now only recommended. They would become mandatory when OHSAA-sponsored tournaments began.\textsuperscript{53} Ironically, this was the 1975-76 season, as the Board of Control voted on January 23, 1975, to conduct a state tournament beginning in 1975-76.\textsuperscript{54}

When the mandatory regulations for the 1975-76 school year were published, the beginning of the practices for basketball season had been pushed back to the last Friday in November. This brought the beginning of the girls' season closer to the October 31 beginning of the boys' season.\textsuperscript{55} Another regulation which went into effect with the 1975-76 school year dealt with officials. The rule stated that "all girls' varsity basketball games must have one rated OHSAA basketball official and preferably two if at all possible."\textsuperscript{56} The dates for the beginning and ending of the season were repeated in the September issue of The Ohio High School Athlete, with the provisions for post-season play spelled out more explicitly. A team was permitted to play in a post-season tournament of not more than five games and then play in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament.\textsuperscript{57}

\textsuperscript{53}"Board Minutes - December 19, 1974," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (April, 1975), 211.

\textsuperscript{54}"Board Minutes - January 23, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (April, 1975), 213.


\textsuperscript{56}"Girls' Volleyball and Basketball Seasons to be Mandatory Effective with the 1975-76 School Year," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (April, 1975), 219.

\textsuperscript{57}"Girls' Interscholastic Sports Seasons 1975-76 Mandatory," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (September, 1975), 51.
The tournament divisions for the inaugural tournament provided for schools with 0 - 185 girls to be in the "A" division, 186 - 385 girls to be in the "AA" division, and 385 or more girls to comprise the "AAA" division.\textsuperscript{58} The other regulations having to do with the first state tournament will be discussed in a later chapter devoted exclusively to this event.

This chapter has traced the role of the OHSAA in the setting of standards for girls' interscholastic basketball play. This era saw a change in the game rules used. The traditional unwavering support of the Division for Girls' and Women's Sports and their rules came to an end in 1974 with the adoption of the NFHSAA rules. The degree of competition supported by OHSAA changed from none in the forties when interscholastic play was illegal, to very limited seasons (3 games) in 1968-69, to expanded seasons (12 games in 1970), to the sponsorship of the first state tournament in 1976.

\textsuperscript{58}"1974-75 and 1975-76 Girls' Classification of Member High Schools," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (January, 1975), 110.
CHAPTER V

THE NINETEEN FORTIES

The decade of the forties dawned with the shadow of a world war on the horizon. The picture for girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio was equally bleak. The OHSAA had just voted to ban interscholastic play for girls. Some writers in professional literature of sport and physical education were looking to sports to aid in the war effort. Ruth Atwell was saying that "competition will be important. We need that 'will-to-win.'"\(^1\) This "will-to-win" would not be gained through basketball by Ohio girls, however, as the OHSAA was unequivocal in its stand.

As one of the members of the Association has raised the question whether the penalty (suspension) will be enforced against schools maintaining girls' basketball after September 1, 1940, the Board agreed unanimously that the penalty would be imposed. Since the vote was decidedly against basketball for girls, it was felt that nothing could be accomplished by another ballot.\(^2\)

Ohio was not alone in its absence of girls' interscholastic basketball. In the 1940-41 school year, six other states did not permit interscholastic competition. These included Arizona, Nebraska, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Illinois. In ten other states

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\(^2\)"Minutes of State Board Meeting," *Ohio High School Athletic Association Bulletin*, XV (March-April, 1940), 15.
Interscholastic competition was not given much encouragement by the National Section on Women's Athletics (NSWA). This organization and most women physical educators were calling for a strong intramural program with play days or sports days as the only forms of extramural competition recommended. While the NSWA never officially disapproved of interscholastic competition, in practice it was not encouraged. The NSWA standards were ambiguous in their statements in this area. The following examples illustrate this point.

2. Each girl who is physically able to do so should be given a chance to participate in a variety of activities, both team and individual, and an opportunity to be a member of a team in those sports for which teams are organized.

3. Recognition should be given to every opportunity to secure acceptable results in all situations in which competition is carried on.

No support for interscholastic competition was found in a 1942 survey by Montgomery. She sent questionnaires to thirty-three individuals recommended by eleven national groups. These included both school and general recreation personnel. The respondents recommended intramural basketball or play days, disapproved state basketball tournaments, and recommended sports days be considered for basketball.


5Margaret M. Duncan, "Desirable Practices in Athletics for Girls and Women," Journal of Health and Physical Education, XII (September, 1941), 422.

While the majority were questioning the value of girls' interscholastics in general and girls' basketball in particular, there were voices speaking out for the benefits to be derived from such programs. In a 1941 article Claude V. Courter, Superintendent of Schools in Cincinnati, was quoted in the foreword to the Handbook for the Cincinnati Public School Athletic Leagues.

A complete program of physical education and health should include the program inside the school which is part of the complete curriculum, an extensive program of intramural activities in which all may participate for play and recreation out of school hours, and a program of interschool competition conducted on high levels of performance, sportsmanship, and fair play for the athletically more gifted individuals within the school. Some may argue that the last of these three classifications of activity is undesirable, that it constitutes a wrong emphasis, that when the object of winning is made too important the attendant evils overshadow other values. It is the viewpoint, however, of Cincinnati school people that interschool competition has its place in the total program, that it furnishes an outlet for the expression of athletic skills under wholesomely supervised and controlled conditions which satisfy many students who would otherwise find their satisfactions in an undesirable environment, and that this activity may be made to have large values for the student body as a whole.

Because of this belief, the Boys' Public School Athletic League and the Girls' Public School Athletic League were organized many years ago and have functioned effectively over the years in emphasizing the socially constructive values of this activity to the schools and the important personal values to the participants.7

Rhetoric such as this could not blot out the changes that were occurring. Conspicuous by its absence was any picture or reference to the once highly respected girls' basketball team in the Shawnee

7"Athletics in the Total Life of the School," Journal of Health and Physical Education, XII (February, 1941), 89.
High School yearbook, Quilna, of 1941. In the southwestern part of the state, Mary Nell Griffin reported that Norwood High School had no girls' teams at any time during the forties. The central area of the state was also in strict compliance with the ruling. Joanne VanSant was not aware of any interscholastic play by girls in the Granville-Newark area when she graduated from Denison University in 1948. The same situation was reported by Marilyn Whisler as she recalled her student days at Kettering High School in the Dayton area in the middle forties. Jean Kreischer, daughter of one of the members of the 1926 Struthers High School team which played in the Hempstead, Long Island, national tournament, confirmed that during her high school days from 1942-1946 in Boardman, near Youngstown, no interscholastic basketball existed.

One wonders whether the following report of an athletic club was an accurate reflection of what was or whether it was an attempt to apply the principles of positive thinking to conditions which had been mandated by others. This item appeared in a 1940 issue of The Ohio Physical and Health Education Association Bulletin.

At Warren Consolidated High School, Tiltonsville, Ohio, the Girls' Athletic Club has won a place in the extra-curricular

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8Quilna (Lima: Shawnee High School, 1941).

9Mary Nell Griffin, personal interview, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, August 8, 1976.


program of the school. This activity was started in order to meet the need resulting from discontinuing girls' interschool basketball in Ohio. At the present time it is more than a substitute for something else. It stands upon its own merits as a successful activity of greater value and interest than the sport it replaced.13

Although this author found no instances of outright violation of the OHSAA ruling, some ingenious ways were employed to have interscholastic play of a sort. One method used was to switch one player with the other school. The team could no longer be considered a school team since it had at least one person from the opposing school playing on it.14 This method of trading players was used by Bexley High School, according to Margaret Love, a teacher and coach at Bexley from 1946 to 1965. Ms. Love was not aware of any teams in the Columbus area who were in open violation of the OHSAA Rule.15 In the Cleveland area, Marjorie Hower found another way to provide a very limited interscholastic experience for her students at Strongsville High School. This was a very small school at the time (1941-1943) with only twenty to thirty in its graduating class. Ms. Hower, the physical education teacher and coach, wrote to OHSAA and obtained written permission to hold one basketball sports day each year with Medina High School. On


15Margaret Love, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, September 8, 1976.
this day the two teams played as school teams. The Strongsville girls were selected from the girls who took part in the all-star basketball game. This was a Girls' Athletic Association-sponsored activity growing out of the intramural basketball tournament. The coach and mothers of the players provided transportation to the game. After the Saturday afternoon game the teams sat down to a potluck dinner also provided by the mothers. The game was played using NAGWS Rules and was officiated by the opposing coaches. The letter asking for permission to play this game stated that it would provide a valuable educational experience for the participants which could not be achieved in the local school program.\textsuperscript{16}

**MOVES TOWARD REINSTATEMENT OF GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

By the mid-forties the elimination of girls' interscholastic basketball was no longer seen as the solution to the problems which had existed in the thirties. Morie McBride, a teacher at John Hay High School in Cleveland, argued in an article in *The Ohio High School Athlete* that many schools were playing one class team against the same class team from another school and finding it to be highly satisfactory and that it was time to recognize this as interscholastic play. The author did warn, however, that no attempts to enlarge upon programs should be made until there were adequate numbers of trained physical education personnel who were aware of the dangers and pitfalls of the former programs.\textsuperscript{17} The lack of interscholastic basketball for girls

\textsuperscript{16} Marjorie A. Hower, personal interview, Columbia Station, Ohio, October 13, 1976.

\textsuperscript{17} Morie McBride, "Competition for Girls. Now and Tomorrow. Part II," *The Ohio High School Athlete*, IV (May, 1945), 95.
was also being felt at the college level. In 1946 Mary Yost expressed her concerns in an article also published in *The Ohio High School Athlete*. Students were coming into college with very little basketball experience. In explaining the problem the author noted that

... in many rural sections, the enrollment is so small that an intramural program is not stimulating due to the lack of competition. In other places the clamor against the evils of inter-scholastic basketball has caused a reaction against basketball as a whole. In some places elimination of girls' basketball has resulted in more time for the boys. Women have argued so long for women coaches and women officials that many have forgotten that having a well-qualified coach is more important than having a woman. No game that is taught or officiated by a well-meaning incompetent is likely to become popular. 18

Not only had Ms. Yost brought attention to some of the negative results of the 1940 ruling, but she also brought to light another problem which was not to be solved quickly or easily. This was the problem of an adequate number of qualified coaches and whether they should all be females.

By the mid-forties it had become evident that the schools were no longer meeting the needs of the highly skilled girl in basketball.

It was also evident that she was not to be denied an outlet for her skills. Girls were seeking playing opportunities wherever they could be found. Wilson quotes Helen Norman Smith of the University of Cincinnati regarding the results of the 1940 ruling.

It helped for a while to clear up the situation, but it neglected the girls with a high degree of skill. Thus, many girls, especially in industrial areas, elected to play on commercial teams, Church teams, and so forth--this was true in Cleveland, Toledo, Akron, Cincinnati--resulting in commercialization. 19


19 Helen Norman Smith in Wilson, p. 65.
The truth of the above statement was supported by Lucille Stoll in reporting the results of a survey taken in the Cleveland area. The findings were that hundreds of girls were participating in basketball leagues outside of the school. The vast majority of the girls were playing using boys' rules and were being coached by men. As Stoll saw the situation, the problems associated with girls' basketball had not been solved but rather moved to gymnasiums not under the control of school authorities. As she so aptly puts it,

... the trained leader succeeded in sweeping her doorstep clean by throwing the problem into the lap of the general public whose actions originally were responsible for the undesirable conditions present at interschool games.20

Playing on outside teams using boys' rules was exactly the solution to the problem of having no school team described by Norma Smith in an earlier chapter. Her experience was in the Canton area. Stoll goes on to argue that education's job is to develop individuals to the maximum possible degree. This needs to be done whether one is concerned with English or physical education. Interscholastic basketball is needed to meet the needs of the highly skilled, she concluded.21

Having realized that prohibition was not the solution, a proposal for reinstituting girls' interscholastic basketball was made in 1947. This proposal is discussed in detail in Chapter IV. The editor of the Ohio Physical and Health Education Association, Delbert Oberteuffer,

21Stoll, p. 78.
wrote an editorial supporting the proposed regulations in the September-
October issue of The Ohio High School Athlete. He calls the proposal
"one of the most significant set of recommendations concerning com-
petitive sports for girls which we have seen for many a year." In
Oberteuffer's opinion the new regulations would put Ohio far out among
the leaders in the regulations of girls' sports. He felt that the pro-
posal addressed the problem in girls' sports, namely the way the games
were conducted. He closed the editorial as follows:

Editorially speaking, we are heartily in favor of a
controlled program of interscholastic sports for girls.
We believe the prohibition of such sport to be foolish.
We also recognize, however, that sport for girls can survive
in the best interests of the girls only if acceptable controls
are completely enforced. These proposals seem to us to be a
step in the right direction. They may even be the complete
answer. We hope they are approved by the membership and given
a thorough and honest trial.

While the proposed regulations permitting three games per year
were passed, as discussed earlier, they did not become the ultimate
answer Oberteuffer envisioned. The clamor for immediate change
resulted in their being revised the year after they went into effect.
All of the changes are chronicled in Chapter IV of this document. One
of the most significant changes increased the number of games permitted
per year to eight.

22Delbert Oberteuffer, "Girl's Athletics," The Ohio High School
Athlete, VII (September-October, 1947), 13.

23Oberteuffer, p. 13.
RESUMPTION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC PLAY

The opportunity to play interscholastic basketball, denied for eight years, was seized by the girls in Middletown. Marilyn Day recalled her participation on the Middletown High School team in 1948-49. This team played a maximum schedule permitted of three games against Hamilton, Monroe, and Miamisburg. Their enthusiasm could be gauged by their willingness to practice at six o'clock in the morning, the only time the girls could get the gymnasium. The games were played in the afternoons before a few spectators who were mostly parents of the players. The physical education teacher served as coach of the team and also as one of the game officials. NSGWS Rules were used.24 The lack of importance attached to these games in the late forties by school administrators can be inferred from information obtained from Frank Young, former Superintendent of Miamisburg Schools, who recalled no girls' interscholastic basketball being played by Miamisburg until the early sixties.25 This conflicts with the information obtained from the interview with Marilyn Day and the information in her high school yearbook. The games evidently were of little concern to this school administrator.

In Twinsburg, near Cleveland, the girls also played a three-game schedule. The pattern here was the same with the physical education teacher, Harriet Stewart, serving as the coach. They were a bit more fortunate than Middletown in their practice time. They practiced after school but only after threatening to come back to practice at eight in


the evening. This would have been a violation of OHSAA Rules (see Chapter IV, page 60, number 6) and would have made the entire school subject to disciplinary action. The program was supported by donations from mothers of the players. They too used NSGWS rules. This program was typical of other schools in this area.26

While there were schools who immediately took advantage of being able to play interscholastic basketball, this was not the case in many schools especially those in most of the large cities of the state. It would be many years before all girls in Ohio would have the opportunity to compete in interscholastic basketball.

26 Harriet Stewart, personal interview, Delaware, Ohio, September 15, 1976.
CHAPTER VI
THE NINETEEN FIFTIES

At the half century mark girls' basketball in Ohio was being reborn, thanks to the changes made in the OHSAA regulations in 1947. A few schools had immediately taken advantage of the new rules and instituted teams, but, for the vast majority of Ohio schoolgirls, basketball at the interscholastic level was only a dream. This chapter will assess the amount of competition present during the decade of the fifties and point to some of the factors which were limiting its growth.

One of the pressures which caused member schools of OHSAA to change the rules was now operating to encourage schools to form teams. This was the type of competition being offered by agencies, such as city recreation departments, outside the schools. These teams often did not concern themselves with the health, safety, and welfare of the participants, but they did give the highly skilled player a chance to compete. These experiences encouraged the schoolgirls to clamor for interscholastic play. Another factor which encouraged the growth of interscholastic play was the rapid rise of women to championship levels of play, such as Maureen Connolly in tennis and Babe Didrikson Zaharias in golf. While growth at this time was largely in the individual sports areas, the ripple effect it had aided the cause of team sports as well.¹

While high level play for girls was beginning to grow, school superintendents were not yet encouraging it in the form of state high school tournaments for girls. Jacobs cites an unpublished 1955 study by Dr. Charles C. Cowell of Purdue University in which he surveyed 355 school superintendents on whether they believed state basketball tournaments for girls were educationally defensible. The following returns were obtained for the Midwest region of the country: Yes - 0, No - 48. Results for other geographic areas were similar. The total replies were: Yes - 17, No - 321. Ohio was not conducting a state tournament at this time, nor was there any serious talk of establishing one.

Jane D. White, Head of the Physical Education Department at Lake Erie College for Women in Painesville, Ohio, wrote in 1951 that the form of interscholastic basketball competition was beginning to change from the sports day format to one of "varsity" type teams. This level of play should not be confused with the type of play usually associated with the boys' varsity teams. The atmosphere surrounding girls' games of this period was revealed by OHSAA Commissioner, H. W. Emswiler, as he reviewed the history and purpose of the Girls' Advisory Committee for a meeting at the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education,


Recreation Association Convention in 1958. He pointed out that the Committee worked under the following recommendations, originally put forth in 1947:

1. That interscholastic athletics for girls should serve as a medium for social events.

2. That interscholastic athletics for girls not serve as a medium for intense competition.

3. That interscholastic athletics for girls assist in providing a wide variety in the program.

Further insight into the thinking of the Committee can be gleaned from this quotation taken from an unpublished paper by Bernadine Reinhardt, a teacher of physical education in the Lima area and later a member of the State Advisory Committee.

... There is virtue in the interschool experience, that evil is largely a matter of administration and thus can be controlled with adequate criteria. The key is largely in administrative arrangements which are established. If gate receipts are abolished and the games are supported as part of the total program, if the events are social as well as athletic, if chaperonage is adequate and intelligent, if players have fun while they play, if tournaments and championships are forgotten, the games become what they were intended to be, educational experiences.

A student participant in an interscholastic contest wrote as follows concerning her perceptions of a game of basketball involving Fremont Ross High School. After describing the refreshments which were served


following the game, the speeches by coaches, captains, and referees, and the songfest which concluded the social hour, she concluded that games of this sort played between girls help to establish friendly relationships, start new friendships, and acts as an outlet for the much desired want of playing a team from a rival in all other sports. Eating after a game gives a little time to talk and everyone leaves with a friendlier feeling. I would certainly suggest more of these.

The mood of the fifties was certainly one of attempting to have interscholastic basketball for girls be more than an outlet for participation by the highly skilled. There was a very sincere effort to use the interscholastic experience to achieve other educational goals, especially in the area of social development and sportmanship. In fact, these goals probably overshadowed the development of highly skilled play. Perhaps because the boys' programs had play of a much higher caliber, the faults the women leaders found in the boys' program were associated with the level of skill found in their games.

EXTENT OF PLAY IN OHIO

As can be seen from the following statistics gathered by Hand in 1955, opportunities for play were quite limited. Of sixteen exempted village school systems answering his questionnaire, only fifty-five percent had any type of interscholastic experience for girls. The majority were not on a varsity team basis. The form of competition was that of sports days. Women physical education teachers provided the leadership for the programs with finances secured from sources other than the board.

6"A Student's Viewpoint," The Ohio High School Athlete, X (April, 1951), 104.
of education. Exactly the same results were found in the answers from twenty-one city school districts. The fifteen county local systems who answered the questionnaire had a slightly higher percentage of schools offering some interscholastic experiences—sixty-four percent. The study in question did not give any breakdown as to what sports were offered; one can only assume that the percentage of schools having interscholastic basketball teams was probably somewhat lower than the percentages listed above.

In an effort to determine whether the growth of interscholastic basketball opportunities was consistent throughout the state, persons associated with schools in various areas of the state were interviewed to determine the extent of programs in their respective areas. Shirley Babitt, former teacher in the Cleveland system and currently Supervisor of Girls' Physical Education for Cleveland Public Schools, explained that during the fifties the only programs available to Cleveland school girls were those operated by the Cleveland Recreation Department. It was possible for schools to participate in this program as a school team. Whether they did or not was up to the individual physical education teacher. The program, known as "Daisy Mae" basketball, was not limited to school teams. Teams were also sponsored by community centers, YMCA's, and the Catholic Youth Organization.


8Shirley A. Babitt, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, January 13, 1977.
One of the schools who participated in the "Daisy Mae" program was Shaw High School in East Cleveland. Norma Smith, former physical education teacher at Shaw, explained the program which existed during the late fifties. Their first participation was in 1956. When they joined the league, they were the only high school team in it. Most of the teams were from Cleveland recreation centers. The Shaw team was selected from the girls competing in their intramural basketball program. Financial support for the team came from Girls' Athletic Association funds. These were largely a result of an all-star game known as the Army-Navy game. This game had been played for a number of years prior to Shaw's participation in the "Daisy Mae" program. The "Daisy Mae" League played using NSWA rules and hired NSWA rated officials for their games. The Shaw team had excellent support from their school administrators and from the parents of team members. Parents often came to the recreation centers where they paid an admission price to watch the girls play. The team practiced about two times per week in the old gymnasium at the high school in preparation for their games.  

Jane Pease, a veteran official in the Cleveland area, recalled that the popular form of competition for the highly skilled girl in this era was the all-star game within a school itself. This is the only type of high school games she remembers doing other than "Daisy Mae."  

9Norma J. Smith, personal interview, Canton, Ohio, December 24, 1976.  
10Jane Pease, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, May 6, 1977.
In the Lake County area east of Cleveland, Dolores A. Billhardt, a student at Willoughby High School from 1954 to 1956, and presently Assistant Commissioner of OHSAA, had no high school team on which to participate. The only play she remembers was intramural and a team selected from intramural players going to Cleveland to play in some type of tournament.\(^{11}\) (This may have been a session set up by the Cleveland Board of Women Officials to rate prospective officials.)

Moving toward the central part of the state, Margaret Hanslik, physical educator at Millersburg Junior and Senior High Schools, related what the girls' basketball competition was like in that area from 1950 to 1956, while she was associated with that school system. They played four or five games per year. After they had played the basketball game as school teams, they would mix players and play something else, such as volleyball, and then have refreshments. When questioned regarding this rather unusual practice of playing another activity with players from the two schools mixed, the only explanation given was that there seemed to be a local tradition against girls' interscholastic teams and this arrangement was designed because of this tradition.

During the boys' basketball season the Millersburg girls practiced on Tuesdays after school. When the boys ended their season, the girls used the gym every night after school for two to three weeks. This was when the girls had their all-star game and their interscholastic games. The Millersburg team played teams from Wooster, Loudonville, and Medina. Sometimes the teams would play a home-and-home series in the same year.

\(^{11}\)Dolores A. Billhardt, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.
Games were played according to NSWA rules. Sometimes college students were used as officials, in which case they were paid travel expenses and given a meal. Most of the time the teachers (coaches) officiated.

Games were played after school and on Saturdays by the Millersburg girls. Few spectators attended, although the community was receptive to the program, except for the Amish, who did not permit their daughters to participate. No admission was charged to spectators who did come. Any needed funds came from the Girls' Athletic Association. Sometimes school buses were made available for transportation to away games. The school principal, to whom the coach was directly responsible, was quite cooperative.12

In the Canton area Florence Barr had a similar program in the mid-fifties at Canton South High School. The girls played five or six games per year. Most games were away games due to the unavailability of the gym for girls' use. The team practiced about once a week whenever the gym was available. Transportation for away games was provided by the coach and parents. NSWA rules were used and rated officials were hired for the games. The usual method of financing existed at South High, namely Girls' Athletic Association funds raised by means of an all-star basketball game. Although the coach received permission to conduct the interscholastic program from the principal, she was not aware of the rules of OHSAA governing play for girls. In 1957 when Ms. Barr moved to Canton Glenwood High School, a similar program was started. One difference was that her the girls practiced and played their games

12 Margaret Hanslik, personal interview, Columbia Station, Ohio, October 13, 1976.
Bernadine Reinhardt began teaching physical education in the Lima area in 1951 at Herrod High School. She coached a girls' team there which played a schedule of games using NSWA rules. In 1953, when she began teaching at nearby Shawnee High School, they did not have a team. She organized a team which began playing in 1954. The team was financed through the Girls' Athletic Association. According to Ms. Reinhardt, most of the other schools in the Lima area started girls' basketball teams in the late fifties.14

A short distance from Lima, Helen Ludwig was coaching and teaching at Ada High School. She began her career in 1954. Ada had a girls' team at this time which played three to six games per year. The team supported themselves by selling different items. Their expenses were minimal, however, as they had no uniforms, parents provided transportation, and games were officiated by high school boys who did so without pay. The team practiced one or two days per week after school, whenever the gym was available. Games were played in the afternoons following school.15

Unlike the Columbus City Schools Bexley High School in the suburban Columbus area had an active program of interscholastic play throughout the fifties. The emphasis of this program was slightly different than what one usually thinks of when considering interscholastic play.

13 Florence Barr, personal interview, Canton, Ohio, December 23, 1976.
15 Helen Ludwig, personal interview, Delaware, Ohio, September 15, 1976.
Rather than having only one varsity team, each class had a team. This was consistent with the philosophy of the coach, Margaret Love (later the State Supervisor for Girls' Physical Education), who wanted broad participation on the part of the students. This philosophy was also evident in the amount of time devoted to the interscholastic phase of the program at Bexley. An equal amount of time was devoted to the intramural program. Usually there was one afternoon per week for intramural play and one afternoon for interscholastic play. There was never more than one game per week. The number of interscholastic games played per year increased as the rules of OHSAA changed permitting more games to be played. Most of the coaching of the girls actually took place in their physical education classes. When special practices were held, sometimes on Saturday mornings, all four class teams would practice at the same time. Games were played after school in the high school gymnasium. Parents often came to watch, but no admission was charged. NSWA rules were used and rated officials were hired to officiate the games. Funds for the program came from the Girls' Athletic Association where dues and money-making projects were the source of income.16

While Ms. Love reported that other Columbus suburban schools had similar programs, the number was evidently somewhat limited, for Joanne VanSant, an active member of the Central Ohio Board of Women Officials in the fifties, recalled that the vast majority of the games she

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16 Margaret Love, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, September 8, 1976.
The extent of interscholastic play for girls seems to have been quite limited in the fifties with respect to number of games played per year and number of schools having teams. The teams who were playing were playing with very abbreviated schedules and the conditions under which the games were played were, for the most part, less than ideal. Several persons interviewed reported there was no interscholastic play for girls in the school or area with which they were familiar. These persons included Margaret Creed Secrist who taught at Boardman in the Youngstown area from 1953-1956 and Marilyn Whisler who taught physical education in the Cincinnati area at Mariemont High School from 1950 to 1954 and at Norwood High School for the remainder of the fifties. It should be noted that in some of these schools there were active intramural programs and in some cases basketball playdays.

According to a participation survey conducted in 1955 by OHSAA, a total of 227 schools reported interscholastic teams for girls in basketball. The breakdown by OHSAA districts was as follows: Central 30, East 11, Northeast 47, Northwest 62, Southeast 4, and Southwest 73. Sixteen counties reported no competition in any sport for girls. Of the 192 schools answering the question concerning officials, 88 reported that the teacher or coach officiated without pay, 60 paid rated


officials from $2.50 to $10.00 per game, while 44 had high school or college students officiate without pay.\textsuperscript{19}

Later in the decade (1959) 600 questionnaires were sent to member high schools of the OHSSAA. Questions were to be answered using conditions existing during the 1958-59 school year. A 61 percent return from the questionnaires sent revealed that 194 of the 366 responding had no interscholastic program. Of the 172 who did have an interscholastic program, basketball was the most popular activity--61 percent had teams. Only 27 schools reported sponsoring six or more events (sports days or interscholastic contests) during the school year.\textsuperscript{20}

**NATIONAL TRENDS**

The gradual growth of competitive experiences for girls in Ohio was accompanied by changes taking place on the national scene. The Amateur Athletic Union and the Division for Girls and Women's Sports began to recognize each other's worth during the latter part of the fifties and the early sixties. Discussing these changes, Miller and Horky explain that

\begin{quote}
... the AAU gradually conceded that the standards of the physical educators were acceptable and worthy goals for all women in competitive sports. Paralleling this
\end{quote}


slowly evolving concept, the DGWS finally began to accept the fact that competitive athletics for women were a vital and worthwhile part of the culture pattern of most of the civilized world, and that sports programs for girl athletes were as important as such programs for girl non-athletes.21

A certain mellowing on the part of DGWS is reflected in their 1957 "Statement of Policies and Procedures for Competition in Girls and Women's Sports."

The Division for Girls and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation believes the competitive element in sports activities can be used constructively for achievement of desirable educational and recreational objectives. Competition in and of itself does not automatically result in desirable outcomes, but competitive experiences may be wholesome and beneficial if they occur under favorable conditions and result in desirable conduct and attitudes.22

This statement goes on to make a strong case for the needs of all skill levels to be served. The intent is clearly to guard against only the highly skilled being given opportunities, thus allowing instructional and intramural programs to suffer as a consequence. The most desirable forms of extramural competition listed are sports days, play days, and telegraphic meets. Interscholastic competition is recommended only when it does not interfere with the intramural and extramural program. The extramural program, it is pointed out, is not intended to be a season-long schedule of games, intensive leagues, or championships. For


interscholastic play the following conditions are recommended:

1. The health of the players is carefully supervised.

2. Girls and women are not exploited for the purpose of promotion.

3. The salary, retention, or promotion of an instructor is not dependent upon the outcome of games.

4. Qualified women teach, coach, and officiate wherever and whenever possible, and in any case the professional training and experience of the leader meets established standards.

5. The approved, published DGWS rules are used.

6. Schedules are limited, not to exceed maximum set in DGWS standards for specific sports as defined in DGWS Guides.

7. Games, where possible, are scheduled separately from the boys' games.

8. The program, including insurance for players, is financed by school funds and/or allocations of budget rather than gate receipts.

9. Provision is made by the school for safe transportation by bonded carriers with a chaperone responsible to the school accompanying each group.²³

These recommendations, while unmistakably calling for a different style of interscholastic program than was usually associated with boys' programs, nevertheless recognized interscholastic play as a desirable part of a comprehensive program for girls. Statements of desirable practices from the forerunner of DGWS, the NSW&A, published during the forties suggested competition between schools only in the form of

²³Division for Girls and Women's Sports, p. 58.
extramurals--play days, sport days, or telegraphic meets. Inter-
scholastic play as described in the 1957 statement was not mentioned.

PROGRAM LIMITATIONS

The decade of the fifties had produced significant growth in inter-
scholastic opportunities for girls. To be considered significant this
growth had to be viewed relatively rather than absolutely, however.
This point was made clear by information gathered in the previously
mentioned study by Drees in 1959. Of the schools replying to her survey,
sixty-nine percent spent one hundred dollars or less on their inter-
scholastic programs. Four hundred thirty dollars was the maximum amount
spent by any school. Of the 149 schools who reported playing basket-
ball, only fifty-five said that they had a pre-arranged schedule. Only
thirty-one percent of the supervisors or coaches of girls' teams
received payment indirectly through their assignment as Girls' Athletic
Association advisor. In drawing conclusions from her study, Drees found
the following weaknesses in Ohio programs of girls' interscholastics:
officiating (seventy-one percent reported using unrated officials for
their team sport contests), lack of social events in connection with
competition, use of non-bonded carriers for transportation, lack of
physical examinations for participants, and the low (forty-five percent)
percentage of schools offering interscholastic sports for girls.25

24 Margaret M. Duncan, "Desirable Practices in Athletics for Girls
and Women," Journal of Health and Physical Education, XII (September,
1941), p. 424.

25 Drees, pp. 36, 42, 52, 64, 75-78.
Earlier in the decade the problem of basketball officials had been given special attention by Pauline Hess. She pinpointed the probable causes of inadequate numbers of qualified officials in her 1952 study. At that time she noted that the recommended fee for a single game had not changed from 1928 when the first recommendation was made. The first change in this recommendation did not come until 1956, when the amount went from five to six dollars for a nationally rated official for a single game called by two officials. The reason for these fees remaining so low for so long was uncovered by Hess. Of the replies received from colleges asking if the fees were adequate, eighty-eight percent replied that they were. Even more surprising were the answers from fifty-four rating boards. (These rating boards were groups of women officials set up to administer the tests to qualify women for officiating and to keep rated officials up to date on changes in officiating techniques and rule changes.) Eighty-nine percent of these boards replied that the fees were adequate. The actual situation for the working official was even worse than the picture already painted. Only forty-nine percent of the boards said that they were being paid the suggested fees. It was no wonder that Drees found it necessary


28 Hess, pp. 60, 85-86.
to identify lack of rated officials as a major problem for Ohio's high schools.

Another problem which was recognized at the close of this decade on a national scale was not mentioned in any of the sources reviewed dealing with Ohio. This was the problem of lack of preparation of women coaches. Celeste Ulrich writing in the Basketball Guide for Girls and Women points out that

in this critical field of coaching, and most especially basketball coaching, we women have been most remiss in our responsibilities as teachers of advanced players . . .

All of those interviewed by this author who were coaching during the fifties were physical education teachers. None told of any special preparation they had had for coaching. It is difficult to ascertain the degree to which this factor slowed down the growth of interscholastic opportunities for girls. Ulrich, in the previously quoted article, describes the plight of the typical physical education teacher of this era.

Many times a woman did not coach the girls' basketball team because she felt inadequate as a person who would have her teaching judged every week, and because she did not feel comfortable doing something which she knew nothing about. She had never learned coaching because most teacher training departments for women in physical education have done a poor job with respect to coaching.

Significant, but slow, are adjectives describing the advancement of girls' interscholastic play in the fifties. Less than half of the

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30 Ulrich, p. 29.
schools were providing opportunities for play. Programs that were in existence were very low-key in nature. Schedules were quite limited. Financing of most programs came from funds raised by the students in their Girls' Athletic Associations—often by playing an all-star basketball game before an admission-paying crowd. Lack of funds meant little money was available to pay officials. The low fees received by officials discouraged women from becoming rated to officiate which contributed to the problem of inadequate numbers of qualified officials. Lack of women qualified to coach was almost certainly a contributing factor to the slow pace of the growth which occurred throughout this decade.
CHAPTER VII
THE NINETEEN SIXTIES

Transition was the word which characterized girls' interscholastic basketball in this ten-year time span. What was, at the beginning of this period, a very low-key, casual form of competition between schools became a much more highly organized form of competition. The OHSAA, who had had little need to be concerned with the girls' interscholastic program in the fifties, began to take a more active role in modifying regulations and monitoring what was happening throughout the state.

Women physical educators were feeling the changes taking place in the early part of the decade and were concerned. Two articles appeared in *The Ohio High School Athlete* by Colette Garrison, physical education teacher at Wadsworth High School, which enumerated some of these concerns. The first, a 1960 article expressed the writer's chagrin over the yearly changes in the DGWS Basketball Rules. Not only the frequency of the changes, but also the direction of the evolution of the changes was of concern.

> It seems to me the rules are leaning more and more in the direction of the rules used for the boys. Girls are not physiologically built to take the stress of running full court. Plus the fact that roughness might become the commonplace thing.¹

¹Colette Garrison, "Girl's Basketball Rules Good or Bad," *The Ohio High School Athlete*, XX (November, 1960), 47.
In the second article which appeared a few months later, Ms. Garrison emphasized the concept of the interscholastic program being an outgrowth of the intramural program. In her view,

... interscholastic competition for girls should not be, and is not in my program, based on the same type of competition level as the boys' program. Girls do not play team sports on the same level of intensity nor for as long a time as boys. Three or four interscholastic games in the different sports should satisfy their desire for competition.  

The two forces of change and conservatism present in the early sixties can easily be seen in an article by Katherine Ley, then national chairman of DGWS. She stated that

... when we see a constant drive for bigger and better competition, exploitation of players for more wins and fewer losses, the push for bigger gate receipts and headlines, women say, "if this is interscholastic athletics, we don't care for any." And a few women in the past have gone so far as to say that they would avoid the whole issue by having no competition except during class activities.  

Dr. Ley continued by stating that boys and girls are different. She specifically mentioned physiological and psychological differences and the differences in personal and social values. Also noted were the differences in activity experiences brought about by our culture. Because of these differences Dr. Ley concluded that competitive programs for girls should be different from those for boys. A weakness in the programs for girls at that time, Dr. Ley pointed out, was that they did not make adequate provisions for the highly skilled girl.

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2Colette Garrison, "A Place or the Place for Girls' Interscholastic Competition?" The Ohio High School Athlete, XX (April, 1961), 118.


4Ley, pp. 21-22, 24.
Ley's article was a mixture of calls for change and warnings concerning the necessity for those changes to be ones which recognized the differences between boys and girls. She was really calling for a creative program for meeting the needs of the highly skilled girls. What she did not want was a copy of boys' programs then in existence.

EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION

From the beginning of the sixties, OHSAA and its Advisory Committee showed a greater concern for the interscholastic programs for girls than they had previously. In 1960 they authorized a survey, done in cooperation with Louise Owen, to determine the extent of the girls' interscholastic program in Ohio. Of the 954 questionnaires sent to member schools of the OHSAA, 709 usable returns were obtained.

Ms. Owen found that sixty-one percent of the schools who responded were using the recommended DGWS rules for their classes, intramurals, and/or interscholastic basketball. Thirty percent were using the Basketball Rules for Girls published by the Girls' National Basketball Rules Committee for Secondary Schools. The remaining schools used either Amateur Athletic Union Rules or boys' rules. Interscholastic activity for girls was reported in all except fourteen counties of the state. Twelve of these fourteen counties were in the Eastern and Southeastern Districts of OHSAA. Thirty-two percent of the schools responding (227 schools) had interscholastic basketball for girls. In most schools (eighty-six percent) the girls' physical education teacher was responsible for the girls' athletic

5"Board Minutes - December 5, 1960," The Ohio High School Athlete, XX (February, 1961), 120.
program. Reasons given for not having an interscholastic program for girls were varied. The most frequently given response was lack of facilities or unavailability of facilities. Of the schools having an interscholastic program, eighty-eight percent also had an intramural program.6

In spite of the increased interest of the OHSAA in girls' programs, Wilson in 1963 expressed the opinion that many women physical educators in Ohio were unaware that the OHSAA was the controlling body for girls' interscholastic basketball.7

The Board of Control continued its interest in and monitoring of the girls' programs with another survey conducted in 1966.8 In this survey four hundred forty-eight questionnaires were returned of the eight hundred fifty-seven sent. Basketball was the most popular interscholastic sport. Two hundred thirty-three schools reported having girls' teams.9 Further evidence of the interest taken by the OHSAA was revealed in a paper prepared by Paul Landis, then Commissioner of OHSAA. This paper, "Growth and Development of Interschool Athletics for Girls in Ohio," was prepared for the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations Annual Meeting. In the paper the results of the 1966

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8"Board Minutes - May 17, 1966," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXVI (September, 1966), 19.

9"Interscholastic Athletics for Girls," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXVI (December, 1966), 88.
survey were used to document the growth of the girls' program in Ohio.¹⁰
In the 1960 study thirty-two percent of the responding schools had interscholastic basketball teams. (See page 105) In the 1966 study this percentage had gone up to fifty-two.

PROBLEM AREAS

Chalmer Hixson in his 1967 book on administration of interscholastic athletics called attention to a problem with regard to leadership for girls' programs. He was concerned that there was a critical shortage of women who possessed knowledge and competence to develop the higher levels of athletic skills the developing programs needed.¹¹ The critical role played by the leader of athletic programs had received the attention of others. Ley in her 1962 article had stated very bluntly that it was the leader who determined whether a program would produce the desired educational outcomes.¹² The role of the coach referred to by Ley was a rather intangible one, while Hixson's concerns were more easily recognized in the form of skills and knowledge of the activities being coached. Both of the aspects of the coach's role were recognized by Wilson in her 1963 study. She stated that

... colleges and universities should expand their major programs in physical education to include more preparation in coaching, working with the highly skilled


¹²Ley, p. 25.
girl, officiating, and an increased emphasis on educational principles and standards of interscholastic sports. It must be pointed out that the key to a desirable interscholastic basketball program for girls is quality, professional leadership.13

Some evidence was found that steps were taken to alleviate the problem of lack of skilled leaders. The author recalls attending rules interpretation sessions sponsored by the Cleveland Board of Women Officials. These meetings sometimes included some coaching tips. In Cincinnati the basketball clinic sponsored by the Women's Physical Education Department at the University of Cincinnati in 1960 was very well attended. The program centered on the coaching of basketball and rules interpretation and was attended by three hundred persons from forty-two schools in the area. The program was designed for both students and teachers.14

Nationally DGWS had basketball as one of the topics of the Fourth National Institute on Girls' Sports held in 1966. These institutes were a joint undertaking of the United States Olympic Development Committee and DGWS. The topics covered at this institute were advanced techniques and coaching.15

While DGWS was co-sponsoring the aforementioned institute designed to raise the level of skill of coaches and players, this type of action was not without its critics as pointed out in the writing of Phebe Scott, DGWS Chairman.

13Wilson, p. 102.

14"Women's Basketball Clinic," The Ohio High School Athlete, XIX (April, 1960), 152.

The Division has quite naturally reflected the concerns of professional women physical educators throughout its history in matters of program, policy and standards. These concerns vary with the times. Today a major emphasis within the Division is its attempt to expand competitive opportunities for the highly skilled girl, specifically the interscholastic and/or intercollegiate programs. This direction has caused a considerable amount of comment from the various segments of our membership. In some groups this suggested expansion is met with enthusiasm. In others there appears an atmosphere of impending doom while in still other groups these directions are met with confusion—a loyalty to what is believed to be a tradition of the past and a recognition of the inevitability of change.

What has caused us to be so chary of the so-called highly competitive sports opportunities for girls? 

Dr. Scott went on to suggest the following answers to her question.

A misinterpretation of the word "competition" was proposed as the first answer. This misinterpretation has come about when competition has been considered synonymous with exploitation, dishonesty, deceit, favoritism, exclusive use of facilities by a few, unequal distribution of funds, gambling, bookmaking, playing for money, and unethical behavior. Secondly, she said physical educators have falsely believed DGWS was against competition for the highly skilled and hidden behind this misperception.

As an organization OHSAA was supportive of the changes taking place nationally in the DGWS. In 1965 OHSAA published "Guidelines for Interscholastic Athletic Programs for High School Girls." These guidelines

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16Phebe M. Scott, "DGWS--Here, There, Everywhere," *The Ohio High School Athlete*, XXVI (December, 1966), 101.

17Scott, pp. 101-102.

were a reprint of the DGWS statement on interscholastic competition for girls.

A problem not new to the decade of the sixties was that of adequate numbers of officials. Kearney documented the severity of the difficulty when she pointed out that in 1967-68 eleven boards of officials which existed in the state at that time had only one hundred thirty rated basketball officials to service both high school and college games. The following year this number almost doubled, but this number was still not sufficient. OHSAA continued to express the need for more rated officials in their communications to the State DGWS Board. In 1961-62 there were one hundred eight DGWS-rated officials in the state. In 1968-69 the number had grown to two hundred forty. When this number is compared to the number of member schools in OHSAA (857 in 1966) and to the number of schools having girls' teams at that time (about fifty percent), coupled with the recognition that colleges and other groups also needed officials, the picture is painfully clear.

The sixties ended with another increase in the recommended fee for a national official for a single game. The previously recommended fee of six dollars was increased by fifty percent to nine dollars plus travel expenses. Even this rather drastic increase in fees did not solve this persistent problem.


20Kearney, p. 158.

While the sixties were definitely a period of change with regard to girls' interscholastic play, not all of the change was in a positive direction. Ada High School had had a girls' team for many years. In 1960 the school administrator cancelled the schedule because it was, in his opinion, unladylike and too physically demanding.22

GROWTH OF PLAY THROUGHOUT THE STATE

The Columbus area was meanwhile experiencing a renewed interest in girls' interscholastic play. In an article in the Columbus Dispatch, Miss Emily Peterson, director of girls' health and physical education at Grandview High School, had nothing but praise for the renewed interest. She was able to compare the conditions of the sixties with the pre-1940 era, as she had been teaching at Grandview since 1925. According to the article, there were few schools in the Columbus area in 1961 which did not have girls' basketball teams. The emphasis of the program in the Columbus area can be inferred from the title of the article, "Purely for Fun."23 Other indications of the intensity of the program in the Columbus area at this time were given by Jeannette Brown, teacher of physical education at Brookhaven High School from 1963 to the present. She reported that in the late sixties Columbus schools were permitted to have a total of eight interscholastic contests per school year. Most schools

22 Helen Ludwig, former Ada High School physical education teacher, personal interview, Delaware, Ohio, September 15, 1976.

chose to play four of these as basketball games and four as volleyball games.\textsuperscript{24}

The growth of interscholastic play in the Mansfield area was recalled by Dolores A. Billhardt, former teacher of physical education in that area and presently Assistant Commissioner of OHSAA. She began an interscholastic program in 1964. She and other physical education teachers in the area coached the teams. When play first began, the officiating was done by other coaches. They cooperated in their scheduling so that this was possible. By 1968 each game usually had at least one rated official. The team was financed by candy sales and Girls' Athletic Association dues. In the early years Ms. Billhardt's team practiced two or three times per week. After a couple of years this was changed to every day. Most games were played as afternoon contests with parents as spectators. The game with their arch rivals was played beginning at 3 P.M. as a paid assembly. By 1968 there were ten to twelve other teams in the Mansfield area playing eight-game schedules.\textsuperscript{25}

The Akron Public Schools were also active in interscholastic play for girls. In 1968-1969, for example, they were playing in two leagues, five teams per league, with a playoff game for the city championship. They played afternoon games in elementary school gymnasiums using LGWS rules.\textsuperscript{26}

\textsuperscript{24}Jeannette Brown, telephone interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.

\textsuperscript{25}Dolores A. Billhardt, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 8, 1976.

\textsuperscript{26}"Akron Public Schools Senior High School Girls' Athletic Program 1968-1969" (Mimeographed booklet), n.p.
In the Cleveland area the previously mentioned "Daisy Mae" League was in operation as the only opportunity for interscholastic play through the 1967-1968 season. In the 1967-1968 season the league was sponsored by The Cleveland Press, The Muny Basketball Association, and The Recreation Council of the city. The teams were divided into four divisions—Division of Recreation, Board of Education, Community Centers, and Suburbs. Winners from each division met in a play-off. This particular year the league consisted of thirty-two teams with three hundred fifty-six players.  

The following year, 1968-1969, a program of interscholastic leagues was established for all Cleveland City High Schools. The city was divided into two leagues. Efforts were made when the leagues were set up to cross racial lines and to separate intense rivalries which existed in the boys' program. Shirley Babitt, supervisor of the program, considered these efforts successful. The leagues operated quite well.  

According to Jane Pease, active member of the Cleveland Board of Women Officials, about the same time the Cleveland City Schools were moving away from the "Daisy Mae" format, the Cleveland suburban schools were beginning to have greater numbers of interscholastic contests. This was confirmed by Norma Smith, teacher at Shaw High School and Cleveland Heights High School in the sixties. Although the suburban

28 Shirley A. Babitt, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, January 13, 1977.  
29 Jane Pease, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, May 6, 1977.
schools were playing scheduled games, there were no leagues organized.\textsuperscript{30}

To the east of Cleveland in the Lake County area, there was some interscholastic play. In the early part of the decade, when the author was teaching and coaching at Painesville Riverside High School, area schools were playing four or five game schedules with class teams competing. A team of seniors from one school played against a team of seniors from another school, juniors played against juniors, and occasionally sophomores played the other school's sophomore team. Often the coaches had to do the officiating.

The years 1960 to 1970 saw many high schools in the state begin or begin anew girls' interscholastic basketball. In some areas where programs had previously been in existence, the play became more competitive as leagues were established. In other locations the competition placed more emphasis on the play for play's sake rather than any great emphasis on winning. No one descriptive statement would suffice to describe conditions of girls' interscholastic play at the close of this decade.

\textsuperscript{30}Norma J. Smith, personal interview, Canton, Ohio, December 21, 1976.
CHAPTER VIII
THE NINETEEN SEVENTIES

The Women's Liberation Movement was a force to be reckoned with in many facets of life in the United States in the early seventies. Girls' basketball was definitely one of these areas. The enactment in 1972 of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act gave a tremendous boost to programs of girls' physical education and athletics at all age levels. Equality of opportunity became the byword. Looking back on the first half of this decade, it appears that this equality of opportunity meant that the girls' program moved in the direction of becoming a mirror image of the previously established, highly criticized boys' program, especially in the area of basketball. This chapter will chronicle the changes that took place during the six years from 1970 to 1976 showing the previous statement to be true.

GROWTH AND EVOLUTION OF GIRLS' PROGRAMS

The changes that took place in the program at Lima Shawnee High School are typical of those found in other parts of the state. Prior to the inauguration of the state tournament in 1976, schools in the Lima area began conducting league tournaments in 1973. Nineteen seventy-three also marked the year that the method of financing the girls' team changed from the traditional source of Girls' Athletic Association funds to the school athletic budget. When this change was made, the girls began to
collect a gate at their games and contribute the funds to the school athletic budget. Other fund-raising efforts, such as concession stands at boys' basketball and football games that formerly went to the Girls' Athletic Association, were channeled into the general athletic budget with a percentage allocated to the girls' intramural program.\(^1\) In 1976 the basketball gate receipts were sufficient to support the team except for travel expenses. Girls' games were changed from afternoon time slots to six P.M. This change was made to make it easier to get officials and to increase the gate. The 1976-77 school year was the first that the girls' program came under the school athletic director. Until that time Bernadine Reinhardt, girls' physical education teacher and coach, had assumed these duties. She had, however, worked in close cooperation with the athletic director to insure that facility conflicts were avoided. According to Ms. Reinhardt, she has had some problems with some of the boys' basketball coaches she has worked with in regard to access to the gymnasium for the girls to practice. This problem was solved by setting up a rotation schedule for the use of the gymnasium in the prime after-school hours. The school administration at Shawnee has always been very supportive with regard to the girls' athletic program.\(^2\)

In the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, a girls' basketball team was begun in 1973. The coach of the team for the 1975-76 school year was

\(^1\)This is an area in which Shawnee High School is somewhat unique. It is one of the few schools encountered in this study in which an active intramural program remains in existence.

a social studies teacher who had had no professional preparation for her position. The program was under the direction of the boys' athletic director. The team played in the same league that the boys did. Financial support came mainly from gate receipts from boys' games. The girls' games were played in the after-school time period with no admission charged. The girls' practiced in their own gymnasium every day to prepare for their twelve-game schedule. Norwood did participate in the 1976 OHSAA tournament. Since an interscholastic program was started, there have been no intramurals for girls.

In the northern part of the state in Lorain County, Clearview High School established a basketball team for girls in the 1972-73 school year. They too participated in the 1976 OHSAA Tournament. Olmsted Falls, a suburban Cuyahoga County high school, also had its first girls' team in 1972-73.

During the 1976 basketball season all Cleveland Public High Schools except Jane Adams, a girls' vocational school having no gymnasium, had interscholastic teams. Coaches for the teams included the senior high school woman physical education teacher in nine schools, a junior high school woman physical education teacher in one school, a male physical education teacher from the high school in one school, and a female teacher at one high school who was a former college player but who had


4Patricia S. Hershey, Clearview High School physical education teacher, personal interview, Berea, Ohio, February 26, 1977.

no physical education training. All scheduling for the two leagues that comprised the program was done by Shirley Babitt, the Supervisor of Girls' Physical Education for the Cleveland Public Schools. Each school continues to operate with a single athletic director for both the boys' and girls' programs. These persons have complained about the additional work involved with the addition of the girls' program.

Practice time for boys and girls was divided according to the number of games on their respective schedules. In 1976 the girls had only a varsity team in each school. Finances for the program were derived largely from funds formerly used for the boys' programs. Some schools were charging admission for their girls' games, and Ms. Babitt predicted that the girls' program would become financially more self-supporting in the future. When the program of interscholastic leagues was initiated in 1968-69, there were no stipends for the coaches. In 1974-75 stipends equal to the boys' coaches' stipends were begun. The 1976-77 stipend for head basketball coach was $1,275. Teams received good support from the community; however, attendance was limited by the time games were played. The games were held after school because of custodial costs to keep buildings open after 6:30 P.M. Also, some games were played on a neutral court to alleviate the problem of securing officials. Four schools were scheduled to play at one location on a given afternoon with two officials doing both games. Most of the officials used in 1976 were men. According to Ms. Babitt, other than being "slow on the whistle," they did a satisfactory job. The seasons concluded with a City Tournament in which the first and second place finishers from the two leagues
played for the city championship. This was followed by participation in the OHSAA Tournament. Problems were beginning to become apparent in 1976. Parents were known to have moved students from one school to another because of the type of girls' athletic program available. Girls became ineligible by playing on recreation center teams in violation of OHSAA rules. The largest problem in 1976, however, was transportation. Most of it was accomplished by the use of private cars. In looking to the future, Ms. Babitt predicts that if busing to achieve racial balance in the schools becomes a reality, it will "destroy the program."

Transportation problems for students to attend practices after school hours would be tremendous.

The 1970 basketball season marked the beginning of interscholastic play for Toledo Public Schools. This first year each school played five games with no play off or tournament. The following year league play offs were instituted with the winners of the two city leagues vying for the city championship. The number of games played by each school increased to the maximum permitted by OHSAA. Although schools in the Toledo system have maintained some intramural programs for girls, intramural basketball has been eliminated due to lack of interest. Most Toledo suburban schools began their interscholastic basketball programs in 1976 when the OHSAA tournament was inaugurated.  

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6 Shirley A. Babitt, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, January 13, 1977.

7 Jo Ann Maher, Coordinator of Girls' Athletics for Toledo Public Schools, telephone interview, Toledo, Ohio, July 25, 1977.
In 1974, in the suburban Canton schools making up the Federal League, games had to be played at six in the evening because the boys' teams were practicing in the gymnasiums after school. Securing officials for games in this league was also a problem. This difficulty was probably enhanced by the fee (five dollars per game) which was being paid. This fee was below that recommended by DGWS.8

At Glenwood High School, a member of the Federal League, the girls played in the East Central Girls' Sports League from 1970 to 1973. This league was formed by coaches from schools in the area suggested by its name. By its second year of operation, the league encompassed about eighteen teams divided into three sub-leagues. This league functioned until the administrators of the schools in the boys' Federal League decided to have girls scheduled in the same league. The administrators felt they had no control over the East Central League, as it had been organized and run by the women coaches of the schools involved. With the change to the Federal League, scheduling became part of the boys' athletic director's job. Ms. Barr, who is girls' athletic director at Glenoak (formerly Glenwood and Oakwood High Schools), is an exception to this general rule. The program at Glenoak in 1976 had the girls playing a twelve-game schedule. The finances came from the school athletic fund. For a couple of years around 1970, the girls' program was financed with funds coming directly from the board of education. They were one of the first schools in the Canton area to get this type

8Norma J. Smith, personal interview, Canton, Ohio, December 24, 1976.
of funding. Nineteen seventy was also the year coaches of the girls' teams began to receive stipends. This was also very uncommon for area schools at that time. Admission to girls' games has been charged since 1974. When the two high schools in the school district were recently combined to divide the students by grade levels in the two buildings, one of the school's gymnasiums was designated for girls' sports during the prime after-school hours. The fact that this high school was a progressive one in the area of girls' sports was undoubtedly due to the fearless and aggressive leadership of its girls' physical education teacher and athletic director.

The story of conditions in the Columbus area is similar to those related from other areas of the state. Teams in 1976 were playing a twelve-game schedule. There was a city league in which a champion was determined by the results of the season records from round robin play. Most of the games were played on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons or evenings in the school gymnasiums. Donations were collected from spectators who were largely parents of the players. Most of the officials for the games were men.10

Statewide the growth in the girls' interscholastic program can be followed by examining the following statistics collected by the OHSAA. The following table indicates the number of high schools in the various OHSAA districts of the state who sponsored girls' basketball teams in the years indicated.

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10Jeannette Brown, telephone interview, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1976.
Table 1

Girls' Basketball Teams by Location and Year

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<td>185</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>53</td>
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<td>Southwest</td>
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<td>123</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>433</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>762</td>
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</table>

The increase in the total number of high schools sponsoring girls' teams from 433 in 1971 to 762 in 1976 is even more dramatic when the following two considerations are taken into account. This was not a time of increasing school enrollments with new schools coming into existence. In fact, many school systems were experiencing declines in enrollment statistics. Secondly, in 1976 there were 796 high schools who were members of OHSAA in the girls' classification. Of this number 762 had girls' basketball teams. This means that virtually all high schools in Ohio were sponsoring a girls' interscholastic basketball team in 1976, as there are few Ohio high schools who are not members of OHSAA.

COACHING CLINICS

The rapidly expanding need for more and better qualified coaches was evident in the increased activity in coaching clinics. In the November 1972 issue of The Ohio High School Athlete, there appeared an article offering the services of the DGWS Basketball Chairman to conduct coaching clinics. This same issue also contained the announcement of coaching and rules interpretation meetings at three locations in the state.

12"Ohio High School Athletic Association 1975-76 Senior High Membership--Girls' Classification," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (November, 1975), 92.

13"Basketball Coaching Clinics," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (November, 1972), 72.

14"Dates for Girls' Sports," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (November, 1972), 49.
The February 1973 issue of the same publication describes a coaching and rules clinic organized and conducted by Jean Hofstetter, Mapleton physical education instructor. The clinic, attended by 175 coaches, was held at Mapleton High School in the Ashland area. The November 1975 issue of *The Ohio High School Athlete* announced a clinic to be held on the campus of The Ohio State University with the following personnel: Sue A. Hager of Bowling Green State University, Jean Dowell of the College of Mt. St. Joseph, Ruth Jones of Ashland College, and Debbie Wilson of the host institution. The clinic was open to coaches and two players from each school. Over three hundred individuals attended.

In the mid-seventies the Kodak Corporation began sponsoring an annual clinic in the Columbus area. Both local and nationally known clinicians were on the programs. This clinic was usually attended by about 200 coaches.

OFFICIATING PROBLEMS AND FEDERATION RULES

A perennial problem continued in the seventies. This was not having enough DGWS-rated officials. The OHSAA Board of Control discussed the problem at a September 1973 meeting. The difficulties schools were having had been brought to the Board by member schools. The need for an association to register officials to officiate girls' contests was

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expressed, although no action was taken. This problem existed even though DGWS had, the previous year, raised their recommended fee for national officials to twelve dollars per game plus traveling expenses.

As a first step toward the officiating problem, it was decided that

the OHSAA will be sending out all National Federation Rule Books for girls in which they publish rules. It will be requested that girls' coaches objectively review both the National Federation Rules and the DGWS Rules or other pertinent rules as to which rules best meet the needs of the particular age and ability level of our high school girls' interscholastic programs. The important factor is that we insure the activity is conducted in accordance with the purposes of the program and the protection of the participants.

In a survey conducted by OHSAA during the same school year in which the Federation Rules Books were sent to member schools, the following questions concerning officiating were included:

Do you feel that men should be permitted to officiate girls' contests? Yes - 225, No - 86

Do you prefer that women officiate your girls' contests? Yes - 214, No - 79

Do you have enough women available to officiate your interscholastic girls' contests? Yes - 60, No - 230

The extent of the existing problem was documented by the responses to

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18"Board Minutes - September 27, 1973," The Ohio High School Athlete XXXIII (November, 1973), 66.


20"Committee Minutes OHSAA Girls' Advisory September 24, 1973," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (November, 1973), 73.

21"Summary Girls' Sport Survey," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (February, 1974), 115.
the last question. The suggestion that men be used to officiate girls' games was seen as a pragmatic solution to the problem but not the ideal solution. This was evident in the responses to the first two questions.

By February of 1974, the Board of Control had made up its mind to make the change to Federation Rules. (This made the boys' and girls' playing rules the same.) At their board meeting that month they set up the procedures for making the transition. These included a reciprocity arrangement whereby DGWS-rated officials would be accepted into local officials' associations of OHSAA and the requirement that head coaches of girls' teams in basketball, volleyball, and track or their faculty representative had to attend a minimum of one OHSAA-sponsored Rules Interpretation Meeting in their sport.22

The rapidity with which all phases of the interscholastic basketball program for girls had expanded can easily be seen in the responses to the following questions. These inquiries were made of the girls' basketball coaches in 1974.

Should the OHSAA sponsor a girls' H.S. Basketball tournament in 1975-76? Yes - 330, No - 49

Do you feel that you have adequate opportunity in your school for the administration of your basketball program in regards to financial support? Yes - 253, No - 98; time utilization? Yes - 222, No - 124; and facility usage? Yes - 198, No - 150

Will your Basketball team participate in an organized league this season? Yes - 282, No - 85

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22 "Board Minutes - February 28, 1974," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIII (May, 1974), 227-228.
Are you financially compensated for coaching girls' basketball? Yes - 333, No - 37

In addition to the fact that the vast majority of the coaches polled were in favor of a state tournament, had adequate financial support for their team, had sufficient time allotted to their program, were participants in league competition, and were given stipends for their service as a coach, it is also interesting to note that it was the coaches who were polled. The usual procedure of OHSAA had been to get all information from the school administrators. One wonders what the responses to these questions might have been had this method been used in this case. Especially interesting would have been the responses to the question of sponsorship of a state tournament and whether the girls had adequate access to facilities.

The phenomenal changes which took place from 1970 to 1976 in the girls' basketball programs can be attributed to at least five causes. It is difficult to determine which of these might have had the greatest influence. The legal foundation for the changes came with the Title IX federal legislation. The women's liberation movement and the increased amount of television time devoted to women's sports brought a new awareness of the potential for highly skilled performance to girls and their coaches. The desire to improve the showing of the Women's Olympic Team brought support for women's sports from many sources. And finally the hiring of Dolores Billhardt as Assistant Commissioner of the OHSAA in 1972 provided the leadership at the right place and time for these changes to be accomplished.

23 "Summary 1974-75 Girls' Basketball Questionnaire Distributed to Girls' Basketball Coaches," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (January, 1975), 120.
CHAPTER IX

1976 STATE TOURNAMENT

Although basketball has been the girls' interscholastic activity sponsored by more schools in Ohio than any other sport, it was not the first sport for which a state tournament was organized. The first proposal for a tournament came from the Women's Gymnastic Board in June of 1969. This group had been working through DGWS until this time. They proposed that there be district qualification meets with no team awards given. Individuals who qualified would take part in a state meet. The Board of Control recommended that the proposal be taken to DGWS at their September meeting.¹ Action was slow in coming on this proposal. It was not until 1972 that the Board of Control finally approved State and District Meets. The approved format for the meets provided for individual competition only. There were no team championships.² This was, nevertheless, a precedent for the establishment by OHSAA of future state tournaments for girls in basketball, volleyball, track and field, and other sports. (This development of individual sports tournaments before team sports tournaments paralleled the sequence of national women's

¹"Board Minutes - June 11, 12, 13, 1969," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXIX (September, 1969), 19.

²"Board Minutes - December 14, 1972," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXII (February, 1973), 143.

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collegiate tournaments. A golf and tennis tournament had been conducted for many years prior to the first invitational basketball tournament in 1969.) This chapter will follow the development of the first state basketball tournament for Ohio girls of the post-1940 era.

The first mention of a possible state basketball tournament came in 1972. This was not even a direct reference to basketball in particular but rather to possible future state tournaments for girls in basketball, softball, track and field, and volleyball. The topic was raised by the newly appointed Assistant Commissioner of OHSAA, Dolores Billhardt, at a meeting of the Girls' Advisory Committee. Ms. Billhardt expressed a desire to have sports advisory committees in the previously mentioned sports and gymnastics. One of the proposed functions for these committees would be to set requirements for "possible future state tournaments." 3

According to Bernadine Reinhardt, longtime member of the Girls' Advisory Committee, the idea for the state tournament in basketball really came from several sources. The Advisory Committee had surveyed the basketball coaches and received a very positive response to the idea of conducting such a tournament. In Ms. Reinhardt's opinion the Title IX Guidelines helped to speed up the process of developing the tournament but were not responsible for the initiation of work toward this end. 4

The survey, sent to the coaches, found three hundred thirty of the three hundred seventy-nine who answered the question in favor of a

3 "Minutes OHSAA Girls' Advisory Committee, Saturday, September 16, 1972," The Ohio School Athlete, XXXII (November, 1972), 71-72.

tournament. The enthusiasm of Assistant Commissioner Billhardt for tournament play was undoubtedly a factor, also.

The Board of Control in January of 1975 voted to accept the proposals presented the previous month by the Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee to conduct a state tournament for girls beginning with the 1975-76 school year. This proposal suggested a tournament format parallel to that being used for the boys' tournament. The schools were to be divided into three divisions according to their enrollment. Play would begin at the sectional level with winners progressing to the district, regional, and state tournaments.

By January 1976 the tournaments were organized. Jean A. Hofstetter, coordinator of all classes for sectional and district play, had secured locations and managers to conduct the tournaments that were open to all member schools. To appreciate the work which was done between the authorization of the tournament in January of 1975 until the announcement of tournament locations less than a year later, it is necessary to remember that there were 762 schools eligible to participate in this tournament. The twelve regional tournaments conducted throughout the

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5"Summary 1974-75 Girls' Basketball Questionnaire Distributed to Girls' Basketball Coaches," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (January, 1975), 120.

6"Board Minutes - January 23, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (April, 1975), 213.

7"Board Minutes - December 19, 1974," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXIV (April, 1975), 211.

state were held at the following locations: "AAA" (Large schools) - Norwalk, Canton, Westerville, and Dayton; "AA" (Medium size schools) - Canton, Bowling Green, Westerville, and Dayton; and "A" (Small schools) - Wooster, Bowling Green, Westerville, and Dayton.9

When the regulations for the girls' tournament were published, they were essentially the same as those governing play for boys. Representation from the various districts of the state was slightly different due to the different numbers of schools from each district entering the girls' tournament as compared to those entering the boys' tournament.10

Another matter which had to be accomplished was the selection of tournament officials. This process was begun by the District Boards of OHSAA conducting nominations by use of ballots submitted from member schools. It was suggested that the ballot recommending an official be signed by the girls' basketball coach as well as the principal.11 As this process of selection was carried out, some concerns were expressed. One was that the attitude of women coaches might be a factor in their nomination of women officials over more competent men officials. Mr. Fred Dafler, Associate Commissioner of OHSAA, expressed his opinion that "the criteria for nominating girls' officials should not be the same as


10"1975-76 Boys and Girls' Basketball Tournament Regulations," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (February, 1976), 165.

11"Board Minutes - August 21, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (November, 1975), 100.
the criteria for nominating boys' officials for basketball tournament assignments.¹² No mention is made of what Mr. Dafler believed the differences should have been, however.

The Board of Control Minutes of June and August 1975 contain many motions of items passed by the board dealing with the procedures for the upcoming basketball tournaments. Following are some of these actions. Teams participating in the regional tournament were permitted expenses for 12 players, a coach, assistant coach, faculty manager, student manager, and two other school personnel. These expenses were to be calculated as follows: travel -- $1.50 per mile one way; meals -- breakfast $2.00, lunch $2.00, dinner $4.00; lodging -- $5.00 per night if the team had to travel more than one hundred miles. The same expenses were to be paid for the state tournament except for the lodging which was to be reimbursed at the quoted rate for nine double rooms. It was noted that no game bonus would be paid to participating teams.¹³ The ticket prices for regional and state tournaments were set at $1.50 student advanced sale, $2.00 general admission, and $2.50 reserved seats for regional play and $2.50 per session for the state tournament. Each participating school would receive an allotment of 1,250 tickets for the state tournaments. Officials' fees for the tournaments were $50.00 plus fifteen cents per mile for the regional tournaments and $70.00 plus fifteen cents per mile for the state tournament. Also, the award system to be

¹²"Board Minutes, All Districts Boards Meeting-January 17, 1976," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (April, 1976), 244.

used would be the same as the one used for the boys' tournaments. The same rate for reimbursement used for attendance at the boys' state tournament was also approved for Board of Control members attending the girls' state tournament. This included meals, lodging, and travel expenses.  

The anticipated presence of the media, including press, radio, and television, necessitated other actions by the Board of Control. In December 1975 the television station operated by The Ohio State University expressed an interest in telecasting the state tournament. The Board appeared to be interested in such a proposal as the January minutes also contained information concerning this matter. More details of the proposal were given as well as the item that was keeping it a proposal and not an offer. The item—money. The proposal was for the Ohio State station to do the telecast or taping and to make the program available to public TV stations in the state. The possibility of involving the Ohio Educational Television Network was mentioned. Although there is no additional reference to this specific proposal in any of the Board of Control Minutes, the games were televised and broadcast on educational stations. The financial report from the state tournament shows that an income of seven hundred fifty dollars was realized from the

14"Board Minutes - June 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (September, 1975), 60.

15"Board Minutes - December 18, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (February, 1976), 199.

16"Board Minutes - January 22, 1976," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (April, 1976), 245.
sale of television rights. At their February meeting the Board of Control reviewed the policies for newspaper reporters, photographers, radio broadcasting, and TV news photographers. These policies provided for only working members of the press to receive passes. Requests for passes and for radio broadcasting privileges were to be submitted to the Association office. The rates for radio broadcasting rights had previously been set as the same rate charged for boys' tournaments.

April 2 and 3, 1976. The time had finally arrived. The referendum of 1940, prohibiting girls from playing interscholastic basketball, was ancient history compared to what was taking place on these dates in the St. John Arena on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. The first state high school girls' basketball tournament was to be played on these dates, or so the Official Program claimed. No one seemed to remember that state tournaments for girls had been quite popular some fifty years earlier. Competing for the Class "A" championship were Frankfort Adena coached by Linda Ross playing Convoy Crestview coached by Rita Schnipke in one semi-final game and Lutheran West of Rocky River coached by Karen Wittrock playing Fisher Catholic of Lancaster coached by Elaine McCullough. In Class "AA" Bishop Hartley of Columbus coached by Beth Conway was pitted against Cardinal Stritch of Oregon coached by Marianne Herrick. In the other semi-final game for this

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18 "Board Minutes - February 12, 1976," The Ohio High School Athlete, XXXV (April, 1976), 246.

class, Bellbrook coached by Ginny Greene played Champion of Warren
coached by Renea Ackerman. The Class "AAA" schools who made the trip to
Columbus were Sycamore of Cincinnati coached by Barbara Jones playing
Bishop Watterson of Columbus coached by Virginia Sawyer and Toledo
Woodward coached by Susan Sweet playing a name familiar to tournament
followers of the earlier era, Struthers, coached by Dick Prest.20

The abundance of parochial schools represented in these semi-final
games immediately stands out. Two possible reasons may offer an explana-
tion for their being present in such disproportionate numbers. The first
is the Catholic Youth Organization programs which had been available in
many areas of the state for many years for the Catholic girls as well as
boys. Perhaps girls attending Catholic high schools have had more play-
ing experience than their counterparts in public schools. The second
reason is that some parochial schools are all-girl schools. This means
that the gymnasium is available for the use of the girls' team many more
hours per day than is the case in co-educational schools.

Following play on the first day of the tournament, the ranks of
teams remaining were cut in half. In Class "A" Frankford Adena defeated
Convoy Crestview 35 to 33, and Rocky River Lutheran West won over
Lancaster Fisher Catholic 74 to 55. Columbus Bishop Hartley defeated
Oregon Stritch 45 to 35, and Bellbrook got past Warren Champion 41 to
38 to enter the Class "AA" finals. In "AAA" play Columbus Watterson won
over Cincinnati Sycamore 72 to 60, with Toledo Woodward defeating
Struthers by the narrowest of margins, 57 to 56.

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201st State High School Girls' Basketball Tournament Official
Program, April 2, 3, 1976, pp. 5-17.
In a series of close games, state champions were crowned as follows:
Frankfort Adena over Rocky River Lutheran West 37 to 35 in Class "A,"
Columbus Bishop Hartley over Bellbrook 45 to 44 in Class "AA," and
Toledo Woodward over Columbus Watterson 63 to 59 in Class "AAA."21

In looking back over the events which comprised the 1976 state
tournament, one would have to judge the tournament a success by almost
any criteria that might be used. The tournament appeared to run very
smoothly, the number of schools participating was high, the caliber of
play was remarkably good considering this was the first such tournament
for all participants. The one exception which might be made to the list
of successes was in the area of money. It is almost certain that concern
of the Board of Control over the financing of such a tournament would be
great, as the boys' state tournament play provides the largest single
source of income for OHSAA. The Board of Control indicated its recogni-
tion of the fact that some of the girls' tournaments would probably fail
to meet expenses when they voted that

... in those girls' basketball tournaments in which receipts
are insufficient to cover operating expenses, the District
and State Boards will receive no share of the tournament receipts.22

Many tournaments did, in fact, lose money. Listed below are the six
districts, attendance totals, and the final amount on the balance sheet
for the district tournaments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>15,222</td>
<td>-$13,003.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>10,607</td>
<td>-4,990.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>31,055</td>
<td>-7,970.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21"1976 - Girls' State Basketball Tournament," The Ohio High School
Athlete, XXXV (May, 1976), 270-272.

22"Board Minutes - November 21, 1975," The Ohio High School Athlete,
XXXV (February, 1976), 198.
Northwestern 37,044 + 10,086.66
Southeastern 9,604 - 454.40
Southwestern 15,738 - 24,277.07
Total 119,270 -$36,117.71

For the regional tournaments the picture was much brighter with a total attendance of 24,130; the OHSAA received $6,985.12.\(^{23}\) The state tournament attended by 22,012 also finished in the black. Expenses for the tournament totaled $47,063.48 and income was $48,408.78. This left a modest positive balance of $1,021.86.\(^{24}\) The bottom line to the financial picture was that the 1976 girls' basketball tournaments cost OHSAA $28,110.73.

One of the important questions for the future of girls' basketball in the state is whether this type of tournament structure can become self-supporting in a financial sense. It is obvious that while OHSAA is currently financially healthy, it is limited in the number of tournaments it can sponsor with deficits of this magnitude if it is to remain so.


CHAPTER X

SOCIETAL INFLUENCES

All sports are a part of the society in which they exist. They are therefore part of the fiber which forms the society. A sport itself, however, does not exist without the influence of other aspects of society. This chapter will look at girls' basketball and how the evolving influences of society have helped to mold that which was the interscholastic game in 1976.

... When Stanford and University of California coeds met in a basketball game in San Francisco no men were allowed to look on; doorkeepers, janitors, and ushers were all women; and reports to the press were made by feminine writers. Even so, the faculties forbade a return match.1

Although this game took place at the turn of the century, the feelings of basketball's unfemininity expressed in the action of the faculties have never been completely changed. These feelings center on what is meant by feminine and masculine and of how the roles of a male and a female should be defined. The following quotation from The American Woman in Sport states the case quite succinctly.

If masculinity and femininity are viewed as appropriate social conceptions of the polar differences in the qualities and behavior of men and women, and if sport is logically deduced as a desirable masculine domain, then the role of woman in sport is a social anomaly. As a pervasive assumption, in fact, this view is the basis for most of the conceptions of sport norms and collectivities that exclude

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women. In the face of the impossibility of excluding women completely, a view of female sport participation as an anomaly accommodates versions of limited, separate, and vastly less important athletic opportunities for women. . . .  

One of the questions to be considered in this area is why the above assumption of sport being a part of the masculine domain has developed. This view of sport as being something masculine is not a universally-held concept. As Leigh points out,

. . . the strong, organized opposition to women competing in sports was a phenomenon of the American culture. Such a movement had not and did not exist in Europe.  

What then was the situation in the United States that led to this attitude? Watts gives one analysis of the source.

In pioneer America man and woman labored side by side as they struggled to subdue the wilderness and to eke out a living for themselves and their children. Women worked long hours each day doing hard physical labor. Man and woman worked as a team. The change came in this mutual partnership as the frontier was conquered; the cities grew in size and number, and the nation changed from an agrarian to an industrial society. As a result of these and other factors, a leisure class developed, as did social customs which were to restrict the activities of women. Although there were many women on the farms and in the small towns and villages, the leisure class of women set the social pattern of conduct to which every woman aspired. Woman became

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If Watts' analysis is accurate, one wonders if this might help to explain why girls' interscholastic basketball was so much more popular in the small rural Ohio towns than it was in the larger cities during the 1920's and 1930's.

Once the social norm had been established, the task of finding justification for it began. A Scientific American article written in 1936 is a good example of this process. In it D. A. Laird, Ph.D., Sci.D., states that "... women have many characteristics which definitely place them at a disadvantage in such so-called manly pursuits [sports]." The author goes on to mention women being less self-assertive, not liking competition, having less strength, smaller joint surfaces, slower reaction time, and limited endurance due to narrower shoulders. Laird also raises a point which has taken up much discussion space in the literature on this topic, namely, the effects of strenuous exercise on menstruation and childbearing capacities.

It may be a good thing, however, that women are not as a general rule interested in athletic things and the development of more powerful muscles, for it has been noted by many scientific observers that feminine muscular development interferes with motherhood. ... She has plenty of muscle and oxygen carrying power for simple household tasks which take

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plenty of oxygen. She has ample development for a multitude of light office and factory work. . . .

The contradictions between a woman's capability to do work and her capability to do "athletic things" seems rather obvious to a reader today, but such was not the case in 1936.

Women who were actively involved in basketball, while succumbing to the notion that some limitation on activity was necessary, were not as concerned about the problem as the previous author. Alice Frymir, writing in 1928, had this to say concerning the normal, healthy girl. She

... should be able to follow her general routine of living during her menstrual period. This does not mean, however, that she should participate in vigorous athletics. Even the healthy girl may feel some discomfort at this period and not be inclined to exert herself physically. Sufficient scientific knowledge does not yet exist to warrant the coach in allowing the girls to play during at least the first three days of their menstrual period. . . .

The advice being offered to coaches by Margaret Bell, M.D., ten years later was becoming more liberal.

Exercise as usual during the period. For the first two days of the period competitive sport should be eliminated, not because of the exercise in itself but because of the element of excitement. It is well to know that most of us tolerate even strenuous sport well during the period. However, this is an individual matter. If vigorous sport is not well tolerated, it is best to limit the degree of activity. . . .

6Laird, p. 143.


A similar but even more liberal piece of advice is given by Hellebrandt and Meyer in a 1939 Research Quarterly article. In it the authors state that the body is as capable of exercise during the menses as at other times. According to these researchers, the indirect evidence available at that time indicated the continuance of exercise during the menses was recommended for the normal female. By 1967 the statements in the literature were even more unequivocal. Evalyn S. Gendel, Assistant Director, Maternal and Child Health Division of the Kansas State Department of Health said that

in the more recent literature, in a number of articles and studies, it is generally concluded that participation in all sports activities before, during, or after menstruation, causes no deleterious effect on the normal menstrual cycle.

The feeling that women were physically inferior to men persisted in spite of the research evidence to the contrary. In 1963 Morrison, writing about basketball rules for women, pointed out that, because of the strenuousness of the game of basketball, the rules of that day were good, in that they permitted only two of the six players to rove and play the entire court. She pointed out that the same two players did not have to fulfill this role for the entire game.

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As late as 1971 the information being published by the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation could be described as having its feet dangling on both sides of the fence with regard to the effects of vigorous activity on the female. This can be seen in articles by Wells and Rarick both of which appeared in *DGWS Research Reports: Women in Sports*. Wells states that since there is no positive evidence to suggest that vigorous activity is a causative factor in dysmenorrhea or any menstrual discomfort, and since there appears to be no detrimental effect on pregnancy and childbearing, there seems to be little basis for the attitude that exercise is harmful during menstrual flow. This is not to suggest that all girls should be forced to participate vigorously during menstruation, but simply that former customs, superstitions, antiquated mores, or fears of biological harm should not bar participation. Rarick, on the other hand, cautions that

... there is, however, evidence to indicate that girls who start intensive athletic training before menarche have a higher percentage of menstrual disorders than those who start training later. Such disorders tend to disappear with a reduction in the work load. Present research indicates that gynecological problems occur more frequently among competitive girl swimmers and skiers than for those in other sports. For example, over-training and excessive stress in the female athlete has been cited in several studies as a cause of menstrual disorders.

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Rarick goes on, however, to conclude that

there is much yet that remains to be learned about the effects of highly competitive sports on girls and young women. While one cannot ignore the possibility that the physical and psychological stress of competitive sports may not be in the best interests of girls, the evidence to date indicates that the health of young women is not impaired by heavy training and, in fact, is likely to be enhanced by rigorous athletic programs that are properly supervised. However, to give full endorsement to highly competitive sports for girls at this point would not seem to be justified, for there are philosophical and cultural considerations which may be just as important as those that have been discussed.\textsuperscript{14}

If the above quotations are representative of the beliefs of those in the profession of physical education, it would seem that most of the feelings concerning the inability of women and girls to compete due to physical reasons had been overcome by 1971. By 1976 the statements were quite definitive in their position. Mathews and Fox in the introduction to a chapter, "Exercise and Training in Females," from their book, The Physiological Basis of Physical Education and Athletics, characterized the general responses of females to exercise and training as being basically the same as the responses of males. The differences which did exist were characterized as one of magnitude rather than mechanism.\textsuperscript{15}

This leaves us with the original question of this chapter, the definition of the role of masculine and feminine, for as Metheny concludes, "... this concept of role is the crux of all major issues relating to participation in athletics by girls and women, and all

\textsuperscript{14}Rarick, p. 51.

value determinations rest upon it. ..." In 1928 the tendency was
to define masculine as those things done by men. For instance, the
women track and field competitors in the 1928 Olympics were described
as masculine because they wore shorts, used a man's style of running,
and had short hair. The fact that shorts, short hair, and the men's
style of running were the most efficient and comfortable was not con-
sidered by the sportswriters covering this event.

The women in the profession of physical education must share the
blame for a form of guilt by association. An article, "Why Play Girls'
Rules in Basketball?" does cite current (1946) thinking with regard to
physiological and psychological reasons why girls should play girls'
rules, but the article goes on to characterize girls' basketball as a
game invented for women by women, leaving one with the feeling that no
other reason is necessary to answer the question posed by the title of
the article. The same idea is expressed in this quote from an article
dealing with basketball officials' ratings.

From the beginning WNORC (Women's National Officials'
Rating Committee) has held to the policy that athletic
activities for girls and women should be taught, coached,
and officiated by qualified women. Conditions throughout the
country have been such that there have been times when
competent women officials have not been available. This
was true twenty years ago. It is true today. In 1936
WNORC realized that it must face the issue and finally
went on record as permitting the giving of local ratings

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16 Eleanor Metheny, "Relative Values in Athletics for Girls,"
Journal of Educational Sociology, XXVIII (February, 1955), 268.

17 Leigh, pp. 328-329.

18 Miriam Gray, "Why Play Girls' Rules in Basketball?" Journal of
Health and Physical Education, XVII (March, 1946), 152, 189-190.
to men officials by local boards when the local situation made it necessary. The question of giving of national ratings to men has been raised at frequent Executive Committee meetings. The answer has always been that WNOIC is a woman's organization, that national ratings are exclusively for women, and that local ratings are given to men only until competent women officials are available.

Judgments concerning what was good were made with reference to sex and not to the quality of what was being done. Looking back from an historical standpoint, it is now possible to see that perhaps the discrimination which women and girls suffered for so many years in the area of sports and physical education was partly a result of the professional women in these areas expending so much effort to keep activities separate and different from the programs for men and boys. These efforts supplanted attempts to get adequate access to facilities and equitable financial support for the girls who desired a competitive experience.

Some of this feeling of the necessity for women to officiate and coach girls undoubtedly stemmed from a concern for the morality of the girls who participated. While this reason was seldom given in support of having women coaches and officials, there is some evidence to show that problems could and did arise.

That this problem exists was brought to light during an investigation of reasons for teacher dismissal in secondary schools in Iowa, a state where men are usually employed as coaches of girls' basketball teams. In this investigation of 288 dismissed teachers, it was shown that, next to

inability to maintain discipline, the second greatest proportion of teachers, 13%, were dismissed for immorality. Of the teachers dismissed for immorality, almost fifty per cent were male coaches who were dismissed for improper relationships with members of their girls' basketball teams. In each situation where a teacher was dismissed for impropriety, the single most important factor that was missing was adequate supervision of the girls by adult women sponsors. 21

Another reason women coaches were advocated had to do with the style of play and emphasis within the game. As Somers suggests in her book, Principles of Women's Athletics, one of the principles should be, "the adoption of a 'playful,' social attitude toward the conduct of athletic games." 22 The idea that men did not appreciate the anatomical, physiological, emotional, and functional limitations of girls was also put forth later in the same book. 23

What are some of the factors which have resulted in the apparent change in our concepts of what is feminine? Or, to put it more bluntly, why is it now more socially acceptable for girls to play basketball?

Morrison suggested one answer.

... Wars [sic] a great equalizer and this century has been fraught with wars. ... World War II brought great strides toward equality of men and women. ... It is unfortunate that wars have been such a determining factor in giving women status, rights and responsibilities. Keeping in physical condition and being ready for any emergency is part of preparedness for war. This has been instrumental in removing the stigma attached to women with athletic ability. 24


23 Somers, p. 115.

24 Morrison, pp. 72-73.
Scott offered social and economic reasons for the changing attitude. He pointed out that women were gaining fame and fortune as a result of their athletic abilities. A more realistic reason for pursuing some skill in sports was brought forward in the following quotation:

Another factor influencing the program of competitive sports is the rise in the level of understanding of the part which motor skills play in the personal and social development of girls and women. In order to be a good companion for the opposite sex it is important that girls display skills in a variety of sports and be competent to engage in friendly competition in mixed groups. Furthermore, social relationships are considerably improved if the woman is an intelligent spectator at a variety of sporting events.25

In considering what is or is not feminine, one must be cognizant of the fact that sports in general cannot be judged with regard to their femininity. Different sports have been viewed as being more or less suited for participation by women. Only certain sports can contribute to a feminine image.26 This variance in the femininity level ascribed to various sports was confirmed in a 1958 study by Kratz in which she interviewed one hundred and fifty women in and near Columbus, Ohio. Their ages ranged from eighteen to fifty. Their own activity patterns ranged from very active participants to slightly active. When asked to rate activities according to their feminine appeal, basketball was rated


28.5 on the list. As an activity they would prefer for their daughter, it was eighth on the list.\(^2\) In other words, basketball was not considered to be very feminine by those interviewed. The difference in their rating of the sport with regard to its feminine appeal and as a potential activity for their daughters is noteworthy. Perhaps this indicates a trend away from a strict categorization of sports as being masculine or feminine. Madge Phillips writing in 1971, however, still generalized that individual sports were more socially acceptable for women than team sports.\(^2\)

In spite of the persisting image of basketball as being unfeminine, a possible reason for basketball's increased acceptance as a sport for girls is the general change which has taken place in the concept of the feminine role in general. As women have moved into the business world in positions requiring decision-making and exertion of authority, the need for a competitive drive in women has been recognized. The refinement of this competitive drive has long been one of the values ascribed to the interscholastic program for boys. It may be that if girls are to be prepared for positions involving the competitive spirit, interscholastic sports might be their best preparation, for, as Reger


suggests, "... the values derived from competitive athletics probably cannot be gained through other means." ²⁹

Metheny was writing in 1955 when she said

... our cultural definitions of the roles appropriate for girls have never been more confused and contradictory than they are in our present social structure. And the resolution of any specific issue relating to girls and athletics is inextricably bound up in these unresolved larger social issues. ³⁰

The intervening twenty years have not resulted in much change in the amount of confusion surrounding role definitions. The difficulties have been doubled by the realization that it is not only the feminine role that is affected by the participation of women and girls in sport in significant numbers. This participation has brought into question the definition of the masculine role as well. Formerly, sport was a masculine construct and played a significant role in the definition of masculinity.

The result of sport's being a masculine construct is discussed in the book, The American Woman in Sport.

It is apparent that there are two considerations basic to the defense of sport as a masculine preserve. Somehow, masculine socialization is deemed to encompass both assertiveness, especially as that is manifest in sport, and also importance. Insofar as women have less importance and status in society, their participation in sport is seen to denigrate sport and, therefore, mitigate its function as a source of desirable masculinization. This is extremely important because it helps to explain the exclusion of women from sport as well as the ways in which their participation, when it does occur, is limited or derided. ... ³¹

If the prevailing social model for sport, which is male, is assumed to be the norm, the idea of an athletic role

³⁰Metheny, p. 269.
model may not be an appealing one. At the same time, if society is presumed to be the source for the socialization of sport, it is, perhaps, even less appealing. The role of women in sport, however, has yet to be really defined. In part, it is the social commentary that will affect the shape and direction of that definition.\footnote{Gerber, et al., p. 248.}

A part of the "social commentary" appeared in a 1973 Journal of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation article. While it cannot be considered a prevailing attitude as far as society in general is concerned, it may indicate a direction that society will be taking in the future. In the article Small recognized the traditional masculine role which has been ascribed to sport. This, she points out, makes it very difficult to view sport as possessing any feminine qualities. It is, however, the very process of questioning what constitutes masculinity and femininity in sport, which Small finds objectionable.

What a woman does is feminine. By addressing the question of femininity in sport, we are professionally recognizing that this is not so, and that physical activity might, in some way, affect one's sexual identity. To further support sport on the basis of its positive effect or lack of effect on sanctioned feminine mores is to affirm the worth of traditional sex-role values. At a time when feminine role attitudes are undergoing scrutiny and revision, the implications of our arguments may well be objectionable. ... \footnote{Cathy Small, "Requiem for an Issue," Journal of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, XLIV (January, 1973), 27-28.}

The case for inaction is clear on the subject of femininity and women's sport. Women athletes should be encouraged to dismiss this line of public questioning. ... This chapter has attempted to trace some of the changes that have come about in society's views of women and girls who participate in sports in general and basketball in particular. There have been definite
changes in the concept of what women are able to withstand from a physical standpoint. In fact, the recognition that strenuous activity can be beneficial to women, as well as to men, is now recognized by many. A problem which remains to be solved is that of definition of feminine and masculine roles.

The enactment of federal legislation requiring no discrimination on the basis of sex in hiring practices and in educational programs at all age levels has done much to revise our thinking with regard to traditional sex roles. This legislation has been accompanied by a general raising of consciousness of all persons to the many forms of sexual discrimination which have existed in our society.

The trend with regard to basketball seems to be one of increasing participation by women and girls. What is questionable is whether basketball is being viewed as more feminine, or whether the feminine role definition is changing enough to include an activity such as basketball within its scope. It is possible that the answer will be an evolution in which masculine and feminine role definitions disappear as we have known them, with only the biological roles defining the differences between masculine and feminine.
CHAPTER XI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The history of girls' interscholastic basketball in the State of Ohio has been traced beginning with the forces which led to the cessation of play in 1940. Girls' competition which existed in Ohio during the 1920's and 1930's was described along with state and national tournaments which were played during this era. The criticisms leveled against these programs were discussed. These included such things as an overemphasis on winning, which led to extreme emotional and physical pressures on the participants, and a general view that participation in a sport such as basketball detracted from a girl's femininity. The ability of the female body to withstand such exertion without harm to the reproductive system was also of great concern.

Important throughout the history of girls' interscholastic basketball in Ohio has been the Ohio High School Athletic Association and its Girls' Advisory Committee. The role of this organization was traced throughout the 1940 to 1976 time period. Included in this discussion were the regulations made by OHSAA which dictated how the interscholastic programs were to be conducted. The role of national associations in the development of these regulations was discussed where their influence was significant. Also considered were the various sets of game rules which were used at various times by Ohio high schools. Some reasons were suggested as to why different sets of rules were used at different times.
A description of the extent of competition which existed in various parts of the state was provided. This included an explanation of the limited programs which were begun when interscholastic play was resumed in 1948, through the growth and development of programs which culminated in the first state tournament of the modern era in 1976. The organization of this tournament was described as well as noting the participants who competed for the championships in this historic event.

This history was concluded with a study of the societal forces which have helped to shape the extent and style of competition in girls' basketball in Ohio.

When he was writing his classic book, *Competitive Sports in Schools and Colleges*, in 1951, Harry Scott offered the following description and advice concerning interscholastic and intercollegiate programs for the female sex:

... In many ways women are able to offer a program of extramural sports that is superior to the program of interscholastic and intercollegiate sports as presently conducted for boys and men. Men have made many serious mistakes in the conduct of athletics over three-quarters of a century which can be avoided by women. Women can inaugurate a program of extramural sports based on ideal concepts and conducted as an integral phase of the educational curriculum. In striving for this ideal, the program of competitive sports for boys and men is seriously retarded by a backlog of traditional educational indifference and neglect; a mistake that may never be completely rectified.1

Have women taken Scott's advice and developed a program of interscholastic basketball "based on ideal concepts and conducted as an

integral phase of the educational curriculum? In this author's opinion the answer must be a regretful no.

The boys' interscholastic program, which Scott criticized, was a program which developed historically as a program born outside the educational realm. The program was then attached to educational institutions, but the forces which guided the decision-making processes were too closely allied with the commercial aspects of the program (pleasing the paying customer to insure adequate gate receipts) to allow the program to achieve its educational potential. This model influenced the changes which have been taking place in programs for girls. This was brought about in great measure because of legal pressures for equality. The court decisions have been based upon what was in existence for boys rather than on educationally-based decisions about what was best for the program participants.

Another factor which contributed to the move toward a girls' program resembling the boys' program was the ego involvement of individuals in leadership roles in the program. The glory accorded to the coach of a winning team was just as ego building for a coach of a girls' team as it was for the coach of a boys' team. As more media space is devoted to the coverage of girls' sports, this factor will become even more important. The emphasis on winning will increase. Jane Pease, a veteran official of girls' basketball games in the Cleveland area, has noted the change in this direction. According to Ms. Pease, this emphasis on winning has resulted in fewer substitutions in the games (fewer girls participating on any given team) and a change in the
attitude of the coach toward the officials. As Ms. Pease describes it, "It isn't as much fun to officiate as it used to be."\(^2\)

The institution of a state basketball tournament has contributed to the emphasis on winning. The very nature of a tournament of any kind is to declare a winner by elimination of the losers.

A result of the pressure to win has been an increase in the amount of time and money devoted to the interscholastic program. This has been accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the intramural programs for girls. This factor was stressed by Margaret Love, State Supervisor for Physical Education.\(^3\)

The pressure to win will undoubtedly cause a change in the hiring practices of school administrators. Personnel will tend to be hired because of their coaching abilities rather than due to their abilities as physical education specialists.

The place of basketball as a sport for girls would seem to be quite secure. It is a revenue-producing sport and is therefore important to the financial success of the total girls' interscholastic program.

Speaking of her view of the developments in women's athletics in 1971, Mabel Lee said that she viewed the direction being taken with much dismay, though not with alarm, "... for I am sure today's and tomorrow's leaders will be equal to the situation they are now

\(^2\)Jane Pease, personal interview, Cleveland, Ohio, May 6, 1977.

\(^3\)Margaret Love, personal interview, Columbus, Ohio, September 8, 1976.
The validity of Dr. Lee's prediction must be questioned, for it was the moves toward allowing programs to be controlled by commercial interests rather than educational concerns which caused her dismay. The course of girls' basketball in Ohio in the seventies can only be viewed as one in which the equality which leaders have attempted to gain has been achieved by moving in the direction of the previously existing, much-criticized boys' program. The factor which must be ascribed as having the most influence in determining this direction is the legal pressure brought about by federal legislation.

In the author's opinion, the following statements are warranted from the facts gathered in this study:

1. The development of girls' interscholastic basketball programs in general have followed the model of previously existing boys' programs.

2. The tendency to place more emphasis on the importance of winning has increased greatly in the last decade.

3. In general the re-introduction of interscholastic play for girls occurred first in suburban schools. (The Toledo area was an exception to this pattern.)

4. The increase in interscholastic play has resulted in strains on facilities and staff time which has resulted in a significant decrease in the intramural opportunities available for high school girls.

5. Legal pressures have brought about a greater amount of change in a shorter period of time than would have otherwise occurred.

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