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A HISTORY OF THE NEGRO OKLAHOMA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

By

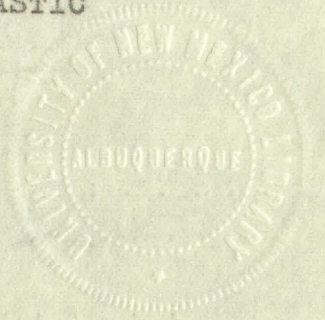
Moses F. Miller

A Thesis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Education

University of New Mexico

1949





A HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
BY
J. H. COOPER
BOSTON
1891

Presented to the
University of New Mexico
by
J. H. COOPER
BOSTON
1891

This thesis, directed and approved by the candidate's committee, has been accepted by the Graduate Committee of the University of New Mexico in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

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July 22, 1949
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A HISTORY OF THE NEGRO OKLAHOMA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

by

Moses F. Miller

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ments for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Robert L. Miller

July 22, 1949

A HISTORY OF THE NEGRO OKLAHOMA ETHNOGRAPHIC
ASSOCIATION

by

Robert L. Miller

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Early in the history of America, sports, games, systems of physical training and athletics became a part of our national life. In Colonial days, play and some athletic events were common to practically all settlers with the exception of limitations set upon enjoyment of life by the Puritans. Early in the school history of the United States, it was found that the health of students was seriously affected by the cloistered life of study without recourse to recreational interest and activity, and many colleges instituted gardening and various utilitarian exercise features of the manual labor schools to absorb the energies of the students in a profitable manner.

Physical education, then called physical training or culture, began in some schools early in the eighteenth century, consisting at first of gymnastic systems of exercise introduced by refugees from Europe where physical training had become a valuable means of training a populace in preparation for defensive or aggressive warfare.

Soon after the war between the Northern and Southern states, the German Turnverein and the several European systems of physical education made great headway. As a means of physical education for children, the schools and school

Early in the history of the United States, physical

education was not a part of the curriculum in our national life. In fact, it was not until the late 19th century that physical education was common to the schools. At that time, the concept of fitness was not known, and the idea of physical education was not yet developed. Early in the 20th century, however, it was found that the health of the nation was seriously affected by the sedentary life of the American people. Recreational interests and various physical activities of the manual laborer were found to be of great value to the health of the students in a physical education program.

Physical education, as a subject in the school curriculum, began in some schools in the late 19th century, consisting at first of games and sports. It was introduced by religious groups and was not at first considered a valuable means of education. It was not until the late 19th century that physical education was recognized as a valuable means of education for the development of the individual.

Soon after the war between the United States and Great Britain, the German language was introduced into the curriculum of physical education. The German language was introduced into the curriculum of physical education for the purpose of teaching the students the principles of physical education.

systems in many places adopted one or more of the systems of physical culture or physical training.

Before the Civil War, the only noteworthy incident of true athletic development was the origin of our great American game, when in 1859 Abner Doubleday of Cooperstown, New York is supposed to have started the ball and base running combination which we now call baseball.¹

Tennis, which came to America in 1879, was in its early history considered only a fit game for weaklings and women. Golf became an American game in 1888 and was played largely by older men. Basketball, a distinctly American game, was originated by James Naismith, a student of the Young Men's Christian Association Training School at Springfield, Massachusetts. It has become the leading winter sport.

The part American Negroes have taken in the play and games of America are a credit to their athletic ability and prowess. It is known that early in the annals of athletic endeavor colored athletes played a noteworthy part, and their performances and contacts have gone far to liberalize popular conceptions of some of the capacities and abilities of this minority of our American citizenry.

The Negro athlete appeared on the scene about 1890 and has since that time made his contribution in the various

¹ Edwin Bancroft Henderson, The Negro In Sports (Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1939), p. 3

systems in many places adopted one or more of the systems of physical culture or physical training.

Before the Civil War, the only noteworthy institution of true athletic development was the origin of our great American game, when in 1859 Alfred Spalding, of Connecticut, New York is supposed to have invented the ball and bat game, a combination which we now call baseball.

Tennis, which came to America in 1877, was in the early history considered only a game for gentlemen and women. Golf became an American game in 1853 and was at first largely by older men. Lawn tennis, a game of the same kind, was originated by James H. Nehemiah, a student of the Young Men's Christian Association Training School, Springfield, Massachusetts. It has since been widely popular.

The part American people have taken in the development of games of America has been a great one. It is known that the endeavor colored athletes have made a noteworthy part, and their performances and contacts have been a source of popular conceptions of some of the principles and principles of this minority of our American citizenry.

The Negro athlete appeared on the scene about 1890 and has since that time made his contribution to the game.

¹ Edwin Panzer's introduction, *The Negro in Sports*, Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1911, p. 3.

athletic contests. The debut of the Negro came with the participation of W. T. S. Jackson and W. H. Lewis, two Negro boys who played football at Amherst College and has carried down to participation of Negroes in the 1948 Olympic games in London, England.

Although no outstanding competing athletes of color are recorded prior to the early nineties, it is significant and noteworthy that the first director of Harvard University physical education was a colored man. He was employed as an instructor and director of the first gymnasium built in 1859, and remained in charge until 1871, when he died.² That he was a man of ability, of character, and worthy of his position at the University is attested to by several accounts. Said a writer in the Harvard Magazine of October, 1859,

It is with feelings of pleasure and pride that we record the completion of the Harvard Gymnasium; of pleasure, in anticipation of the good effects of regular and varied exercise; of pride, that 'Conservative Harvard' should be the first of the colleges in this country to incorporate into its course of education an organized system of physical training. For several years the subject has attracted attention, and the students had been loud in their demands for better accommodations than were afforded by the small, though well-conducted gymnasiums of Professor Stewart. But no means of satisfying these demands were afforded till about a year ago, through the medium of Dr. Huntington, eight thousand dollars were given for the erection of a gymnasium. The

²Ibid., p. 4.

athletic contests. The first of the body was the
participation of W. H. ...
boys who played football ...
down to participation of ...
in London, England.

Although no ...
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through the medium of ...
dollars were given ...

spot selected for the building was the little Delta at the junction of Cambridge Street and Broadway. The expense of the building and fixtures exceeded ten thousand dollars. The Gymnasium was opened for use on Wednesday, September 14. Meanwhile, most fortunately, the services of Professor A. Molineaux Hewlitt had been secured. He came with an experience in gymnastic training of fourteen years, the last five of which had been devoted most acceptably to the citizens of Worcester. By the fine accommodations of the new building and under the admirable system of the new Professor, a fresh impulse was given to physical training, which, contrary to prediction, has been on the increase. The uniform courtesy of the Professor, and the personal interest which he takes in the exercises, keep alive the interest of his pupils and make the hours spent in the Gymnasium among the pleasantest.³

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this study is to produce an accurate record of events in the formation and development of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Association, in order that those responsible for its purposes and policies may use these experiences as a guide in present and future situations. Incidental to this record (1) trends in the development of the association will be determined; (2) comparison will be made with similar associations in the other states; and (3) causes and reasons will be given for the establishment, continued existence, and growth and development of the organization with which this study is concerned.

Delimitation of the problem. This report will be primarily concerned with the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic

³Ibid., p. 5.

spot reflected in the... the junction of... of the... dollars. The... September 11... of Professor... same with... years, the... acceptably to... accommodation of... sole system of... given to physical... then, has been... the Professor... in the execution... and make the... pleasant.

Statement of the...
is to produce... and development of... factor, in order... police may use... future situation... the development of... comparison will be... other states; and... the establishment... velopment of the... earned.

Definition of the...
primarily concerned...

Athletic Association, with only such references to other state associations as may aid by comparison in setting up criteria for a sound organization. County and district groups (conferences) are considered only to the extent that they affect or are affected by the state organization.

Importance of the problem. The important position occupied by athletics in the extra-curricular program of modern high schools is well evidenced by the fact that nearly every week of the school year is ended with some form of athletic event. In practically all of the large schools and in many small ones a large part of the finances for all school activities is derived from athletics. Some seventy-two Negro high schools in Oklahoma are members of the association.

The correspondence of the secretary is large, including eligibility reports from each member school each semester of the school year. These reports certify that each boy listed is eligible to participate in school sports for the ensuing semester. The constitution makes it mandatory that these eligibility reports be filed with the secretary at the beginning of each semester.

In addition to the eligibility reports there are letters seeking opinions or advice, letters of protest, applications for membership, and checking and filing of player record sheets.

Athletic Association, which will be held at the
state association as well as by the individual
colleges for a series of years. These are the
groups (conferences) and conferences will be held
they affect or are affected by the state association.

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ter of the school year. These reports specify the number of
listed as eligible to participate in school sports for the
ensuing semester. The constitution makes it mandatory that
these eligibility reports be filed with the secretary at the
beginning of each semester.

In addition to the eligibility reports each member school
fers seeking opinions of athletes, teachers, parents, and
ations for membership and a series of other
cord sheets.

Letters seeking opinions or advice are usually concerned with approved rulings of the Association or with interpretations of the constitution. Letters of protest are as a rule from some member school protesting the eligibility of a player of another school. The player record sheets are large sheets with the names of all the players who participated in any single game of football or basketball. The player record sheet also indicates the score of the game, the percentage of attendance of each player the week prior to his participation, the subjects he is taking, and whether he is passing or failing. In addition annual tournaments are held in basketball and track.

In view of the many and varied duties performed by the Association and the intricate nature of each, a history of this organization, treating in detail such items as those mentioned above, should be of practical value and assistance to school officials interested in athletics. With such information, those officers may better understand the present and possible future status of the Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association and consequently be better prepared to make constructive criticisms of the organization.

II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

The Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Throughout this study, the term Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association shall be interpreted to mean an organization for regulating interscholastic athletic competi-

Letters seeking opinions on the subject of the
seemed with approval of the Association. Letters of the
terestations of the Association. Letters of the
as a wife from some member of the Association. Letters of the
of a player of another school. The player had a
large sheets with the name of the player and the
played in any single game of football or basketball. The
player record sheet which listed the name of the player
the percentage of attendance of each player in each game
to his participation. The information was collected and
he is passing or failing. In addition, a record of the
and held in basketball and football.

In view of the fact that the Association is
Association, and the fact that the Association is
this organization, it is suggested that the Association
mentioned above, should be of interest to the Association
ance to school officials. It is suggested that the Association
information, these officials may be interested in the
ent and possible future of the Association. It is suggested
Athletic Association and the Association. It is suggested
make constructive criticism of the Association.

VI. THE NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

The Northern Association
Throughout this study, the Northern Association
the Athletic Association. It is suggested that the
organization for the Northern Association.

tion in all Negro high schools in the state of Oklahoma which have fulfilled the requirements for membership. Control of this association extends no further than athletic contests and functions under a constitution which will be treated in greater detail in a later chapter.

Board of Control. The term Board of Control shall refer to an executive and judicial body consisting of three persons elected by the members in the manner prescribed by the constitution.

Member. Except when otherwise designated, the term member is used to mean one of the schools of the Association in good standing. Members may be suspended or reinstated.

III. SOURCES OF THE DATA

A large portion of the data for this study was secured from documents and records filed in the office of the Association's secretary at Douglass High School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Data regarding early organization plans were secured through personal interviews with individuals who are at present active in the Association and with those who were active in the Association during its formative years but are now retired from school work. In addition, many important facts in connection with the development of the organization are well known by the writer because of his direct connection with it for more than a decade.

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III. SOURCES OF THE DATA

A large portion of the data for this study was se-
 cured from documents and reports filed in the office of the
 Association's secretary at Douglas High School, Oklahoma
 City, Oklahoma. Data regarding early organization plans
 were secured through personal interviews with individuals
 who are at present active in the Association and with those
 who were active in the Association during the formative
 years but are now retired from school work. In addition,
 many important facts in connection with the development of
 the organization are well known by the writer because of
 his direct connection with it for more than a decade.

IV. METHODS OF PROCEDURE

In this investigation the data assembled will be critically evaluated to establish their authenticity and the facts of the study will be presented by use of the topical and chronological methods.

V. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

There is a very little printed material dealing with Negro athletic associations in the United States, although nearly all of the seventeen southern states and the District of Columbia maintain some form of organized athletic program.

Among the few books on Negro athletics is an excellent treatise on football by William H. Lewis⁴ in which he says:

As early as 1890 a few Negroes were playing football on white teams. About the same time colored boys in the Negro schools were beginning to kick the ball around. Biddle University and Livingston College of North Carolina played the first Negro college game on Thanksgiving Day, November, 1892.

In this excellent book the author lists a number of college games engaged in by Negro schools, in addition to relating some of the exploits of Negro football players on

⁴ William H. Lewis, The Negro in Football (Washington D. C.: Associated Publishers', Inc., 1910), pp. 86-87.

In this investigation the data summarized in the preceding table are statistically evaluated to establish their significance and the facts of the study will be presented in the form of a summary and chronological sequence.

V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There is a very marked difference in the physical condition of Negro athletic associations in the United States. Nearly all of the associations were organized in the year 1900 or Columbia maintain their organization in the year 1900.

Among the few Negro athletic associations in the United States the best is the one in the city of New York. The following table shows the results of the investigation.

As early as 1900 the Negroes were organized in the city of New York. The following table shows the results of the investigation. The Negroes were organized in the city of New York in the year 1900.

In this excellent book the author has given a number of tables and games engaged in by Negroes in the city of New York. The following table shows the results of the investigation.

white teams.

Edwin Bancroft Henderson⁵ states that even though there were few Negro schools participating in athletic contests, the need for setting up some kind of controlling device was obvious. As early as 1910 he was advocating strict educational supervision, with educational aims and ideals as the goal for athletics. It was on the basis of his philosophy that the first organized athletic conference came into existence among Negro high schools.

VI. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE THESIS

The progress of Negro state athletic associations will be briefly surveyed in Chapter II. The general plan of their various constitutions and methods of functioning will be presented with the view toward making comparisons with the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association. Reference will be made to the close relation and similarities existing between interscholastic and college associations. Chapter III will deal with the early history of the Association, with special reference to Langston University and the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association. The powers and duties of the Association, both as they were ori-

⁵ Edwin Bancroft Henderson, Official Handbook, Interscholastic Athletic Association of the Middle Atlantic States, (Washington D. C.: Associated Publishers', Inc., 1910), p. 4.

white teams.

Edwin Hancock... there were few Negro schools... the need for better tests, the need for better... vice was obvious. As early as 1910 the... educational supervision... the goal for athletics. It was... why that the first organized... existence among Negro high schools.

VI. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEGRO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The progress of the... will be briefly... their various... the presented with the... the Negro Oklahoma... Reference will be made... ties existing between... tions. Chapter III will... the Association, with... city and the Oklahoma... powers and duties of the Association.

ginally defined and as they have been enlarged or curtailed, will be discussed in Chapter IV. The growth of the organization from 1930 to 1940, stressing greater need for educational policies, and the period of most rapid expansion with special reference to the motivating force of high school principals, will constitute the subject matter of Chapter V. The period from 1940 to the present, with attention to recent rules and regulations, increased emphasis on scholarship, and problems posed by the return of service men, will be the concern of Chapter VI. Chapter VII will take up the general policies and practices of the Association as it now exists, particularly in regard to types of problems, degree of publicity, methods of handling protests, and frequency of meetings. The final chapter will present a summary, conclusions, and such recommendations as the writer may deem advisable.

Finally defined and as they have been defined on established
will be discussed in Chapter II. The purpose of the present
section from 1930 to 1940, and the period of more or less examination with
national policies, and the period of more or less examination with
special reference to the activities of the various
principals, will constitute the main body of Chapter V.
The period from 1940 to the present, with reference to re-
cent times and to the present, discussed separately as an addi-
tional, and problems posed by the nature of services can, will
be the concern of Chapter VI. Chapter VII will take up the
general policies and practices of the Association as it now
exists, particularly in regard to the various policies, degree
of publicity, methods of handling, research, and the degree of
meetings. The final chapter will present a summary, con-
clusions, and such recommendations as the writer may deem
advisable.

CHAPTER II

NEGRO STATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

The study of the Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association may well proceed from a preliminary survey of existing college and high school associations. College associations will be considered with a view to determining what features they have contributed in the organization and development of Negro high school associations. Attention will be particularly directed to the high school organizations for the purpose of identifying their best features and those that differ from the subject of this study.

Negro college associations. Until 1906 there were no organized Negro high school or college associations for the promotion of athletics. Very few educational institutions sponsored athletics other than baseball and football. Here and there were rudiments of track and field, and occasionally basketball. With the advent of track and field meets came the opportunity for the first organization of schools to foster athletics. In 1906 there met in Washington, D. C. several educators who planned an association of colored schools for athletic purposes. It was called the Interscholastic Athletic Association of the Middle Atlantic States, and among its first members were Howard University,

NEGRO STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

The study of the Negro State College and University Association may well proceed from a preliminary survey of the existing college and university associations. In these associations will be found a wide range of activities and what features they have common to the Negro State College and University Association. The development of Negro State College and University Association will be particularly directed to the Negro State College and University Association for the purpose of determining their basic features and those that differ from the Negro State College and University Association.

Negro College Association. Until 1900 there was no organized Negro college association or college movement for the promotion of education. There was a small group of students sponsored athletic clubs and a small group of students and there were movements of students and teachers. The Negro State College and University Association came the opportunity for the Negro State College and University Association to foster education. In 1900 the Negro State College and University Association was organized and several educators who shared an interest in education for Negroes for athletic purposes. It was called the Negro State College and University Association of the Negro State College and University Association, and among the first members were Howard University,

The M Street High School and Armstrong Manual Training High Schools of Washington, D. C., the Douglass High School of Baltimore, and the Howard High School of Wilmington, Delaware. The first activity sponsored was a track and field meet, May 30, 1906, at Howard University. Later this organization developed basketball and football leagues.

Two college associations began about 1912. The first was the colored Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association, the other being the North Carolina Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association. Some of the membership of the North Carolina conference merged with the Colored Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association in later years. Since the establishment of these pioneer organizations other colleges in regional proximity have banded together for the purpose of developing and controlling athletic growth and competition. Today there are many scholastic conferences and at least seven collegiate associations in the southern section of the country.

The well-known organizations include these seven: the Colored Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association, operating chiefly among the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia; the Southern Inter-Collegiate Conference of Colleges in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Louisiana; the Midwestern Athletic Association of

The M Street High School, Washington, D. C., and the
Schools of Washington, Baltimore, and the District of Columbia.
The first meeting was held at the M Street High School,
May 30, 1905, at 10:00 A. M. The meeting was held in the
auditorium developed by the school.
Two college graduates, Miss Mary E. Smith and Miss
and the colored Inter-Collegiate Association, the
other being the North Carolina Inter-Collegiate Association.
Some of the speakers were: Dr. J. M. Smith, President
Conference merged with the Inter-Collegiate Association
Association in 1907. The Inter-Collegiate Association
these pioneer organizations and colleges in the United States
fully have banded together and the result is a more
controlling athletic power, and organized in 1907.
are many scholastic associations and as a result of this
state associations in the United States and Canada.
The well-known organization, Inter-Collegiate Association
Colored Inter-Collegiate Association, was organized
chiefly among the students of the United States, and
is, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of
Columbia; the Southern Inter-Collegiate Association of
leges in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and the District of
see, and Louisiana; the Southern Inter-Collegiate Association

Colleges in Ohio, West Virginia, Missouri, and Kentucky; the Southwestern Athletic Conference of Colleges in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana; the South Central Athletic Conference of Colleges in Mississippi; the South Atlantic Conference of Colleges in North and South Carolina and Georgia; and the Middle Atlantic Athletic Association of Junior Colleges and Normal Schools in West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

Conference athletic growth has paralleled other demonstrations of the Negroes' ability to organize and cooperate for worthy social ends. In the early days games between colleges were on an individual contractual basis. There were often no eligibility requirements for players who represented a college. Sportsmanship was only an occasional practice. Officials of ability and worth were rare. Few opportunities were afforded for meetings of competing units for discussion of problems. Naturally, contracts to play were often worthless or easily broken; since the only objective of a contest was victory, players were often not even members of the college; and all of the evils of uncontrolled or unregulated athletics were present. In bringing these institutions into organized groups for mutual advantage and in enforcing rules and regulations an outstanding work was accomplished at great sacrifice for the bet-

Colleges in Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania
Southwestern Athletic Conference of Colleges in Kansas, Oklahoma,
home, Arkansas, and Louisiana; the South Atlantic
Conference of Colleges in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia,
Conference of Colleges in North Carolina, Virginia, and
Georgia; and the Middle Atlantic Athletic Conference in
Junior Colleges and Normal Schools in New York, New Jersey,
land, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.
Conferences in this group are organized on a regional basis
onstitutions of the National Athletic Union, and are organized
also for worthy social ends. The athletic spirit is
tween colleges were an important part of the
There were often no eligibility requirements in these
represented a college. Sportsmanship was an important
practice. Officials of athletic contests were
opportunities were afforded for a number of contests
for discussion of problems. In many cases, however,
were often worthless or easily won; and the
jective of a contest was victory, and the
even members of the college; and all of this
trolled or unregulated athletic contests. In many
these institutions have organized great for athletic
page and in enforcing rules and regulations in order
ing work was accomplished. And even for the

terment of athletics in Negro colleges.

Only through conference groupings has athletics been raised to standards compatible with those of educational institutions. The conference method of promotion and control has resulted in securing more nearly desirable outcomes.

Some of the achievements credited to these organizations and their leadership should be noted in detail. The arrangement of schedules in football, basketball, track, baseball, and tennis has been accomplished in annual meetings. These are published in the press and bulletins months in advance. A premium is placed on sportsmanship. Coaches, rules, regulations, and practices have worked to make sportsmanly conduct a prominent outcome. In the past, some players represented institutions through the preparatory department, the college, and the professional school as long as they were enrolled in the institution. Often players were failing in all scholastic work, paid no tuition fees, and were connected with the institution only to engage in athletics. Although many athletes today in some schools are still "hired" for athletic purposes, the great mass of athletes are eligible as bona fide students of amateur standing.

Colleges do not require state residence or have age limits as do high schools. Due to this fact the practice

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excellent standing.
Colleges do not require state residence or have age
limits as do high schools. Due to this fact the practice

of recruiting is prevalent.¹ Subsidizing is also a common practice in some of the colleges where funds are plentiful. Although the practice is condemned by all the conferences, this method is still used to lure outstanding athletes. Inter-collegiate competition is limited to four years and scholarship requirements are maintained. To prevent one college from stealing good athletes from other colleges, all Negro conferences have the one-year residence rule. This rule provides that when a student transfers from one college to another he must spend at least one year in residence before he becomes eligible for varsity competition. This rule does not apply to transfers from junior colleges. All of the conferences have the professionalism clause in their constitution, which states that any student who participates in professional athletics or coaches or teaches athletic teams for pay other than a temporary recreational employee shall be ineligible for inter-collegiate competition.²

Colleges representing these conferences have pio-

¹ V. E. McCain, Assistant Coach, Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial College, Nashville, Tennessee. Letter to the writer, April 18, 1948.

² Bulletin of the Mid-Western Athletic Association, Constitution and rules, Article V, Section IV, 1948. p. 7.

neered Negro athletic programs in the United States. The influence of these schools has been felt very strongly by every athletic association of Negro high schools in America.

Negro high school associations. It would not be entirely correct to say that Negro high school associations came into existence as a result of athletic organizations in colleges. Rather, the growth of the two has been almost parallel. In the organized purpose of the organization of each the basis for their existence was the same. Yet in recent years college athletics, especially football and basketball, have become highly commercialized, whereas in the interscholastic program the emphasis has remained on health, sportsmanship, and educational ideas.

Howard High School of Wilmington, Delaware, was one of the pioneers in Negro high school athletics. As early as 1906 Howard High School was competing in track and field events of the Interscholastic Athletic Association in Washington, D. C. Since these beginning days, the Wiley Bates High School of Annapolis, the Dunbar, Booker T. Washington, and the Vocational School of Baltimore, and the Manassas and Parker-Gray High Schools of Virginia have joined these schools to form the South Atlantic High School Athletic Association. This organization appears to

increased Negro athletic programs in the United States. The influence of these schools has been felt very strongly by every athletic association of Negro high schools in America.

Negro High School Athletic Association. The Negro High School Athletic Association is an entirely correct term for the Negro high school athletic associations came into existence as a result of athletic organizations in colleges. During the years of the twenties and thirties, the Negro high school athletic associations have been almost parallel to the white high school athletic organizations of each state and the Negro high school athletic associations. Yet in recent years, the Negro high school athletic associations have been almost parallel to the white high school athletic associations. In the Negro high school athletic associations, the Negro high school athletic associations have remained on a par with the white high school athletic associations.

Howard High School of Wilmington, Delaware, was one of the pioneers in Negro high school athletics. As early as 1906 Howard High School was competing in track and field events of the International Athletic Association in Washington, D. C. Since those beginning days, the Wiley Bates High School of Annapolis, the Lincoln School of Washington, and the Woodlawn School of Baltimore, and the Manassas and Park View High Schools of Virginia, have joined these schools to form the Negro High School Athletic Association. This organization was formed in

be the first Negro high school athletic association formed. This is the only high school association whose membership embraces high schools from different states.

The Texas Interscholastic League of Colored Schools had its beginning in the latter part of the school year 1920-1921 for the purpose of promoting better conditions in the public Negro schools of the state by bringing the schools together in county, district, and state meets, by the study of declamation, debating, and spelling in the schools, by encouraging the development of schools, and by the promotion of track and field athletics as a means of stimulating better physical conditions.³ The athletic phases were later expanded to include football, basketball, and tennis.

The organization of state athletic conferences spread rapidly after World War I until every state in which separate schools were maintained had some form of organized athletic program in the Negro high schools. The state of Texas was the first to organize its high school athletic program after World War I. Then followed Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama. The Kansas State High School Activities Association integrated

³ Bulletin of the Texas Interscholastic League of Colored Schools, Rules and Regulations, p. 4. Prairie View University, Prairie View, Texas, 1946-1947.

the Negro high schools of that state with the majority schools; however the Negro schools are allowed to compete with the majority schools in track and field only. There is a concerted move on at this time to break down this practice. Of all the associations, Texas and Oklahoma seem to have the best organization. This was the consensus of most of the coaches from sixteen different states gathered at Nashville, Tennessee for the National high school basketball tournament in 1946.

Most of the constitutions are almost identical in their provisions. The requirements that interscholastic athletes must be bona fide students of the school they represent is universal. That is to say, athletes must be subject to all rules governing the student body as regards study load. Requirements concerning the number of credits earned each semester are generally imposed. Three credits a semester is the common minimum.

The age of participants is a matter that is always checked very carefully, and no state association permits the use of players over twenty-two years of age. The age limit ranges from eighteen to twenty-two.

The prohibition of professionalism is a common feature, the general rule being that no high school athlete may compete in any type of athletic contest for financial gain or even use his knowledge of athletics to coach or as-

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schools; however, the Negro schools are not so well
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limit ranges from sixteen to twenty-two.
The prohibition of professional players is a common
feature, the general rule being that no player should
may compete in any type of basketball contest for financial
gain or even the possibility of financial gain or loss.

sist or officiate in contests for pay.

Residence and migration are subject to close regulations. With certain specified exceptions, a student is not eligible except in the district where his parents or guardians reside. Most states require that an athlete transferring from one state to another must have been a bona fide student in the state from which he came to be eligible for competition in the state to which he has changed his residence.

Many different types of record forms are found among the various states, but all have the common purpose of facilitating the checking of eligibility by a central authority or of minimizing the work of those charged with handling the business of the Association.

Types of state organizations. State Negro high school associations generally follow one of two plans: the first involves purely voluntary membership and the payment of a conference fee; the second is one wherein all schools in a given area, such as a county, which are affiliated with the State Department of Education participate. The majority of schools are under the former plan, which seems to be the more acceptable.

also or officials in connection with the
the residence and subject of the
national. With certain exceptions, persons
not eligible except in the case of
guardians reside. Those who are not
transferring from one state to another
bears like status in the state into which he
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school associations generally followed by two states. The
first involves purely voluntary membership and the payment
of a conference fee; the second is one where all schools
in a given area, such as a county, must be affiliated with
the State Department of Education and pay a fee.
of schools are under different conditions which determine how
more acceptable.

CHAPTER III

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION¹

At the beginning of statehood in 1907 there were no organized athletic teams in either of the three Negro secondary schools in the state. School athletic activities were confined to intra-school baseball games on the respective school grounds.

The high schools existing at that time were Douglass High School of Oklahoma City, Faver High School of Guthrie, and Langston High School located on the campus of the Colored Agricultural and Normal University at Langston, Oklahoma. Because of the close proximity of the three schools, a series of baseball games was played among these teams in the spring of 1908. These contests marked the beginning of interscholastic athletic contests in the Negro high schools of the state of Oklahoma. Because of the small number competing, problems of supervision were limited.

Even at this early day the boys who took part in these events were for the most part those who came to school only on days when a game was to be played and con-

¹ The data contained in this chapter were secured through personal interviews with individuals who have been connected with the organization from its inception to the present.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

At the beginning of the century in 1807 there were no organized athletic teams in any of the fifteen Negro primary schools in the state. School athletics were confined to a few school baseball games on the respective school grounds.

The high schools existing at that time were Douglas High School of Oklahoma City, Lawton High School of Guthrie, and Langston High School of Langston, Oklahoma. Besides the three schools, a series of baseball games was played among these teams in the spring of 1900. Those who participated in the beginning of inter-school athletic contests in the Negro high schools of the state of Oklahoma, besides the small number competing, consisted of spectators were limited.

Even at this early day the few who took part in these events were for the most part those who were in school only on days when a game was to be played.

The data contained in this chapter were obtained through personal interviews with individuals who have been connected with the organization from its inception to the present.

sequently were not bona fide students. Nothing, however, was done to conceal this practice, since it was understood by the coaches as an unwritten agreement. The practice of permitting the playing of over-age boys was also quite common, although it was frowned upon by some school administrators.

Coaches at these respective schools were H. A. Berry of Douglass High School, Oklahoma City; George Kerry of Favor High School, Guthrie; and Sam Saddler, a student coach at the Colored Agricultural and Normal University at Langston.

In the autumn of 1910 football was added to the athletic program of these schools. As the population of the state grew, other Negro high schools were established and by 1914 Tulsa, Nowata, and Muskogee were competing in interscholastic contests in baseball and football and following the same practices as their predecessors.

Very little if any changes took place in the athletic status of Negro high schools during World War I, but more high schools were built which resulted in more schools sponsoring athletic programs. Negro high schools were located at El Reno, Boley, Ardmore, Claremore, Chickasha, Okmulgee, Luther, Shawnee, and Sapulpa. All of these schools sponsored some kind of athletic program.

With the rapid growth of Negro secondary schools came a realization of the need for some form of centralized con-

...were not done with the same...
...was done to correct this...
...by the coaches as an...
...permitting the playing of...
...common, although it was...
...instructors.
...of Douglas High School, ...
...Favor High School, ...
...coach at the Colored ...
...Langston.
...In the autumn of 1918 ...
...letic program of these schools...
...state grew, other Negro high schools were established...
...by 1914 Tulsa, Nowata, and ...
...teracholastic contests in baseball and football...
...following the same practice as ...
...Very little ...
...the status of Negro high schools ...
...more high schools were ...
...schools sponsoring ...
...were located at ...
...sals, Okmulgee, ...
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trol of the athletic situation.

Initial steps. Many of the records which contain data on the early stages of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association have been lost or otherwise destroyed. This laxity on the part of the early directors of the organization has made it somewhat difficult to record the history of the Association.

At the state teachers' meeting in 1922 discussions among the coaches and administrators arose pertaining to the playing of over-age boys in athletic contests and playing boys who were not properly enrolled in school. The most outstanding critic of this practice was H. A. Berry, the former coach at Douglass High School of Oklahoma City. He maintained that for a student to represent a school in an athletic contest he should be (1) under twenty-one years of age, (2) a resident of the school district in which the school that he represents is located, (3) limited to five years of participation in any one sport, (4) required to be passing in three-fourths of his subjects, (5) required to carry not less than the minimum load of subjects, and (6) required to maintain his amateur standing. Most of these suggestions have been incorporated into the rules which will be discussed in a later chapter. The basis of his contentions were well founded and reflected the opin-

that of the athletic association.

Initial Survey.

data on the early years of the athletic association were obtained from the files of the association. This history on a page of the early years of the organization has been included in the history of the association. At the same time, a list of the names of the members of the association was obtained from the files of the association.

among the members and their families. The playing of the game by the boys who were not members of the association was also included in the list.

most of the boys who were not members of the association were included in the list.

the former of the two schools, the school of the athletic association.

He maintained that the athletic association was a school of the athletic association.

an athletic center, he said, and the athletic center was a school of the athletic association.

of age, (2) a list of the names of the members of the athletic association.

school that he had been in, and the school that he had been in.

years of his life, and the years of his life.

be passing in the school, and the school that he had been in.

to carry out the plan, and the school that he had been in.

(6) required to maintain the school, and the school that he had been in.

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his contention was, and the school that he had been in.

ions of the majority of the coaches and school administrators. It seems to the writer to be noteworthy to record that most of the men who played major roles in organizing the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association have also been dynamic forces in its development down to the present.

From 1922 to 1924 the discussion of problems arising from athletic contests continued to be the major topic of discussion among coaches and school authorities at the annual teachers' meetings. During the meeting of 1924 S. E. Williams, coach at Booker Washington High School of Tulsa, and L. L. McGhee, coach at Douglass High School of Oklahoma City, took the responsibility of beginning a draft of rules and regulations for some kind of athletic association among the Negro high schools. Each year at the state meeting for Negro teachers these two men submitted preliminary drafts for a constitution to coaches and other interested persons for analysis and discussion. These preliminary drafts were discussed pro and con, with additions being made where warranted and parts stricken that did not appear to fit the need. Men who took active part in these discussions, other than H. A. Berry, S. E. Williams, and L. L. McGhee, were E. W. Woods, principal of Booker Washington High School, Tulsa; H. S. Hughes, Booker Washington High School, Tulsa; C. D. Tate, assistant coach, Douglass

ions of the majority of the teachers and school administrators. It seems to me rather to be necessary to admit that most of the men who played major roles in organizing the Negro Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Association have also been dynamic leaders in the development of the present.

From 1922 to 1925 the basketball problem was taken from athletic contests conducted by the major teams in discussion among teachers and school administrators at the annual teachers' meetings. During the meeting of 1922, Mr. Williams, coach at Central Oklahoma, and Mr. L. I. McGhee, coach at Oklahoma City, took the responsibility of making a study of rules and regulations for some kind of athletic competition among the Negro high schools. A year or two later, looking for Negro teachers to help in the development of basketball drafts for a competition to coaches and other interested persons for basketball. These drafts were discussed and made where warranted and some action was taken to put the matter to rest. For the first time in these discussions, other than L. I. McGhee, and L. I. McGhee, were J. W. Moore, principal of Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa; E. A. Hughes, teacher, Washington High School, Tulsa; C. A. Jones, principal, Oklahoma City.

High School, Ardmore; L. H. Hill, Coach at Boley High School; J. W. Sanford, principal of Douglass High School, Ardmore; H. C. Jones, principal, Claremore High School; and E. W. Tolliver, head coach at Douglass High School, Ardmore.

At the state teachers' meeting at Tulsa in February, 1926, a special session was called by this group for the purpose of completing the final draft of the constitution for an athletic conference, at which time the constitution was completed and adopted. The officers elected were H. S. Hughes, a teacher at Booker Washington High School, Tulsa, president; W. H. Fort, principal, Dunbar High School, Okmulgee, vice president; and C. D. Tate, Douglass High School, Ardmore, secretary-treasurer. Board of control members were H. A. Berry of Oklahoma City, J. W. Sanford of Ardmore, and Sam Saddler, principal of Manual Training High School of Muskogee. The Negro high schools of Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Ardmore, Muskogee, El Reno, Luther, Okmulgee, Boley, Claremore, Nowata, and Sand Springs were the first members of the Association. Reference to a map of Oklahoma will show that geographically this group of schools was fairly well distributed. Although three of the schools were closely located in and about Oklahoma City, the remaining ones represented nearly all sections from Nowata in the northeast to Muskogee in the southeast and Ardmore in the south. Thus, the expressed purpose of the founders to set up a controlling and integrating body was accomplished.

High School, Ardmore, Oklahoma, and the
School; J. W. Baker, Ardmore, Oklahoma,
Ardmore; E. J. Jones, Ardmore, Oklahoma;
E. W. Walker, Ardmore, Oklahoma, and
At the same meeting, a resolution was adopted
1920, a motion was made and carried to the
purpose of a meeting of the association
for an annual convention at the Hotel
was completed and adopted.
Hughes, a member of the association, was
president; W. H. Jones, Ardmore, Oklahoma,
Oklahoma, was secretary; and J. W. Baker,
School, Ardmore, Oklahoma, was treasurer.
members were J. W. Baker, Ardmore, Oklahoma;
Ardmore, and J. W. Baker, Ardmore, Oklahoma;
School of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and J. W. Baker,
Home City, Ardmore, Oklahoma, and J. W. Baker,
Boley, Oklahoma, and J. W. Baker, Ardmore, Oklahoma;
members of the association were J. W. Baker,
will show that cooperation in a group of
fairly well distributed. Among the
were closely located in Ardmore, Oklahoma,
mainline once represented by all members,
the northeast of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and J. W. Baker,
the south. Thus, the first meeting was
set up a convention at the Hotel Ardmore, Oklahoma.

In March, 1927, the first basketball tournament sponsored by the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association was conducted at Booker Washington High School in Tulsa. The tournament was won by Sand Springs. Tournaments had been conducted before this time but were on an invitational basis and were not governed by rules of eligibility. This practice only encouraged to a greater degree the use of over-age boys and even men who were not bona fide high school pupils for the express purpose of winning a trophy.

Influence of Langston University. Langston University being the only institution of higher learning for Negroes in the state, in addition to being the center of a great deal of the extra-curricula high school activities, it was only logical that the institution should be called upon to assist the high schools in formulating good clean athletic programs. This obligation the University gracefully accepted since the majority of athletes who attended college after graduation from the high schools entered Langston University.

Langston initially served primarily in the role of consultant. That is, W. E. Anderson, the Langston coach at that time, was called upon to point out to the high school coaches the apparent weaknesses of high school athletics.

In March, 1937, the first season of the
sawed by the first season of the
excitation was about 1000 ft. below the
surface. The temperature was about 1000 ft.
beneath had been a constant 1000 ft. below the
investigational basis and was of course in the
depth. This was the only method of
the use of over-ice and was not a
like high level of the water level
a trophy.

Influence of the water level
The water level being the only method of
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Langston University.
Langston University.
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coaches the water level.

Dr. Anderson states in a letter to the writer, April 20, 1948:

These were obviously the unequalized competition as represented in terms of schools playing men for a longer period of time, schools that had good men on their teams who had made no effort to attend school, and schools which allowed men to finish school on their athletic ability and thus make them eligible for college entrance with most inadequate preparation for college study.

When the coaches and principals began to sense these evils in athletic participation they could see the necessity of taking some specific steps toward improving athletic control in the schools. A second problem brought to light by the coaches at Langston was what to do with those schools which did not submit to association control. It was made clear that so far as Langston was concerned its attitude toward those schools would be different. While this was not a legal position it did not take very long to communicate the fact the method employed in the handling of players made a difference. It also made the secondary school principals and teachers see the necessity of getting into an organized athletic program.

The second phase of Langston's influence was demonstrated in the annual track and field meets which were originally sponsored by that institution. Beginning in the spring of 1926 and lasting through 1928 high schools that were members of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athle-

tic Association were invited to Langston to compete in track and field events, oratorical contests, and singing contests. The program was generally held for two days. Team trophies and individual medals were awarded to the winners of first, second, and third places. Inasmuch as the entry blanks and conditions of the meet were prepared by Langston athletic coaches, it became necessary for the participating schools to have some allegiance to the Association on a basis for participation.

The third and most pervasive influence perhaps grew out of the personality of Coach W. E. Anderson himself. This was in turn transmitted to the players, who became ambassadors of the university and the emissaries of every coach, spreading a philosophy and an ideology of fairness and the development of manhood rather than sheer victory regardless of the conditions of competition. A justification of this position is the fact that approximately 90 per cent of the coaches in the state are Langston graduates. This number embraces some of the leading coaches in each of the sports sponsored by the association.

Influence of the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association. Mr. Lee K. Anderson, secretary of the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association, was an invaluable source of information during the early years of the Negro

the Association was first set on foot in 1900 by the
Irish and Field sports, and the Association was
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Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association. He acted in an advisory capacity to some of the founders on problems that involved handling of schools that transgressed the rules, especially those rules which carried the penalty of suspension. In addition, many of the features of the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association Constitution are embodied in the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association's constitution. This is also true of eligibility blanks, schedule sheets, and other forms used in carrying on the business of the Association.

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CHAPTER IV

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION 1930-1940

The decade 1930-1940 may be regarded as a highly important one in the history of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association in that, being a period of rapid growth in membership and influence, it witnessed the crystalization of the form and functions of the organization into the fairly definite state it maintains today. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth in order the principal events and changes which occurred during the period indicated.

I. RULE CHANGES

As previously stated, attention is directed to rule changes in the chronological order of their appearance. Therefore, the following review is made of important legislative action in the second decade of the organization.

Conferences. Prior to 1934 there was no division of member schools on a basis of enrollment. All members participated on the same level in football, basketball, and track. At the annual meeting, December 15, 1934, at Wewoka, many of the representatives of the smaller schools argued that the system of competition practiced was unfair to them because of the small number of boys in the smaller high

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION 1910-1915

The decade 1910-1915 may be regarded as a period of important one in the history of the Negro College Athletic Association. During this period, the association experienced a rapid growth in membership and influence. The organization of the first annual meeting in 1910 marked the beginning of the association's active participation in the affairs of the Negro college community. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the principal events and changes which occurred during the period indicated.

1. THE CHANGES

As previously stated, attention is directed to changes in the organizational and administrative aspects of the association. Therefore, the following section is devoted to a detailed narrative of the changes which took place during the period indicated.

Organization. During the decade 1910-1915, the association experienced a rapid growth in membership and influence. The organization of the first annual meeting in 1910 marked the beginning of the association's active participation in the affairs of the Negro college community. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the principal events and changes which occurred during the period indicated.

schools. Their argument was well founded by virtue of the fact that the larger schools consistently won the championship in all sports sponsored by the association. On the basis of these arguments the body voted during the annual meeting of the State Teachers' Association at Muskogee, February, 1935, to divide the association into two conferences. High schools with an enrollment in the four upper grades of one hundred or more were placed in the "A" Division and all other schools were placed in the "B" Division.¹ The "A" Division basketball tournament was held at Tulsa and the "B" Division was conducted at Bristow.

At the same time the body approved of the Board of Control's plan of an entry fee of two dollars and fifty cents for each team that desired to enter the state basketball tournament of its classification, said fee to be returned by the secretary-treasurer to the team upon certification of the authority responsible for the tournament arrangements that said team had appeared and participated in the tournament according to the drawings. It also provided that any team failing to pay the fee seven days prior to the opening of the tournament would not be allowed to participate, and further that any team failing to appear and participate as scheduled would automatically

¹Minutes of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, Muskogee, Oklahoma, February, 1935, p. 1.

forfeit its entry fee, same to be paid to tournament authorities.²

Dues. Based on the financial report of the retiring secretary-treasurer for the year 1933, the new secretary-treasurer recommended that the conference either reduce its operating expenses to a much lower level or provide some means of securing additional revenues for the transaction of its business, as its present revenue was inadequate.³ With this important fact in mind the association voted at its annual meeting in 1934 to increase the annual dues to seven dollars and fifty cents for schools sponsoring two or more sports and that the dues remain five dollars for schools participating in only one sport.

II. TYPICAL PROTESTS AND FINDINGS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL 1935

Protests. Holdenville protested the eligibility of Hodge, Adams, Mackey, and Hughesey, football players on the Beggs team, on the grounds that they had been issued diplomas at commencement in the spring of that year, and that they played in the Holdenville-Beggs game the following autumn.

² Ibid., p. 2.

³ Minutes of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, Annual Meeting. Wewoka, Oklahoma, December, 1934.

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Carver Junior High School of Tulsa protested the eligibility of Sam Stell, player on the Beggs football team, on the grounds that he was over the age limit, and also of Leo Adams on the grounds that he graduated the spring previous to his participation.

Ardmore protested Johnson of Tulsa on the grounds that he participated in the Ardmore game when the player-record sheet showed that he was taking only two subjects.

Findings of the Board of Control. Owing to the great number of protests received this particular year, the Board of Control made a more careful examination of the player-record sheets and eligibility blanks. The findings were as follows: Insufficient records were discovered for Tom Beaver of Beggs, Muskogee's player-record sheets were improperly filled in, having no teacher's signature to any grade on the sheets, and eligibility blanks did not give the requested information; Ardmore's eligibility blanks were improperly filled in. Dempsey Patton, who participated in all football games, was shown by previous player-record sheets to have been born in 1912 as recorded on some, and February 2, 1913, as recorded on others. Stubblefield of Wewoka was ineligible to participate in the Wewoka-Okmulgee game because he maintained a passing mark in only two subjects. McAlester's eligibility sheets showed no

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grades for the past semester's work for Elmer Smith. Gilford Snowden, an official in the Wewoka-Okmulgee game, was not a conference official. Leodus and Forest Banks, players on the Wewoka football team, were listed on the eligibility sheets as residing in Boley. Ed Butler, player on the Oklahoma City team, played in the Ardmore-Oklahoma City game at a time when his record showed that he was passing in only two subjects. Warren Patterson, of the same school, participated in the Tulsa-Oklahoma City game when he was passing in only two subjects. Carson of Oklahoma City participated in the Boley game when he was passing in only one subject. Black of Oklahoma City participated in the Muskogee game when he was passing in only one subject. Luther sent in no eligibility sheets. Boley turned in no player-record sheets. Holdenville used Monroe Pratt, who attended the Deaf, Blind and Orphans' Institute at Taft, Oklahoma, in 1934-1935 and Clemmie Washington whose parents, the records showed lived in Idabel, Oklahoma, and had attended the Deaf, Blind and Orphans' Institute in 1934-1935.⁴ These cases of rule infraction seem to have opened the eyes of the members of the Board of Control. From this time to the present, this body of men, charged with the

⁴ Annual Report of the Board of Control, Tulsa, Oklahoma, December, 1946, pp. 1-2.

responsibility of keeping athletics clean in the Negro high schools of Oklahoma, has been on the alert to observe even the most minor violations by any member. When a member school was found guilty this group of men showed no sympathy in administering the penalty, whether it was a fine or suspension. Because of this firm attitude taken by the Board of Control, beginning in 1935, there has been a continuous decline in the number of schools found guilty of violating the rules and regulations as set forth in the constitution.

III. INFLUENCE OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

The part played by high school principals in directing and molding the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association into the directive athletic force it is today cannot be over-emphasized. The success and continued progress of the organization from its inception to the present is in a large degree due to the interest and active support of this unselfish group of men. Support of this position may be found in the fact that throughout the history of the Association nearly all of the positions of authority have been held by high school principals. These men, acting in capacities as president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and board members have constantly fostered the idea of fair play, sportsmanship, and high ideals in athletic com-

petition.

John Buford, president in 1934, appealed to the sportsmanship of the coaches and the integrity of principals to see that youngsters who participated in sports were treated fairly. He asked that the pressure to win be reduced and that fewer games be scheduled, thereby saving youths from being "burned out".⁵

In 1935 the Board of Control, consisting of H. A. Berry, H. S. Hughes, and E. E. Weaver, issued a reprimand and warning to members as follows:

The Board of Control condemns the manner in which many of the player-record sheets are filled out. It does seem that the records of an educational institution, the sole reason for the existence of which is the training of youth to participate effectively in the society of which he is a part, would reflect intelligence. In many instances all information supplied on the player-record sheet is typed on the sheet before it is sent to the classroom teacher, even the indication of passing or failing. The classroom teacher needs only to sign on the dotted line. Someone else has already evaluated the players' scholastic records. It shall be the policy of this body now and hereafter to follow to the letter the constitution in dealing with such aforesaid cases.

There is a growing tendency in some parts of the state to discredit the association by ignoring its rules and boasting in the community that nothing will be done about it. The board believes and will make it mandatory that the constitution be upheld in all controversial matters that affect membership schools irrespective of the size of the school or the influence of its representative.⁶

⁵ Annual Report of the Board of Control, December, 1935, pp. 2-3.

⁶ Annual Report of the Board of Control, December, 1938, pp. 2-3.

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In 1938 the Board of Control pointedly observed that the officiating in both basketball and football was very poor. In one or two instances an aggrieved coach had removed his team from the field. This, the Board considered, was a step toward disorganization. The Board condemned the existing method of determining the eligibility of a conference official, observing that it was easy to obtain an endorsement even when the endorsers knew nothing of the qualifications or record of the applicant.

On the basis of individual and group observation, in addition to numerous irregularities and discrepancies found in the Association records, the Board of Control recommended that the list of approved officials be purged by a committee on officials appointed by the president from the coaches in the association; that this committee investigate every official on the approved list as to his qualifications, experience, age, and record for fairness, and the length of time since he has officiated; that this committee report its findings to the Board of Control with recommendations for dropping or retaining; that all applications for a place on the list of approved officials be submitted to the chairman of the committee of officials; and that the committee investigate thoroughly the applicant's qualifications, experience, and record and submit its findings to the Board of Control for approval or

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In 1940 the Board of Control inquired of the secretary if there were any irregularities. The secretary reported that the records of all schools were in good order. The Board of Control, consisting of H. S. Hughes, C. R. Johns, and E. W. Tolliver, commended the schools for the promptness with which the schools filed the necessary reports. It also found that on the whole the officiating in basketball and football was good.⁷

From 1934 until his resignation in 1945 the secretary-treasurer, W. E. Anderson, directed the policies of the organization. His experience and foresight in the field of athletics helped to mold the Association into one that is recognized throughout the South. Although it has taken constant purging of officials, reprimanding of members, and even fines and suspensions by the directors, generally principals were equal to the challenge and consequently performed their duties with firmness and dignity.

IV. SPECIMEN CASES

As material illustrative of the type and nature of the various problems arising before the Association and as a means of showing its method of functioning through the Board of Control in judicial and disciplinary capacities,

⁷ Ibid., p. 6.

a review of the action taken in some of the more important cases may be presented. Nearly all the questions decided by the Board of Control relate to the use of ineligible players by member schools. In most cases a complete record of the charge, testimony, and decisions has not been preserved; therefore only a brief summary of the charges and decisions is available.

The case of Harry Atkinson. Harry Atkinson, an orphan in the state school for orphans at Taft, Oklahoma, left school in December, 1933, and went to Crescent, Oklahoma, to live with his cousin, a teacher in the Douglass High School of that town. In March Harry enrolled in this school and received credit in four subjects for the last nine weeks of school. He participated in football, representing Douglass High School of Crescent in 1934, in which season Crescent won all of its conference games. The coach of the Deaf, Blind and Orphans' Institute of Taft, Oklahoma, filed a protest against Atkinson on the grounds that he did not earn a minimum of three state accepted credits prior to his participation and consequently was ineligible for participation.⁸ The Crescent coach maintained that on the basis of teachers' registers Atkinson had earned four

⁸ Annual report of the Board of Control, Wewoka, Oklahoma, December, 1935.

credits and was therefore eligible for participation. In December, 1934, the case came before the Board of Control. The main question to be decided was whether there had been a violation of Article II, Section 1, Rule 4 of the constitution, which states that:

No athlete who has not completed at least three state approved credits of work during the semester of attendance immediately preceding the season of the sport in which he participates, shall be eligible to compete in said sport.

During the testimony it was brought out that Harry Atkinson had attended Douglass High School of Crescent during the last nine weeks of school in the year 1933-1934 and had passed in English III, American History, High School Arithmetic, and General Science. The Board in questioning the principal found that a semester mark could not be earned in nine weeks and that in such cases a pupil, in order to receive a semester mark, would have to make up the first nine weeks work. The Crescent coach contended that the constitution provided only, that the pupil earn three credits during the semester and that it did not specify that the marks had to be semester marks. He also stated that if the constitution intended that these credits be semester credits the wording should be made to that effect, otherwise a misinterpretation could easily be made. He also asked the Board of Control to consider seriously the wording of the

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The Board ruled that according to its interpretation of the rule governing this case Atkinson had failed to earn three semester credits, since the state accepted credits on a semester basis and not on a nine weeks' basis, and therefore was ineligible for participation in the Autumn of 1934. As a result of this decision all of Crescent's games were forfeited. The Board further stated, however, that owing to the fact that the wording of Article II, Section I, Rule 4 was not so clear as it should have been and consequently might be misinterpreted it would refrain from suspending Harry Atkinson. Because of the known good character of the Crescent coach, in addition to the hazy wording of the aforementioned portion of the constitution, the coach and school were held blameless for the incident. It also recommended that the rule be re~~re~~orded so that its meaning could be clearly understood.

The case of Lafayette Dumas. This boy entered Manual Training High School of Muskogee in the early spring of 1940 and earned sufficient credits to be eligible for football in the fall. During the summer of the same year he played baseball with the Memphis Red Socks, one of the teams in the Negro National League. With the opening of the school term he re-entered the Manual Training High

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School and played in all of the games, which incidentally were won, making Manual Training a claimant of the conference championship. The coach of Booker Washington High School of Tulsa protested the eligibility of Dumas on the grounds that he (Dumas) had played baseball for a salary, thereby making him a professional athlete and ineligible under the stipulations of Article II, Section I, Rule 5 of the constitution By-Laws which states that:

Any student playing under an assumed name, or competing with a team or another school other than his own or who has engaged in professional sports, shall be suspended for the remainder of that year and a year of participation counted against him.

The Muskogee coach contended that had the case been brought before the Board before the season ended the Board could have suspended Dumas for the remainder of the season and a year of participation counted against him. He stated further that under the rules no other penalty was provided, therefore any action taken by the Board of Control should not affect the final standing of the teams.

After hearing all the testimony, the Board of Control deliberated and returned the following decision:⁹ testimony showed that the Muskogee coach was aware all along that Dumas had played professional baseball during

⁹ Annual Report of the Board of Control, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, December 1940, p. 4.

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the summer prior to participation and therefore knew at the beginning of the football season that said player was a professional athlete and that on the basis of this fact alone Dumas was ineligible to participate in any sports event sponsored by any member school of the Association. Further, that since said player had played the entire season, the rule suspending him for the remainder of that year from athletic competition would be ineffective; therefore the Board ruled that Dumas be suspended from further competition for the unexpired school year 1940-1941 and that all games of the Manual Training High School of Muskogee in which he participated be forfeited to the opposing team. The latter part of this decision was based on the spirit of the constitution rather than the actual wording of the rule. The Board also reprimanded the Tulsa coach for failing to divulge this information to proper authorities as soon as he learned it, and likewise the Muskogee coach for playing the athlete with due knowledge of his ineligible status.

The writer was well acquainted with Dumas and had played baseball against him. In conversation with Dumas the writer found that he (Dumas) was well aware that he would be ineligible for football in the ensuing season. His coach was also aware of that fact, but because the boy was an outstanding end on the Muskogee team the coach dis-

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regarded the constitution entirely. For this act the coach was severely critized by the other coaches and sports loving fans throughout the state. This type of criticism has been an important factor in helping to eliminate such unfair practices in the state of Oklahoma.

CHAPTER V

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION 1940-1948

The period beginning with the year 1940 and extending to the present time has seen the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association operating on a fairly stable basis both as to administration and finances. There have been some important rule changes pertaining to districts, the large and small schools, and some regulations necessitated by the war. The most important rule change was probably the one pertaining to the executive secretary, which change will be treated fully in this chapter.

I. NEW RULES

Conferences. Since 1934, when the Association first divided the schools into "A" and "B" conferences, many of the coaches and principals of the smaller schools had contended that the schools should have been divided into three divisions, as the enrollment in the member schools of the same conference represented such great differences. Examples often referred to were the Deaf, Blind and Orphan Institute of Taft with approximately ninety-five in the high school and Seminole with about thirty. Many corresponding examples could be cited. Most school representatives were in accord with the contention of these principals and coaches.

The subject was brought before the body at the annual meeting at Langston in December, 1940, and a subsequent vote established new conferences as follows:

The Association shall maintain an "A", "B", and "C" conference in football and basketball.

The "A" conference shall consist of all four year high schools maintaining an enrollment of one hundred and twenty-five students.

The "B" conference shall consist of all schools with an enrollment of seventy-five, to one hundred and twenty-four pupils.

The "C" conference shall consist of all schools with an enrollment less than seventy-five.

The rule also provided that any school in the "B" or "C" conference could move up to the "A" conference or that a member of the "C" conference could move up to the "B" conference with the approval of the Board of Control, but such school after moving must remain a part of the conference moved up to until permission be granted by the Board of Control for another change.¹

This arrangement seems to have pleased everyone concerned, at least for the time being. The championships in football were won by the following teams: "A" conference, Muskogee; "B" conference, D. B. and O. Institute of Taft; "C" conference, Seminole. In basketball the "A" conference championship was won by Sandsprings, the "B" confer-

¹ Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association Constitution, Article VII, Sections 2, 3, and 4, pp. 2-3.

The subject was presented before the committee on the 12th

annual meeting at Lexington in 1902, and was then referred to the

parent vote established new members of the board.

The Association then held its annual meeting on the 12th and 13th

conference in 1902, and the following year.

The "A" conference shall consist of all persons

high schools, and shall be held in the month of

and twenty-five students.

The "B" conference shall consist of all persons

an enrollment of twenty-five, and shall be held in

twenty-four pupils.

The "C" conference shall consist of all persons

an enrollment less than twenty-five.

The rules also provided that the schools in the "C" or

"C" conference could have up to the "A" and "B" conferences.

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Basketball districts. When the Association first began sponsoring the state basketball tournament, very little difficulty was experienced in getting it played off in two and one-half days because the membership was small, but with the rapid growth of the organization in membership came the problems of playing the tournament off on time and the housing of a great number of players. There being no restrictions on the number of teams that could enter, the question of dividing the state into districts was discussed by various school principals and coaches. In December 1943 the association rejected a plan which was submitted for districting the state into eight geographical sections for the purpose of selecting teams to participate in the State Basketball Tournament. It was voted, however, that the president be empowered to appoint a committee to work out a plan for dividing the state into districts. At the annual meeting in Oklahoma City, December 11, 1943, a committee report was adopted which provided that the state be divided into twelve districts, eight constituting the "C" division schools and four the "B" division schools, and that the winner and runner-up in each district be allowed to compete in their respective divisions for the state championship.

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All the "A" division schools remained as originally provided. This plan has given satisfaction and has remained continuously in operation down to the present. With the continued growth of the association, it is the opinion of the writer that the number of districts now operating will have to be expanded. This division of teams pertains to basketball only and does not affect championship play in football, as was originally provided for under the rules in 1940.²

The "Big Three", "Big Four", and "Big Six". From the beginning of the organization to the present, there has been almost a continuous conflict between the large and small members. This probably emanated from the fact that the few larger schools won nearly all of the championships until the Association was divided into conferences. The schools that received the greatest amount of criticism were Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Muskogee. Representatives of the smaller schools maintained that these three schools should be placed in a conference by themselves. Oddly enough, the respective coaches of these schools felt the same way. On the strength of this general feeling the body voted at its annual meeting at Oklahoma City, December 11, 1943, that the Association

²Secretary-Treasurer's Report, Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 12, 1942, p. 1.

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maintain a "Big Three", and an "A", "B" and "C" conference in football.³ The Big Three Conference was to consist of the following teams: Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Muskogee; the "A" conference was to consist of those schools having an enrollment of one hundred or more, the "B" conference of schools with an enrollment of not more than ninety-nine or less than sixty-five; the "C" conference of all schools with an enrollment below sixty-five.

In September 1945, the D. B. and O. Institute of Taft applied to the Board of Control for admittance to the "Big Three". This request was granted and the Board officially designated the conference "Big Four".

At the annual meeting at Langston University in December 1948, Lawton and Ardmore made similar requests to the Board and were admitted to the "Big Four", the conference immediately being designated as "Big Six". This designation pertained only to football. It appears that the reason that Ardmore and Lawton requested the change was the fact that the two schools, Ardmore, "A" division, and Lawton, "B" division, dominated their respective conferences in football. They seemingly thought that the change would increase their prestige, especially if either

³ Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association, Oklahoma City, December 11, 1943, p. 5.

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Influence of Negro Coaches' and Officials' Association. The Negro Coaches' and Officials' Association is an organization of coaches, approved officials, and a few principals organized in 1945 for the purpose of improving officiating in the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, along with any other assistance it could give in fostering the policies and ideals of this Association. Nearly every coach in the state of Oklahoma belongs to the Negro Coaches' and Officials' Association.

Until 1945, nothing constructively had been done by the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association to improve the officiating. However, officiating had improved gradually through the years, only because those who accepted the responsibility felt the need themselves for being more efficient in the performance of their duties. The Coaches' and Officials' Association, seeing the dire need for a more systematic method of selecting officials and for better trained officials, requested permission from the Board of Control to set up rules for selecting and approving conference officials. The request was granted and immediately afterward a committee was appointed to draw up rules and regulations, which were as follows: That the complete list of approved officials be

should win a substantial victory in the election.

Influence of the Negro Community

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thrown out and names of those who desired to be officials be submitted to district committees, appointed by the Coaches' and Officials' Association, and giving instructions on tentative approval of those whose names were submitted; that these tentative officials attend the annual clinic of coaches and officials; take and pass an examination for the respective sport in which they planned to officiate, and give a practical demonstration of their ability while attending the clinic. Those who passed satisfactorily would be placed on the approved list of officials, after which they must attend at least one clinic each year in order to maintain their status.

This system brought immediate results, as there was a marked degree of improvement observed in officiating in 1946, the year that the plan went into operation. Many minor contributions sponsored by the Coaches' and Officials' Association could be noted, but its chief accomplishment was that the method used by the body in selecting officials eradicated an evil which had existed since the beginning of interscholastic athletic contests in the state. The membership of the Coaches' and Officials' Association have pledged themselves to the task of fostering the spirit of fair-play, sportsmanship, scholarship, and high ideals in all phases of athletic contests.

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Division of the office of Secretary-Treasurer. In the early stages of the Association, the duties of the secretary-treasurer were fairly light by virtue of the fact that the membership was small. But as the organization grew in size and influence, the amount of work performed by this office multiplied to an enormous degree, necessitating at times the appointment of a temporary assistant. This plan continued until the membership decided that something definite should be done to relieve this office of some of its duties. The secretary-treasurer himself had complained of the amount of clerical work being done, in many cases at the expense of neglecting his own school work. Consequently, upon the recommendation of the secretary-treasurer, the Association, at its annual meeting at Oklahoma City in December 1944, voted to separate the office, electing W. E. Anderson executive secretary, and G. W. Smith treasurer.⁴ This action proved important, as rumors of dissatisfaction were being heard in regard to the handling of the Associations' funds. This action taken by the membership, together with the bonding of the treasurer for five hundred dollars, arrested rumors prevalent at the time, with the result that the organization assumed a more dignified position in the eyes of those concerned.

⁴Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. December, 1944, p. 3.

Division of the Office of the Secretary

The early stages of the movement for the establishment of a national secretariat were marked by a series of conferences and meetings. It was not until the year 1900 that the movement gained sufficient momentum to form a permanent organization. This organization was known as the National Secretariat, and its first meeting was held in the city of New York. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the various problems connected with the establishment of a national secretariat, and to formulate a plan of action. The plan of action was adopted, and the National Secretariat was organized. The first meeting of the National Secretariat was held in the city of New York, and it was attended by a number of prominent men of the day. The meeting was a success, and it was decided that the National Secretariat should be organized as a permanent body. The National Secretariat was organized in the year 1900, and it has since that time been engaged in the work of promoting the interests of the secretariat. The National Secretariat has been successful in its work, and it has been able to secure the recognition of the secretariat as a permanent body. The National Secretariat has also been successful in securing the recognition of the secretariat as a permanent body. The National Secretariat has also been successful in securing the recognition of the secretariat as a permanent body.

IV. SPECIMEN CASES

The case of Benjamin Blair. On March 14, 1946, Benjamin Blair, along with his teammates from Booker Washington High School of Cushing, came to participate in the annual basketball tournament. Soon after their arrival, the principal and coach were informed by Mr. C. R. Johns, chairman of the Board of Control, that a formal protest had been presented to the Board against Blair on the grounds that he had played out his ten semesters of eligibility. The protest, signed by Mr. Kabbie Mitchell, coach of the Bartlesville High School team, was presented by Mr. Ryan, coach at Vinita, in the absence of Mr. Mitchell. The protesting parties claimed that Blair had played five seasons of basketball to their knowledge, and that each of the past five years he had competed against their teams. They also contended that there could be no case of mistaken identity, since the fact that the player under protest was an outstanding star on the Cushing team. The Cushing coach maintained that Blair was playing his last year of eligibility in 1946 and that the Bartlesville and Vinita coaches had seen Benjamin Blair's brother, Paul Blair, who had played several years before Benjamin Blair began playing. In searching the eligibility sheets, the Board could find no record of participa-

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tion for Benjamin Blair prior to 1942. On the basis of this evidence and the testimony as given by others concerned, the Board ruled that Benjamin Blair was eligible and the case was dismissed.

This particular case aroused quite a deal of interest among coaches and principals in attendance at the tournament. Some felt that the player in question had played prior to 1942, with no eligibility sheets being filed for him. Still others felt that some of the teams in the same division with Cushing wanted the player under protest declared ineligible because his being a great basketball player minimized their chances of winning a championship. The ruling on the case by the Board of Control has never been clear to most coaches, principals, and officials.

The case of Charles Young. Two weeks prior to the state basketball tournament to be conducted at Oklahoma City, March 11-13, 1948, the Shawnee coach filed an official protest against Young, a player on the Cushing basketball team, on the grounds that he was not a legal resident of the school district which he represented. The case was heard on March 7, with the Shawnee coach contending that Young was a legal resident of Shawnee by virtue of the fact that his parents lived in a rural com-

munity a few miles out of Shawnee, and that the previous season he had matriculated at the Shawnee High School. The Cushing principal admitted that Young had formerly attended high school at Shawnee, but since that time had become a legal resident of the Cushing district in that he had met residence requirements by being enrolled on the school census of that district. In order to prove this point, the principal produced a census card for the player under protest which was signed by the county clerk. On the strength of this evidence, Young was declared eligible for the tournament by the Board of Control. There is still a doubt in the mind of the writer as to whether the athlete in question was eligible. Article II, Section I, Rule 2, states that:

No athlete who has competed in any conference game of a particular sport is eligible to compete in that sport unless his parents reside in that community or he is actually enrolled on the school census in the independent district and transportation area where he is attending.

If it were true that Young attended school at Shawnee the previous year it seems reasonable that his name would have been on the census rolls in that school district, inasmuch as the school census is taken in the spring before the end of the semester. This being a state law, it therefore is uniform throughout the state. In the light

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of this fact a grave question arises as to how Young's name came to appear on the census records in the Cushing District.

V. THE G. I. PROBLEM

In athletics, the war brought about many problems not previously encountered by the Association, such as the age limit, transportation for competing teams and disposition of numerous cancelled games, yet in spite of these problems, the athletic program was carried on by the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association with a fair degree of success. In some instances, the number of games played was decreased, otherwise the organization maintained its standard from the standpoint of its aims, educational ideals, and objectives.

When the war ended and boys who had once participated in the various sports began to return, it was only natural that they desired to begin where they had left off in athletic competition. Many players had been drafted when they were eighteen or nineteen, while others volunteered at seventeen. Many spent three to five years in the service, returning in many cases as mature men, above the age limit for participation in the athletic contests sponsored by the association. This presented a problem because boys who were nineteen or twenty when they were drafted sometimes served two or three years and

on their return were above the twenty-two age limit, yet they had sometimes two or three years more in high school. Naturally the athletes felt that they should be allowed to play out their eligibility, regardless of age. This important problem came before the membership at its annual meeting at Muskogee in December, 1945. Some coaches felt that the age limit should be raised temporarily to allow players who had become overage while in service to participate. Although sympathy for their position was expressed by members of the Association, in general most believed that no special privileges should be granted service men. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to amend the constitution in order to make provisions for returning service men to compete in athletics, regardless of age. It was finally decided that the Board of Control make recommendations to the body as to what should be done about the problem. After careful consideration and discussion the Board recommended that the age limit be retained as it was, but that the rule requiring a student to have been in regular attendance and passing in three state-approved subjects in the semester prior to his participation be temporarily waived.

Most returning service men and many others felt that the action of the Board was unfair to these young

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men who had been in the service of their country but most fair minded people saw the wisdom in the decision of the Board. It is obvious to the writer that had the Board allowed all returning service men to participate in high school athletics regardless of age there would have been contests staged in which men from twenty-two to twenty-five years of age would have been competing with boys as young as thirteen years old. The results would have been numerous injuries caused from this unfair and unequal competition. In addition the association of this older group with the younger boys would not have created a wholesome situation.

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CHAPTER VI

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Owing to the fact that few copies of the constitution and rules under and through which the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association functions have been preserved prior to 1930, the treatment of this important document has been deferred to the present chapter. Having brought the narrative down to that date, the progress of the investigation requires an examination and evaluation of the organic regulations.

I. FORM AND EXTENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution consists of ten articles in sections, beginning with the name of the Association and ending with a provision regarding girls' athletics. In addition there are articles on the object of the Association, officers, conferences, competition, and dues, all of which will be considered at greater length.

Object of the Association. The expressed purpose of the organization was the advancement of athletics in the Negro high schools of the state of Oklahoma. No elaboration of this broad objective seemed to have been thought necessary.

Officers. Provision was made for the election of a president, vice president, and a secretary-treasurer each year at the annual meeting of the Association in December. The qualifications of these officers are not specified.

At the outset a Board of Control which consisted of three members was elected. One member was elected for a term of three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Thereafter, one member was to be elected for a term of three years. Principals, superintendents, and faculty members were eligible to serve, and in case of a vacancy the chairman was empowered to appoint a third who would serve until the next annual meeting.

Duties of officers. Duties of the president and vice president did not extend beyond the responsibility of conducting the regular meeting except in an advisory capacity. The secretary-treasurer was to collect all monies due the Association and disburse the same at the order of the chairman of the Board of Control, or subject to the order of that body. The secretary-treasurer was required to give a suitable bond and to have his books audited once a year by an auditing committee appointed by the president. A copy of the audit was to be mailed to each member of the Association. He was in charge of all correspondence and records. The secretary-treasurer was

the only paid officer. His duties and activities have in general practice grown to such proportions that a greater elaboration of them has been reserved to a later chapter.

The Board of Control meets once a year in December, and may meet more often at its own discretion. Its general duties include; control over interscholastic contests, approval of forms for contracts, final decision in disposition of protests in accordance with the rules and regulations of the association, and reports on cases heard and decisions reached. Meetings of the board are not open to the public, which is a policy severely condemned by a majority of the membership.¹

Membership. Only Negro high schools and junior high schools are eligible for membership. To become a member such schools must pay the annual dues prescribed by the constitution.

Only two junior high schools have ever been members of the association. These were Carver Junior High of Tulsa and Booker Washington Junior High of Seminole. The latter has since become a regular four year high school.

¹ Bulletin of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Association, Constitution, Article IV, Rule 3, Section 4, 1933, p. 6.

the only valid evidence. The only valid evidence is the general practice of the industry, and the fact that the industry has been operating for many years.

The board of directors of the company has been authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary for the proper management of the company, and to make such amendments to the bylaws as may be necessary. The board of directors has also been authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary for the proper management of the company, and to make such amendments to the bylaws as may be necessary.

Herbert H. Brown, Secretary of the company, has been authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary for the proper management of the company, and to make such amendments to the bylaws as may be necessary. The board of directors has also been authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary for the proper management of the company, and to make such amendments to the bylaws as may be necessary.

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Amendments. A provision exists whereby the constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at the annual meeting, but the proposed amendment must be submitted to the secretary so that all members may be notified at least thirty days before the meeting.

This provision has not been followed to the letter, as on several occasions proposed amendments have been brought before the body and as many as half of the membership knew nothing of the proposal beforehand.

II. DIGEST OF RULES

The rules of the organization, in addition to those promulgated at its origin, have been formulated and passed at regular annual meetings in which each member school, through its representative, has one vote. In this investigation important rule changes will be considered at various points in the narrative. The rules generally prescribe the condition under which athletic competition may be engaged in by pupils of member schools and relate to the questions of age, conduct of students, residence and migration, certificates of eligibility and player record sheets, graduate students, limitations and participation, relations with non-members, tournaments and meets, length of seasons, and professionalism.

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Amendment 17, which was adopted by the committee.

attention may be directed to the fact that the committee has presented to the board a report which is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It is hoped that the board will find this report of interest and value.

This report is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It is hoped that the board will find this report of interest and value.

The report of the committee is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It is hoped that the board will find this report of interest and value.

passed at meeting held on the 15th day of the month of the year.

school. The report is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It is hoped that the board will find this report of interest and value.

and relief to the students of the school. The report is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It is hoped that the board will find this report of interest and value.

Age. Participation has always been restricted to pupils under twenty-two years of age. A pupil is ineligible on the day he becomes twenty-two.²

This rule has been severely criticised by a majority of the coaches, but very little effort has been put forth to change it. Shortly before the outbreak of World War II some effort was being made to lower the age limit, but after so many athletes were inducted into the service members of the Association thought it unwise to lower the age limit, at least until after the war. Since the war nothing has been done about the matter of age. This high age limit has consistently posed a problem, since it throws men into competition with middle and upper teen-age boys, consequently increasing the danger of injury to the boys who are naturally less physically developed than those athletes past twenty years old. On the basis of this fact the author feels that the age limit should definitely be lowered.

There is no minimum age for participation set forth in the constitution.

Conduct of students. Pupils under discipline or whose conduct is such as to reflect on the school may not

² Ibid., p. 4.

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compete. Entering a contest under an assumed name is forbidden.

During the early years of the Association the use of assumed names to cover up for students who were over age or who were ineligible for some other reason was a common practice. In recent years this practice has ceased almost completely, the decline being caused by the severe penalties placed upon schools found guilty by the Board of Control.

Residence and migration. Regulations of residence and migration is particularly strict. The general rule requires that the parents or guardian of an athlete be bona fide residents of the district in which the school is located, but such requirement is qualified in a number of ways. Students in schools accredited for less than four years work may, upon the completion of the last year of accredited work, become eligible at once upon entrance at any accredited school of the Association.

A student whose parents live in or move into a district having no accredited high school may transfer his eligibility to any district having such a school and, if a more accessible school should become accredited, he may transfer to it.

Any student whose parents move during either sem-

composed of members of the community, and the
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During the past few years, the organization
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ester may remain eligible in his old school for a whole year.

Recruiting of athletes is prohibited. Influencing of parents or guardians to move so that the student may engage in athletics is considered an act of recruiting and, if proved, subjects the offending school to penalty and renders the pupil ineligible. Eligibility may be established in any school by attendance for one full year.

During the entire existence of the Association there has been a minimum of recruiting; however there have been a few remote cases that have come to the attention of the board. These will be discussed in a later chapter.

Certificates of eligibility and player record sheets. At the beginning of each semester each member of the Association is required to file with the secretary-treasurer a statement of facts tending to establish the eligibility of probable participants. The Board of Control prescribes and the secretary-treasurer furnishes forms on which the principal or someone appointed by him certifies the facts relating to age, participation, residence, and scholarship of pupils likely to be used in competition.

order may remain eligible in his old record and a new one

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Receiving of certificate is given to the following

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Qualification of athletes

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Before each contest a player record sheet bearing the names of all probable participants must be circulated to all teachers for their certification of passing grades for any pupil taking classes under them whose name appears on the list. In addition to this the registrar or other persons delegated this authority must record on this same sheet the percentage of attendance for the week preceding the contest for each name appearing on the list. A principal must, under penalty of forfeiture of his school's membership, furnish to the Board of Control, the secretary-treasurer, or representatives of other member schools such information bearing upon eligibility as they may from time to time require.

Although the rules required that certificates of eligibility and player record sheets be filed in the office of the secretary-treasurer many schools in the past have failed to follow this rule diligently, resulting in the forfeiture of the contest participated in by the school failing to abide by the rule. In some instances as many as fourteen schools have forfeited games because of this negligence. In recent years, however, the filing of eligibility blanks and player record sheets has been almost 100 percent. Much credit for this great improvement is due the Board of Control, which has penal-

ized all violators and assessed maximum penalties in many cases.

Participation. Participation is limited to ten semesters. Not more than five seasons in a single sport is allowed to any student. A pupil may begin competing in the seventh grade, in which case time is deducted from the period of eligibility in high school. Based upon the age of the average high school pupil, this seems to be too many years of competition. Either the pupil begins competing too early or he remains in high school too long, possibly for the sole purpose of competing in athletic contests.

Attempts to change this rule several times has failed, primarily because of the vote of the smaller high schools. This rule is to their advantage because of the limited number of large boys in attendance.

Relation with members. In the event of an approaching contest between two member schools the home school must, at least ten days before the contest, furnish the visiting school a list of officials for approval. In the event the first list is not acceptable to the visiting school another list must be sent. No contract can be made binding upon the visiting school until it has approved the needed number of officials. Coaches or other

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persons with a team may not serve as officials except with the consent of all teams concerned.

A member school which has knowledge of a rule violation by another member and does not give information of the infraction to the Board of Control or the secretary-treasurer is held guilty of the same violation.

Members may withdraw from the Association upon written notice to the Board of Control.

The problem of officials has since the beginning of the Association been a serious one. The lack of competent officials has caused much trouble among member schools and in many cases athletic relations have been severed.

The reasons for lack of competent officials were the small number of games worked and the absence of athletic clinics and schools, the latter giving officials no chance to improve themselves. This situation has been remedied as has been explained in detail in an earlier chapter.

Relations with non-members. Generally competition with non-members is forbidden. However, competition is allowed with academic teams which fulfill all the requirements for membership in the Association except that of residence. Member schools may compete with non-member

schools where a county association exists in Oklahoma which is sponsored by the county superintendent. Violations of this rule have been few. This may be explained by the fact that more than 90 per cent of the Negro high schools in the state are members of the Association.

Tournaments and meets. A plan is outlined for determining the basketball championship of the state. The Board of Control divides the state into twelve districts embracing the "B" and "C" conferences. The champion and runner-up in each district compete in an elimination tournament for the state championship. All members of the "A" conference are invited to the state tournament because of the small number of teams in the division.

Length of seasons. In recent years a rule defining the length of a season in football and basketball has been passed. Generally, the playing of post-season games is prohibited. The football season ends the Saturday following Thanksgiving, but, in the event two teams are tied for a conference championship, upon the approval of the Board of Control an additional week may be allowed to play the tie off. A like exception may be made when a game has been postponed by mutual agreement of two teams because of weather conditions or a death in the family of

schools where a body of students is gathered
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a player or someone else connected with either school.

The basketball season ends with the play-off between the members of the "A", "B", and "C" conferences. These three members compose the winners of their respective divisions in the state tournament. The winner of this play-off may or may not attend the national tournament held at Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial College at Nashville, Tennessee, the third week in March each year. For each of the past four years a team from Oklahoma has won the national basketball tournament. In the order of their winning they were Douglass High School of Oklahoma City, 1945, Booker Washington High School of Cushing, 1946, and Booker Washington High School of Tulsa, 1947 and 1948.

Scholarship. A contestant is required to have maintained up to the end of the week preceding the contest a passing mark in at least three state-approved subjects, and must be in regular attendance at least 75 per cent of the time.³ This rule has been instrumental in keeping many boys in school, since it requires their regular attendance to be eligible for any athletic contest. Athletes in the high schools are more familiar with this

³ Constitution, Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, Constitution and Rules. See Index.

a player or someone else connected with the team.
The basketball season for the University of
tween the members of the "A", "B", and "C" teams.
These three teams compete in various basketball games
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ment held at Oklahoma State Agricultural and
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School of Oklahoma, 1937-1938, 1939-1940, 1941-1942,
School of Oklahoma, 1943-1944, and the University of
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Explanatory: The basketball season is
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CHAPTER VII

POWERS, DUTIES, AND POLICIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

I. POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Owing to the brevity of the constitution, and sometimes ambiguous wording of that instrument, the powers and duties of the Association have not always been clearly defined. However, the well defined and consistent policy of the Board of Control during the past ten years has left little room for doubt as to what the Association may or may not properly do. It is the purpose of this chapter to analyze as thoroughly as possible the various aspects of the Association's authority, functions, and policy.

Limitations of authority. The Association from its beginning has existed without warrant of legality of any kind. No statutory authorization for its establishment and existence is anywhere adduced. Membership is purely voluntary, renewable each year, and may be terminated by the wish of a member to withdraw. Hence, the extent and application of whatever authority belongs to the organization is contingent upon the willingness of members to accept the same.

Legislative powers. The power of the Association to make rules by which its business is conducted proceeds from the assumed right of parliamentary and deliberative groups to do the best possible in all cases so long as they do not conflict with superior constituted authority and the measures so created do not interfere with the welfare of the public. For twenty-two years the representatives of member schools have met annually and passed much legislation with regard to themselves as seemed most likely to further their purposes and interests. It is evident that in the early history of the organization the authority of the Association was much less widely and strongly felt, since the membership was small and the rules less comprehensive.

All power of legislation is vested in the membership and is essentially democratic in principle, each school having one vote.¹ Although it may be argued that such a system is unfair to the larger schools, it may be pointed out that in interscholastic athletics the interest of one school is likely to be as great as that of another; nor is there apparent any likelihood of an immediate change, because the smaller schools greatly outnumber the larger schools.

¹ Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association, Constitution and Rules, Article VI, Section 1, p. 3.

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Executive powers. The executive authority of the Association is subject to the same limitations as the legislative department. The powers of this department are exercised variously by the president, secretary, and the Board of Control. This over-lapping of power has caused some conflict from time to time among these three authorities which has stimulated discussion for a better clarification of the constitution.

Judicial authority. The judicial authority is vested in the Board of Control, though here again the duties of the secretary are prominent, since his opinions settle practically all lesser questions which arise. Cases may be appealed to the Board of Control and their decision is final. Practically all cases brought before the Board of Control have been concerned with the use of ineligible players, but, in rare cases, other matters have been considered. From time to time cases have come to the attention of the Board relative to the violation of the rules concerning the conduct of students and even adults at various athletic contests.

II. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

The secretary is by far the most important single officer of the Association, and is the only officer receiving pay for his services. All the work of adminis-

Executive Summary
Association is not a part of the government
legislative body, and its functions
are exercised by the Board of Directors.
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Legal and other matters
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decision is final. The Board of Directors
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have been found to be the Board of Directors
to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors
of the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors
advice as to the Board of Directors.

Conclusion
The Board of Directors is the Board of Directors
officer of the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors
acting by the Board of Directors.

tration is carried on through his office, consequently his personal influence is necessarily great.

Correspondence requires much of the secretary's time, as some two thousand letters and cards are written each year. A careful check of all eligibility reports and player record sheets requires much careful and detailed work. The handling of details for twelve district tournaments and the state tournament is under the direction of the secretary. The publication and mailing of approximately five hundred copies of bulletins consumes the remaining time of the secretary.

III. FINANCIAL PROCEDURE

With the formation of the Association in 1926, the office of the treasurer was combined with that of the secretary, but the present organization maintains a separate office of treasurer which has been occupied by the same man, G. W. Smith of Bristow, Oklahoma, since the current plan was originated in 1944. In general, the secretary collects all fees and the treasurer merely acts as a disbursing agent upon the order of the Board of Control.

Sources of revenue. The secretary's financial report for the school year 1947-1948 indicates the various

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sources of revenue: (1) membership dues, (2) fines, and (3) tournament receipts. Membership dues are ten dollars annually for all members. Prior to 1946, under the revised constitution the schools participating in only one sport paid seven dollars and fifty cents and those participating in more than one sport paid ten dollars. The amount received from fines assessed various schools for breach of contract varies from year to year, but seldom amounts to more than twenty-five dollars. The state tournament provides another source of funds through entry fees and twenty-five per cent of the net receipts.²

The Association receives no funds from district tournaments. These tournaments are operated by the respective districts, but are under the rules and regulations of the Association.

Allocation of funds. The salary of the secretary, all office expense, including the mimeographing of the Association's bulletin, and expenses and mileage for the Board of Control, president, and secretary are paid from the general operating fund of the Association. The Association pays for the trophies and one-half of the ex-

² Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, Muskogee, Oklahoma, December, 1945, p. 5.

sources of revenue: (1) membership dues, (2) ...
(3) tournament receipts. ... annually for all members. ...
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Allocation of funds

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Oklahoma, December, 1933.

penses of the officials for the state basketball tournament.

IV. ATHLETIC AND EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

The officers of the Association have been well aware of the necessity for being pupil-minded in determining the Association's policy and state-minded in dealing with the many problems. Mr. Joe Doster states:

In making rules, schedules, and handling protests as well as other matters that arise in the association to be decided, the interest, health and education of the pupils should be uppermost in the minds of those concerned.³

The efforts to follow the aforementioned policies have taken two parallel courses, one dealing with the physical education process and the other with the use of interscholastic competition as a motivating influence in the more purely academic and moral features of the educational process.

Athletic policies. The Association has sought to guard against the abuse of athletics in any way that might become harmful to the physical welfare of the participants. The rule limiting the age of participants to

³ J. O. Doster, president of the Negro Coaches and Officials' Association, letter to members of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association, November, 1947.

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IV. ATHLETIC AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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twenty-two years (although this seems to be very high) is designed to prevent the possibility of adolescents being placed in competition with persons of mature ages; the strong discouragement of any professionalism tends to the same end. The strict enforcement of recruiting, migration, scholarship, and attendance regulations is conducive to improved school work.

The Oklahoma High School Inspection Division has one athletic standard as a requirement for high school accrediting:

The program of extra-curricula activities should be organized and administered so as to contribute to one or more of the cardinal objectives of secondary education. Questionable practices in interscholastic athletic contests and one sided and unbalanced activity programs shall be considered sufficient cause for not accrediting a school system.⁴

Educational policies. The problem of correlating athletics with the academic and moral phases of education is duly recognized by the Association. The requirements for a definite standard of scholarship and attendance have existed from the early formation of the organization. In regard to moral and ethical phases of athletics

⁴ Oklahoma State Department of Education, High School Accrediting Regulations, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April, 1948, p. 25.

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the Association officials have recognized the fact that leadership here is largely a matter of personal influence on the part of the administration.

Although the Association has shown progress under the present organization, it is the opinion of the writer that a clearly defined set of educational policies would add not only to the effectiveness of the Association in its control of athletics but would make it a dynamic force in helping to mold character, high ideals, and citizenship in those athletes who would be touched by its influence. These results would naturally come about only if the policies formulated were followed to the letter. During the existence of the Association, too many instances of deliberate disregard for rules, regulations, and policies have been noted. This practice should and must be completely eliminated if the organization is to make its full contribution to the Negro youth of Oklahoma.

The writer feels that the Association should put forth every effort to select the men best available for officers of the Association. This has been done in most cases but in other cases the Association has made serious mistakes in its selections.

The writer would also recommend a full-time execu-

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tive secretary. This would give him more time to check eligibility sheets, player record sheets and other routine work connected with the office. It is only natural that with more time a better and more thorough job would be accomplished. This would automatically reduce the number of rule infractions by membership schools.

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WILLIAM W. WILSON

1870-1871



CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This investigation has been concerned primarily with the record of important events marking the origin and development of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association. In a sense it has been a story of Negro athletics in the state, but due to the fact that only a part of such activities has been under the control of the Association, it has seemed best to confine the study to that body and to its manner of operation.

I. SUMMARY

The foregoing chapters have dealt first with an introduction and the reasons for which the study was made. This was followed by an examination of the types of athletic organizations as they are exemplified in colleges and interscholastic associations in other states. Comparisons and evaluations were made among these associations. The formation and early history of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association was then noted, with special emphasis being placed upon the influence of Langston University and the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association. A digest of the con-

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

This investigation was conducted with the object of determining the effect of the Negro Athletic Association on the development of the Negro athlete in the United States. The study was made in the form of a case study of the Negro Athletic Association, and the results of the study are presented in the following chapters. The study was made in the form of a case study of the Negro Athletic Association, and the results of the study are presented in the following chapters.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this investigation was to determine the effect of the Negro Athletic Association on the development of the Negro athlete in the United States. The study was made in the form of a case study of the Negro Athletic Association, and the results of the study are presented in the following chapters. The study was made in the form of a case study of the Negro Athletic Association, and the results of the study are presented in the following chapters.

stitution and rules followed with attention directed to the officers, amendments, age, residence and migration, and tournaments and meets. Next was an account of the history of the Association from 1930-1940, followed by the history of the period 1940-1948. This latter period brought with it problems caused by the war. Chapter VII was confined to the enumeration of the powers, duties, and policies of the Association, including a discussion of the financial aspects. The present chapter presents the salient features connected with the above discussions.

II. CONCLUSIONS

In reference to the founding and early history of the Association, five outstanding features have been observed. First, the motives and principles giving rise to the organization were sound; second, the small membership and lack of adequate finances in its early days made the Association's influence less than might have been desired; third, the ability of the organization to grow was a factor determined by the ability of the secretary to formulate and direct its policies. In addition to this, the failure of the Association officials to keep adequate records of business transacted had a tendency to delay the

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early development of the organization. Finally, the practices and policies exemplified by the Association in the past decade has lent impetus to the development of sounder and better standardized organizations in neighboring states.

The most noteworthy change in the Association during the past decade has been the separation of the office of secretary-treasurer. Many unpleasant situations and accusations have been eliminated since this action was taken.

Since 1930 special emphasis has been placed upon the encouragement of scholarship and sportsmanship. In the making of the rules much effort has been made to guard the health of the students. The financial program is at present adequate to the needs arising from a proper outlay for administration, and, since the organization is not a commercial one, this would seem sufficient.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having in mind the material developed in previous chapters, the investigator, as one connected with the organization for fifteen years, would respectfully submit the following suggestions for changes which would no doubt increase the efficiency of the organization:

The Association's constitution should be rewritten. The points covered in the instrument are extensive enough, but with better construction would enable the reader to interpret the rules more easily.

The imposition of penalties for rule infractions often fails of the desired effect. Unless the offending school has won a championship of some type, the threat of such penalties as may at present be employed is largely ineffective. Due to the fact that the administration of athletics in the schools rests directly upon the high school principals, it seems to the writer that this school official should answer personally to the Association and to the State Department of Education for his schools' violation of rules and regulations over which he has control. The threat of an official reprimand for flagrant violations, or some other penalty prescribed by the state, would seem a more effective remedy than the imposition of penalties on the student body and citizens of the community.

The typical high school student graduates at the age of eighteen, which indicates that the student completed high school in four years. In order to provide for this normal group, which far outnumbers the over-age students, a lowering of the present twenty-two year age limit to twenty is recommended. This recommendation, if

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accepted, would provide an athletic program for the large group of students rather than the small group of over-age pupils.

In order to protect their health and to prevent many injuries to football players, the writer would recommend limiting the number of football games to eight for the "C" division schools and ten games for the "Big Six", "A", and "B" divisions. These numbers would be exclusive of any championship play-offs ordered by the Board of Control.

The investigator would further recommend that the Association sponsor an annual baseball tournament to decide the championship, with all members participating on the same basis.

Since the beginning of the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Association, wherever coaches and principals met there was a discussion pertaining to the maximum age limit for athletes in the Association, but the question of a minimum age for participation has evidently never been mentioned. Over a course of fifteen years the writer has had occasion to observe contests, football games in particular, in which men twenty-one and twenty-two years of age were competing against boys not more than thirteen or fourteen years old. There can be no question as to the inequality of competition in contests of this

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kind. For the sake of eliminating, to a certain degree, this kind of unfair competition, in addition to the protection of the health of immature boys, the investigator would recommend that the minimum age for athletic participation in the Negro Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association be fifteen. Exceptions could be made by the submission by the athlete of a signed statement from his parents and family physician stating that his participation was approved and in their opinion he was physically capable of competing with boys much older and much more mature.

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APPENDIX

THE
BY BENTLEY
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APPENDIX

THE OKLAHOMA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Article I--Name

The name of this organization shall be the Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Article II--Object

The object of this association shall be the advancement of athletics in the Negro high schools of the state of Oklahoma.

Article III--Officers

Section I. The officers of the association shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association.

Section II. The Board of Control. A Board of Control of three (3) members, none of whom shall be a coach, shall be established.

There shall be also elected an alternate elected each year at the annual meeting to serve only in case of vacancy declared by the president.

The Board of Control shall be elected at the first meeting of the association for a term of three (3) years; one for two (2); one for (1) year. Thereafter, one member shall be elected annually for a term of three (3) years.

Article IV--Duties of Officers

Section I. The President. The President shall preside at the meeting of the association. He shall keep in-

ARTICLE I

THE OKLAHOMA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The object of this association shall be the advancement of athletics in the high school of the state of Oklahoma.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

Section I. The officers of the association shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association.

Section II. The Board of Control, a board of control of three (3) members, none of whom shall be a coach, shall be established.

There shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association one member at large and one member from each of the divisions of the state.

The Board of Control shall be elected at the first meeting of the association for a term of three (3) years; one for two (2) years; one for one (1) year; and one member shall be elected annually for a term of three (3) years.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section I. The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall meet at the meeting of the association.

formed of all the activities of the association. He shall fill all vacancies by appointment from the membership of the association. He shall perform such other duties as the By-Laws may from time to time assign him.

Section II. The Vice President. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall perform the duties of the president.

Section III. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the association. He shall be the custodian of all documents belonging to the association. He shall give notice of the annual meetings and conduct all correspondence. He shall receive all funds of the association and transfer all funds and itemized statements to the treasurer and receive an official receipt for the same. He shall order the treasurer to pay all bills of the association certified by the president. He shall receive a copy of all complaints, protests, decisions and general rulings of the Board of Control and shall keep a record of all decisions of the Board of Control and of petitions for the annual meeting. He shall furnish all membership schools with printed matter as follows: Copies of the constitution, contract forms for contests, a list of the association membership schools, said list to be mailed to each membership school not later than the 15th day of October of each year. He shall keep a record of all eligible participants of all contests sponsored by the association. He shall require that all expense accounts be itemized. He shall make a written report to the association at its annual meeting. He shall post bond not less than \$500, paid by the association.

Section IV. The Treasurer. He shall be custodian of all the funds received from the secretary. He shall keep an itemized record of all funds received from the secretary. He shall pay immediately all claims upon certification of their correctness by the secretary and attested by the president. He shall bring all records and receipts to the annual meeting for auditing. He shall post minimum \$500 bond to be paid by the association.

Section V. Board of Control. The annual meeting of the Board of Control shall be held one week preceeding the annual meeting of the association in December, at a place involving the least expense, and the expense incurred at this meeting shall be paid by the association. (Bus fare, round trip, one night's lodging, three meals.)

The Board of Control shall not have more than one special meeting at the expense of the association; this meeting must be ordered by the president.

Each Board member shall be allowed five dollars (\$5.00) for telephone calls per annum. They shall present bills showing calls made.

The Board of Control shall have jurisdiction over all contests played between membership schools.

The Board of Control shall have the power to rule upon the eligibility and approval of officials, dispositions of protests in accordance with the rules and regulations of the association; conduct and contests and decide the season's championships as regulated by the By-Laws of the association.

The Board of Control shall make a written report at the annual meeting of the association of the year's activities.

Article V--Records

Section I. Each school shall be provided with a player record sheet which shall be filled out and returned to the secretary after each game.

Section II. Every school belonging to the association shall keep in the office of the principal a complete record of the work of every student in the school, viz: work done in the institution, work accepted from other schools, and work accredited by examination.

Section III. All records and schedule cards of participants in any sport controlled or supervised by the association shall be open for inspection at all times to members of the Board of Control, or the coaches of the competing teams, who wish to investigate the eligibility of any contestant.

Section IV. Failure of the principals to furnish requested information relative to a student's eligibility may be sufficient cause for the suspension of that school.

The Board of Control shall have the right to call an special meeting at the expense of the association. This meeting must be ordered by the President.

Each Board member shall be allowed the following (\$5.00) for telephone calls per month. They shall also sent bills showing mileage.

The Board of Control shall have the right to order all contests played between schools.

The Board of Control shall have the right to order upon the eligibility and removal of players, and to order the suspension of players in any contest. The Board shall have the right to order the suspension of the association and to order the suspension of the association's championship in any contest. By-laws of the association.

The Board of Control shall have the right to order at the annual meeting of the association of the year's activities.

Article 7--Records

Section I. Each school shall be provided with a record book which shall be filled out and returned to the secretary after each game.

Section II. Every school belonging to the association shall keep in the office of the principal a complete record of the work of every student in the school, with work done in the institution, with records from other schools, and work accomplished by students.

Section III. All records and statistics shall be sent to the association in any sport controlled or supervised by the association. The association shall be responsible for the collection of the records of the Board of Control, or the members of the competing teams, who shall be responsible for the collection of any contestant.

Section IV. Failure of the principal to furnish requested information relative to a student's eligibility may be sufficient cause for the suspension of the school.

Article VI--Membership

Section I. Membership in association. Membership in this association shall be limited to high schools and junior high schools of this state, except that district conferences may be admitted to membership in the state association, when said conferences meet the requirements of the state association, and pay such membership fees as the association shall determine. Members of district conferences shall have all of the privileges of any member of the association, and shall likewise be subject to same restrictions.

Each member will be entitled to representation at the annual meeting and will be entitled to participate in the discussions of the annual meetings.

Each school shall be entitled to one (1) vote which shall be cast by the representative in person or by proxy.

Each member school will be entitled to one representative during the annual meeting with power to vote and discuss issues. Any other individual wishing to enter into the discussion will have to pay one dollar (\$1.00) membership fee annually. The host school shall furnish badges for eligible representatives of schools and members.

Article VII

Sections I and II which constituted all of article VII was stricken from the record.

Article VIII--Competition

Section I of article VIII was stricken from the record.

Section II. All games properly scheduled and played at the scheduled time shall count in determining the championship. Cancelled games shall go to the team which did not cancel the game. Games which have been postponed within the regular season by acts of God and because of

Article VI - Membership

Section I. Membership in association. Membership in this association shall be limited to high schools and junior high schools of this state, except that schools of other states may be admitted to membership in this association, when such conference and the requirements of the state association, and any other member of the association shall determine. Membership of this association shall have all of the privileges and immunities of the association, and shall likewise be subject to such restrictions.

Each member will be entitled to representation in the annual meeting and will be entitled to participate in the discussions of the annual meeting.

Each school shall be entitled to one (1) vote which shall be cast by the representative in person or proxy.

Each member school will be entitled to one representative during the annual meeting with power to vote and discuss issues. Any other individual wishing to attend the discussion will have to pay a fee of \$1.00. Membership fee annually. The annual school shall furnish badges for eligible representatives of schools and members.

Article VII

Sections I and II which were amended and Article VII was stricken from the constitution.

Article VIII - Constitution

Section I of article VII was amended to read:

Section II. All amendments to the constitution and changes to the scheduled time shall be made by a two-thirds vote of the membership. Canceled amendments shall be the same. Amendments shall not cancel the same. Amendments which have been proposed within the regular session of the association shall be subject to the same.

conditions over which the schools have no control may be re-scheduled by mutual consent of both teams and upon due notice filed with the secretary.

Games may be cancelled by mutual consent of both schools; that either school which cancels a game without a reasonable excuse may be fined the amount of the guarantee, same to be paid to the offended team. The Board of Control is given the authority to determine the validity of the excuse.

Section III. Each school shall be rated on the basis of 1000 for the total conference games played. The games shall be counted one-half won and one-half lost for each team.

Section IV. The team having the highest percentage shall be declared champions in football and shall be presented with a trophy by the association.

Section V. The basketball championship shall be determined at the annual basketball tournament.

Section VI. The championship in track and field events shall be determined at the annual track and field meet.

Section VII. Any game or games officiated by non-conference officials shall be forfeited against the home team.

Section VIII. Membership schools within the state shall not compete with suspended members until the suspension is lifted. Any membership school found guilty of engaging in such contests shall be automatically suspended.

(Proviso): This does not apply to schools which are members of a county association which is sponsored and aided by county officials or to district associations which may be sponsored and controlled by the County Superintendent.

Article IX--Membership

Section I. The annual fee shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for all schools.

Section II. Dues shall be paid upon becoming a member of the association and on or before the day of the annual

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Article II - Membership

Section I. The...
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Section II. This...
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meeting thereafter.

Section III. A grace period is extended until two weeks after the annual meeting.

BY-LAWS

Article I--Meetings

Section I. Meeting. The date of the annual meeting of the association shall be fixed by the Board of Control not earlier than the first nor later than the third Saturday in December, at 9:00 A. M., at the place to be determined by the president.

Section II. Order of Business. The order of business shall be: Prayer, roll call, reading of the minutes, president's report, secretary-treasurer's separate reports, report of the Board of Control, unfinished business, adjournment.

The order of business may be changed by two-thirds vote of the members present.

Section III. Quorum. One-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Article II--Eligibility

Section I. Participation.

A. No student shall participate in any interscholastic contest unless he is properly enrolled in school and doing bona fide and regular work. He must enter at least one week before entering a contest and must be in regular work. He must be in regular attendance 75 per cent of the time.

B. No athlete who has competed in any conference game of a particular sport is eligible to compete in that sport unless his parents reside in that community or is actually enrolled on the school census in the independent district and transportation area where he is attending.

meeting thereafter.

Section III. A year period of the year ending the year after the annual meeting.

Article II - Organization

Section I. Purpose. The purpose of the association shall be to promote the welfare of the members and to advance the interests of the community in general.

Section II. Officers and Directors. The officers and directors shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting. The officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the members.

The officers and directors shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting. The officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the members.

Section III. Meetings. The association shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as may be determined by the members.

Article III - Membership

Section I. Qualifications. Any person who is a resident of the community and who is of legal age may become a member of the association.

A. No student shall be eligible for membership in the association unless he or she is a resident of the community and is of legal age. No person shall be eligible for membership in the association unless he or she is a resident of the community and is of legal age.

B. No athlete who has been suspended from any sport or game of a professional nature shall be eligible for membership in the association unless he or she is a resident of the community and is of legal age.

C. A contestant shall maintain up to the end of the week preceding that in which the contest occurs, a passing grade in at least three state accredited subjects which count toward the first 16 units for graduation.

D. No athlete who has not completed at least three (3) credits of work during the semester of attendance immediately preceding the season of the sport shall be eligible to compete in said sport.

E. Any student playing under an assumed name, or competing with a team or another school other than his own or who has engaged in professional sports, shall be suspended for the remainder of that year, and one year of participation counted against him. (Or participation in college sports.)

F. Students transferring from one school to another either within the state or coming into the state from out of state schools, must have their name, school, and former address filed with the secretary seven (7) days before entering a contest. The secretary shall secure the transcripts and census records of such students for the association.

Section II. Limitations. No student shall compete in high school athletics more than ten (10) semesters, viz: No student can compete more than five (5) years in any sport. Grades above the sixth may compete but the five year rule shall apply to them.

Participation in any one conference game shall be counted one year of participation.

No student who has graduated from high school shall be eligible to represent that school in athletic contests.

Approved Ruling: A graduate is a person who has a diploma from a four year high school or who has completed the number of state required credits for graduation in the high school which he is attending.

If a person who has attained the age of 22 years or who has participated in college sports or in professional sports of any nature shall not be eligible for participation in any athletic contest.

G. A contestant who is absent from the contest for more than one week preceding the date of the contest shall be considered as having withdrawn from the contest and shall not be eligible to compete in the contest.

H. No athlete who has been suspended for more than one week preceding the date of the contest shall be eligible to compete in the contest.

I. Any student playing on a team or participating in a contest shall be considered as having withdrawn from the contest and shall not be eligible to compete in the contest.

J. Students transferring from one school to another within the state or from one state to another shall be eligible to compete in the contest.

Section II. Eligibility. No student shall be eligible to compete in the contest unless he is a resident of the state in which the contest is held.

Participation in any one contest shall be counted one year of participation.

No student who is suspended for more than one week preceding the date of the contest shall be eligible to compete in the contest.

Approved February 1, 1934. The number of state schools eligible to compete in the high school which is as follows:

If a person who has been suspended for more than one week preceding the date of the contest shall be eligible to compete in the contest.

No student shall be allowed to participate in any sport who does not have on file a record of work and attendance in the office of the secretary, and on the form supplied by the association.

Section III. Penalties. When a team is suspended for the infraction of the conference rules, that team shall forfeit all games.

For the violation of any provision of this article the Board of Control, the association, or both may suspend the offending member.

Article III--Records

Failure of principals to furnish requested information relative to a student's eligibility may be sufficient cause for suspension.

Article IV--Protests

Section I. Either party of a contract may file a protest against the actions of the other party for violation of the constitution and rules of this association.

Section II. When protests are made in writing by a member of this association for the violation of rules, etc., the Board of Control after giving due notice of the place and time for hearing, shall consider such charges and may, upon consent of all concerned, be conducted by mail. All other schools must be notified by the Board of Control in case of suspension.

Section III. Appeals may be made from any decision of the Board of Control by a dissatisfied member by making application to the annual meeting through the secretary not later than two weeks following the date of the annual Board meeting. Thereupon the secretary will send a copy of the petition to each member of the Conference and present the original to the annual meeting next for the disposition by that body. A two-thirds vote of the body will be necessary to reverse the decision of the Board of Control.

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Article III--Powers

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Article I--Powers

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Article V--Football Season

Section I. The football season shall end on the first Saturday following Thanksgiving unless the Board of Control directs that another game be played to determine the championship.

Section II. The football schedule shall be made out at the annual meeting of the association, and the Board of Control shall act as a schedule committee with the power to approve the schedule.

Section III. Improper and unsportsmanlike conduct or any other manner of intimidation on the part of any contestant, or the home fans may be deemed sufficient cause for the forfeiture of a game.

Article VI--Basketball Tournament

Section I. There shall be an annual state basketball tournament, which will close the basketball season.

Section II. The president shall present to the winners of the tournament a trophy.

Section III. There shall be a first, second, and third trophy.

Section IV. The Coaches' and Officials' Association shall select the officials of the state basketball tournament. The officials' expenses shall be paid by the O. I. A. A.

Section V. The Board of Control shall select one of its members to manage the activities of the state tournament and his travelling expenses shall be paid by the association.

Article VII--Conferences

Section I. The association shall maintain a "Big Four", "A", "B", and "C" Conference in Football.

Article IV--Tennis

Section I. The tennis season shall open on the first Saturday following January 1st, unless the Board of Control direct that season be opened at an earlier date.

Section II. The tennis season shall be held on the annual meeting of the association, and the Board of Control shall see to it that the same is held in a place to approve the association.

Section III. The Board of Control shall have the right to suspend any other manner of limitation on the part of any player, or the same, existing or to be made, in violation of the for the purpose of a game.

Article V--Baseball

Section I. There shall be an annual baseball tournament, which will close the baseball season.

Section II. The president shall present to the Board of Control of the tournament a trophy.

Section III. There shall be a trophy, season, and club trophy.

Section IV. The Board of Control, or the Association, shall select the officials of the baseball tournament. The officials, however, shall be subject to the O. L. A. A.

Section V. The Board of Control shall select the members to manage the activities of the baseball tournament and his traveling expenses shall be paid by the association.

Article VI--Commodore

Section I. The Commodore shall be elected by the "A", "B", and "C" Conference in January.

10-2-18

The "Big Four" Conference shall consist of the following named schools: Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Taft, and Tulsa.

The "A" Conference shall consist of all other membership schools whose enrollment is 125 and above.

The "B" Conference shall consist of schools whose enrollment is below 125 and above 75, and all junior high schools with over 75 enrolled.

The "C" Conference shall consist of schools whose enrollment is below 75 in high school.

Section II. The association shall maintain an "A", "B", and "C" Conference in basketball.

The "A" Conference shall consist of schools whose enrollment is 125 and above.

The "B" Conference shall consist of schools whose enrollment is below 125 and above 75, and all junior high schools with over 75 enrolled.

The "C" Conference shall consist of schools whose enrollment is below 75 in high school.

Section II. The Coaches' and Officials' Association shall certify the officials for all association athletic contests.

Section III. The home team shall furnish at least three conference officials for each football game. For violation penalty--the game will be forfeited to the visiting team.

Article VIII--Conference Journal

Section I. The association shall publish annually an official bulletin which shall contain the proceedings of the meeting, financial report, constitution, football and basketball records, cuts of championship teams, schedules, etc.

Section II. The expense of the cuts of the championship teams shall be borne by the association as well as cuts of the officials.

Section III. Any matter relative to interscholastic athletics in the state may be published if paid for by the party submitting it.

Section IV. Copies of the Journal shall be sent to all important high schools and colleges for Negroes at the expense of the association.

Article IX--Board of Control

Section I. The Board of Control shall have power to improvise temporary rulings of situations arising not covered by this constitution and these By-Laws.

Article X--Parliamentary Practice

Section I. All matters of parliamentary procedure not herein expressly provided for shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.



Section III. Any matter relating to the administration of justice in the state may be introduced in any court of the party submitting it.

Section IV. Copies of the laws shall be sent to the important high schools and colleges and to the Senate of the association.

Article IV - General Provisions

Section I. The Board of Control shall have power to provide temporary rules of discipline and to enforce them by this constitution and the laws of the state.

Article V - Enforcement of Rules

Section I. All matters of disciplinary procedure shall herein expressly provided for shall be governed by the state's Rules of Order.

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WASHINGTON

