

A HISTORY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT  
OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

A Thesis  
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By

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted as a result of the author's interest and curiosity in the past achievements of Ohio Northern University in the field of physical education and athletics.

This study is a history of important events, changing condition and emphasis, implications and progress of the physical education program, the athletic program and the intramural program at Ohio Northern University. In order to portray intelligently the beginnings, continuity and growth of these programs at Ohio Northern University, it will be imperative to incorporate the thoughts, emotions and circumstances that were sufficiently compelling to motivate changes.

The author's purpose for this study is to provide some written record of the progress of the total physical education development at Ohio Northern University from 1871 to 1955. The early records of the Ohio Northern University were destroyed by a fire in the old administration building in 1913. Therefore, much of the information prior to 1913 was acquired from personal interviews with Dr. Thomas J. Smull and Emmett E. Long. Dr. Smull has been called the "father of athletics" at Ohio Northern University. Emmett E. Long served long and faithfully as an officer on the Athletic Board and is a charter member of the "N" Men Association. Other sources of information were acquired through correspondence with former athletes from the graduating classes of 1893, 1897, 1902. The early copies of the Ohio Northern Annual, The Northern proved to be invaluable sources of information. The first annual was published by the senior class of 1910. It was named The Comet. The publication received this name because of the appearance of Haley's Comet in that year. All other issues of the annual were called The Northern and provide information from 1911 to 1955. The University Herald, which later became the Ada Herald, the town newspaper, provided information from 1885 to the present time the book, H. S. Lehr and His School, written by the daughter of the founder of the university, Mrs. Sarah Lehr Kennedy, also provided information about the founding of Ada and the early history of the school. The college newspaper, The Northern Review, and the university catalogues also furnish information in this study. The Administration and Faculty Minutes failed to provide any usable information for this study. References pertaining to the general history of physical education were beneficial. Masters Theses about the history of physical education in some Ohio colleges completes the list of reference material.



## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF OHIO NORTHERN

The region in northwestern Ohio now known as Hardin County was settled by pioneer woodsmen in 1831. A highway was constructed (now U.S. Route #30 south) through this dense forest land which served as the only line of communications in this part of the state. In 1852, the Ohio and Indiana Railroad (later the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago division of the Pennsylvania railroad) built a line through this section, westward into Chicago. An owner of a large tract of land in this area persuaded Mr. S.M. Johnson to locate a sawmill near the railroad. This venture proved successful and soon a community grew up around the sawmill and was named Johnstown in honor of Mr. Johnstown. In July, 1855, the postal authorities changed the name of the post office because of the confusion created with the older community of Johnstown in Licking County. The name, Ada, was chosen and accepted by the townspeople. The railroad did not change the name of the station until October, 1867.

In 1866, the community of Ada was a typical frontier town of some three hundred timber men and hunters. The principal industry was timber and wood products. At this time, there were two sawmills, a stave mill and barrel factory, a gristmill, a planing mill, a tannery and an ashery. There were no sidewalks, aside from a few railroad ties placed where the swampy land made traveling almost impossible. Wild game and timber were plentiful, money scarce: therefore products were generally used for trading and payment of debts. Large bills were paid with walnut logs and stumps, staves and heading; small bills were paid with muskrat and raccoon skins.<sup>1</sup>

At the end of the Civil War, Henry S. Lehr, a young teacher, arrived in Ada and accepted a position at the Union High School. Mr. Lehr accepted this position with the provision that he be permitted to teach a special class of select school during vacation. This select school was the equivalent of a college preparatory school designed especially for teachers and was the first step in Mr. Lehr's dream of founding a great Normal school.

The select school classes were taught between the public school terms, the tuition six dollars a term, orphans and cripples without funds were admitted free. The second year of the select school, there were sixty-eight pupils enrolled in the first term, many of these students from other school districts. In the spring of 1869, the School Board voted permission for Mr. Lehr to continue to use the school buildings in the early fall for his select school. Students from other school districts were permitted to attend these classes.

In June, 1870, Mr. Lehr decided that a Normal school would be a successful enterprise. Several other towns in area had heard of the select school and were interested in having the school located in their communities. The Board of Education at Findlay, a town some twenty miles north of Ada, proposed that the school be located there. The citizens of Ada soon discovered that Mr. Lehr was considering moving his school elsewhere. They immediately formed a committee and a special meeting was held. Mr. Lehr was asked what he wanted the

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Lehr Kennedy, H.S. Lehr and His School, Ada, Ohio, The Ada Herald, 1938, p. 38-39.

town to do and to submit his proposals in writing. In a week, he presented his proposition to the citizen. committee for consideration.

Mr. Lehr's stipulations were that he was to be manager, treasurer and president of the proposed school and he was to have complete authority to organize and conduct school according to his own ideas. The school was to be free of all political or sectarian bias. The town was to furnish a campus and \$3000 for the construction of a building. Mr. Lehr was to furnish \$3000 and return the money donated by the townspeople in five years. Students of Ada would be permitted to attend the Normal school free of charge, or at reduced rates for a period of thirty years.

The matter was the topic of discussion all through the summer of 1870. Citizens of Ada went to other towns and discussed the proposition with businessmen and professional men. College professors and students were also questioned. It was discovered through these various sources that it was not uncommon for a town to erect an academy building by subscription, but the academy was always controlled by the town or a church. The idea of a Normal school was a relatively new idea at this time. The Normal school was fairly common in New England and a privately owned Normal school had been in operation at Lebanon under the direction of Alfred Holbrook since 1855, but these were remote cases to some of the townspeople in Ada.

In the fall of 1870, a contract was signed, which stipulated that Mr. Lehr was to provide \$4000 and the town was to provide a like amount, plus a campus. This money was to be raised by subscription – twenty dollar donations entitled the donor to one vote in the stock company. Members of the stock company appointed a committee to assist in the planning and construction of the building. Mr. Lehr asked for five acres for the campus, but the townspeople refused this request; they were certain that one and a half acres would serve the purpose.

Mr. Lehr had pledged \$4000 and had only a few hundred dollars in his account. He was compelled to form a partnership to assist in the financing. Mr. B. F. Niesz and J. B. Park, each agreed to contribute a third of the money. The partnership was known as H.S. Lehr and Company (unincorporated).

On August 14, 1871, the Northwestern Ohio Normal School was formally opened. The new school had an enrollment of 147 students. The daily schedule or classes was as follows:

5-6 A.M. - Elocution

6-7 A.M. -Teacher's Training Class

Breakfast

7:45-8 A.M. - Chapel

8-9 A.M. - Arithmetic

9-10 A.M. - Grammar

10-11 A.M. - Geography

11-12 A.M. - Advanced Higher Algebra and Trigonometry

Dinner

12:45-1:30 P.M. - Advanced Geometry

1:30-2 P.M. - Beginning Geometry

2-3 P.M. – Analysis of Sentences

3-4 P.M. - Latin

4-5 P.M. - Special Classes

Supper

6-7 P.M. – Recreation on the woodpile or in the garden

7-7:30 P.M. - Mental Arithmetic

7:30-8 P.M. – Cicero<sup>2</sup>

The members or the faculty were H. S. Lehr, J. G. Park, B. F. Neisz, C. E. Rowley, Mrs. C. E. Rowley and Theodore Presser.

The school prospered and in 1874-75, the Northwestern Ohio Normal School at Fostoria, Ohio merged with the Northwestern Ohio Normal School at Ada, Ohio.

In 1878-79, another building was erected which increased student enrollment from 695 to 1006, an increase of forty- seven per cent. By 1881, so many students remained in Ada during the weeks of vacation, there was a demand for instruction during this period. That year the summer term became a permanent feature of the school. By 1882, the enrollment had increased to 2011 and it became a problem to provide recitation rooms for the classes. The faculty built a four room frame building which was called the "Sheep Shed."

The school at Ada grew steadily and many new departments were added to the original normal department. A Department of Music and a Commercial Department were established in 1872. In 1880, a Department of Stenography was organized at the school as a private enterprise. The teachers in this department paid for the use of the rooms. The same arrangements were provided for the School of Telegraphy in 1873. The following year, a course in Civil Engineering was offered and became a well-defined college in 1890. In 1879, a Department of Fine Arts was established. A number of students were interested in studying medicine and the faculty opened & medical department in 1884. The same procedure resulted in the opening of the college of Law in 1885. The following year, in anticipation of legislation, which would require all students to pass a State Board examination to become a pharmacist, a Department of Pharmacy was established. This department grew rapidly until in 1894 a building was constructed for the sole use of the College of Pharmacy. The Military Department was established in 1883.

The name of the school was changed from Northwestern Ohio Normal School to Ohio Normal University in 1885. The same year, the five shareholders in the school agreed to incorporate the company. The law specified that a corporation must elect a board of trustees. The shareholders elected themselves as trustees. These trustees were H. S. Lehr, J. G. Park, Frederick Maglott, Rachel Stringfellow and Warren Darst.

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<sup>2</sup> Sarah Lehr Kennedy, op. cit., p. 76

In 1886, Ohio Normal University was composed of ten departments: Literary, Commercial, Engineering, Music, Fine Arts, Telegraphic, Stenographic, Law, Military and Pharmacy with an enrollment of 2438 students. By 1896, the number of different students in attendance throughout the year was 3073 and the enrollment by terms (total number paying tuition per year) was 5093.

Even though the school was one of the largest in Ohio, the financial situation was precarious. The buildings were beginning to look shabby and were too small to accommodate the classes. Much criticism from other schools in Ohio was directed at Ohio Normal University because scheduling and length of terms did not measure up to their standards. Not only in Ohio, but all over the United States, professional standards were improving in institutions of higher learning. In 1898, the Boxwell Law was enacted which provided free high school education for all students who could qualify scholastically. This law marked the beginning of the end for the Normal schools. The faculty at Ohio Normal University realized that the days of the Normal schools were numbered and after prolonged consideration, they agreed to sell the school to the Central Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church.

At the session of the Central Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Sidney, Ohio in September, 1898, the Trustees of the University sold to the Conference the real estate and personal property belonging to the university, its founders hoping thus to place this increasingly popular institution on a solid foundation and to insure its permanency by guaranteeing to it the support of a progressive and influential religious body.<sup>3</sup>

The Trustees and founders of the school realized that a privately owned school without endowments could not long survive the rising standards that were becoming characteristic of higher education. The salaries of the teachers at the Ohio Normal were pitifully small when compared with even the most humble teachers of today. The entire pay- roll of the institution in 1901 was \$10,000 and it was obvious that the Ohio Normal University, like all other similar institutions must be a public trust and not a private possession. These men demonstrated their nobility of soul by tendering it for sale in order to perpetuate it for the some thirty thousand who had gone through its halls in the past and the uncounted thousands who would tread its campus in the future.

The management of the school under the new ownership was invested in a Board or Managers made up as follows: Dr. Henry S. Lehr, President; Simeon D. Fess, Vice President; Warren Darst and Frederick Maglott. Lewis Dukes of Findlay was president of the first Board of Trustees; David H. Bailey of Perrysburg, was Secretary. Albert E. Smith was called to the Board shortly after its organization. The first financial agents were L. M. Allbright and J. W. Donnon. The first contribution of any magnitude was \$10,000 given by Mr. Lewis Dukes. He later deeded seventy-seven acres of land in Hancock County as first payment of his pledge. John G. Park withdrew from the institution and Simeon D. Fess was appointed in his stead. Prof. Park returned to the institution as Professor of Grammar from 1907 to 1913.

Dr. C. H. Jameson was elected President of the University in April, 1901. but declined the election in May of the same year, at which time, Dr. Leroy A. Belt was chosen. Professor Warren Darst withdrew in July 1900. Professor Simeon D. Fess withdrew in May, 1902, and Professor Frederick Maglott withdrew in 1909.

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<sup>3</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1906, p.14

There were many difficult problems to be solved under the new ownership. One of the chief decisions of far reaching influence was the acceptance or rejection of Ohio Wesleyan's offer to absorb Ohio Normal in 1900. The decision was unanimous, however, to reject the proposition. The students of the time will remember Dr. Belt and his one horse shay, propelled by an old roan steed. Dr. Belt's administration was a strenuous one in many respects. As was to be expected, a radical change in ownership of any institution is met with delicate situations that of times tend to create staunch friends and relentless enemies. An attempt was made to raise money by the purchase of the old tri-county fair grounds with the hope of selling a goodly portion for building lots and retaining the rest for a recreation field. This administration provided the Dukes Building, which housed the College of Engineering, the College of Law and the Department of Biology and Zoology. This administration also erected the Brown Building which was used for chapel services until 1913, when it was converted into a full time gymnasium. The basement was used as an armory until 1919, when it was converted into a modern cafeteria.

The change from Ohio Normal University to Ohio Northern University was authorized by the Board of Trustees July 28, 1903.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, held in Kenton, Ohio on June 27, 1905, Dr. Leroy A. Belt resigned and Dr. Albert Edwin Smith, pastor of Epworth Methodist Church, Marion, Ohio was elected president.

While rich in teaching power, the school was poor indeed in material possessions. There were a host of debts, including a \$16,000 overdraft, with no endowment. Many departments such as commerce, pharmacy, law, chemistry, etc. were under private ownership of the head of the department.

President Smith came to Ohio Northern, not as a candidate for the position, but drafted to place Ohio Northern on her feet. Outside of a rich endowment in students, past and present, the school was in a rather precarious position. The first chapel service found a room filled with students and not a single song book available. The first money solicited was applied to the purchase of 600 hymnals. Bishop McCabe responded with 25 dollars and personally conducted the Conference collection for this purpose.

The new administration found a Military Department without a flagpole. The second step was to purchase and erect an 85 ft. steel flagpole. This was followed by solicitation of funds aggregating \$2000 to grade the campus and build sidewalks. A \$3500 pipe organ followed, and the Music Department, which at the time was occupying two small rooms, had its first material contribution.

The most imperative need at this time was a new heating system and eight new furnaces were purchased. It was now assumed that the problem was solved, but after two years experience, it was evident that a central heating system was needed. The new president went to Lima and on "naked cheek" borrowed \$20,000 from the South Side Building & Loan Association. Five thousand dollars was applied to the original purchase price; five thousand dollars was applied to Brown Building. The remainder was used for the purchase and installation of a central heating and lighting plant. The purchase and remodeling of the South Side M. E. Church in Ada, into a modern conservatory of music, together with the installation of twelve new pianos for instructional purposes, followed. A debt of \$1000 was attached to five acres of ground set

aside for an athletic field. This was later wiped out and enough lots were donated and purchased to increase the ground to seven acres.

Much strenuous work was required to finance the Lehr Memorial Building. To add consternation to the situation, the Hill Administration Building was destroyed by fire, (1913), and the Brown Building, including the pipe organ damaged. This occurred just after the old Normal Building had been torn down and classroom space became an acute problem during this period. In the meantime, the property south of the Music Building was purchased and the house thereon moved to provide a building site for a new College of Music. The Presser Hall was constructed in 1927. This building was named in honor of Theodore Presser, the first instructor of music in 1871. A modern greenhouse was built at the rear of these lots to propagate material for the biology and botany departments.

A College of Agriculture was established in 1906 and President Smith purchased ninety acres of land west of the village for this department. After several years the department proved too expensive and was discontinued. A portion of the land was converted into an athletic field, with a baseball diamond, a football field, a running track and tennis courts.

Upon completion of the Lehr Memorial Building, the chapel services were transferred to the new auditorium, Brown Building, then serving as a full-time gymnasium and armory for the military department.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the Military Department was at the peak of efficiency. When war was imminent, there was a rapid depletion in the student ranks for Uncle Sam's service as trained men were at a premium. To cite one example: 61 cadets attended the first Officers Training School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana. With but two months training, 59 returned as commissioned officers, the other two being unable to qualify because of physical disabilities. The greater portion of three companies were contributed from the campus. Four companies were organized on the campus during the fall quarter of 1918. The school was a veritable army post with intensive training until the armistice was signed. With the return of many ex-soldiers to the student ranks to complete their courses, the old military enthusiasm waned until it was impossible to keep the ranks of the cadet companies filled. In 1921, the administration, faculty and student body conjointly deemed it wise to dissolve this department and establish in its stead a Department of Physical Education. This automatically converted the entire Brown Building into a gymnasium. The basement of the building was converted into a cafeteria. This building was well equipped for this purpose, but as the enrollment of the school increased and the nature of the program of physical education changed, it became apparent that this building was too small to adequately meet the needs of the students. Two city lots were purchased and the houses removed to make way for a much larger athletic plant.

The John H. Taft Gymnasium, named in honor of the principle donor, was completed in the spring of 1929. This building with frontage of 106 feet and a depth of 132 feet, built at a cost of \$20,000 was an ideal physical education plant, athletic fieldhouse and gymnasium. It was the outstanding facility in the Ohio Conference. The Brown Building was then converted into a social center.

The Law Building was constructed in 1925. The Taft Gymnasium was the last building to be erected before the great depression of 1930. President Williams was placed in charge of the college at the start of the depression and his administration continued until 1943. During this

period the expansion halted and buildings were allowed to deteriorate because of the shortage of money. The main contribution of this administration was a consolidation of curriculum.

The Second World War placed such a strain on the man power of the nation that the only classes held at Ohio Northern from 1943 to 1945 consisted of women students. President R.O. McClure was placed in charge of the University and served from 1943 to 1949. In 1946, the returning veterans crowded into the university. Special housing, in the form of trailer camps and army style units were constructed as temporary shelters to accommodate the influx of returning servicemen and their families.

In 1949, Dr. F. Bringle McIntosh became president of the university. He is dedicated to the fight, not only to keep the doors of the institution open, but to make the school a bigger and better institution. In 1950, the drive for expansion began. Not only were additional facilities provided but existing facilities were renovated.

At the present time, Ohio Northern University has an average enrollment of 900 students per quarter. In 1956-57, the school is expecting an enrollment of 1100 students. The school owns over 100 acres of land in and around Ada providing ample room for present needs and future expansion. The campus has 9 buildings which house the College of Pharmacy, the College of Law, the College of Engineering, and the College of Liberal Arts. These buildings are:

Lehr Memorial - The offices of the administration, the Lehr auditorium, Alumnae Hall, the Northern Review Office, and the Departments of English, Education, and Psychology.

Hill Memorial - The Departments of Physics, Biology, and Mathematics.

Dukes Memorial - The College of Pharmacy and the Department of Chemistry.

Brown Memorial - The laboratories and equipment of the Department of Industrial Arts in the basement, office of the Education Department and Teacher placement service and several classrooms of the College of Liberal Arts.

Law Building – Classrooms and the J.P. Taggart Library and study room.

Art Annex - This was the old college of music building which was renovated and now services the Departments of Art and Foreign Language.

Presser Hall - The Heterick Library, the Department of Music and the Schoonover Speech Laboratory.

Engineering Building - The College of Engineering

Taft Gymnasium - The Department at Physical Education

The Student Center, constructed in 1953, offers rooms for recreation and a snack bar. Table tennis, billiards, dancing and television may be enjoyed in the Center. The sororities each have meeting rooms on the top floor of the Center.

Women's dormitory, constructed in 1950, has accommodations for ninety students. The dormitory unit includes a large dining room, kitchen and laundry facilities.

This is Ohio Northern University at present, but the expansion has just begun. A men's dormitory will be completed some time next year. A planned development includes some 8 more buildings, a new stadium, new athletic fields and laboratories and equipment.

## CHAPTER III

### THE EARLY HISTORY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, 1871 -1900

Athletics up to the "nineties" had not presented any particular problem at Ohio Northern University. The majority of students came from farms and small communities -the daily routine provided most of their exercise. When they came to school they chopped their own wood and made their own fires, and the girls did their own washing and cleaning. The school day started early and finished late. Recreation was provided on the woodpile or in the garden. The only real recreation provided for the student. was the literary societies. These societies were very popular and free time was usually spent reading, debating or drama.

The establishment of the Military Department in 1883 presented a unique picture in the history of physical education at Ohio Northern University. The uniqueness was not in the establishment of the department because military training was not a new idea, but in the era that the establishment came about. George Washington had advocated military training for college students in the last part of the 18th century. The movement had grown and enjoyed a certain success until the Civil War. After the war, many colleges attempted to continue the training but the majority of students resisted so bitterly that by 1880 military training was practically non-existent in colleges over the country.

In 1883, the citizens of Ohio were asked to vote on an amendment to the state constitution. This amendment was the prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors. The proponents of the amendment asked that the children of the state be trained to march through the towns carrying flags and singing patriotic songs. These children chanted and sang temperance slogans and carried banners and appropriate signs.

President Lehr was a staunch believer in temperance, and he volunteered his services as a captain in the movement. He was soon drilling the boys and girls of Ada on the Ohio Normal campus. The university students were very interested in the drilling and asked the president to establish a military department at the Normal. There were enough students to form two companies. The whole subject aroused much enthusiasm. In 1884, Mr. Lehr obtained from the state a supply of rifles for these two companies.

The news of the school's new Military Department was widely publicized and a member of Congress from this district informed Mr. Lehr that the state of Ohio was entitled to two United States army officers as commandants at institutions of learning and that only one was currently in service - at State University in Columbus. Mr. Lehr immediately entered an application to the War Department. The news was carried rapidly all over the state and six other institutions also entered applications. The Secretary of War, Robert Lincoln, sent an inspector to all the schools applying to consider how to dispose of their applications.

The Military Department at Ada received a very favorable report from this inspector. .Even though the 200 cadets in the two companies at the Normal had only arms for 110 the report said that the students were older and presented a better appearance than the others. A bitter controversy raged and was only settled when Major McKinley presented a bill to the House of

Representatives which provided for three officers to be appointed to educational institutions in Ohio.

The officers were appointed to Ohio State University, Columbus, Wooster University, Wooster and Ohio Normal University, Ada.<sup>1</sup>

The reasons for the establishment of the Military Department are recorded in the University Catalogue of 1883-84.

Patriotism is a principle so noble and exalting that poets and sages of all ages have united in exalting its virtues and teaching mankind to celebrate its growth. Nothing is more conducive to this than military tactics and discipline. It is well known that students must and will have exercise. Many of the games and sports indulged in by students are of questionable character, morally and socially. For these and other reasons, we have organized a battalion of three companies with arms and accouterments. The members have procured the regulation uniform. Students are not compelled to unite with any military organization, it is voluntary, but we advise all who can do so as it furnishes much needed exercise and valuable discipline in many respects.<sup>2</sup>

To encourage competition between the companies, the commandant arranged a flag contest on a competitive basis to determine which company was to carry the flag. There was an annual inspection in the spring by an officer from the United States Army. It was arranged that this inspection would take place the day preceding the flag contest. The inspector's reports were always favorable to the Military Department at the Normal.

On Content Day, the regular army officers who were present would judge the competition. Large crowds gathered to watch the excitement. At sunrise the two old cannon in the artillery department would fire a salute. President Lehr, dressed in his best with high silk hat and gold cane, acted as Field Marshall. Each of the five captains would drill his company before an admiring and sympathetic crowd of spectators. The judges would render their decision and the day would close with a dress parade and an artillery salute.

The day after the contest, the battalion would march to the home of President Lehr. He would thank them for their hard work throughout the year and then each cadet would receive a bag of peanuts from the hand of Mr. Lehr. The companies would reassemble, the band play and the battalion would march away, the work of the department finished for another year.<sup>3</sup>

The type of training received in the Military Department is presented in the University Catalogue, 1887-88.

Students on joining the Military Department, are first carefully drilled through the school of the soldier, including manual of arms and bayonet exercise, then organized into companies and thoroughly drilled in company and battalion movements and ceremonies, special attention

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Lehr Kennedy, op. cit., p. 145-146.

<sup>2</sup> Northwestern Ohio Normal School Catalogue, 1883-84, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> Sarah Lehr Kennedy, op. cit., p. 147-148.

being paid to skirmish drill. Toward the end of each term, artillery detachments are formed which are thoroughly drilled in the manual of the piece, and have practice firing with blank cartridges.

The drills, exercises and the studies of the department are so placed as not to interfere with regular academical duties; all who can do so, should avail themselves of the advantages to be gained by military instruction.<sup>4</sup>

The military department was very popular and many students enrolled. In 1887-88, one-third of the male student population, or 524 men, were enrolled by their request in the Military Department.

In 1888-89, the University Catalogue presents the following account of the activities of the Military Department.

The allowance of ammunition for rifle firing, having been greatly increased for the year closing July, 1890, it is planned to have an intercollegiate drill and shooting match between representative companies from the three schools having a regular Military Department, viz: State University, Columbus, University of Wooster, Wooster, and the Ohio Normal University, Ada.<sup>5</sup>

By 1890, all male students entering the university for the first time were required to take at least one term of military training classes. The University Catalogue of 1890-91 explains the benefits derived from these required military training Classes.

The Drills, an hour each day, excepting Saturdays, (and placed so as not to interfere with other academical duties) will be found especially entertaining, invigorating and healthful – a most pleasant relaxation after the close and sedentary hours of the student's desk and recitation room. The erect carriage, the developed chest, the easy movements of the body, all consequent upon military drill, should alone suffice to induce every student to seek admission to the Cadet Battalion whenever vacancies in its ranks presents themselves.<sup>6</sup>

The Military Department, after its organization, provided a certain amount of exercise for the men; the girls sometimes had classes in club swinging and occasionally they had a girls' Military company.

### Intramurals

Mr. Lehr was a product of pioneer days; his exercise had consisted for the most part of hard work, he knew little or nothing about play. For his own recreation, he went to his farm on Saturdays and worked in a "clearing". Often a number of students accompanied him, not for the recreation such labor afforded, but for what they could earn, and in the autumn large numbers of men went to his farm and other farms to husk corn.

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<sup>4</sup> Ohio Normal University Catalogue, 1887-88, p. 25

<sup>5</sup> Ohio Normal University Catalogue, 1888-89, p. 27

<sup>6</sup> Ohio Normal University Catalogue, 1890-91, p. 24

As the campus was not suitable, he gave the men the use of his large cow pasture near town for a baseball ground; many were the games played there, and occasionally there was a game at the Fair Grounds. When Mr. Lehr was a student at college, undersized as he was, he played football; twice his nose had been broken in the game and he felt that football was an unduly rough game as played at the time and did not encourage it at Ada. The rules of the game were changed as the years passed, and with more interest in this and other sports, athletics were coming to be a part of college life at Ohio Normal University.

Fielding H. Yost, who in later years became a nationally known coach at the University of Michigan, was a student at Ohio Normal in the early nineties. In an address delivered some thirty years later at Homecoming, he described the outdoor activities of the Ohio Normal University when he was a student as follows:

Rugby football was not played at the Normal, but we did have an old association football which we kicked around the lot. We use to gather on a large field with a hedge at either end and choose sides, the idea being to kick the ball over the opponents hedge. As many as a hundred players would sometimes take part in the game. Our games of course were nothing more than impromptu affairs, we had no rules at all.<sup>7</sup>

The majority of students at the Normal were not interested in athletics prior to 1890, but some of them engaged in sports and games. These activities were largely unorganized affairs and without any direct sponsorship from the university. These activities were baseball, association football, croquet, hiking, bicycling, and in the winter months, ice skating and sleighriding.

The expansion of the Department of Engineering, Law and Pharmacy drew more young men from cities. These men were accustomed to the physical equipment of city high schools, and there was an increasing call for an athletic field and gymnasium. At this time it was quite impossible for the faculty to even consider the erection of a gymnasium when the building accommodations were insufficient for regular class recitation.

The first mention of any type of highly organized athletic contest appears in the University Herald, May 14, 1892.

The senior field day contest at the ONU will be something new and worthy of support. Wednesday of commencement week will be devoted exclusively to field sports, which will be conducted in a manner after large colleges. The Fair Ground has been secured by the athletic committee and is rapidly being put into shape for preliminary practice. The program will consist of the usual field day exercises such as the highkick, pole vault, putting the 16 lb. shot, throwing the hammer and baseball, hurdle race high jump, standing and running broad jump, 40, 120, 220 yard dash, one half, one and three mile bicycle race, etc.<sup>8</sup>

These field day contests were received with a great enthusiasm by the students. Cash prizes were awarded the winners of events. Large crowds of spectators cheered their favorites on to

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<sup>7</sup> Sarah Lehr Kennedy, *op. cit.*, p. 196-97

<sup>8</sup> The University Herald, Ada Ohio, May 14, 1892 (can not verify)

victory. The field day contests were very successful, but many of the students were not satisfied with a field day held once a year, they wanted other sporting events. In 1896, an athletic committee was formed to solicit money for intramural baseball. The University Herald reported that \$70 was solicited from Ada businessmen.<sup>9</sup>

### Intercollegiate Athletics

Ohio Northern University, like many other colleges developed the intercollegiate program after the sports had been played on an intramural basis. The first highly organized field day in 1892, seemed to provide the impetus for the beginning of organized intercollegiate teams. The students wanted those teams to be organized and played as expressed by this writer in the University Herald.

What of athletics at ONU? Has the interest died out completely? Field day as an experiment, commencement week was a success... What we need is an organized athletic association which will continue the year around. We want our forces united and compact, and a football team and a baseball team that will win laurels. The prospect of having a gymnasium is yet doubtful, but that should not hinder the University from excelling in outdoor sports. When next season opens let us have some contests with neighboring colleges and gradually push this feature of school work until it is recognized and permanently established.<sup>10</sup>

The feeling expressed by this writer was not confined to the Normal School at Ada. Intercollegiate football and baseball teams had been organized in the eastern United States and for about 25 years after the Civil War these sports were confined to this section. In 1879, the University of Michigan played its first intercollegiate football game with Racine College. In 1881, the Michigan football team invaded the East playing Harvard, Yale, and Princeton in the same week losing all games by a single point. Soon after they found competition in their own section as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and other state universities took up the game.

In 1898 the Methodist Church Conference purchased the school. This organization was extremely progressive for the time. Although there was no declaration of support for intercollegiate athletics at this time, there was no edict against them, as there was against dancing, card playing and the frequenting of immoral places.

Thus by 1900, intercollegiate sports at Ohio Northern became a very important part of the extra-curricular activities of the students.

### Football

The period from 1890-1900 saw practically all the colleges and universities in Ohio start football on an intercollegiate basis. In 1894, the students at the Ohio Normal contacted students at nearby Lima and Findlay and two intercollegiate football games were scheduled. The first football game played with another college was held at Findlay College with Ohio Normal winning 20 to 0. The next game played was with the Lima YMCA with ONU winning

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<sup>9</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, April 21, 1896

<sup>10</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, September 8, 1893.

this contest 6 to 0. The following year the students at Ohio Normal received challenges from Akron, Findlay, and Columbus. The only challenge accepted was Findlay College.

In September, 1895, the University Herald devoted some space to this new game of football.

Football seems to occupy nearly the same position among sporting fraternities of the various colleges as does baseball. The game has been modified somewhat recently and is not as brutal as formerly. Although several deaths are the results of games the past year, the interest is increasing.<sup>11</sup>

The game of football was becoming more popular, not only with players, but with spectators. The game between ONU and Findlay College on Thanksgiving Day 1895 was quite an event as per the University Herald.

A more ideal football day than Thanksgiving could not be imagined. It was just 2:30, and over 1000 people had passed into the grounds...Score ONU – 12, Findlay College – 0.<sup>12</sup>

These early games were very popular with the students and townspeople. Many came to watch these games and were willing to pay to be admitted. The price of admittance in these formative years was 25 cents per person. The spectators usually received their money's worth. These early contests were little more than free-for-alls and were extremely rough and brutal. Students were determined to play the game and all over Ohio, college presidents were noticing the increasing popularity of the game.

In 1896, at the annual meeting of the college presidents held in Columbus during the holidays, there resulted an endorsement of the following code of rules submitted by President Canfield of Ohio State University.

No student shall take part in intercollegiate athletics during the first year of his connection with the college, unless he has special recommendations as to his high scholarly attainments, and especially as to his industry, faithfulness and general success in student undertakings.

No student shall take part in intercollegiate athletics during his first year of connection with the college unless he is a candidate for a degree and a full and unconditional member of the class with which he claims graduation.

It shall be an absolute and essential condition precedent of every intercollegiate game that the managers of the contesting clubs shall interchange not less than ten days prior to the game, full lists of the participants, which list shall be certified by the presidents of the respective colleges as containing only the names of bona-fide students of the college in good and approved standing.

In any intercollegiate game no person shall be chosen as umpire or referee, or for any similar position who has any connection with either colleges concerned.

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<sup>11</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, November 29, 1895

<sup>12</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, December 6, 1895

Any student properly and duly disqualified by the umpire or referee for slugging or any other form of foul play, shall be debarred from playing in any intercollegiate game for the remainder of the college year unless reinstated by the presidents of three-nonparticipating colleges.

The use of profanity or any obscenity by any member of a team shall be strictly forbidden by the managers and captains of such teams. When any member of a team fails in the work the preceding term or has charged against him any conditions, such student shall not be permitted to play in any intercollegiate game until his conditions have been made good. No student shall be allowed to receive any form of compensation for managing in athletics.<sup>13</sup>

President Canfield requested that the colleges of Ohio be notified of the new rules. President Thompson of Miami proposed that the rules become operative as soon as they were adopted by five colleges.

These rules no doubt were patterned after the rules established for the Western Conference in 1895. By adopting these rules the colleges did not bind themselves to a state intercollegiate league, but simply agreed to abide by these rules in all their games with other colleges.<sup>14</sup> In 1902, the Ohio Athletic Conference was formed with rules and regulations approximating the above suggestions. It may have been that some colleges adopted the rules on an informal basis but many more apparently disregarded them.

The Ohio Normal University continued to play a limited schedule of football games even though the administration disapproved.

President Lehr believed that the preeminent work and duty of a student while in school was to acquire knowledge. He also deemed the social contacts of a student and the friendships formed at college to be of the greatest value in the formation of character. He considered that all activities of a student rightly directed would react favorably in the future, but his mind, not even the literary societies, so dear to his heart, could take the place of recitation in the classroom.

It was a great matter of concern for him, too, that young men away from home, for the purpose of an education, should spend their funds traveling around from one college to another over weekends to play football and run the risk of neglecting their studies. There was another college president who shared his concern – Dr. Sylvester Scovel of Wooster College. Both of them were opposed to intercollegiate football; these two were the last presidents in Ohio to oppose the growing emphasis placed upon intercollegiate athletics.

In 1897, it was the concensus of one writer in the University Herald that President Lehr was waging a losing battle against intercollegiate sports.

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<sup>13</sup> The University Herald, January 24, 1896

<sup>14</sup> Robert Michael, A History of the Growth and Development of Football in Ohio Colleges, M.A. Thesis, The Ohio State University, 1952.

It is a fact worth mentioning that the faculty is taking more interest in football this season than heretofore. May the time soon come when ONU like other schools will be equipped with a good gymnasium, coach, baths, etc.<sup>15</sup>

In 1898, Dr. Scovel was apparently having more success in his campaign against football because Wooster College discontinued football as being too brutal.

From 1894 to 1900 there were a total of 20 intercollegiate football games held between Ohio Northern and other schools. These contests were all student organized and controlled. In 1896, there is a record of gate receipts totaling \$150 which was divided among the players. This was characteristic of the program of intercollegiate football in the 1890's.

### Baseball

The game of baseball was played very early in the history of Ohio Northern University. The reference to President Lehr's cow pasture as a baseball field attests to the fact that baseball was the first game played at the school. The game of baseball was played in this area prior to the Civil War. There is no mention of baseball as an intercollegiate sport until 1896. In that year the Normal School played a game with Bluffton College. This was the only college game played in that year, although games were played with city teams and high school teams in the area.

### Physical Training

The physical training program at Ohio Northern arose from a rather surprising source. Special Elocution under May Demming started in 1883 and became a recognized department in 1890. There is no record of Miss Demming's early training but the French system of Harmonic Gymnastic or Delsarte was the principal study as recorded in the University Catalogue of 1892-93.

Our full course of study is intended to embrace a thorough training in the essentials of Expression; Physical Training, Respiration; Vocal Culture; Articulation; Pantomime; Sight Reading; and Recitation.

1. Physical Training – Basis for Pantomime
  - a. Light Gymnastics (the Swedish or Ling Method)
  - b. Aesthetic Gymnastics (the Delsarte Drills)<sup>16</sup>

The following year an assistant to Miss Demming was employed by the university. Miss Inez Bacon was a world traveler and had studies at the Posse Gymnasium in Boston, Mass. Miss Bacon only remained at Ohio Normal a short time but in that time she taught classes at the university and interested Miss Demming in the gymnasium school in Boston. Miss Demming studied under Baron Nils Posse during the summer of 1894. She also studied the system of gymnastics adapted by Dr. Dudley Sargent and referred to this system as the American system of gymnastics.

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<sup>15</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, November 19, 1897.

<sup>16</sup> Ohio Normal University Catalogue, 1892-93, p. 47.

In the University Catalogue of 1894-95 a description of this course of study is listed.

Special physical work may be had in the Gymnasium where three systems, Swedish, American, and Delsarte are taught. A pupil of Baron Nils Posse (Graduate Royal Gymnasium Institute, Sweden) of the Posse Gymnasium, Boston, Mass. Has charge of the Swedish work, and exercises are given with dumb-bells, clubs, wands, horizontal ladders, vaulting box, etc. The progressive characteristics of the Swedish system is thoroughly carried out so that at the end of the course even those who at the beginning were the weakest will become physically strong.

The growing demand for this system in the Public Schools all over the country makes it imperative for teachers to understand its principles. The training in classwork will be given at an hour that will not interfere with the regular work of the school.

The gymnasium costume worn by young ladies consists of blouse and divided skirts, black stockings, gymnastic shoes.

For gentlemen, the ordinary dress with belt and gymnastic shoes.

When not occupied for other purposes, the Gymnasium is free to all those who may wish to use it for study or practice.<sup>17</sup>

The Elocution Department was very popular. The school year 1894-95, 133 students were enrolled in these classes. A special fee of five dollars a term was charged for the physical training work. May Demming's brother, Guy Demming was placed in charge of the Gymnasium. This gymnasium was located in Bastable Hall which was located in Ada but was not a university building. The Physical training exercises were so popular that Guy Demming conducted special classes for others besides students at the university who were interested in this form of exercise.

Guy Demming's gymnasium class is growing quite large, and many of the businessmen are getting in this popular form of exercise. The "gym" room is in the old Bastable Hall<sup>18</sup>

The Young Men's Christian Association was also in tune with the times by furnishing facilities for physical training in the rooms of the YMCA.

In the first place its rooms furnish a pure, elevating social center for young men away from home, and therefore more easily subject to the temptations of college life. In order that it may not degenerate into a mere loafing place the rooms are equipped with magazines, daily newspapers, exercising apparatus, piano, checkers, chess, and correspondence and study tables. The fact that the rooms are constantly in use and that over 600 membership cards have been issued since September 1, shows that the need is being at least partially met.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ohio Normal University Catalogue, 1894-95, p. 50.

<sup>18</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, February 9, 1897. (could not verify)

<sup>19</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, December 16, 1896. (could not verify)

Many students were interested in physical training and many of them who were unable to enroll in the Elocution classes and found the limited facilities at the YMCA room crowded, began to complain and urged for the erection of a gymnasium. An article in the University Herald on October 29, 1897, described the need and the merits of having a gymnasium for students who wished to take part in physical training.

The following year D.A. Fitzgerald opened his new gymnasium on the second floor of the Bastable Hall as a private venture.

This week D.A. Fitzgerald opened his new gymnasium on the Bastable second floor. Part of his equipment has not yet arrived, but already he has in place 24 pair of wooden one-pound dumb-bells, the same number of two-pound iron dumb-bells, 24 pairs of Indian clubs, parallel bars, punching bags, gloves, flying rings, foils and masks, etc. The mats and chest weights will soon arrive.

The ladies will meet at 4 p.m. and the gentlemen at 8:30 p.m. Miss Nann Carson has been secured as assistant instructor of the ladies class...Three dollars for a term of 20 lessons, three lessons per week. Those who take lessons will have the use of the gymnasium for an hour a day.<sup>20</sup>

### Summary

The records of the early history of physical education at Ohio Northern University are extremely sketchy. All physical activities prior to the establishment of the Military Department in 1884, were organized by the students. The administration and faculty of the university did not concern themselves very much with these student games and sports.

The establishment of the Military Department was the result of the student's request to have such a department. This procedure was not unusual because other departments, law, engineering, and pharmacy, and the medical department, had been established in this same manner. The faculty believed that students should have exercise and military training had been the established method of providing this exercise.

Track and field events were one of the first forms of organized athletic activities in this country. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that this type of activity was the first highly organized athletic event at Ohio Northern University. A large number of people were always on hand during commencement week and special programs had been organized celebrating this occasion very early in the history of the school. It was just a matter off adding one more activity to the program when in 1892 the first field day contest was held.

The early classes at Ohio Northern University were largely composed of students from farms and rural communities in Ohio. The establishment of the professional schools of law, engineering, and pharmacy attracted students from the large cities, not only in Ohio, but from many other states. These students were accustomed to the physical training facilities and

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<sup>20</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, April 15, 1898.

intercollegiate programs of their more populated areas. The organization of an intercollegiate program by these students and the provision of special gymnasium classes were the natural outgrowth of this more cosmopolitan student body.

The administration at Ohio Northern was not as sympathetic to the requests for intercollegiate sports as they had been for the program of military training. Nevertheless, the intercollegiate program at Ohio Northern was initiated by the students in 1894 when a football team organized and games were played with the student football team at Findlay College, and the YMCA team at Lima, Ohio.

In 1896, a baseball team was organized and played the first game of intercollegiate baseball with the baseball team at Bluffton College. Other baseball games were played in 1896, but these games could not be called intercollegiate because they were played with city teams and high school teams in nearby towns.

Physical training started as a part of the Special Elocution classes. This department was under May Demming and started in 1883. This course of study was primarily a finishing course for young ladies. They were taught how to carry themselves and how to express themselves properly. Physical training was only a small part of this instruction. By 1890, this special elocution class had developed into a well-defined department. As the classes became larger and more emphasis was placed upon physical training, Miss Demming entered a special school in Boston, Mass. To better prepare herself for the new trends. She returned to Ohio Northern in a short time and presented the most up-to-date systems of physical training to her students.

This then was the picture of physical education at Ohio Northern University at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## Chapter IV

### The Expansion of Physical Education, 1901 to 1920

There are many men who have contributed to the development of physical education in this country until at present, a program exists in every college in the country. There was such a man in the history of the development of physical education at Ohio Northern University. This man is Dr. Thomas J. Smull.

Dr. Smull was an exceptional athlete in his college days. During the baseball seasons of 1897 and 1898 he played on the Central State Normal School team at Lock Haven, Pa. In 1900 he entered the Susquehanna University at Selingsgrove, Pa., and while there he played on the baseball team. In the winter of 1901, he entered the Ohio Normal University. The following year his record was brilliant both in baseball and football. In 1903, he captained both the baseball and football teams. He was such a standout in the game against the University of Michigan that Fielding Yost persuaded him to come to Michigan. In 1904, he played five games with the University of Michigan's eleven, but finished the season at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. Although Dr. Smull was extremely interested in athletics, he was first of all a scholar. He found it impossible to arrange a suitable schedule at Michigan and so gave up free tuition and left Michigan to further his education at Lafayette College. In 1905 he returned to Ohio Northern as Dean of the College of Engineering.

From 1905 to 1908, Northern's athletics were under his sole direction. In 1908, at his direction, the Ohio Northern University Athletic Board was organized. He was chairman of this body for five consecutive years, when at his own direction, he was relieved of the chairmanship. The need for his wise counsel being felt he was appointed Honorary President and Advisor and served in that capacity until 1922.

Dr. Smull's one great ambition was to obtain recognition for ONU athletics. He argued that popular home support was the first essential to this condition. He began by abolishing the unsatisfactory practice of raising money by subscriptions among businessmen. He initiated a policy of paying all debts at the close of the year, though to maintain this he was often compelled to secure notes with his own signature at local banks.

To strengthen his position with students, he provided for student representation on the Athletic Board. With these reforms enacted and an established record for clean athletics success was assured.<sup>1</sup> In 1916, Dr. Smull was instrumental in gaining entrance for Ohio Northern into the Ohio Athletic Conference. In 1927, he served as architect, without pay, for the Taft Gymnasium. At the present time, Dr. Smull is retired from his position as an engineer but continues to work strenuously for the Ohio Northern University Alumni Association.

Dr. Smull's efforts endure in the hearts of all who are familiar with ONU history and by them he will always be regarded as the Father and Founder of Athletics at Northern.

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<sup>1</sup> The Northern, 1913, p. 206.

The administration under President Belt recognized the need for taking a more active part in the extra-curricular activities of the students at Ohio Northern. The increasing popularity of sports and games led this administration to take steps to provide facilities for these activities. A description of these facilities are presented in the University Catalogue of 1901-02.

...the University owns and controls athletic grounds consisting of twenty-eight acres. This supplies parade grounds for the Military Companies, Baseball and Football Grounds, Lawn Tennis Courts and the like ...<sup>2</sup>

Not only was this administration interested in providing outdoor facilities but it realized the need for indoor facilities for athletics. Included in a paragraph about the needs of the university, the following statements appear in the University Catalogue of 1902-03.

...A Gymnasium and Armory are necessities. The School of Oratory with its Gymnasium affords excellent facilities for physical culture but the growth of the university demands more room. Students need physical culture all the year around. The Military Department is mainly relied upon for such exercises, but reaches only our young men, and is only available during fair weather. Young women cannot avail themselves of this form of exercise, besides inclement weather largely prevents both sexes for getting the recreation they need.<sup>3</sup>

In 1904, the Brown Building was erected to serve as an auditorium. The administration realized that this space was too valuable to waste for such a special function. Therefore the athletic department was permitted to convert some of the space into a serviceable gymnasium. This was no mean accomplishment for the athletic department and the University Herald devoted some space in the paper to broadcast the good news.

The athletic department has converted the southwest building on the campus into a serviceable gymnasium which is open daily for the benefit of students and members of the association. Young ladies from 4 to 5 p.m., gentlemen from 6 to 7 p.m. ...<sup>4</sup>

### Intramurals

In the years prior to 1900, intramural baseball, football and track had been organized and played by the student at Ohio Northern. Aside from the field day contest held during commencement week, all these activities had been organized and conducted without any official sponsorship from the institution.

After 1900, the literary societies organized baseball, football and basketball teams and played a round robin type schedule. The games were very informal and few records were preserved.

The YMCA, which had always been primarily concerned with the physical activities of the students, took an active part in organizing games and sports and providing limited facilities.

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<sup>2</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1902-03, p. 52

<sup>3</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1902-03, p. 58.

<sup>4</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, January 8, 1904.

A boxing and wrestling tournament is being arranged by the YMCA boys and the preliminary bouts are being held every Wednesday evening at 6:30 o'clock, the main bout to take place in a couple of weeks. Boxing and wrestling classes have been formed under the training of Walter Lyons and quite a number of candidates are getting into shape to take part in the tournament. This is a new feature of athletics at ONU and one that should be taken advantage of by the male body of the school.<sup>5</sup>

An account of the field day started in 1892, has been presented previously. This contest was very successful and continued for a number of years. In 1910, another contest day was added to the activities of commencement week. This day was devoted to athletic games and sports. In 1912, the field day contest and the athletic day was combined and called Junior-Senior Day. An outline of the program follows:

- 8:30 – Senior-Junior Girls Baseball Game
- 9:30 – Senior-Junior Sack Race, Girls Tug-O-War
- 10:30 – Girls Track Events
- 1:00 – Senior-Junior Boys Baseball Game
- 2:00 – Boys Track Events
- 3:00 – Tennis Tournament, Boys Tug-O-War<sup>6</sup>

Tennis was a very popular sport at Ohio Northern and facilities were provided for lawn tennis as early as 1901. This sport was included in the commencement day Senior-Junior program in 1912.

Intramural basketball for men and women was initiated in 1904. In 1907 there is a record of a girls rifle team. The ladies had intramural shooting matches with the Military Department furnishing the equipment.

In 1918, 65 girls were organized in a special class instructed by Emmett E. Long. The activities were Swedish type calisthenics, marching, softball and basketball.

The same year, 1918, the first "Hatchet Anniversary" football game was played between the College of Pharmacy and the College of Engineering. This contest, held every year, became a tradition in the history of Northern.

The university was taking an active part in providing facilities for intramurals by 1909. Although no faculty members had been officially appointed to direct any of these programs the University Catalogue of 1909-10 states:

Encouragement is given to athletics, and college teams in baseball, football, basketball and track athletics are maintained. Interdepartmental, intersocietal, and interclass sports are also encouraged.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, December 11, 1908.

<sup>6</sup> The Northern, 1912, p. 180.

<sup>7</sup> The Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1909-10, p. 11. (can not be verified)

In 1919, the intramural program was placed under the direction of the athletic department. Charles Bolen, the head of the department, organized an intramural program consisting of basketball, baseball, and boxing for men; basketball, softball, and volleyball for women. He was assisted by Larry Reese, William Ferris, and Mrs. Rachel Brown.

The newly organized intramural leagues were greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm and the number of students who participated in the program was extremely high. The new program met some minor reverses however. In 1919 [1920] yearbook provides a hint of this situation in the calendar of events section.

January 24 – Co-eds will not play basketball before the men. This sad affair has cast a shadow over the entire student body.<sup>8</sup>

This situation was not confined to Ohio Northern. There many instances of bad behavior by spectators at girls basketball games. This situation became so obnoxious that finally the practice of allowing spectators to attend girl's athletic contests was abandoned.

In 1920, Charles Bolen, writing in the yearbook, makes the following references to the intramural leagues.

In order to provide for more universal participation in athletics on the part of students attending Ohio Northern, an Intramural League was founded in 1919. It met with such success and the idea was so cordially received by the students that the Intramural Leagues were at once made permanent in Ohio Northern University activities.<sup>9</sup>

By 1920, the intramural program was permanently established at Ohio Northern University under the direction of the athletic department.

### Intercollegiate Athletics

The 20<sup>th</sup> century opened with intercollegiate sports in a rather precarious position at Ohio Northern University. The students had complete control of the organization of teams and the scheduling of games. The primary difficulty encountered by those student athletic associations was the problem of finances. The following article taken from the first issue of the Northern yearbook, published in 1910, explains the solution to many of the problems of the early intercollegiate teams.

In 1902, the ONU placed her first officially recognized baseball and football teams upon the field. These, however, met with financial reverses and during the five years following, the athletic record of ONU was rather of a fluctuating nature. This uncertainty led to the formation of the present Athletic Board.

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<sup>8</sup> The Northern, 1920, p. 243.

<sup>9</sup> The Northern, 1920, p. 33. (can not be verified)

The Athletic Board was organized in 1907 and consists of five faculty members appointed by the president of the University, student managers elected by the student body, and coaches. The student managers and coaches are only members during their playing season.

The Athletic Board has absolute control of all athletics at Ohio Northern University.<sup>10</sup>

The formation of the Athletic Board was not realized without some problems. In 1906, the members of the committee, chosen by the president, were determined to place athletics at Ohio Northern on a firm basis. To accomplish this, Dr. Smull, the chairman of the committee prohibited any player who was not a bona fide student of the University from playing on the football team. There were not enough eligible members of the team remaining to carry out the schedule, in 1906. Dr. Smull acted in this manner because he was determined to raise standards of Ohio Northern's athletics with a view to obtaining membership in the Ohio Conference. Lloid McKowan, the coach and an outstanding player on the teams of 1904 and 1905 was only enrolled in one class in the University. McKowan, who was an outstanding athlete, was a "ringer" of the first order. In his tenure at Ohio Northern, from 1902 to 1906, McKowan probably did not receive more than 10 college credits.

Today we are astonished at such disclosures but this was common practice in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was one of the principal reasons for the formation of conferences. The threat was paramount to amateurism in college sports. Without rules and regulations to govern intercollegiate contests, especially those regarding eligible participants, it is fair to assume that intercollegiate athletics would never have reached the position they enjoy today.

This reorganization program took some time to be accomplished, but in 1907, the program was in full swing and "Tommy" as Dr. Smull was affectionately known, had won a great battle for the athletic program at Northern.

Finances continued to be a major problem for the Athletic Board.

While the football season, closed yesterday, has been a successful one for Northern in the winning column, it has not been nearly so prosperous in the financial column... Wednesday morning in chapel, nearly \$100 was raised by subscriptions from students and professors.<sup>11</sup>

The problem of raising money for athletics was met in a number of ways. Subscriptions were probably the most popular and the most uncertain. The Athletic Association charged a nominal fee for membership privilege and this money was used for athletics. In 1910, the members of the Athletic Association presented a minstrel show for the purpose of raising money for athletics.

The major step taken in assuring the permanence of athletics at Ohio Northern was the athletic fee charged every male member of the student body. This fee was compulsory and money for athletics guaranteed. This major step came about as a result of a student petition presented to the president and faculty in 1913.

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<sup>10</sup> The Comet, 1910, p. 91.

<sup>11</sup> The Comet, 1910, p. 29. (can not be verified)

By petition of the young men of the Institution, an athletic fee has been added to the regular tuition for the first three quarters. One dollar will be charged each quarter to the support of athletics. Young ladies may pay the fee at their option. No fee will be charged for the summer quarter. All paying one dollar each quarter will receive tickets of admittance to all athletic contests free of any additional charge.<sup>12</sup>

### The Ohio Athletic Conference

The Ohio Conference was organized October 10, 1902 at the Neil House, Columbus, Ohio after two informal meetings – one in Cleveland on March 29, 1902, and the other in Delaware on June 9, 1902 with the following members: Case, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio State, Ohio Wesleyan, and Western Reserve. These schools came to be known all over Ohio and adjoining states as the “Big Six”.

Wooster, Denison, and Heidelberg were admitted into the conference in 1907. In 1909, Wittenberg became a member. The following year Miami and Ohio University were admitted. In 1914, Mount Union became a member and the following year Akron and Baldwin-Wallace entered the conference. On October 13, 1916, Ohio Northern became a member of the Ohio Athletic Conference.

The decision to enter the Ohio Conference was not an easy one for Ohio Northern. There were some men who were opposed to this step. They felt that Ohio Northern would be unable to compete with these teams. The conference rule prohibiting freshman to play in varsity contests seemed unfair to many. The “tramp” athlete was common at this time. Many of these men would attend college the first year for the sole purpose of participating in intercollegiate athletics. Most of them did not remain at the same college longer than one year. The ruling prohibiting freshmen to play destroyed this practice in colleges who were members of the Ohio Conference.

The reasons for joining the conference were much stronger than the reasons against joining and in 1915 the question was placed before the student body of Ohio Northern. This vote was not taken until Dr. Smull and Professor Davis had presented their views on the desirability of joining the conference.

Dr. Smull pointed out the fact of the inability of Northern to secure games in the state. He earnestly believed that joining the conference would give Northern a high standing throughout the state from the athletic stand point.

Professor Davis stated that entrance into the conference would give Northern grades and Northern Diplomas a much better standing in Ohio than they currently enjoyed.

The vote was taken on Wednesday, September 6, 1915 to join the Ohio Conference. The resolution was worded as follows.

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<sup>12</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1913-14, p. 19.

Whereas, it is the sense of the student body of the Ohio Northern University that it will be our scholastic, as well as athletic, advantage to secure membership in the Ohio Athletic Conference, be it hereby resolved:

That we recommend the proper officials take immediate steps to meet their requirements, chief of which is that four years of high school work, or its equivalent, followed by one year college work shall qualify a candidate for membership.<sup>13</sup>

The result was a unanimous vote for entrance into the conference. On October 13, 1916, Ohio Northern became a member of the Ohio Conference.

### Football

The opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> century found football on a wavering status at Ohio Northern. The game was extremely popular and some twenty games had been played on an intercollegiate level. In 1901, however, football players were hard to find at Ohio Northern. Some of the boys kicked an old association football around the campus hoping thus to encourage others to help them form a team, but without success. The following year, interest and enthusiasm reappeared and games were played with Ada City Team, 2 games with Heidelberg, Ohio Wesleyan, Findlay and the Ohio Medics.

The game of football was still very rough and dangerous and all over the country much criticism of the game was being expressed. Some schools even went so far as to outlaw the playing of the game. This caused great concern among students and other interested followers of the game. There many who came forward to defend the game. One writer in the University Herald commented upon the situation as follows.

And now they tell us that Missouri has passed a law prohibiting football. Now what will the young athlete of Missouri play? What will they engage in for sport? Possibly go hunting and shoot each other accidentally...

...During the last season it is reported that 15 persons lost their lives on the football grounds in this country and over 100 or more injured. Now that is bad enough, but suppose statistics were given for those who lost their lives in boating, or hunting, or other sports. The results would be very much greater, for among our local exchanges was recorded over 15 shot while hunting.<sup>14</sup>

In 1903, Northern's football team was rated second in the state behind Denison, Wittenberg being rated third. The following year, the great team of 1904 played ten games and succeeded in scoring more points than any other team in the school's history. The coach and outstanding player of this team was Lloid McKowan.

The schedule ran as follows:

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<sup>13</sup> The Northern Review, Ada, Ohio, September 18, 1915. (can not be verified)

<sup>14</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, January 23, 1903.

The first game was played against Lima St. Marys College at Lima. When the smoke of battle had cleared the final score read ONU – 117, Lima – 0.

The following week the team traveled to Ann Arbor to meet Fielding Yost's great array of football talent. Northern played a fine game and held the great University of Michigan's team to 48 points. It was a moral victory for the boys from Ohio. The boys returned home and the following week the team met and trounced the Ft. Wayne Medics, 75 to 0. The Michigan Aggies journeyed south to Ada and took the measure of the Northern team, 28 to 6. The next week Northern bounced back into the win column by soundly beating Ohio Wesleyan, 34 to 6.

Western Reserve had a fine team in 1904 and were determined to prove this fact at the expense of Northern. When the game ended, neither team could enter a win into the record book. The final score was 5 to 5. Otterbein was the next victim of the Northern aggregation and the final score was ONU – 42, Otterbein – 0.

Northern traveled west to Ft. Wayne and met the Medics for a second time. The boys from Indiana were all too familiar with the scoring potential of the Northern team and had prepared practically a new team. This team was composed of "ringers" from end to end. The game was much harder than had been anticipated, but Northern succeeded in defeating the professionals 23 to 0.

The deaf-mute school at Columbus was famous for their athletic teams. Northern trained religiously for this contest and emerged victorious 23 to 11.

The final game of the season found Northern football players again on the road. This time they traveled to Chicago where they played the School of Physicians and Surgeons. After 40 minutes of Northern's devastating offense the game ended with Northern scoring the most points in the history of the school. Final score was ONU – 151, Chicago College of Medicine – 0.

Although Northern had lost two games and tied one, they amassed the amazing total of 526 points to their opponents 98.

The following year, 1905, Northern again played the University of Michigan holding them to 23 points. They finished the season playing a fine game against Northwestern, losing 34 to 0.

It would appear to the casual observer that football was firmly established at Ohio Northern. After a slow start at the beginning of the century, the teams of 1902 through 1905 were extremely successful. Even though these teams were winning teams, the members of the faculty committee appointed to supervise intercollegiate athletics were not satisfied with merely producing a winning team at Ohio Northern. Many of the athletes who played with these winning teams were not members of Ohio Northern's student body.

Coaches for the football team continued to be outstanding players on these teams. In 1914 "Bugs" Raymond was the first football coach who did not play as a member of the team. Mr. Raymond continued as coach, paid by the Athletic Board, until 1916. In 1916, Roland Bevan was employed by the university as a coach of athletic teams. Mr. Bevan, who is presently the

athletic trainer at West Point, was the first athletic coach to be listed as a member of the faculty at Ohio Northern.

When Ohio Northern entered the Ohio Conference, many skeptics said the football team would not be able to compete with the teams in the conference. The first year in the conference, though losing seven games and winning only three games, the Northern football team played well enough to bring credit to Ohio Northern.

### Baseball

The scheduling of intercollegiate baseball, although popular with the students, did not seem to enjoy the success accorded intercollegiate football. The earlier games of baseball were not intercollegiate as other colleges were not played. In 1909, the baseball team at Ohio Northern began to schedule other colleges. Some 18 college games were played in 1909, with one out-of-state game with Slippery Rock Normal, Slippery Rock, Pa. In 1910, 22 games were played starting with the University of Michigan and ending with the University of Pittsburg. Northern won eight games and lost thirteen. An interesting side light is the fact that in the last part of June, the baseball team left Ada for an extended trip through southern Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Only five players returned to Ada to finish the spring quarter. About fifteen of the players were not enrolled in the University. They worked around Ada for the purpose of playing on the university team.

The question may arise as to why this condition was permitted to exist under the Athletic Board. The fact is that the game of football was under such criticism that eligibility was a critical issue. Baseball was never under this critical fire and the rule of the thumb seemed to be that bona fide students played in games which were scheduled near home. When the teams traveled any distance, all the good baseball players in the area were gathered together and an all-star team usually represented the university.

Outstanding players acted as coaches on the baseball teams at Ohio Northern. In 1913, Benjamin Fairless, who later became president of the U.S. Steel Co., was the coach of the baseball team. In 1916, Roland Bevan became the first non-playing baseball coach.

### Basketball

The game of basketball was devised by James Naismith in 1892. He designed this game from some fundamental principles of lacrosse and association football. The game could be played in the confines of a gymnasium. The closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the game established in the Middle West by the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa. Professionalism became prevalent and in 1906 the jurisdiction of the game was placed under the Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

On January 15, 1904, the first game of basketball in the history of Ohio Northern was played in the Brown Building gymnasium with a team from Kenton, Ohio. The game was immediately popular and teams were organized by many of the student organizations. The Athletic

association formed a basketball team to represent Northern but games were played with city teams and YMCA teams and an intercollegiate schedule was not arranged until 1909.

Finances remained the principal problem for the Athletic Board and the majority of money went to the intercollegiate football program. An eye-witness account of this situation is presented in the 1913 yearbook.

At the very beginning of basketball season, with an excellent quality of material from which to choose a winning team, the members of the Athletic Board could see no means by which Northern could be represented in the great indoor game. The management of the Ada Armory would not allow it to be used by the university for home games, nor could Brown auditorium be secured. Finally the following motion was passed unanimously by the Board. That the student basketball organization be granted the privilege of using the name of the university until such time as, in the opinion of the Board, this privilege is being abused, and without any financial obligation on the part of the Board.<sup>15</sup>

The adoption of the athletic fee in 1914 solved the problem of finances and assured the continuation of basketball as an intercollegiate sport.

The practice of allowing outstanding players to coach athletic teams carries over into the basketball program. The first non-playing coach was Roland Bevan in 1916.

## Track

In April, 1907, Dr. Smull organized the first intercollegiate track team at Ohio Northern University. Dr. Smull acted as the first coach and track and field meets plus cross country events were held with nearby colleges.

This sport was not successful financially and the fact that facilities were inadequate made the track program rather disappointing. Nevertheless, every year Northern managed to have a track team.

For the reason that Ohio Northern has neither a track nor a gymnasium, the training of men for this most diversified branch of all athletics is almost impossible. There is little, if any, opportunity to develop even the likeness of a track team. With these conditions prevailing, it is remarkable to see the number of men who are willing to keep this sport alive even at the risk of bodily injury to themselves.<sup>16</sup>

The destruction of the track team came about in 1913.

Captain E.H. Babcock, a most capable leader and coach of experience, was pleased when twenty-five men responded to his call for track candidates. The athletic field was put into shape for field events, and a portion of the field plowed for a running track. When word reached Ada from Columbus, that Northern could not be permitted in the Big Six meets in the future owing

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<sup>15</sup> The Northern, 1913, p. 217.

<sup>16</sup> The Northern, 1913, p. 215.

to the new ruling that only Conference teams would be permitted to enter, the track squad diminished until only three of four loyal followers of the sport appeared on Alumni Field.<sup>17</sup>

The following year, 1914, another note concerning track appears in the yearbook.

Notre Dame challenged us to an indoor dual meet, but under existing conditions the challenge had to be rejected. There has been no cross country runs this year and no track candidates for spring work.<sup>18</sup>

Thus intercollegiate track was discontinued at Ohio Northern, not to resume again until 1924.

This ruling of the Ohio Conference which prevented members from scheduling games with non-members was a major factor in initiating Ohio Northern's campaign to gain admittance into the Ohio Conference. The movement began in 1915 and culminated in success when the following year Northern was admitted as a member to the Ohio Conference.

### Tennis

An intercollegiate tennis team was organized at Ohio Northern in 1913 by Charles Robinson. This team scheduled games with Denison, Heidelberg and Findlay College. Inclement weather forced cancellation of two of the matches. Ohio Northern's tennis team defeated the tennis team from Findlay College in 1913. Intercollegiate tennis was discontinued after this match and was not resumed until 1924.

### Physical Training

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw physical training at its zenith in popularity. From 1900 to 1920, this was the leading method of exercise, especially for women. The physical training classes at Ohio Northern, in 1900 through 1906 had over 100 students enrolled every quarter. In 1906, there were 155 students enrolled. In 1902-03, fencing was offered for the first time in the College of Oratory.

The growing popularity of fencing is a convincing commentary upon its worth. Our instructor, Major Cliffe Demming, has had twelve years in military work, seven of which he served as an officer. In addition to his regular course in fencing, he has had work with Prof. Gordon Trowbridge, of Posse Gymnasium, Monseieur Lucien Fousnon, and Signor Marco Piacenti, the foremost exponents of the French and Italian systems in America.<sup>19</sup>

By 1904, fencing and physical culture were listed as part of the curriculum and received academic credit. The College of Oratory was very popular at this time, especially the physical training courses. In 1902-03, a special course for post graduates was introduced into the

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<sup>17</sup> The Northern, 1913, p. 215.

<sup>18</sup> The Northern, 1913, p. 215.

<sup>19</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1902-03, p. 37.

College of Oratory. This course consisted of; "...Physical Culture and Gymnastics for Public Schools, Fencing, Club Swinging, Dumb-bells, Wands, Marching and Harmonic Gymnastics."<sup>20</sup>

Ohio was one of the first states to require physical training in high schools. Teachers and students studying to be teachers crowded into the physical training classes in the College of Oratory. In 1907, Miss Jennie Bowman, a specialist in physical training was employed by the university to meet this need.

In 1913-14, Miss Grace Reeder was employed as Director of Physical Education in the College of Oratory. Physical training was fast becoming too large to be contained as a special part of the College of Oratory. An outline of this course of study is presented in the University Catalogue.

The department offers two courses for the development of the physical organism: (a) The Organic, which aims to secure proportions and normal adjustment of all parts of the body; (b) The Harmonic, which prepares the body for expression.

The first method stimulates growth, the second stimulates development and is primarily psychic.

- (a) Organic Training Course
  - 1. Organic Gymnastics
  - 2. Education Gymnastics
  - 3. Theory and Practice of Gymnastics
  - 4. Gymnastic Games
  - 5. Fencing
  
- (b) Harmonic Training Courses
  - 1. Harmonic Gymnastics
  - 2. Grace and Power
  - 3. Cooperative Training<sup>21</sup>

The YMCA organization was interested in physical training and the following article appeared in the University Herald in February, 1907.

In order to meet a much felt need in the university, the YMCA has organized two physical training classes which meet daily at 5:30 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. The work includes breathing and tensing exercises, free body movements and dumb-bell work, also floor exercises and two-man work.<sup>22</sup>

By 1908, the YMCA was contributing a fairly comprehensive program of physical activities for its members.

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 38.

<sup>21</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1913-14, p. 120.

<sup>22</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, February 22, 1907. (can not be verified)

...The privilege of membership includes the use of the exercise and bath rooms and membership in the physical training class which meets daily... The physical training class is conducted along the lines approved by modern experience and during the pleasant weather "association" football, volleyball, and various other games occupy the class hour.

In the coming year the exercise room will be furnished with additional apparatus and appliances.<sup>23</sup>

In 1915, the administration realized the need for more physical activity. Consequently, a committee was appointed by President Smith to work out a plan for compulsory physical training. A report in the Northern Review, the first campus newspaper, describes the procedure.

Gymnasium work will be compulsory, and every student will be expected to take at least one hour of physical training each day. The work will be in charge of Dr. Allen N. Wesley and Commandant Ray Carson Hill, both whom are eminently qualified for their new duties. Dr. Wesley is a graduate of Ohio Northern and also Rush Medical College connected with Chicago University. There he took two years training for gymnasium work. Commandant Hill received athletic training at West Point, in fact, was quite an athlete. The capabilities of both will be used to introduce an efficient system of physical training here.<sup>24</sup>

The following year, 1916, physical training or military training was required of all male students in the university.

### The Formation of the Department of Athletics

In 1916, a Department of Athletics was organized as an official department of Ohio Northern University. This department was under Lt. Ray Carson Hill, with Roland Bevan as assistant. The commandant Lt. Hill acted as coach of the football team. Mr. Bevan was coach of baseball and football.

This department was commissioned to carry out the required physical training program and athletics. Mr. Bevan organized a special coaching course for men interested in teaching physical training and coaching athletic teams.

#### Athletic Coaching Course

Mr. Bevan

Designed for those who intend to teach and coach. A quarter to each sport, all sports in season.

Football – Theoretical: Rules, offense and defense, generalship, and strategy. Practical: Training, conditioning, players equipment, punting, drop kicking, kick off, place kicking, forward

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<sup>23</sup> The University Herald, Ada, Ohio, September 6, 1908. (can not be verified)

<sup>24</sup> The Northern Review, October 8, 1915.

passing, tackling dummy and charging sled, special drills for linemen, ends, backs, following the ball, interference, team work, fundamental plays, trick plays, signal systems. Lectures: practical work.

Basketball – Coaching, passing, goal throwing, dribbling, team play, conditioning, practical work.

Baseball – Batting, base running, fielding every position, team work, and coaching, rules, physical conditioning. Lectures: practical work.<sup>25</sup>

Special courses for those interested in teaching physical training were offered.

### Physical Training for Men

Mr. Bevan

This work is designed for the development of the physical man, with a view to keeping him in good sound physical health and at the same time teaching him simplified methods he may use elsewhere.

I. Exercises – Floor drills, calisthenics, wands, dumb-bells, Indian clubs, chinning apparatus and horizontal bar work, jumping and vaulting, medicine ball drills.

II. Advanced Gym (Elective) Parallel bars, horizontal bar, Milo adjustable bar bed, boxing, wrestling and tumbling.

### Physical Training for Women

Miss Reeder

Lighter, yet similar work, is organized for women, with a view to develop endurance, agility and grace.<sup>26</sup>

### Women's Intercollegiate Athletics

The records of the history of physical education at Ohio Northern are permeated with references to women participating in existing programs. From the founding of Ohio Northern University, women were taking part in physical activities.

Girls were not represented in intercollegiate sports until 1904. In this year basketball was introduced at Ohio Northern. The girls began playing the game and organized a girls intercollegiate basketball team. The first game was played with the girls at nearby Bluffton College in the winter of 1904.

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<sup>25</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1917-18, p. 136.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, p. 137.

The three years following 1904 the girls were very successful and did not lose a game. They claimed the state of Ohio basketball championship for 1905, 1906 and 1907. In 1908, the athletic association was so impressed with the caliber of the girls team that three girls were awarded varsity letters.

Among the Tau Kappa Kappa Sorority are to be found several members of the famous Girls Basketball team that held the State Championship for three years. Three of the girls namely: Hazel Bentley, Vergie Rothrocks and Mrs. R.W. Hetrick are the proud possessors of Varsity N's granted them by the Athletic Association for the creditable and excellent work on the Northern Girls Basketball Team.<sup>27</sup>

The girls continued to play intercollegiate basketball although many acts of rowdyism resulted when spectators attended contests. This is verified by the report in the Northern's Calendar of events section.

January 24 – Co-eds will not play basketball before the men. This sad affair has cast a shadow over the entire student body.<sup>28</sup>

### Summary

The period from 1900 to 1920 was a period of expansion for the total physical education program at Ohio Northern. Vast improvements in facilities, a strong athletic organization, and an athletic fee that assured finances for the athletic program established physical education as a permanent feature at Ohio Northern.

In 1916, a department of athletics was officially established as part of the university. This came about as a result of a new university ruling that students must take physical training. The instructors in the new department were accorded faculty recognition. Perhaps the biggest boost to intercollegiate athletics at Ohio Northern was the entrance into the Ohio Conference.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century opened with students in complete control of athletics. As the scheduling and financing of these games became more complex, the faculty and administration were compelled to assume responsibility for the intercollegiate program. The student organizations such as the fraternities, sororities, YMCA and YWCA, the literary societies and independent groups organized their own teams, financed their own facilities whenever possible, and conducted their own games. In 1919, the athletic department assumed responsibility for the intramural programs and established leagues.

The physical training classes were at the peak of popularity at the start of the new century. The interest of sports and games began to overshadow the dull routine of the physical training classes. Up to 1920, however, physical training was the established practice of physical education classes at Ohio Northern University.

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<sup>27</sup> The Comet, 1910, p. 115.

<sup>28</sup> The Northern, 1919, p. 59. (can not be verified)



## Chapter V

### The Modern Physical Education Program, 1921-1955

The emphasis placed upon intercollegiate sports in 1920-30, led to a mass construction of facilities. This period was noted for the large increase in spectator interest in intercollegiate sports. The improved methods of transportation together with continued excellence of performance by players provided the impetus for huge crowds of spectators at intercollegiate contests. The ease of travel permitted many loyal fans to travel with their teams and marching bands and cheerleaders added to the color of the intercollegiate games. At Ohio Northern, in the spring of 1923, it became apparent that the athletic program must be enlarged to meet the advance made by other colleges in the Ohio Conference.

In March, a drive was launched to raise \$4000 for complete rehabilitation of Northern's athletic field. Coach J.O. Newton directed the campaign, assisted by the Pan Hellenic League, Varsity N Association and the Athletic Board. The money was collected and improved facilities were provided for football, baseball, track and tennis. The bleachers were enlarged to accommodate more spectators and provisions were made for future expansion.

In 1926, Brown gymnasium had become too small to accommodate the large increase in students. The athletic field that three years before had seemed adequate was unable to maintain all the sports that were being played by the school. The outdoor facilities were again enlarged and the university purchased two city lots, near the campus, adjoining the athletic field, for the site for a new gymnasium.

The new Taft Gymnasium was completed in 1928 and formally dedicated in 1929. In the Taft Gymnasium there are twenty-six rooms. In addition to the main basketball court with its galleries and bleachers, examination room with first aid equipment, a running track, faculty club room, offices for coaches and faculty members of the Physical Education Department and physical education classrooms.<sup>1</sup>

The new gymnasium, constructed at a cost of \$20,000, was one of the outstanding physical education plants in Ohio and was far superior to anything in the Ohio Conference at that time.

Shortly after World War II, Ohio Northern University donated a tract of land to the village of Ada. This land was to be used for a recreation park. The people of the town constructed an athletic field and equipped it with an excellent lighting system. Permanent bleachers-capacity 1500-a cinder running track, a softball diamond and a swimming pool completed the layout. In 1948, the university football team moved out to the Ada Memorial Park to play home games. This arrangement was made due to financial conditions at the time. There were no seating arrangements for varsity football games on campus. It was impossible to raise the necessary

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 27.

funds for bleachers and the arrangement was made to use the facilities at the Ada Memorial Park for university football games. The athletic grounds on campus are used for varsity football practice, intramural contests and physical education class activities. The Wibbler Baseball Field is located in this area and is currently being used for varsity baseball games. Two asphalt tennis courts are located near the gymnasium.

### Intramurals

The intramurals leagues initiated by Charles Bolen continued under the new administration of Dr. J.O. Newton. The sports engaged in were basketball and baseball. Track was organized as an intramural sport under the Physical Education Department in 1925. In 1929, Clyde Lamb came to Ohio Northern from Coe College, Iowa and Columbia University, New York. The following year Mr. Lamb was placed in charge of the Physical Education Department. The following year a plan was initiated for an All-Sports Intramural Trophy. This trophy was awarded to the organization that had amassed the largest total of points. These points were awarded for entering teams, for playing every game during the season and for winning games. The following is an outline of the intramural activities for men in 1930.

#### Intramural Sports<sup>2</sup>

Fall	Winter	Spring
Handball	Basketball	Softball
Cross Country	Volleyball	Track
Horseshoes	Basketball Free Throw	Tennis
	Boxing	
	Wrestling	

After 1930, the history of intramurals at Ohio Northern is one of added emphasis. More activities were added to the program such as: table tennis, touch football, badminton, and pushmobile races, which were held during Homecoming. The Pushmobile Race was conducted by the various fraternities and sororities. These pushmobiles are simple conveyances with room for one person to lie on. The feet of the rider are used as handles for the person who pushes the conveyance. The rider guides the pushmobile by applying pressure, right or left on the front axle. The race course is lay out through the main streets of Ada and large crowds witness these races with much enthusiasm.

The current intramural program at Ohio Northern is directed by Richard Poole. Physical education major students act as officials in all intramural competition. The current program is extremely successful and approximately 85% of the male students at Ohio Northern participate in all phases of the program.

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<sup>2</sup> The Northern, 1930, p. 177-78.

The present intramural program at Ohio Northern consists of the following activities.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Touch Football	Basketball	Softball
Horseshoes	Volleyball	Golf
Ping Pong	Badminton	Tennis
Basketball Free Throw		Track

The All-Sports Trophy award originated in 1930 is still presented to the team who compiles the most points. In 1952, a system of awards was introduced for a rotating trophy for individual sports to be presented to winning teams. A team winning the same sport for three consecutive years wins complete possession of the trophy. The All-Sport Trophy is a permanent rotating award.

### Intercollegiate Athletics

The modern athletic program at Ohio Northern, perhaps, came to life when the school was admitted into the Ohio Conference. From that time on, athletics enjoyed a steady gain. The record of Northern's athletic teams gained for the school an enviable reputation in the Ohio Conference. In football, basketball, and baseball, Northern was always rated among the best in the state.

Clyde and Harris Lamb came to Ohio Northern in 1929. Harris, also a graduate of Coe College, Iowa, and Columbia University, New York, was placed in charge of the basketball and football teams. These teams were under his direction until 1941. In that period of time, twelve years, Ohio Northern football teams won 50 games, tied 23, and lost only 12. The basketball teams won 91 games, and lost 74.<sup>3</sup>

From 1930 to 1943, the star of Ohio Northern's athletics was in ascendance. The result was the production of fine athletic teams.

### Football

In 1934, the Ohio Northern Polar Bears compiled the greatest record in the history of the school when they completed the football season undefeated and unscored upon. Northern was the only college team in the United States that was not scored upon. To add to this fine record, the Polar Bears were the only undefeated team in the state of Ohio.<sup>4</sup>

At the start of the Second World War, the male population at Ohio Northern diminished until 1943 and 1944, not a single male student was enrolled in the university. A few young ladies attended classes during this period. In 1945, the returning veterans crowded into the university at Ada. Football games were played with Rio Grande, Wittenberg, Otterbein, and two games with Bluffton College. The following year a full schedule of games was played.

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<sup>3</sup> The Northern Review, Ada, Ohio, April 23, 1941. (can not be verified)

<sup>4</sup> The Northern Review, Ada, Ohio, January 13, 1934. (can not be verified)

In 1950, Ohio Northern withdrew from the Ohio Conference. President McIntosh announced this decision and said that the action was being taken because the school could no longer field a football team without using freshmen on the varsity. He explained that the university would maintain eligibility on the basis of NCAA rules so that athletic relations with Ohio Conference members could be maintained.<sup>5</sup>

In 1950, Ohio Northern joined the Mid-Ohio Conference. The Conference was organized in 1949 by teams from Findlay, Bluffton, Defiance, Ashland, Cedarville and Wilmington. The same year, 1950, the Ohio Northern football team won 9 games and lost only 1. The one loss was outside the conference and Northern won the conference championship. They again won the conference championship with the football team of 1952.

### Baseball

The intercollegiate baseball team of 1923 announced to the other schools in the Ohio Conference that Ohio Northern's athletics were on the rise. The brilliant showing of the team won for Northern the school's first championship in the conference. The college yearbook of 1923 reveals that more than just a conference championship was won by the baseball team.

...From now on with a championship as an inspiration, athletic teams cannot fail to put forth their best efforts to maintain the present reputation.<sup>6</sup>

The consensus of opinion among Northern followers was the mediocre seasons recorded in the past were the result of lack of confidence. So the baseball team, in reality, won more than just a conference championship for it had provided the confidence so necessary to winning teams.

Ohio Northern continued to have good baseball teams after 1923. They won the Ohio Conference championship three times and consistently finished in the first division. All sports were discontinued during the period 1943-44, and Ohio Northern did not resume a full baseball schedule until 1945. In 1950, Ohio Northern joined the Mid-Ohio Conference and the baseball team continued to rate near the top each year. Ohio Northern's baseball team has not won a conference championship in the Mid-Ohio Conference to date.

### Basketball

The basketball team of 1919-20, under the leadership of coach Charles Bolen, was the first basketball team to score over 1000 total points for one season. This team won 20 games while losing only 5. The Northern basketball team scored 1004 points to their opponents 546.

The years following 1920 to 1938, the basketball teams at Ohio Northern managed to win as many contests as they lost. In 1938-39, the record was 12-5, the following year, 11-7. The 1940-41 team won 10 and lost 5 and the next year the record was 13-3.

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<sup>5</sup> The Northern, 1950, p. 118.

<sup>6</sup> The Northern, 1923, p. 250.

When Ohio Northern withdrew from the Ohio Conference in 1950, relationships with member schools remained on an excellent basis. Every year basketball games are scheduled with teams from the Ohio Conference. The Northern basketball team has always placed near the top in the Mid-Ohio Conference, but to date, has not won a conference championship.

### Track

In 1924, intercollegiate track at Ohio Northern was resumed after being discontinued in 1913. A cinder running track was built and three dual meets were arranged, two with Bluffton College and one with Denison. All these meets were lost by Ohio Northern, but intercollegiate track was destined to remain as a permanent feature of athletics at Ohio Northern.

In 1925, Dr. Newton employed Claude Shearer to develop the track team. Mr. Shearer was the first non-playing coach of track at Ohio Northern.

During the 30's, under the direction of Clyde Lamb, the interest in track was at its peak at Ohio Northern. Cross Country was very popular. After the Second World War, track was truly a minor sport at Ohio Northern. At the present time, the Mid-Ohio track meet is the only meet for Ohio Northern's track team. There are always a few athletes interested in track and field events. These boys manage to organize a team for the Mid-Ohio meet, but in general, track is not a popular sport with the majority of students at Ohio Northern.

### Tennis

Intercollegiate tennis was resumed at Ohio Northern in 1924. The university yearbook of 1924 reports this fact.

The popularity of tennis the world over was reflected by its introduction into the sports curriculum in 1924. ...Only three matches were scheduled and one of these had to be cancelled because of rain.<sup>7</sup>

Intercollegiate tennis continued at Ohio Northern, but a tennis coach was not listed. Clyde Lamb, the Athletic Director, appoints an outstanding player as coach and captain. In 1950, Northern won its first tennis championship in the Mid-Ohio Conference. The team continued to win and up to 1955 have recorded five consecutive tennis championships in the conference.

The conference presents trophies to the tennis champions and varsity tennis players receive varsity "N" at Ohio Northern. All winners of varsity "N's" have privileges in the N Men Association.

### Golf

Intercollegiate golf was initiated at Ohio Northern in 1937. Clyde Lamb was the first golf coach and continues in this capacity at the present time. Ohio Northern presents varsity golfers with varsity "N" awards. The golf team was not very successful in the Ohio Conference, but

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<sup>7</sup> The Northern, 1925, p. 114.

Northern's five year record for golf in the Mid-Ohio Conference is five consecutive championships.

Ohio Northern does not have facilities for golf on campus but special working arrangements have been made with the Springbrook Golf Course in Lima, Ohio and the Kenton Golf Course.

### Fencing

Ohio Northern organized an intercollegiate fencing team in 1929. Major Cliffe Demming was instrumental in this organization. Major Demming had taught fencing in the College of Oratory since 1903 and was interested in forming an intercollegiate fencing association in Ohio colleges. The university yearbook presents an account of his success in this venture.

Under the experienced leadership of Professor Cliffe Demming, Northern's first fencing team materialized in this school year. Professor Demming took an active part in the formation of the Ohio Intercollegiate Fencing Association in which the following schools are charter members: Antioch College, Ohio Northern University, University of Cincinnati, and Wittenberg College.<sup>8</sup>

Ohio Northern's fencing teams were very much successful and from 1929 to 1933, Northern's teams won a first place once and placed second four times. By 1941 the interest in fencing had diminished to the point that it became impossible for the Northern fencers to schedule matches. The Northern stated, "For the first time in twelve years Northern fencers were unable to schedule fencing matches."<sup>9</sup>

The sport was discontinued in 1941 and has not been resumed at Ohio Northern University.

### Womens Sports

Girls intercollegiate basketball teams were very popular all over the United States from 1920 to 1930. At Ohio Northern, in 1922, the girls intercollegiate basketball team was fully equipped and were awarded varsity sweaters. Dr. J.O. Newton was the coach of the girls basketball team. The yearbook of 1922 provides some insight into Coach Newton's methods.

January 31 – Girls basketball team was organized. Their kind protector, Dr. Newton has ordered the men to stay out of the gym from 1-3 in the afternoon.<sup>10</sup>

The womens sports program at Ohio Northern was placed upon a solid foundation in 1928 when the Girls Athletic Association was established.

This year marks the beginning of the women's athletic association. The basis of this group was the girls physical education class taught by Miss Zola Clear. A constitution was prepared by Miss Clear and Dr. Newton, the club sponsor.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Northern, 1930, p. 164.

<sup>9</sup> The Northern, 1941, p. 36.

<sup>10</sup> The Northern, 1922, p. 248.

<sup>11</sup> The Northern, 1928, p. 142.

The purpose of this new organization was to promote interest and raise social status among girls who were compelled to take physical education. A series of kickball, volleyball, and basketball games were played between the girls gym classes. Parties and hikes were sponsored by the club.<sup>12</sup>

A women's gymnastic exhibition was given for the first time in the history of the Physical Education Department. Special drills, dances and races were presented in the demonstration.<sup>13</sup>

The girls athletic association was very successful and succeeded in raising the interest in physical education activities at Ohio Northern. Merit awards were presented to deserving girls in 1929.<sup>14</sup>

The girls at Ohio Northern attended their first Play Day in 1930, held at the University of Cincinnati. Six schools were represented at this Play Day.<sup>15</sup>

The girls followed the example of most schools in 1931 and did not organize a varsity basketball team. The theme of the girls program was basketball for Basketball's sake. The girls organized seven teams, four sorority and three independent. The competition took the form of a double elimination tournament. The manager of this program was Irene Pugsley.<sup>16</sup>

Facilities were not constructed for swimming until 1949. The girls at Ohio Northern organized a swimming class in 1931 and the YMCA at Lima made special provisions for this girls class.<sup>17</sup> Equestrian activities were very popular with the girls. Captain Eddy Forbes operated a stable of 10 horses in Lima, Ohio. In 1932, the Northern co-eds persuaded the captain to move his stable to Ada.<sup>18</sup>

In 1932, a Tennis Club with 17 members, a Tap Dancing Club with 32 members and an Open Road Club (Hiking) with 17 members, were organized under the auspices of the Girls Athletic Association.<sup>19</sup>

The following year, 1933, field hockey and archery were added to the girls program.<sup>20</sup> In 1935, bowling, ping pong and fencing were initiated at Northern.<sup>21</sup> The following year Rhythm and

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 142.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 142.

<sup>14</sup> The Northern, 1929, p. 37 (can not be verified)

<sup>15</sup> The Northern, 1930, p. 136.

<sup>16</sup> The Northern, 1931, p. 220.

<sup>17</sup> The Northern, 1931, p. 216.

<sup>18</sup> The Northern, 1932, p. 198.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 195-198.

<sup>20</sup> The Northern, 1933, p. 170-71.

<sup>21</sup> The Northern, 1935, p. 170.

Folk Dancing were included in the girls program.<sup>22</sup> By 1941, a Hare and Hound Day, cycling and badminton were part of the many activities of the girls program at Ohio Northern.<sup>23</sup>

The expansion of the girls program at Ohio Northern during the years of the depression was largely the result of the work by Miss Alva Toff. Miss Toff was a graduate in physical education from Coe College in Iowa. She received the M.A. degree in physical education at Chicago University. Miss Toff resigned as head of the girls physical education program in 1943.

At the present time at Ohio Northern, the girls program includes: basketball, volleyball, field hockey, badminton, kickball, archery, softball, tennis, golf, ping pong, dancing and swimming.

In 1952, the girls organized a varsity basketball team. This team was coached by Mozelle Pickering, the regular women's physical education director. The varsity basketball team operates under the Girls Athletic Association which has continued to function in much the same manner as when it was organized in 1928.

### Physical Education

The initiation of the Athletic Department in 1916, under faculty members of the university, heralded the modern era of physical education at Ohio Northern University. The required program of physical training for every student at the institution, led to the formation of the Physical Education Committee. This committee became an official body in 1920 and was continued until 1932. The membership changed from year to year but the primary function of this committee was to act as an advisory board for the program of physical education. The first members of this committee were: Charles Bolen, Director of Physical Education and Athletic Coach, Miss Carrie Wilson, Director of the Women's Physical Education, Miss Thelma Birch, Dean of Women, and Emmett E. Long, Dean of the College of Commerce.

In 1921, Dr. J.O. Newton was placed in charge of the Athletic Department. Dr. Newton graduated at Ohio State University in 1905 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

Dr. Newton renamed the Athletic Department, Department of Physical Education and Inter-Collegiate Athletics. The department was reorganized and these three courses of study were offered in the physical training branch of the department.<sup>24</sup>

#### Course No. I (Required)

#### Elementary Physical Education Two hours each week, one hour credit

Correction of posture and physical defects, prescribed exercises for definite physical deficiency and fundamentals of theory and practice calisthenics, recreation and play.

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<sup>22</sup> The Northern, 1937, p. 87.

<sup>23</sup> The Northern, 1941, p. 45.

<sup>24</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1921-22, p. 134.

## Course II

Advanced Physical Education  
Two hours each week, one hour credit

Advanced theory and practice, gymnastic nomenclature, apparatus work and practical graded leadership. This work seeks to develop muscular coordination, health habits of exercise, capacities for leadership and moral qualification for departmental administration.

## Course No. III

Departmental Administration and Organization  
Three hours each week, one hour credit

This teachers' course will deal with personal hygiene, physical diagnosis, advanced gymnastics, theory and practice of teaching physical education.

Dr Newton was a follower of the Sargent System of Gymnastics which attempted to provide a program of exercises designed to correct physical debilities. In pursuing this type of study, a testing program was followed. Dr. Newton referred to this program as a graded program of physical education. A physical examination was required for every student in the program. A physical efficiency test was given at the beginning of the school year, repeated at the start of winter quarter, and in special cases was also given in the spring.

The test included 20 yd. dash, rope climb, standing bar jump, bar vault, 20 yd. low hurdles, broad jump, running high jump, spring board jump and medicine ball throw. Results of this test were record and filed. Dr. Newton believed that this test was designed to cover every phase of general physical ability. An anthropometric chart provided the necessary information to devise a standard. The deviation from the standard in actual practice was the basis for corrective exercises.<sup>25</sup>

The Varsity Coaching Course was included in the reorganized Physical Education Department. The instructors in this department were Louis Reese, Boxing; Don Ellenby, Wrestling; and Charles Bolen, Athletic Coach. The six weeks of the summer quarter were devoted to the coaching course. This course covered the fundamentals of football, basketball and track. Other areas of study were: team training, massage and care of injuries, the science of building plays, discussions of the systems used by the major coaches in the country; in addition to these, fundamentals of physical education and practical work necessary to prepare men and women to handle this department in all high schools and grade schools.<sup>26</sup>

In 1924-25, the Department of Physical Education at Ohio Northern University offered a Physical Director Course and a diploma was presented to successful graduates of this course. This course of study was described as follows:

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<sup>25</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1920-21, p. 23 (can not be verified)

<sup>26</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1921-22, p. 136.

Prerequisite: Graduation from a first grade high school or its equivalent.

This course is a two-year program of special preparation for those who wish to prepare for the physical directorate and athletic coaching. It qualifies for positions in educational institutions and is sufficiently comprehensive to meet the needs of those who wish to qualify themselves for positions as special instructors in YMCA, YWCA, secondary colleges and the larger city playground associations.

The Physical Director Course outlined, meets the present legal requirements for accreditation, and the school is authorized by the State Department of Education to grant, without further examination, a special certificate to teach Physical Education in public high schools and other educational institutions.<sup>27</sup>

In 1925-26, the first Bachelor of Science in Physical Education was offered at Ohio Northern University.

The spring of 1929, Dr. Newton resigned from the position as head of the Physical Education Department and Ernest Ray Miller was appointed to the position. The following year the Department of Physical Education was changed to the Department of Health and Physical Education and became a part of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer, the State Supervisor of Physical Education was instrumental in influencing Ohio Northern to include the Athletic Department in the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Oberteuffer aided the members of the physical education faculty in establishing a professional teachers curriculum in physical education.

In 1932, Clyde A. Lamb, was placed in charge of the Physical Education Department and has continued to serve in that capacity to the present time. Clyde Lamb was a product of Jesse Ferring Williams' philosophy of physical education. Coach Lamb attended Coe College in Iowa and then took graduate work at Columbia University in New York. The entire philosophy of the program at Ohio Northern University changed under Mr. Lamb's direction. Sports and games became the primary function of the Department. The old physical training courses of gymnastics, marching, calisthenics and apparatus work were discarded. The truly American type of physical education consisting of sports and games was established at Ohio Northern University.

Coach Clyde Lamb described his philosophy of physical education in the Northern Review in 1932.

### The Future of Physical Education

Students at Ohio Northern University are required to complete six quarters of physical education before graduation. To this end they are charged a fee of two dollars a quarter. What should a student receive for this expenditure of time and money? Certainly is not merely the

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<sup>27</sup> Ohio Northern University Catalogue, 1924-25, p. 149.

privilege of watching a few highly trained athletes perform in intercollegiate competition. The modern student wants something more than an opportunity to become a spectator; he wants to be given an opportunity to perform.

The program of physical education should furnish an opportunity for all students to participate in a maximum number of recreational sports. The student should be given toward daily recreation which will enable him to better enjoy life, not only when he is attending college, but also after he graduates from college. As an individual learns to properly execute the skills of an activity he also develops an attitude toward that activity. The attitude he develops has considerable effect upon the amount of time he will later spend upon that activity. If he can do a thing well, he will want to do that kind of thing at every possible opportunity.

College physical education is a vital question in the minds of all college presidents and of those who college directors of physical education who are imbued with high ideals for physical education and hope to see it take a legitimate place as an integral part of the general scheme of education. Ohio Northern is indeed fortunate in having an administration which desires a strong physical education program.

What part then does college athletics play in the modern scheme of physical education? Properly supervised and sanely conducted, they play a very important part. They not only serve as a medium by which the athlete of ability finds means of expression but are also instrumental in the formation of good moral character. If, however, competitive athletics are desirable for the few men participating at present, then they are certainly desirable for the average man attending college. The present financial depression had provided a blessing for intercollegiate athletics since it has placed them upon a sane and more business-like basis.

It has already shown college administrations just how much they were paying for intercollegiate athletics and has helped them to realize that the money spent for such intercollegiate sports is far greater than the amount expended upon the greater number of students with average athletic ability.

Intramural athletics are rapidly beginning to catch the fancy of college students. Ohio Northern University wishes to keep intercollegiate athletics upon a sane basis and at the same time increase the opportunity for widespread participation in intramural competition. This does not mean the entire elimination of all varsity sports, but does mean a careful curtailing of such activities that are not serving a sufficient number of students.

It also means a more careful administration of such intercollegiate activities so that greater facilities can be obtained for intramural competition. The department of physical education at Ohio Northern University is trying to attain this end by a wise expenditure of money for intercollegiate athletics, thereby increasing the facilities for intramural competition. Such facilities will include: 3 outdoor playground diamonds with backstops, two outdoor handball courts, new backstops for the tennis courts and 10 new tennis courts, 2 outdoor volleyball courts.

Athletics should be made a integral part in the lives of every student in college. Fraternities and independent organizations upon the campus have long expressed the desire for more intramural competition, and have bemoaned the fact they were too occupied with late afternoon classes and laboratories. When physical education can become so incorporated in the college curriculum that every student will have at least two late afternoon periods per week in which he or she can be free for recreation and competitive intramural sports, a great deal will have been accomplished.<sup>28</sup>

The intramural program at Ohio Northern enjoyed a steady gain at Ohio Northern University under the leadership of Clyde Lamb. The physical education classwork was made more comprehensive. The physical education program at Ohio Northern in 1955 is representative of the progress of physical education all over the United States.

The director of physical education at Ohio Northern is Clyde Lamb. His assistants are: Marvin English, Ohio Northern, B.S. in Health and Physical Education, Columbia University, M.A. in Physical Education; Richard Poole, Ohio Northern University, B.S. in Health and Physical Education, Bowling Green University, M.S. in Physical Education; and Mrs. Mozelle Pickering, Ohio Northern, B.S. in Health and Physical Education, Chicago University, M.S. in Physical Education.

The physical education program at Ohio Northern University at the present time is as comprehensive as any program offered in small colleges in Ohio. The major problem at this time is facilities. These have constituted a major problem throughout the entire history of physical education at Ohio Northern. The increase of students plus the expansion of the program has rendered the existing facilities inadequate to support the growing program. This problem of adequate facilities is not confined to the physical education department. The university at Ada is on the threshold of a vast new program of expansion. Facilities for the physical education program are a major consideration in the proposed plan of development. A new baseball stadium, a stadium for football, additional tennis courts and grounds for field sports, and a swimming pool are included in the proposed development.

In 1955, Mr. Lamb introduced two more recreational sports into the physical education curriculum. These are Golf and Bait Casting. A course in Sports Appreciation is being considered for next year. At present time the activities in the required two year course of physical education are as follows:

#### Men's Physical Education

Fall	Winter	Spring
Speed Ball	Numbers Basketball	Softball
Soccer	Tumbling and Gymnastics	Golf
Touch Football	Volleyball	Bait Casting
Bat-Bounce Ball	Badminton	Tennis
Wrestling	Table Tennis	Archery

<sup>28</sup> The Northern Review, Ada, Ohio, February 6, 1932. (can not be verified)

## Women's Physical Education

Fall	Winter	Spring
Field Hockey	Basketball	Softball
Archery	Volleyball	Swimming
Tennis	Shuffleboard	Golf
Table Tennis	Folk Dancing	Modern Dance

The students who major in physical education are required to take six quarters of Physical Education Methods. This course includes all the activities listed for the regular physical education classes. Not only are major students expected to be proficient in these activities but understand all rules and regulations governing the playing of such games. Physical education major students are used as assistants in the required physical education classes in the junior year. All major students are required to act as officials in intramural contests. The senior students are commissioned to provide direction to underclassmen in carrying out these duties.

In 1955, the physical education major students in the senior year organized and conducted the county school track meet. This project was undertaken and carried out successfully by the senior students.

The average number of students graduating each year in physical education at Ohio Northern is 10 men and 2 women. The record of physical education students graduating from Ohio Northern is one that continues to bring honor to the institution. Some of the more prominent graduates of physical education at Ohio Northern in recent years are Charles Mather, head football coach at the University of Kansas; Phil Shipe, head football coach at Wooster College; and Jack Guy, head basketball coach at the University of Rhode Island. There are many others, not prominent nationally but who are, nevertheless, conducting fine physical education programs in colleges and high schools, large and small, in Ohio and many other states across the nation.

### Summary

The modern program of physical education at Ohio Northern University began in 1916. In that year, a program of required physical training was initiated, the university joined the Ohio Athletic Conference, and instructors and coaches in physical education were made official members of the faculty. The first intramural program under the athletic department was organized in 1919. In 1921, Dr. Newton was employed by the university. He recognized the program and followed the practice of the Sargent System of Gymnastics. He changed the name of the department to Department of Physical Education and Inter-Collegiate Athletics.

The physical education facilities were improved and expanded in the late "twenties" at Ohio Northern University. The Taft Gymnasium provided the means for a more comprehensive program of physical education. In 1926, the department offered an accredited physical education teachers' course. The following year a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education was offered to successful graduates of the two year curriculum. In 1930, the department was renamed Department of Health and Physical Education and became a part of the College of Liberal Arts.

The physical education department under the administration of Clyde Lamb ushered in the present conception of physical education. Not only at Ohio Northern, but all over the nation, the old physical training methods – Calisthenics, Marching, Gymnastics and Apparatus Work – were either placed in a lesser position or disregarded altogether. The current theme is more and better recreational sports and games. The scope of the program is being constantly widened to include all phases of physical activities, not only at Ohio Northern, but in most all colleges in the United States.

The expansion of the program of physical education and the increase in students at Ohio Northern University created a crucial need for more and better facilities. A program of expansion was launched in 1950 and is well underway. Any program of development requires time and money. As we have seen in the history of the development of physical education at Ohio

Northern University, given the proper amount of time and effort, these things materialize and become history for a succeeding generation.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I Introduction .....	3
II History of Ohio Northern .....	4
III The Early History of Physical Education, 1871 – 1900 .....	11
IV The Expansion of Physical Education, 1901 – 1920 .....	22
V The Modern Physical Education Program, 1921 – 1955 .....	37
Bibliography.....	51



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