LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND ITS EFFECT
UPON OTHER ORGANIZED PHYSICAL RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES IN NORTHWEST IOWA

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by
Bernard W. Blackman
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IN NORTHWEST IOWA

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Problem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Little League Baseball</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Chapter I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. RELATED RESEARCH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LIST OF TABLES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Survey of Organized Youth Baseball Programs in the United States in 1956</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Estimate of Youth Baseball Programs for the Year 1957</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Number of Sportsmen Participating in Leading Sports of Various Types</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Number of Spectators Watching Leading Sports of Various Types</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Survey of Recreational Programs in Northwest Iowa</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI.</td>
<td>Number of Hours Used for Practice</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII.</td>
<td>Number of Practices Per Week</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIGURE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Coaches and Directors Qualifications</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Funds for Little League Baseball in Northwest Iowa in 1956-1957</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. This study was designed as an attempt to determine whether Little League baseball players avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in other organized physical activities.

The phenomenal growth of Little League baseball since 1939 has created many problems and discussions, pro and con, as to its value as a recreational activity. These discussions have raised many questions. In an effort to provide information concerning them the writer has undertaken to carry out the following procedures: (1) to ask coaches and recreational directors their opinions relative to this study; (2) to investigate the training of these coaches and directors; (3) to find out how much time Little League players spend in practice and games; (4) to determine whether all members of the squad have an opportunity to participate; (5) to ascertain whether there are other organized physical activities in addition to baseball in the respective communities; (6) to find out if Little League players take part in these other activities, and; (7) to summarize the results from which possible recommendations may be drawn based upon this research.
Purpose of the study. The purpose of this study was to obtain relevant information, and to expose cases of overemphasis. Questionnaires and personal interviews were employed to obtain pertinent information concerning the problem. The arguments concerning overemphasis of Little League baseball will probably continue as long as people are not informed of the existing conditions. Little League baseball was organized with a set of rules to limit overemphasis and was arranged in such a way that youngsters of various ages might participate.

II. PROCEDURE

Two methods of collecting data were used, the questionnaire and the interview.

A questionnaire containing twenty-two items which could be answered quickly and easily by simply circling one of the choices, a letter of introduction and explanation, and a self-addressed envelope were sent to supervisors, recreational directors, and coaches in 109 northwest Iowa cities and towns. This number represented all the towns in northwest Iowa in which the author was informed had Little League baseball teams. This information was gathered at Little League meetings and by direct correspondence with managers and directors. A copy of the questionnaire is to be found in the appendix.
A personal interview was conducted under two circumstances; (1) where there might have been a possible misunderstanding in some of the items, and (2) in certain larger cities which had more than one recreational center.

III. TERMINOLOGY

To help promote an understanding of this study, it is necessary to define some of the terms as they are used.

Little League Baseball players. "Little leaguers," as they are often called, are boys who will not attain the age of thirteen before August first of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in Little League baseball. 1

Little League Baseball Inc. A national organization which promotes organized baseball for boys between the ages of eight and twelve.

Northwest Iowa. That part of Iowa that includes the thirty-three counties in the northwest corner of the state.

Non-players. Boys that do not have skill to make the teams, or do not have baseball interest.

Organized recreational activities. Those activities that are under supervision of group leader or leaders.

Little League. Four or more teams.

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IV. HISTORY OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

A complete history of Little League baseball has never been written, but a letter from Creighton J. Hale, research director of Little League Baseball, Inc., Williamsport, Pennsylvania, stated,

At the present time, we do not have a complete history of Little League. One of the members of our staff is preparing such a history but he cannot give any definite date on which it will be completed.

Little League baseball was started by Carl E. Stotz in 1939 at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The growth of Little League has been very rapid and in 1955 there were approximately four-thousand Little Leagues in the United States. Since that time several foreign countries have adopted Little League baseball programs.1

V. SUMMARY OF CHAPTER ONE

Little League baseball has raised many controversial questions, some of which in the writer's opinion, merit investigation. These include overemphasis and the amount of time used for practice and games. Questionnaires and interviews were used as a means of obtaining information for answering these questions.

Chapter II of this study will present material that is related to the research and give some facts, data, and opinions that have a direct bearing on this study.

CHAPTER II

RELATED RESEARCH

Little League baseball was organized in 1939 and since this organizational date, many articles have been written about Little League baseball and its players. Since some of these articles have a direct bearing on this study, it was deemed important to include them in a related research chapter.

One of the great new sports that has captured the imagination of the American public is Little League baseball. According to the Little League Rule Book any boy who will not attain the age of thirteen before August first of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in Little League baseball. This means that a boy who will be thirteen years old on August first or later is eligible to play that year. A boy who will be thirteen years old on July thirty-first or earlier will not be eligible for either local League play or tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question. ¹

Inasmuch as Little League baseball in many areas is somewhat of a controversial subject, not only in the minds of the public but also among some recreational and physical

¹Little League Baseball Official Rules, op. cit.
education directors, it was the purpose of this research to provide some tentative answers concerning the situation in northwest Iowa where the Little Leagues are particularly active. This group of "little leaguers," (Little League baseball in particular), and the possible overemphasis placed on the Little Leagues in certain communities to the detriment of other organized physical activities, were the major points on which this writer concentrated.

A majority of recreation departments approve competition on either an intra-center or city-wide basis for a number of activities, provided these activities are conducted with adequate controls. 1

A joint committee composed of representatives from the Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; the Department of Elementary Principals of the National Education Association; and the National Council of State Consultants in Elementary Education, recommended that the school and community form a program of physical education that would include both boys and girls. These organizations, whose accent as concerns physical education, is on recreation and intra-murals because of the assumed carry-over values in

later life, also went on record as disapproving varsity competition below the high school age.

From the joint committee the following programs were recommended:

Programs of games and sports should be based on the developmental level of children. Boxing, tackle football, ice-hockey and other similar body contact sports should not be included in any competitive program for children twelve and under.

These programs should provide a variety of activities for all children throughout the year.

Competition is inherent in the growth and development of the child and depending upon a variety of factors will be harmful or beneficial to the individual.

Adequate competitive programs organized on neighborhood and community levels will meet the needs of these children. State, regional, and national tournaments, bowl, charity, and exhibition are not recommended for these age groups.

Every course of study and every form of athletics have as their basic foundations a set of aims and objectives. In this respect Little League baseball is not different from any other form of athletics. Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania also lists aims and objectives which are as important as the game itself. Occasionally people lose sight of these objectives because of the personal desire to win, and the writer is of the opinion that because of that possible overemphasis on the desire to win, more education is needed in order to make this sport a more

1Ibid.
wholesome activity. It is essential therefore to quote the aims and objectives of Little League baseball.

Little League baseball offers a rare opportunity to the neighborhood of the local community to build a sound native American program that is beneficial to the boys, the family, and the welfare of the community.

The character of an activity such as Little League must hold to the highest standards attainable. There can never be commercial taint attached to Little League. Its principal objective is for the good of the boys between eight and twelve who play baseball on Little League teams.

By providing a vehicle for healthful recreation during the summer vacation months, wherein the boys may compete with each other beneficially under capable leadership, Little League contributes to the well-being of the boys and their parents. It likewise offers means through which parents and community leaders may foster in relation with their children a sanguine solution to many of the current social problems of our youth, thus insuring better citizens of tomorrow.

Little League is a program of contagious enthusiasm. It is based upon an appreciation and understanding of the needs of youth. It is carried on locally by adult volunteers who deserve high commendation and recognition for their selfless efforts.

In Little League each boy learns of the lessons of fair play, of discipline, of team work. He finds that the other boys, regardless of race, creed, or color, strive for the same common goals, and this kind of thinking spreads from the boys to their families and thus to the communities.

Little League must not be used for personal profit or advancement. Any attempt of a sponsor or anyone else to capitalize on Little League baseball by exploitation or using it as a drawing card for some other profitable attraction, should be rejected immediately. This does not mean that a sponsor may not have his name of the uniforms. However, his sponsorship motives should be limited to better public acceptance of the fact that he is a good
citizen because he backed the boys and helped to make local Little League possible.

National headquarters often times has the thankless job of maintaining and enforcing disciplines that must be observed in a program engaging the time and interests of upward to a half million boys in their formative years. Leaders in the field must accept the challenge. They must support Little League headquarters in compliance with the high level of responsibility implied in the administration of such a program.

From the ranks of these hundreds of thousands of boys who stand on the morning side of the hill undoubtedly will come all of the great ball players of the future. For Little League is the basic platform under all of baseball. However, this is no part of the main goal. Perfectly operated on the local level, Little League baseball will speak for itself as a great democratic youth movement which builds character in American boys.¹

However, baseball is not automatically a desirable experience for boys. Whether or not baseball is good for boys depends upon the total effect of the game upon them. Certainly, all healthy boys will benefit from the vigorous outdoor exercise. However, they derive more than exercise from baseball. Their minds and emotions are involved in the game as well as their muscles. From the managers, teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators they may learn many things such as good sportsmanship, the value of friendships, and an understanding of the rules of the game. They may learn undesirable attitudes as well.

Some complaints about Little League baseball deal with emotional problems and possible detrimental physical effects. On investigating criticisms, the writer found that Skubic had made two separate studies on emotional and physical effects. His survey of Little League and Middle League had this to report; one-third of the parents said their sons were too excited after winning a game or too depressed after losing a game to eat a normal size meal. It should be noted however, that the majority of boys were apparently not overly excited before or after a game and their appetites or sleep not disturbed in any way.\(^1\)

The summary and conclusions in Skubic's second survey were stated thus:

Within the limits of this study of boys nine through fifteen years of age who played Little League and Middle League competitive baseball in Santa Maria, California, and within the limits of information about emotions as derived from the galvanic skin response test, the evidence presented supports the conclusions that Little League type competition is no more stimulating than school physical education classes.\(^2\)

According to Seymour's review, the following comments were made relative to this subject.


There are those individuals who condemn, for the pubescent child, any type of highly organized competitive activities. Opposing them are those who support athletics for elementary and junior high school age boys as an aid in furthering the whole education of the participants. In the middle of the road are those who wish to substitute the intramural program in order to eliminate many of the injurious effects of highly competitive athletics upon immature boys.

In determining the status of Little League baseball the writer has found it was necessary to categorize the attitudes that people have toward Little League baseball. The three major categories have been mentioned above, but, to complete the analysis, the writer has taken excerpts from the following articles to clarify these three attitudes.

One attitude of parents toward Little League was presented by Skubic in his study of Little League and Middle League. An excerpt from the questionnaire which he used revealed the following information.

The results of the questionnaire sent to teachers of players and non-players indicated that the boys on teams are highly selected and possess more physical skill, receive better grades in school, and are emotionally better adjusted than boys who do not play on League teams.

Another attitude shown by parents was taken from an


2Skubic, "Studies of Little League and Middle League Baseball," loc. cit.
article which was discussed by two former major-league baseball players. These players take opposite stands on the issue of Little League baseball. Bob Feller, former great pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, takes the stand in favor of Little League baseball and stated these reasons why he is in favor of Little League;

One of Little League's most valuable contributions is the guidance and instruction it can give a youngster who is first getting to know the game. All in all, Little League is a healthy influence on boys between the ages of eight and twelve. It provides them with the fun which any boy gets from learning to do something he likes and then doing it well. Like any organization, it will be worthwhile as long as it conducts a living, growing program.¹

The opposite view is taken by Tommy Henrich, former great star with the New York Yankees, who emphatically is against organizing youngsters under the supervision of the Little League Baseball Headquarters, Inc. This is what Henrich had to say on the subject:

This business of organized competition can be carried too far. After all, the kids playing Little League ball are only from eight to twelve year old. What with school now and their military service coming up later on, and us grown-ups always after them to do what they're supposed to do, their lives are organized enough for them to let go and just be themselves. Baseball used to supply that for us, but I don't think it does for these modern Little Leaguers.

It's just more instruction, more supervision, more competition, and more tension.¹

Another attitude shown by parents was taken from an article written by John S. Kelly. His opinion was that children should have more organized physical activities and less emphasis on one sport. He stated accordingly,

Parents can make another big contribution by taking more interest in the physical education programs offered at school. These programs are not as effective as they should be. Often emphasis is on games of skill like baseball, where players can loaf much of the time. Instead, there should be more calorie-burning sports like running, tumbling, jumping, and swimming. A return to old-fashioned calisthenics, largely abandoned because children found them boring, could be a big help.

The final attitude of this related material is taken from the editorial page of the Des Moines Register. This editorial analyzed the report submitted by the United States Senate investigators on juvenile delinquency. The following comments were made in the Des Moines Register:

We believe the senate investigators of juvenile delinquency did lay to rest a few misconceptions about causes and cures of youth in trouble.

They criticized the commonly-accepted belief that a lack of organized recreation programs causes delinquency. For most communities, there is no shortage of school, church, civic, and welfare recreational opportunities. The youngsters have plenty of oppor-

¹Ibid.

tunity to "have fun" under supervision of trained leadership. There is "over-organization" in some places, rather than lack of opportunity for recreation. It is also true, as the committee pointed out, that a good sports program is not the only "answer" to juvenile delinquency. The investigators found that delinquents generally are more interested and skillful in games and sports than non-delinquents. This doesn't mean, of course, that the sports programs cause delinquency but neither do they necessarily prevent it. 1

Colonel Theodore P. Bank, President of the Athletic Institute, had this to say about Little League baseball.

Much has been said about the good and bad of Little League baseball, but no one will deny that this national youth program has captured the imagination of the American people, has expanded beyond belief, and as a result, will be the forerunner of similar programs in every sport from badminton to fencing.2

The following table taken from Colonel Bank's article shows the number of Little Leaguers and the number of participating members in the United States in 1956.

According to Colonel Bank, "There were nearly 35,000,000 youngsters in elementary and secondary schools in 1956. By 1966, there will be nearly 46,000,000 in schools."3

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1 Editor, "Editorial Comments," The Des Moines Register, Des Moines, August 14, 1956.


3 Ibid., p. 15.
TABLE I
SURVEY OF ORGANIZED YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAMS IN THE U.S., 1956

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Number of Leagues</th>
<th>Number of Teams</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Amateur Baseball Cong.</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>1,663</td>
<td>43,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Junior Baseball</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>13,127</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>4,305</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Khoury Assoc. of BB Leagues</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>67,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little League Baseball Inc.</td>
<td>4,030</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Baseball Cong.</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>10,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-O-N-Y League Baseball, Inc.</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>3,190</td>
<td>51,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Teen-er Baseball Program</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Baseball Programs</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS FOR 1956 SEASON</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>57,346</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,565,968</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projecting this estimate of population growth, Table II indicates corresponding growth in members of Little League baseball.

From this, it can be assumed that youth programs like Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball, will grow in size and importance in the next ten years.

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1Tbid.
# TABLE II

**ESTIMATE OF YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 1957**

*(Based on Official League Estimates)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number Leagues</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number Teams</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number Participants</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Amateur BB Cong.</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Junior BB</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>602,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babe Ruth League, Inc.</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Khoury Assoc. of BB Leagues</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little League Baseball, Inc.</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Baseball Cong.</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>13,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Boys BB, Inc.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>8,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-O-N-Y League BB, Inc.</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>54,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Teen-er BB Program</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>11,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. BB Programs</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>6,750</td>
<td>115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS FOR 1957 SEASON (est.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,805</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,350</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,754,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table III was taken from the April 1, 1957 edition of the weekly maps which supplement the high school newspaper, *World News of the Week*. This table discloses the nine leading sports according to the total number of participants in each of these sports. It is interesting to know that, despite

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the seeming emphasis on baseball and the need for the present investigation, Table III indicates that baseball was not one of the nine leading participating sports.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF SPORTSMEN PARTICIPATING IN LEADING SPORTS OF VARIOUS TYPES
APRIL, 1957

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roller Skating</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>16,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm Sports</td>
<td>14,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table IV shows baseball as a spectator sport was currently in third place in sports' preference. However, in comparing Tables III and IV, it appears that more people were

becoming interested in individual sports participation than they were in spectator team sports.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF SPECTATORS WATCHING LEADING SPORTS OF VARIOUS TYPES APRIL, 1957'

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Spectators Watching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>125,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>75,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>65,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>60,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseracing</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harness Racing</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the review of surveys made and opinions expressed it would seem that there is not only a well substantiated place for Little League baseball in the sports field, but that the interest in and need for such an organized activity will increase. There was considerable variation, however, in the opinions expressed as to the effects of com-

Ibid.
petition upon young boys. Chapter III of this field report will present the material gathered from the writer's survey.
CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

This study was designed to investigate Little League baseball in relationship to other organized recreational activities in Northwest Iowa. The procedure was as follows:

1. To determine the qualifications of the coaches and recreational directors whose opinions were sought by questionnaire and interview.

2. To secure the opinions of these persons relative to:

   (a) participation in tournaments and post-season activities;
   (b) the amount of time Little Leaguers spend in practice and games;
   (c) opportunities afforded for participation by all members of the squad;
   (d) the existence of other organized physical activities besides baseball in their respective communities;
   (e) participation of Little Leaguers in these activities;
   (f) the time of Little Leaguers practice and other recreational programs;
   (g) the degree of organization, financial aid,
and publicity given to the two kinds of programs.

As stated in Chapter I, a questionnaire was developed for this study and was mailed to recreational directors and Little League baseball managers in 109 cities and towns in northwest Iowa. Of the 109 questionnaires mailed, eighty-one were returned, representing 74.3% return.

In addition, interviews were held in all large cities where more than one recreational program existed. A total of approximately twenty-five interviews was held. Personal interviews were also held for clarification where responses to the questionnaire seemed ambiguous.

The qualifications of the persons surveyed for this study would tend to validate their opinions as professionally sound in the areas explored. As pointed out by the questionnaire, they were either college-trained, experienced, or both, in the fields of recreation and physical education. This finding has a direct bearing on the kinds of conclusions which may be drawn from their opinions in Chapter IV.

The first area of discussion concerns questions 20, 21, and 22 of the questionnaire which deals with the participation of Little Leaguers in tournaments and post-season public games. Fifty-three respondents reported their squads entered tournament play, while twenty-eight respondents replied that their squads preferred not to enter tournament
competition. Of these eighty-one directors or managers, fifty indicated that the Little League season ended with the final tournament games.

Question number fourteen of the questionnaire asked the following of these coaches and directors, "as a manager or recreational director, which items fit your qualification? (a) former coach, (b) college training, (c) player, (d) ___."

Figure I illustrates that the ninety-one coaches and directors were very well qualified. Thirty-one of these directors were former high school coaches. Twenty-nine others...
indicated that they had experience as a former baseball player. Of the remaining thirty-one, sixteen were college trained, and twelve others were presently coaches. The final three indicated that they were interested, but they did not have any other qualifications.

As shown in Table V, forty-eight of the respondents indicated they did not have a final recreational exhibit which was open to the public at the close of the season. Seventeen directors indicated they do have a final exhibit at the end of the season, while sixteen respondents failed to answer this question.

**TABLE V**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Recreational Final Exhibit at End Of The Season</th>
<th>No Final Program</th>
<th>Have a Program</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
<th>Total Returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>81</td>
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</table>

Fifty-three respondents reported their squads entered tournament play, while the twenty-eight remaining squads preferred not to enter tournament competition; of these eighty-one directors or managers, fifty indicated the Little League season ended with the final tournament games.

In the second area of investigation the problem was to find out how much time Little Leaguers spent in practice
and games. Coaches and directors were asked two questions relevant to this area of investigation. Question number seven in the questionnaire was, "How much time do you use for practice?"

Table VI shows the number of hours used for practice in seventy-eight cities. The coaches of Little League teams in thirty-seven cities indicated that two hours per week were used for practice exclusive of games. Twenty-five other cities in Northwest Iowa reported that between one and one-fourth and one and one-half hours were used for practice. Table VI also shows that five teams used three hours for practice, while representatives from three cities failed to answer this question.

**TABLE VI**

**NUMBER OF HOURS USED FOR PRACTICE**
**BY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL IN NORTHWEST IOWA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Number of cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One hour</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One and one-fourth to one and one-half hours</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two hours</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three hours or more</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No report</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuing the second area of investigation was number eight of the questionnaire, "What is the number of practices
per week besides games?" Of the eighty-one answering this question, thirty managers indicated that they used two practices per week exclusive of games. Twenty-two other managers answered that they had one practice per week exclusive of games. Of the remaining twenty-nine cities, Table VII shows twenty managers held three practices per week and the remaining nine managers held more than three practices per week exclusive of games.

**TABLE VII**

NUMBER OF PRACTICES PER WEEK FOR LITTLE LEAGUE SQUADS IN NORTHWEST IOWA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Practices per week</th>
<th>Number of cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per week and one practice</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hours per week and two practices</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hours per week and three practices</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 hours of practice</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The third area of investigation concerned the opportunity of all members of the squad had to participate in games. Questions number eleven and fifteen were concerned with this area of investigation. Question number eleven of the questionnaire asked, "How many boys were out and practiced regularly for Little League baseball?" In order to complete this area of investigation it was necessary to find out how many boys go out for baseball and how many of these players
were permitted to go along on the trips.

The coaches and managers of these eighty-one cities having Little League baseball teams reported a total of 3,805 youths participating in northwest Iowa Little League programs.

Question fifteen is concerned with how many of these 3,805 Little Leaguers are given the opportunity to travel to all the games. This question was asked eighty-one coaches and managers, "Does the entire Little League squad travel to all games?" The answers show that forty-nine coaches or managers, or over one-half of those queried, take all members of their squads on trips. Eighteen managers allowed one-half of their squad to make the out-of-town trips. Nine managers selected less than one-fourth of their squads for the out-of-town trips. Five managers did not answer this question.

In the fourth area of investigation the problem was to ascertain whether other organized physical activities besides baseball existed in the respective communities.

Question number one, two, and five in the questionnaire were classified in this area of investigation. Question number one asked for this information: "Are there other organized physical recreational activities besides baseball for Little Leaguers in your city?"
Sixty-five directors or Little League managers indicated that their city had other recreational activities besides baseball. Sixteen other recreational directors or Little League managers reported that baseball was the only recreational activity in their city.

Those directors or managers who had reported other activities in their communities indicated that the "other activities" included the following: swimming, camp craft, boy scouts, golf, and tennis. This information was given in regard to questions two and five of the questionnaire.

The problem of the next area of investigation was to determine if Little Leaguers take part in these other activities where they exist. "Do those members of the recreational program that are not out for Little League baseball take advantage of the recreational activities?" Seventy-five directors indicated that these members did take advantage of the recreational program. Only six directors indicated that these members did not take part in the recreational program.

Question number four in the questionnaire further asked this question, "Do these non-baseball players attend the recreational activities regularly?" Forty-six directors reported that these members did attend regularly and twenty-two other directors reported that the members did not participate in the recreational program regularly. Thirteen directors failed to answer.
Question number eighteen in the questionnaire asked, "Would you say that Little League baseball is overemphasized?" Five of the directors or coaches replied that they thought that Little League baseball was overemphasized and seven more indicated that they thought it was overemphasized at times. Sixty-nine directors, or the great majority of persons replying, indicated that they thought Little League baseball was not overemphasized.

Question number six asked, "How many Little League baseball games were played in a week?" Forty-one coaches and managers indicated that their teams played two games a week. Twenty-seven coaches and managers indicated that their teams played one game a week. One manager reported his team played three games a week. Twelve other managers and coaches also reported that some weeks they played two games and some weeks they played just one game.

Question number nine asked, "What part of the day was used for practice?" Nineteen managers or coaches reported that mornings were used for practice. Twenty-two managers reported that the afternoons were used for practice. Thirty-one coaches or managers reported that evenings were used for practice. The final nine managers reported that both mornings and afternoons were used for practice.

Question number ten asked, "If your town has an organized recreational program, what are the hours of operation?"
Thirty-eight directors indicated that evenings were used for the playground operation. Ten directors reported that both morning and evening were used for operation. Thirty-three directors failed to answer this question.

**FIGURE 2**

**FUNDS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL IN NORTHWEST IOWA IN 1956-1957**

Question twelve asked, "Which is better organized in your city, organized physical recreational program or organized Little League baseball?" Sixty respondents indicated that Little League baseball was the better organized. Eighteen respondents indicated that the recreational program
is the better organized while three respondents indicated that both were organized about the same.

Question number thirteen asked for this information, "Where does Little League baseball get the money for operation?" Figure 2 shows seventy-five and four-tenths per cent of the funds used for Little League baseball was taken from taxes. Nineteen and seven-tenths per cent was received from donations, and four and nine-tenths per cent by other means.

Question nineteen asked the following: "Is the recreational program advertised as well as is Little League baseball?" Twenty-nine respondents reported that the recreational program was as well advertised as Little League baseball. Twenty-five respondents reported that the recreational program is not as well advertised as Little League baseball program. Twelve respondents indicated that both are about as well advertised. Fifteen respondents failed to answer this question.
CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Preliminary exploration indicated that the coaches and recreational directors were very well qualified to operate such programs. Opinions from such a group, therefore, seemed to be representative of professional judgment in this field.

The first area of investigation provided by the questionnaire showed that sixty-five per cent of the Little League squads entered a final tournament to close out their season. Fifty-nine per cent of the recreational programs had a final exhibit to finish their season.

The second area of investigation showed that one and one-half to one and three-quarters hours per week were used for Little League baseball practice. Further investigation showed that the average squad practiced twice a week. The average squad used eight hours for practice and for games per week.

In the third area of investigation, a total of 3,805 youths participated in a form of Little League baseball in northwest Iowa. On further study, forty-nine coaches indicated that they take all their squad members on the trips, thirteen other managers indicated that they take one-half of their squads to all the games, nine managers indicated
they take one-fourth of the members on all the trips.

In the fourth area of investigation, sixty-five directors or managers indicated that their city had a recreational program. The activities in these programs included swimming, Boy Scouts, camping, and programs of games.

The fifth area of investigation indicated that less than fifty per cent of non-League players took part in their city recreational program regularly. Of the Little League players that took part in the recreational program, the directors indicated that because of their participation in the city program, Little League baseball was not overemphasized. A total of eighty-five per cent of the directors thought that Little League in its present form was not overemphasized.

Further explored were the time of day for Little League practice, financial support for League activities, and the degree of organization of Little League baseball. The findings suggest that scheduling was critical since there were conflicts between Little League baseball and other recreational activities in the late afternoon and evening. The Little League baseball program was found to be primarily tax supported, and was thought by most respondents to be better organized than the other recreational activities which were surveyed. Both Little League and other recreational activities seemed to be equally well publicized, according
RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are offered from the material gathered and the personal interviews conducted. Some of these recommendations were included in the rules, but were not enforced by the team managers.

1. As revealed by the data, a majority of the games are played in the evening; therefore, it is suggested that all games be completed by 8:30 P.M. The need for young, growing children to have adequate rest which is not preceded by overstimulation is obvious.

2. Recommend that sixteen games be set as a maximum number of games per season exclusive of tournament and play-off games.

3. Careful selection of a manager; one who sets a good example, has high morals, and has experience as a coach, playground supervisor, or player.

4. The rule that states that all teams be required to purchase uniforms, be stricken from the rules.

5. Press coverage be toned down and individual performance eliminated from the write-ups.

6. Practice periods be arranged so that there is a minimum of interference with other organized recreational activities.
7. Enlarge the recommended size of the squads and let every member of the squad participate in the games.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. PERIODICALS


B. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS


APPENDIX

Mr. J. H. Spring

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that Mr. W. J. Anderson was employed by this company as a draftsman from January 1, 1990, to December 31, 1992.

If there is any other information you wish to include, do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Position]
Mr. B. W. Blackman, Coach
Nemaha High School
Nemaha, Iowa

Dear Mr. Blackman:

At the present time, we do not have a complete history of Little League. One of the members of our staff is preparing such a history but he cannot give any definite date in which it will be completed.

If there is any other information you desire, please do not hesitate to make the request.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Creighton J. Hale

Creighton J. Hale
Director of Research

CJH/bas
Mr. Bernard W. Blackman  
Delaware Twp. Consolidated School  
Nemaha, Iowa

Dear Mr. Blackman:

We are sending you, under separate cover, some material which should be of aid to you in the research on Little League. Enclosed is a list of studies which have recently been concluded showing the effect of Little League competition upon the young boys.

If there is any other information we can give you, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours.

/s/ Creighton J. Hale

Creighton J. Hale, Ph.D.  
Director of Research

CJH/bas

Enc.
September 10, 1956

Little League Baseball Manager
_________________________ Iowa

Dear Sir:

In fulfillment of a requirement to attain a master's degree at Drake University I am conducting a survey on Little League Baseball and its relationship to community recreational activities.

I would appreciate your prompt reply to my questionnaire. Would you please circle the answers that best suit your case or city? Just fold the answer sheet and enclose it in the self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

B. W. Blackman
Coach Nemaha High School
Circle the answer you think suits your case

1. Are there other organized physical recreational activities besides Little League Baseball in your city?
   a. yes  b. no

2. If your answer is yes to the above question, do Little Leaguers take part in these other activities? Swimming, golf, camp, etc.
   a. yes  b. no

3. Do those who are not out for Little League baseball take advantage of the recreational activities?
   a. yes  b. no

4. In regard to question three do these non-baseball players attend the recreational activities regularly?
   a. yes  b. no

5. What activities do these non-Little Leaguers take part in?
   a. swimming  b. camp  c. boy scouts  d. various other games

6. How many Little League Baseball games do you play in a week?
   a. 1  b. 2  c. 3

7. How much time do you use for practice?
   a. 1 hr.  b. 2 hr.  c. 1½ or ½ hrs.

8. What is the number of practices per week besides games:
   a. 1  b. 2  c. 3

9. At what part of the day do you practice?
   a. morning  b. afternoon  c. evening

10. If your town has an organized recreational program, what are the hours of operation?
    a. 9-12  b. 1-4  c. ___
11. How many boys are out and practice regularly for Little League baseball?
   a. 20  b. 30  c. 40  d. 50  e. _____

12. Which is better organized in your city?
   a. Organized Physical recreational Program
   b. Organized Little League Baseball

13. Where does Little League Baseball get the money for the operation?
   a. donations  b. city funds  c. taxes  d. others

14. As a manager or Recreational director, which item fits your qualifications?
   a. former coach  b. college training  c. player
   d. _____

15. Does the entire Little League squad travel to all games?
   a. all  b. ½  c. ¼  d. other amount

16. When summer camp or church camps are in session, do you notice a decline in Little League attendance by players?
   a. none  b. very little  c. a lot

17. When summer camps or church camps are in session, do you notice a drop in recreational attendance?
   a. none  b. very little  c. a lot

18. Would you say that Little League baseball is overemphasized?
   a. no  b. yes  c. at times

19. Is the recreational program advertised as well as Little League baseball?
   a. no  b. yes  c. about the same
20. Does the physical recreational program have a final program at the end of the season which is open to the public?
   a. no   b. yes   c. during the summer

21. Does the Little League season end with the final tournament games?
   a. no   b. yes

22. Do you enter your Little League baseball team in a tournament?
   a. no   b. yes
Answered questionnaires were returned from the following cities.

1. Akron  
2. Albert City  
3. Algona  
4. Anthon  
5. Alton  
6. Auburn  
7. Battle Creek  
8. Breda  
9. Britt  
10. Carroll  
11. Cherokee  
12. Corwith  
13. Danbury  
14. Denison  
15. Early  
16. Emmetsburg  
17. Fonda  
18. Fort Dodge  
19. Gilmore City  
20. Gliedden  
21. Gowrie  
22. Granville  
23. Graettinger  
24. Hartley  
25. Havelock  
26. Hawarden  
27. Hinton  
28. Holstein  
29. Iowa Falls  
30. Inwood  
31. Ireton  
32. Jefferson  
33. Kingsley  
34. Lake City  
35. Lake Park  
36. Lake View  
37. Lemars  
38. Lone Rock  
39. Luverne  
40. Lytton  
41. Mallard  
42. Marathon  
43. Marshalltown  
44. Mason City  
45. Meriden  
46. Merrill  
47. Marcus  
48. Milford  
49. Moville  
50. Nemaha  
51. Newell  
52. Ocleyden  
53. Onawa  
54. Paullina  
55. Perry  
56. Pierson  
57. Pocahontas  
58. Pomeroy  
59. Primghar  
60. Quimby  
61. Remsen  
62. Rockwell City  
63. Rolfe  
64. Sac City  
65. Sanborn  
66. Schleswig  
67. Sergeant Bluffs  
68. Sheldon  
69. Sibley  
70. Sioux Center  
71. Sioux Rapids  
72. State Center  
73. Storm Lake  
74. Sulphur Springs  
75. Sutherland  
76. Spencer  
77. Spirit Lake  
78. Swea City  
79. Sloan  
80. Webster City  
81. West Bend
TRI-COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE

May 29
Fonda at Nemaha
Newell at Sulphur
Sac City at Varina

June 3
Nemaha at Newell
Varina at Fonda
Sulphur at Sac City

June 6
Sac City at Nemaha
Varina at Sulphur
Newell at Fonda

June 10
Sulphur at Nemaha
Fonda at Sac City
Newell at Varina

June 13
Nemaha at Varina
Sac City at Newell
Fonda at Sulphur

June 17
Nemaha at Fonda
Sulphur at Newell
Varina at Sac City

June 20
Newell at Nemaha
Fonda at Varina
Sac City at Sulphur

June 24
Nemaha at Sac City
Sulphur at Varina
Fonda at Newell

June 27
Nemaha at Sulphur
Sac City at Fonda
Varina at Newell

July 1
Varina at Nemaha
Newell at Sac City
Sulphur at Fonda

July 3
Fonda at Nemaha
Newell at Sulphur
Sac City at Varina

July 8
Nemaha at Newell
Varina at Fonda
Sulphur at Sac City

July 11
Sac City at Nemaha
Varina at Sulphur
Newell at Fonda

July 15
Sulphur at Nemaha
Fonda at Sac City
Newell at Varina

July 18
Nemaha at Varina
Sac City at Newell
Fonda at Sulphur

July 22
Nemaha at Fonda
Sulphur at Newell
Varina at Sac City

July 25
Newell at Nemaha
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Sac City at Sulphur

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Nemaha at Sac City
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