

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

ATHLETICS

After the Civil War, an interest in athletic competition and team sports developed throughout the nation. This phenomenon has been attributed largely to the industrial revolution. Professor Ralph Gabriel expressed it graphically:

Forests of chimneys arose above cities sprawling beyond their former bounds. City streets became canyons and men, like jungle trees, struggled upward for light. Americans went indoors to serve machines, stand behind counters, or sit at desks . . . The reaction of an out-of-door people herded in a single generation into overgrown cities was the rise of sport and the appearance of an out-of-door movement. Athletic development was as swift as that of industry . . .¹

In 1868, the New York Athletic Club was organized; in 1876, the National Baseball League. A convention at Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1880, saw the beginning of American football, under the leadership of Walter Camp. A year later, the American Lawn Tennis Association was formed.

At Normal's near neighbor, the University of Michigan, baseball games between the U-M and city teams from Ann Arbor, Jackson, and Detroit were played as early as 1862. Their first intercollegiate football game was played in 1878. In 1893, a Board in Control of Athletics was formed, and track and tennis were recognized as intercollegiate sports. In 1896 the Western Conference, popularly known as the "Big Ten," came into being. In the same year, amateur athletics were greatly stimulated by the revival of the Olympic games.

At Normal, track and field events and baseball attracted student attention at least as early as 1880. The local paper in that year reported that "Normal boasts a student who can clear twelve feet

standing jump,” and also that “baseball fever” had arrived and “a crack nine” was to be formed.² A year later, the following item appeared:

The Normal students talk of going to Ann Arbor on Saturday. In their unprepared condition we would advise them not to go. A nine, in this stage of ball playing, that will appear on a campus without uniforms and without practice will not reflect credit on the school they represent. Experience has proven the unfitness of Normalites for baseball. Better give it up.³

Baseball continued to be plagued by inadequate facilities and some lack of student support.

The boys are cramped to play baseball, and so we never have anything but muffin games. There are a class of fellows who frequent baseball grounds who never play, who never contribute toward the ball, but who spend their time in ribaldry, coarse jokes, and in swearing at the efforts of the younger players. Lacking physical vigor, they sit on the ground and hawk and spit, lacking mental judgment, they are unable to distinguish between a good or bad play, and between their senseless remarks and obscenity they make themselves thoroughly odious to all who love a good game.⁴

However, not only did baseball survive this uncertain beginning, but track and field became very popular. In 1887, through the initiative of a member of the faculty and a student,⁵ a Normal Athletic Association and Council were formed to govern and promote the several sports. This was some six years before the Board in Control of Athletics was formed at the University of Michigan.

The competition in track and field took the form of “Field Days,” extending over a period of three days. The first one was held on the campus in 1888. So great was the interest of the town, however, that thenceforth for some years they were held at the fair grounds. An item of 1890 in the Ypsilanti paper read:

The first annual fall games of the Normal Athletic Association will be held at the Ypsilanti Fair Ground tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon. The rivalry between the Normal and the Business College (the local Cleary College) is more spirited than ever this fall, and we may expect exciting contests. The Normal has, in the person of J. R. Jenkins, one of the best known amateur athletes in the West.

A typical program showed the dashes (100 yards; 220 yards); the "440," half-mile, and mile runs; the jumps (standing broad, running broad, high jump, and hop, step and jump); bicycle races of a quarter, a half, and five miles, and the one-mile tandem; the high kick, shot put, hammer throw, and pole vault; wrestling, horizontal bar, and class drill with Indian clubs; the "allaround," and relay.

Records of times and distances achieved in events were a far cry from present-day achievements, supported as they are by highly developed tracks to run on, special shoes to run or jump in, scientifically developed menus for nourishing the body, and rigorous training schedules supervised by professional coaches. Winning time for the half-mile run, for example, was 2:25 (Normal's George Mason ran it in 1964 in 1:52.9); winning distance for the 16-pound shot was 31 feet, 8-1/2 inches (James Allen, in 1957, pushed it 52 feet, 5/8 of an inch.)

Football probably appeared at Normal at about the same time, possibly earlier. So-called "scientific," or Rugby, football, an inter-collegiate sport at neighboring University of Michigan since 1878, soon involved the Normal, whose teams contested with class teams of the U-M. The first discoverable newspaper mention, however, appeared in 1891 with the following item:

The football team got their new football Wednesday. They have a game arranged with the Albion College team for the last of the month.⁶

Tennis and basketball were played by Normal teams in the 1890's. Soccer, swimming, cross-country running, golf, and wrestling all belong to the 20th century.

A distinguishing feature of competitive sports at Normal was the very early development of an underlying philosophy. For this, the institution was indebted to its first head of the Physical Education Department, Wilbur Pardon Bowen. While still a member of the mathematics staff, he had been a party to the formation of the Normal Athletic Council in 1887. Over this Council he presided for many years. Fortunately for his school, and for the profession to which he contributed so much, his interest was both scientific and concerned with student health rather than competition.

Bowen was critical of the general athletic policy of the time regarding competition. He said that it was a mistake to allow all men to compete regardless of differences in ability. Contests should be graded so as to bring men of fairly equal ability together. This

simple rule, he commented, had long since been adopted in horse racing and in bicycle racing. The existing policy only served to crowd the less talented out of the picture. It was also a mistake to judge a man's performance by whom he happened to compete against, Bowen felt. His opponent might be mediocre—hence, a victory of little significance. Performance should be judged by objective standards, such as a system of percentages based on amateur records. Bowen thought it unfortunate that recognition in these contests went only to the winners. A school should also receive recognition for the *number* of men competing.

This emphasis on bodily health was maintained in the years to follow and led to the development of athletic programs that provided opportunities for every student, female as well as male. Half a century later, when it was no longer a novelty for a Normal athlete to tie or break a national record, a strong intramural program, based on voluntary participation, was at the same time being vigorously pushed.

When, in 1925, the women organized their extensive athletic activities under the Women's Athletic Association, they gave evidence that they, too, were intent on fulfilling this college-wide objective. Their purpose was stated as follows:

To offer a sports program so varied as to interest every girl on campus, encouraging each one to take an active part in the sports program and offering individual and team sports that have a definite carry-over value to the participants.⁷

In 1961, Eastern Michigan University withdrew from a very fine conference rather than accede to the present-day trend toward subsidization of athletes. She was adhering to her traditional and oft-repeated philosophy. This policy was followed through the administration of President Elliott.

The emphasis on athletics for everyone did not, however, preclude or diminish the interest in varsity competition. In 1892, Normal joined the MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association), a body that had been organized four years earlier, composed of Albion, Olivet, Hillsdale, and Michigan Agricultural Colleges. Annual field days were the main feature of the Association program. Within a few years, Bowen urged that a full-time trainer be employed by Normal to supervise systematic training of the athletes. He said:

A very noticeable defect in our athletic practice at Normal consists in the apparent lack of perseverance and serious purpose on the part of the men. While a few practice faithfully, and get good from it, and succeed, the tendency of a greater number is merely to dabble in athletics. If they have nothing else to do, and feel like it, they practice; otherwise not. I do not see any way to prevent this but to place the work under a regular instructor or trainer, and then to hold those entering to faithful performance of the work undertaken. This is the ideal way, in my opinion, to conduct athletics.⁸

At the same time, he complained that the regulations of the MIAA were being violated. The professional athletic clubs, he said, from which the field day was borrowed, had set a bad example, and the MIAA had become “tainted with questionable practices.” In the early 1900’s, the Normal College resigned.

Not until 1920 did Normal take the step to rejoin. This time the period of membership was relatively short. In the spring of 1926, President McKenny announced withdrawal. The decision appears to have been prompted by a strong feeling among the members that they would prefer a conference consisting exclusively of private colleges. Furthermore, aided by growing enrollments and by the fact that more and more students were enrolling in the four-year curricula, Normal’s athletic prowess had been growing.

In December, 1926, a new conference was formed. Called the Michigan Collegiate Conference, it was composed of the Central State Normal School at Mt. Pleasant, Detroit City College (now Wayne State University), Western State Normal School at Kalamazoo, and Ypsilanti Normal. The college paper opined that this was “one of the most forward steps that Ypsi had taken in the field of athletics in the history of the school.” Among the first regulations adopted by this conference was a three-year eligibility rule whereby freshmen were made ineligible to compete, a policy based on consideration of academic success for the new student. In 1931, Detroit City College withdrew, causing the collapse of the conference.

Disagreement developed at the same time between the Normal and Western State Normal. From nearly the beginning of Western’s existence (1903), the two colleges had maintained athletic relations. In 1915, a break had occurred in football relations but competition in this sport was resumed with the formation of the MCC. Now, however, the breach was complete and permanent. The local announcement read:

Athletic relations between two of the bitterest 'natural' rivals in Michigan collegiate circles appeared severed again today when news dispatches from Kalamazoo indicated that Western State authorities will cancel the game scheduled with Michigan Normal at the Celery City on October 31.

Football rivalry had indeed been bitter. The record showed a total of ten meetings, with five victories for the Normal and one tie.

When World War II hit the Normal campus, athletic competition paused, came to a complete stop, then gradually revived. In 1942, the Board in Control of Athletics abandoned the "freshmen rule" which prohibited freshmen from competing on varsity teams. The action came as a result of war-time decline in enrollment. Normal was the last of the teachers colleges in Michigan to take this step and, among all of the colleges and universities of the State, only the University of Michigan, Michigan State College, and Michigan College of Mines (now Michigan Technological University) retained the rule.

In 1943, there were only about 400 men enrolled in the College. In 1944, the number became so reduced that football, cross-country and track were abandoned. Basketball remained the sole active fall and winter sport; only baseball in the spring.

After the war, there was again agitation for membership in a conference. In 1950, Normal accepted an invitation to join one to be known as the Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. This conference dated back to 1908. Originally, it consisted of seven Illinois colleges. Here was an organization of long standing and a successful history. It was well organized, and controlled by a full-time commissioner as executive officer. Prospects for a long and satisfactory relationship were excellent.

Ten years later, on December 14, 1960, President Elliott of what was now Eastern Michigan University posted a letter to the Commissioner announcing intent to withdraw. His published statement read: "Due to the incompatibility of the athletic philosophies held by Eastern Michigan and the other schools in the Conference, we feel it is best for both Eastern Michigan and for the Conference that we leave the league."⁹

Earlier, in a statement to the college paper, he had said:

Our university is operated for the education of youth. That is our business. We like to win games as much as anyone else but we are not willing to compromise our educational values as a price for winning games.¹⁰

The difficulty had arisen over the proposal to subsidize athletes. Normal had never engaged in subsidization, and its policy with regard to coaches going forth to high schools to persuade athletes to come to Ypsilanti had been conservative. Under President Munson the practice had been forbidden. Assistance in securing or providing jobs for athletes while in school had been very limited.

But the trend over the nation had set in strongly against this conservative policy. First openly adopted by the colleges and universities of the south, the policy of remunerating college athletes brought strong reverberations and heated argument from the north. The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, a powerful accrediting agency of the mid-west, had attempted to restore the old order. It had been forced to compromise, consenting finally to the payment (“reimbursement” it was called) of board and room, books and tuition, and \$15 per month for laundry services, provided none of this money was paid directly to the athlete.

The battle had been fought in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the IIAC and had finally, in December, 1958, been resolved in favor of the North Central position. The vote was five to two (Eastern and Eastern Illinois forming the minority).

Discussion at Ypsilanti had begun some two years earlier (in 1956) when it became evident that some of the member schools were securing athletes by financial inducements and Eastern’s teams were beginning to lose. In 1958, the coaching staff voted unanimously to recommend withdrawal from the conference, but the Board in Control refused to concur. As late as 1959 the Board advocated the following policy for the athletic department: (1) special consideration for loans and grants, (2) permission for the coaching staff to promise jobs to prospective athletes, (3) reimbursement to coaches for travel expenses incurred in contacting prospective athletes, (4) more campus jobs for athletes.

Matters were finally brought to a head when the 1960 football season produced a loss of eight players through injuries which included several broken bones. The Board in Control changed its position, and the President’s letter was sent.

Withdrawal from the IIAC, effective in 1962, was followed by membership in the recently-formed Presidents’ Athletic Conference. This conference, formed by the presidents of eight colleges in four States,¹¹ had as its objective a return to the traditional amateur code which, in terms of current widespread practice, meant restraint as to

subsidies paid to athletes, and “de-emphasis” of athletic competition. Ultimate control was vested in the presidents of the respective institutions.

However, Normal had hardly become an active member when Wayne State University announced its intention to withdraw. This encouraged dissatisfaction among those of Normal’s followers who felt that the PAC did not provide competition of recognized quality. In consequence, Normal’s new Board of Regents approved, in May, 1964, a resolution of the Board of Control to withdraw from the PAC, effective at the close of 1965–1966. The college paper commented:

The move by the Board of Regents is considered to be a step in the right direction and should put Eastern on the path toward attaining intercollegiate respectability.¹²

The Major Sports

From the beginning, baseball, football, and track were the major sports, with track and baseball in the ascendancy in the early years and again from the early 1920’s.

Baseball, as we have noted, was one of the earliest organized sports at normal. The team of 1893 appears to have been the first of several outstanding nines. It “defeated even the mighty Albions and the Junior Laws.”¹³

With the coming of the new gymnasium in 1894 some indoor practice was possible. An interesting item in the yearbook of 1899 read:

For the past month or so, several batteries have been twirling the sphere up and down in the gymnasium, and, except for a few broken windows and steam pipes, besides a dent in the piano, which resulted in the suspension of operations for a time, until the Faculty could decide whether or not that was in the game—except for these little accidents our baseball material is developing rapidly.

In 1901, the professionals formed the American Baseball Association and the Detroit Tigers held spring training on Normal’s campus, practicing with the college talent. In 1903, a coach was secured who had been in the older National Association for many years, Sam

Thompson. The season stimulated considerable enthusiasm, eliciting the following comment in the college annual: “Our baseball team, of which we are very proud and which has always been the strongest factor in Normal athletics, is in the midst of a very successful season.”

In 1907, under Coach “Indian” Schulte, not a game was lost and the team claimed the championship of Michigan. It was a long wait thereafter, but in 1924, 1925, and 1926 the Normal team held the MIAA Championship. The coach was Elton Rynearson. In 1926, Charlie Zahn pitched a no-hit, no-run game against Hillsdale, and in the final game Albion was downed in the fifteenth inning. In 1949, the team won 15 games and lost three. As a member later of the strong IIAC, while not winning a championship, it took a second place under the coaching of Bill Crouch (a former big league player) in 1953.

Basketball was introduced at Normal in 1894, just three years after its invention by Dr. Naismith of the Y.M.C.A. College at Springfield, Massachusetts. It was used as an intramural game, a regular feature of class work in the new Department of Physical Education. Modifications were introduced to make the game more open, and more safe. The so-called “Ypsilanti Rules” were widely adopted in the public schools of the State. In 1910, under Coach Clare Hunter, the Normal team was particularly successful, winning 10 out of 12 games. In 1917, under Elmer Mitchell, the wins were 17 in 18 starts, and the state title was held jointly with Kalamazoo College. In 1918, under Rynearson, the record was 12 won, 1 lost. Rynearson coached teams which achieved outstanding records also in the three ensuing years.¹⁴

Several more successful seasons led to an insistent complaint that the gymnasium was not large enough to contain the fans. To meet this situation in 1926, students were limited to attendance at three games in the season.

The next 35 years saw only an occasional successful season.

Football, too, climbed mountain peaks and descended into deep valleys. The team of 1896 touted as the best in the history of the school to that time. The University of Michigan was the only opponent to score on the Normal (winning 18–0). The team boasted the title of Intercollegiate Champions of Michigan.¹⁵ In 1899, the game with the U-M left quite a different taste and a reporter lamented: “Instead of merely the defeat by a score of 21–0 they did us up for

the season.” Three members of the team were out with injuries for six weeks.

The team of 1906, very light and not expected to accomplish much, created great excitement. It went through the season with one tie and no defeats (the University of Michigan was not on its schedule), and wound up with a hair-raising defeat of an old rival, Hillsdale College. Three thousand people witnessed the battle. “Indian” Schulte was the coach, and was given great credit for molding a light team into such an effective instrument for victory. The headline employed a name since translated as “Huron.” It read: “Schulte’s Indians have scalped all their foes.” The celebration featured a bonfire, Roman candles, speeches, an impromptu band, and a thousand students on the march.

The team of 1913 was sufficiently impressive in the early part of its season to lead Coach Yost of the University of Michigan to ask for a game. The letter read in part:

At the suggestion of Coach Yost I am writing you to secure a game between the Normal team and the Varsity . . . We hope that you may consider this proposition favorably. Coach Yost is greatly pleased with the work of Normal’s team this fall, and now that Michigan has reinstated herself by defeating Vanderbilt, should be able to offer the Normals a good class of football. We notice that your men play a little rough, as in the game with U. of D. Saturday, where they laid so many of Lawton’s men on the shelf, but we believe that husky handling like this is just what Michigan needs, and are willing to take the risk of escaping without a large hospital bill.

Signed, T. G. Bartelme
Director of Michigan Athletics¹⁶

Actually, Normal played the U-M freshmen and lost 26–0.

In 1925, under Ryncarson (who remained as head coach through 1949), the team was undefeated and won the MIAA championship. Indeed, it was scored upon only once, a touchdown by Kalamazoo College in the final game.

The teams of 1927 and 1928 won the Michigan Collegiate Conference championship, losing only one game in the two seasons and none at all to a Michigan opponent. In 1929, Normal tied with Western State Teachers College for the crown.

The banner year was 1930. Not only was the MCC title won

handily, but Normal held Harry Kipke's University of Michigan team to a 7–0 score. Guard Andy Vanyo was the star of this rugged contest. Knute Rockne, in making up his all-western teams for the season, placed Vanyo on his second eleven, saying:

To those who may lift an eyebrow at the mention of Michigan State Normal, may I mention that these embryonic teachers had a great season and lost only to Michigan 7–0 after a stern struggle. The outstanding player on the team was Vanyo at guard.

Reviewing Rynearson's record, the student paper reported:

In his six years as football mentor, Elton J. Rynearson's teams have piled up 1069 points to 111 for opponents. Normal has won 40 games, tied two and lost four in that period . . .

The forthcoming years were not to maintain this record. Normal again played the University of Michigan in 1932 but lost 32–0. As late as 1938, Coach Rynearson could say, however, that he had never lost more than two games in a season. But in 1939 his team lost three and in 1940 it was only one victory in seven starts. Student comment in 1941 told a still sadder story:

The law of averages thumbed its nose at Michigan Normal's 1941 football team and turned a deaf ear to the Huron pleas for a single opposition scalp. Normal's twenty-first Rynearson-coached team . . . hit a new low for points scored with 12 as against 65 for the foe.¹⁷

During World War II, the football schedule was first reduced and then, with less than 50 men on campus, eliminated entirely. In 1945, bolstered by returning service men, the game was revived and a very successful season ensued, five wins and one tie.

Thereafter, football fortunes declined. Rynearson, now Director of Athletics, stepped aside and his erstwhile star, Harry Ockerman, was brought in as head coach in 1949. The season was a disaster. For the first time in their football history, the Hurons lost every game (8) on their schedule.

In the years that followed, football fortunes varied from a conference championship in 1957 to 8 defeats and 1 tie in 1960. In 1968, Eastern was ranked seventh in the nation in the Associated Press small college poll.

Track and field differs from most sports in that it rests on individual prowess rather than cooperative performance. Hence, great emphasis is placed on the records of individual performers. Comparative records have meaning as long as conditions are standard. The seasons for this sport are winter and spring—winter for indoor competition, spring for outdoor. One other season provides the occasion for a particular type of track event, cross-country running. Here the distances are long and the course traverses hill and dale, amidst the brilliant colors and bracing air of fall. Distances vary and standard conditions are out of the question.

Standard conditions can, however, be fairly well achieved indoors, where great attention is given to the quality and condition of the running track, and standard apparatus and careful measurement accompany the field events. In outdoor track, the same precautions are taken but weather conditions must also be considered and, to establish running records, wind velocity is carefully measured.

Track and field competition, as with baseball and tennis, originated at the Normal as an intramural interest. Students were practicing their favorite events as early as 1882. Upon the organization of the Normal Athletic Association in 1887, the era of organized competition began. Field Days became the great sporting events of the year. After Normal joined the MIAA in 1892, they became a regular feature of intercollegiate competition.

In 1915, under Director Beyerman, the team won the indoor Western Michigan Intercollegiate Championship, led by its star, Captain Deyo Leland, in the dashes. The team repeated in the outdoor meet. Said the student yearbook:

According to those who know the history of Normal's track team, the team representing the college this year is the strongest ever turned out. It is a remarkably well balanced team, especially in dashes and long distance men, hurdlers, pole vaulters, jump and weight performers.¹⁸

But the truly outstanding history of track and field at Normal began with the arrival of Coach Lloyd Olds, a Normal graduate, in 1921. His drive, organizing ability and vision carried Normal athletes to great heights, and gave Normal the reputation of being a

“track school.” Student comment upon his return to his alma mater¹⁹ was that “the return of Lloyd Olds to the Normal College to take charge of track athletics insures the success of our future track squads and at once makes us strong contenders for the MIAA Championship in this sport.”²⁰

Olds was a disciple of Wilbur Bowen and this influence remained strong throughout his tenure, in the course of which he continued his studies at the University of Michigan and earned the degree of Doctor of Public Health. At Normal, he built a career that attracted national attention, holding important positions with the national AAU and the American Olympic Committee. He assisted in coaching American athletes for the Olympic Games, managed tours of American athletes in the Near and Far East (after World War II), managed the Pan-American Games in Mexico, and served as lecturer and consultant for the State Department in European universities and elsewhere.

As coach at Normal, he built teams which quickly made their presence felt in college competition. Titles were won in state-wide collegiate meets in the years 1923–1926 inclusive, 1931–1933 inclusive, 1936, and 1940. Normal’s relay teams were even more impressive, meeting competition from the entire mid-west. In 1926, the medley relay team was victorious in the Drake Relays at Iowa City. In 1927, they were outstanding in the Ohio Relays at Columbus. In 1940, a Normal team broke the American college record, and broke its own record the following year.

During World War II, Olds served the Navy in its physical training program in the Pacific coast area, holding the rank of Commander. Upon his return to Normal he asked to be relieved of coaching and devoted his full time to teaching and the development of the intramural athletic program—a move that continued Normal’s early emphasis on athletics for all.

He was succeeded by his assistant, George Marshall, who added lustre to Normal’s track tradition. In 1947 and 1948, Marshall’s teams won state titles, and his relay teams dominated the Relays held at the Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1947, the *New York Times* rated Normal as the best college team in the nation and did so again in 1951. During the period of membership in the IAC, Normal’s team won the annual track meet in the years 1952–1955, inclusive.

Individual Stars

Track athletes of national stature appeared at Normal from the 1930's. The first was Eugene Beatty who won the National 400-meter low hurdles title three consecutive years (1931, 1932, 1933).²¹ In 1939, distance star Tommy Quinn won the National Junior AAU title in the 5000-meter run. In 1949, Garion Campbell set a world's indoor record in the 75-yard dash. In 1957, 1958 and 1959, Hayes Jones developed into an almost unbeatable competitor in the hurdles, winning in meet after meet regardless of the quality of competition. In 1960, he became the first man in the history of Normal to win a birth on the Olympic team and took third place in the 110-meter high hurdles event. In 1964, he again placed on the team—and this time won the coveted gold medal.²²

Cross-country running, engaged in sporadically at least as early as 1911, was revived and consistently promoted with the arrival of Olds. Its story from this time (1921) is one of outstanding performances, not only within the conference that Normal was a member of at the time, but also in national AAU competition. The MIAA championship was won in 1924; the National AAU in 1929 (against such opponents as the Universities of Indiana, Ohio State and Pittsburgh, and Pennsylvania State). In 1931, Normal was second in the National Junior AAU run (held this time, in Ypsilanti). In 1940, led by two outstanding stars, Tom Quinn and Duane Zemper, the team placed second to Indiana in the Third Annual National Intercollegiates; second in the National AAU behind the New York Athletic Club, and first in the Fifteenth Annual Central Collegiate Conference Run. In 1942, Normal tied with Bowling Green University for second place in the National Junior AAU meet.²³

George Marshall, succeeding Olds in 1945, maintained the outstanding record that he had inherited. In 1946, his cross-country team placed third in the Central Collegiate Conference meet behind Drake and Notre Dame, and second in the College Division of the National Collegiate meet. In 1954, it won the National AAU championship. By 1956, Marshall had won the IIAC championship for seven successive years. The last of these outstanding performances occurred in 1958 when Normal (now Eastern Michigan College) ran second in the IIAC and also second in the National Junior AAU meets.

Tennis teams have represented the school since 1911. In 1912, a soccer team was placed in competition against the University of Michigan. In 1915, there were matches with the U-M, Battle Creek and a Detroit team. In 1916, six games were scheduled, including matches with Walkerville and Ford of Canada. Swimming was initiated in 1919. From 1932 to 1947 no varsity competition was scheduled, but since that time Normal has been represented by both men's and women's teams. Gymnastics was initiated in 1921. In this sport, exhibition performances prevailed rather than intercollegiate competition. In the 1920's and early 1930's it was customary for the team to present exhibitions in a number of cities. In 1931, some twenty cities were included in the itinerary of the Normal College gymnastic team. Golf, for both men and women, has been scheduled since 1931. An outstanding performance was that of Shirley Spork who, in 1947, became the National Women's Collegiate Champion. Wrestling was initiated in 1937, bowling and billiards in 1952.

Intramural Sports

Bowen's emphasis on sports for all found early expression, and the "for all" included women as well as men. Activities for the women featured various types of ball games, tennis, hockey, swimming, and dancing.

For many years basketball was featured. Until 1910, a women's basketball team engaged in intercollegiate competition. In that year, however, the Director of Women's Athletics, Fannie Burton, announced withdrawal and greater emphasis on the intramural program. The time given to coaching six or eight girls, she said, could more profitably be devoted to a greater number, and the saving could be used for permanent athletic improvements that all the women could enjoy. Furthermore, she felt that in intercollegiate competition there was a tendency to over-exert. She added that the type of audience experienced on foreign floors involved some risk.

By 1915, some 100 women were involved in tennis competition, another 100 in "games for pleasure" (hockey and swimming), and some 500 juniors and seniors in a variety of contests in the Annual Girls Meet. In the 1920's there was strong competition also between the freshman and sophomore classes. In the "General Girls' All College Indoor Meet" those enrolled in the kindergarten, primary,

and rural education curricula combined to oppose those in the intermediate and high school curricula. Track events, tumbling, "national" dancing, field ball, basketball, and volleyball made up the program. By 1939 the activities had been broadened to include horse-back riding, badminton, bowling, fencing, ping-pong and archery.

Activities on the men's side were less well recorded, but it is clear that inter-class football contests were dominant in the earlier years.

With the arrival of Olds, a broad program for men was developed under the Men's Intramural Program. Four years later the women's activities were organized and promoted by Doris Ewing under the name of WAA (Women's Athletic Association), changed in the 1950's to the present WRA (Women's Recreation Association).

During World War II, the Men's Intramural Program was dropped but resumed in 1947 with the return of Olds from his assignment in the Navy. Giving his entire attention to teaching and the intramural program, Olds developed a wide range of sports designated as inter-fraternity, inter-dormitory, and all-campus contests.

Conclusion

As one views the history of sports at Normal it becomes evident that here is an institution of higher education that has adhered with exceptional fidelity to two principles that were adopted almost from the beginning of organized athletics—the benefits of athletics for all and, in intercollegiate competition, the acceptance of standards and regulations that required self-restraint and not infrequently lead to defeat.

The acceptance of standards and regulations involved a policy requiring acceptable academic performance for membership on varsity teams, and the concept of amateur standing. The concept of the amateur in sports has been carefully defined by the Amateur Athletic Union. It reads: "An amateur sportsman is one who engages in sports solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, and social benefits he derives therefrom."

Eastern was among the last of the colleges and universities of the nation to relax this rule and adopt a policy of offering athletic scholarships. Indeed, not until 1965 was a step taken in this direction. In football, it has paid at times a severe penalty for adherence to the original concept. But no football coach has been fired for losing games.

Faculty have, for the most part, been interested and active in supporting and promoting intercollegiate competition. Faculty were instrumental in organizing the athletic program in the first place. Bowen left the mathematics staff to devote his life to physical education and the sports program. Charles McKenny was outstanding among the school's presidents in his enthusiasm for athletic contests. Registrar Clemens Steimle, formerly on the mathematics staff, an old Normal athlete himself, was an avid supporter, and on every occasion of a cross-country run would be found in front of a blackboard in the fieldhouse, calculating the complicated scoring. Dean of Men James M. ("Bingo") Brown was the idol of athletes in all sports and, through the Men's Union, provided the annual awards banquet. These men were symbolic of widespread faculty interest and support.

The interest and respect so widely accorded the athletic program at Eastern have been based on more than the fact that sports are a pleasant and often thrilling diversion. In a culture which, through its emphasis on individualism, places competitive success in all areas of life on an inordinately high pedestal, there comes a feeling of relief and satisfaction that, in one area of life at least, competition of a most strenuous, exhausting, and exacting character can be conducted according to limitations and regulations that the competitors accept.

