

THE HISTORY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT  
ELLINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, ELLINWOOD, KANSAS

by

JACK L. BOWMAN 265

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Approved by:

  
Major Professor

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## INTRODUCTION

The Ellinwood School District was organized in 1872, and the first district meeting was held in the grocery store of A. Conwell on August tenth of the same year.

The first two months of school were taught in an old frame building. Soon bonds were voted and a one story, two room brick structure was erected on the southeast corner of the present site. It was completed in 1873 and was the first brick building in Barton County.

From the beginning, the Ellinwood school was destined to grow. In 1873 eighty-nine pupils were attending the school. The following year two rooms were added to relieve the crowded conditions that existed. Enrollments increased and in 1888 an entirely new structure was erected in the exact location of the new library-classroom complex. In this same year the old school which had been erected in 1873 was torn down. In 1911, four rooms were added to the structure, two rooms for the high school and two rooms for the elementary school. In 1926 a new high school and a new grade school were erected, the high school wing running north and south and the grade school wing running east and west. Today these same two buildings, with modern additions, comprise Ellinwood High School.

A series of improvements and additions began in 1953, when a new gymnasium was completed at a cost of \$253,953.82. Also, in that same year the woodworking shop was completed costing \$54,020.29. The high school offices were moved at a cost of \$4,253.76, the vocational agriculture shop was built at the cost

of \$153,956.55. In 1954 the north corridor, little theater, auditorium, and cafeteria were built and opened. The total cost of the cafeteria, with supplies, was \$12,040.25. The faculty lounge, guidance office, and superintendents office were also constructed. In 1956 a new fire alarm system, bell system, clocks and intercom were installed at a cost of \$7,426.00. In the year 1964 a new fieldhouse and modern asphalt track were added to the physical plant. The fieldhouse was a tremendous help to the football and track programs as their dressing facilities had been housed in the city swimming pool bath-house. This relieved overcrowding and greatly aided in the sanitary problems of the athletic teams. In 1967 a new library-classroom complex was added to the present school building, with completion in July of 1968. The cost of this new addition was \$504,000.00. At present, according to House Bill No. 377 passed in 1963, Ellinwood Rural High School is officially Unified School District No. 355.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to provide a record of athletics at Ellinwood High School. It is hoped that the results of this study will be of assistance to the people of the school, the school district, to those who have attended and graduated from Ellinwood High, and to those in the future who will do the same. Also, it was the intention of the author to provide a brief history of the school and its progress.

## MATERIAL AND RESOURCES

Material for this study was obtained from several sources. The city newspaper, The Ellinwood Leader, and school yearbooks were used as the main source of information. School records obtained from the business manager's office and interviews with former coaches and athletes provided the additional material.

## ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

An athletic association was formed at Ellinwood High School in 1911. The basic purpose of the organization was for promoting an interest in athletics.

The association was re-organized each year and proved a great aid to the school in the way of providing equipment for the athletic teams.

Most all of the high school boys belonged, and the annual membership fee was twenty-five cents.

The association served as a vital part in the early years of athletics at Ellinwood. The association would elect coaches and managers from the boys who belonged to the organization and the elected would take charge of the team for his specified sport. The leading forms of athletics were baseball, tennis and track.

## LEAGUES

From the beginning of athletics at Ellinwood High School until 1931 an independent athletic schedule was played.

On December 10, 1931, the Barton Education Association League was organized. This league was organized for basketball only, and included the following schools:

- (1) Ellinwood
- (2) Pawnee Rock
- (3) Holyrood
- (4) Lorraine
- (5) Claflin
- (6) Hudson
- (7) LaCrosse

Ellinwood participated in this league for one year and then joined the Central Prairie League in 1933. The Central Prairie League was formed in 1932. Ellinwood was asked to join in 1933 and has been a member since. The members of this league were as follows:

- (1) Heisington
- (2) Stafford
- (3) St. John
- (4) Lyons
- (5) Sterling
- (6) Ellinwood

The Central Prairie League at present consists of the following members:

- (1) Heisington
- (2) Stafford
- (3) Lyons
- (4) St. John



- (5) Sterling
- (6) Lindsborg
- (7) Ellsworth
- (8) Ellinwood

## FINANCING

From the time that athletics were established in 1911, financing of athletics was through the collection of gate receipts. Gate receipts were and still are placed in a separate athletic fund which is not a part of the general fund. This method of handling the expenses has proved very sufficient for Ellinwood High School. In the event that gate receipts should not be sufficient for coverage of expenses, the difference would be appropriated to the athletic fund by the school board.

At present all football, basketball, and track game and practice equipment, except for shoes, is furnished by the school through the athletic fund. There is an allowance for meals on away trips, which is set at \$1.50 per unit.

At the time of this writing the only equipment provided by the athletic fund in the minor sports, such as golf, is golf balls for the meets, which are later used as practice balls.

## FOOTBALL

Football was first played by Ellinwood High School in 1908. The schedule called for one game to be played at Great Bend. The team was coached by Superintendent H. E. Powers. The score is not

known, but it is an accepted fact that Great Bend won the game. The next attempt at football was in 1911 when Ellinwood played Raymond on Thanksgiving Day. The student body athletic club had elected Curtis Stephan to manage the football team. Raymond won the game by a score of 99-0. The game was called in the middle of the fourth quarter due to the fact that Ellinwood only had eight boys on the field.

The spring of 1911 brought with it a new idea for Ellinwood High School athletics, the Athletic Association. The association, under the direction of President Curtis Stephan, decided to add football to the list of activities for the fall of 1912.

Ralph Tullis was elected manager and Harry Gafford captain of the football team. The schedule called for three games to be played with the following teams: Claflin at Claflin, Chase at Ellinwood and Sterling at Sterling. Ellinwood lost all three games and the team disbanded.

In 1913, the team played a Thanksgiving Day game against Little River. The score was 97-0 in favor of Little River. Football was not played again until the fall of 1928. The idea of reviving the game came in 1927, but because of the lack of interest and the great expense involved to properly outfit a team, the idea was discarded. The merchants, however, sponsored a game between Holyrood and Larned played at the Ellinwood baseball park.

#### Elmar L. Dresslar (1928)

Mr. Elmar L. Dresslar was the superintendent of Ellinwood High School and coached the first modern day football team for the school.

For the first time since that Thanksgiving Day in 1913, Superintendent Dresslar, an experienced coach, introduced the sport again to the Ellinwood community. The school board purchased suits for two complete teams. Twenty boys checked out equipment and worked hard for positions on the team. There was so much enthusiasm generated for the sport that business houses were closed for the games. Six games were played this first year. Ellinwood lost all six games. The schedule for this first year called for the following schools: Hoisington, Chase, Claflin, Great Bend, Bunker Hill, and Alden.

The starting eleven on this football team were as follows: center-Gerald Hartmetz, fullback-Walter Koelsch, halfbacks-Wesley Galyardt and Werner Schartz, guards-John Schartz and Charles Bryant, tackles-Madley Connor and Urban Doll, ends-Irvin Schroeder and Karl Nuss.

Mr. Dresslar was assisted by Lyle Scoby, a post graduate student who had played with Mr. Dresslar at St. Francis High School. Mr. Scoby was studying for West Point entrance examination at Ellinwood High School, and aided Mr. Dresslar with coaching duties.

#### Joe Bronson (1929 through 1934)

Mr. Joe Bronson a graduate of Fort Hays State was the first football coach hired specifically for that purpose. He taught industrial arts and coached both the High School teams as well as the Junior High teams. He brought even greater enthusiasm to Ellinwood for the game of football. The team played it's games at the Wolf Park Baseball Field, the present location of the golf course.

Ellinwood High School played seven football games in 1929, winning two, losing four and tying one. Victories came over Geneseo and Chase. Losses were to Hoisington, Alden, Bunker Hill, and Claflin, and a tie was played with Garfield.

In 1930, due to the lack of support at home, Mr. Bronson scheduled only three games at home and played the remainder of the eight games schedule away. The 1930 squad managed to win six of the eight games. Wins were over Schoenchen, Claflin, Garfield, Otis, Geneseo, and Chase. Losses were to Little River and Alden.

In the fall of 1931, Mr. Bronson led his team to the first undefeated football season in the school's history. Ellinwood won over Garfield, Otis, Bunker Hill, Belpre, Geneseo, and Chase, tying Claflin and Alden. Alden was the only team to score on Ellinwood and the teams ended in a 6-6 deadlock.

New bleachers were erected for the fall of 1932 and not to be outdone, the 1932 squad went undefeated. With nine returning lettermen from the undefeated 1931 team, Ellinwood won victories from Garfield, Burdett, Belpre, Claflin, Bunker Hill, Sterling, Chase, and Alden.

Mr. Bronson's 1933 team won five, lost two and tied one, leaving his record for the five years at Ellinwood standing at twenty-eight wins, eight losses and four ties. Mr. Bronson served as the high school principal from 1932 through 1934. Enrollment during these years was 104 in 1929 to 149 in 1933.

In the last game of the 1933 season, played at Alden, Leo Galyardt kicked off at the half time, ran down the field and recovered the ball and ran it the remaining way for the winning touchdown. The final score was 13-7 in favor of Ellinwood.

Reuben E. Bowman (1934 through 1937)

For the next three years the athletic program was under the guidance of Mr. R. E. Bowman, a graduate of McPherson College. His 1934 team faced the toughest gridiron schedule to date. The squad completed the season with one win, five losses and one tie. The one win was over Bunker Hill and the one tie was with Nickerson. The five losses came at the hands of the following: Larned, Sterling, Great Bend, Claflin, and Alden.

In 1935 the football team played seven games, losing all seven. The 1936 team failed to win a game, however, they did manage to tie with Nickerson.

Although Ellinwood was having it's troubles in the win department, the interest in the game continued to grow. Mr. Bowman's team in 1934 had seventeen boys reporting for practice, while in 1936 thirty-nine squad members were out for the sport. The 1936 season ended in a crushing 67-0 defeat at the hands of Alden, but despite the fact of a poor season, the team put up several flashes of good football throughout the season. Lack of experience was the big factor.

Arthur Olson (1937 through 1949)

Mr. Arthur Olson, a Bethany College graduate, was the newly hired athletic coach for the 1937-1938 school year. He served as football and track coach for the next twelve years and as the basketball coach for eleven years. His football teams were noted for their tremendous spirit and power.

Mr. Olson's football teams compiled a twelve year record of fifty-five wins, thirty-four losses, and fifteen ties.

In his twelve years as coach his football teams had eight winning seasons. In 1943, 1944, and 1945 his teams won three straight Central Prairie League championships. Mr. Olson had three straight undefeated seasons, 1942 (two ties), 1943, and 1944. His winning ways continued on into the 1945 season, and Ellinwood had not lost a game for thirty-eight straight contests. This was the longest winning streak in Kansas history. Due to the loss of two key players being called for pre-induction physicals, Ellinwood was upset on Thanksgiving Day, 1945, by the Stafford Trojans. Thanksgiving Day, 1945, will long be remembered in Ellinwood as the Eagles met their doom, 0-13.

During Mr. Olson's tenure, J. H. Linville was hired to serve as an assistant coach. Mr. Linville served in this capacity from 1946 through 1949. During the 1948-1949 basketball season, Mr. Linville served as head basketball coach.

During the twelve years of Mr. Olson's reign, Ellinwood High School enrollment grew from 164 in 1937 to 245 in 1949. Mr. Olson taught in the social science department.

There were many highlights for football fans at Ellinwood during Olson coached teams. On June 13, 1938, lights for night football were assured Ellinwood High at a city council meeting. The city agreed to furnish transformers and install the system, provided the Twilight Baseball League, Chamber of Commerce and the high school purchase the lights and poles. On June 28 of that same year, orders were placed for thirty-two huge electric globes mounted

on as many reflectors atop eight 55 foot poles. This system gave Ellinwood one of the finest night baseball and football plants in this section of the state. Installation of the lights was the first step toward realization of the scheme for a park, picnic grounds, and field for minor sports. Gate receipts showed an average increase of \$65.00 per game as a result of the new lighting system.

The Junior and Senior classes of Ellinwood High School joined forces to obtain a public address system for the school, to be used at the football and baseball games. The purchase was made possible through surplus money from class plays and other class sponsored functions. The system was first used at the football game between Ellinwood and Sterling, October 4, 1938.

Coach Olson's teams received state wide recognition when they were chosen by three of the leading sports newspapers of the state to the football top ten ratings. In 1942 Ellinwood ranked ninth in the state and third in the southwest area. Their record was seven wins, no losses and two ties. In 1945, the team received a ranking of fourth in the state's top ten, winning eight games and losing one.

During the spring school meeting of 1948, the patrons voted to build a new set of stadium bleachers for both the home crowd and the visitors. The new football stadium was dedicated at the half time of the Sterling game on October 8, 1948. I. J. Radar acting for the mayor and city council, officially dedicated the steel supported stadium seating 2,000 people, giving all a clear view of the field.

John Conley (1949 through 1954)

Mr. John Conley became head football coach in the fall of 1949. Mr. Conley was a graduate of Kansas State and taught biology at Ellinwood High.

Mr. Conley's five seasons at Ellinwood were marked with many fine football teams, winning or tying for the league championship (twice), placing second (twice), and third the other year.

Mr. Conley's five-year record shows thirty-five wins, nine losses, and three ties. In his five years as head football coach, he never lost more than three games in any one year.

The 1949 team won seven games, defeating the following: Lyons, Sterling, Ellsworth, Chase, Jetmore, Lindsborg, and Claflin. Losing to St. John, Hoisington, and Minneapolis. This squad had a total of thirty-two members and ended the season ranked as tenth in the state, and tied for first in the central Prairie League with Lyons.

The 1950 season was Mr. Conley's poorest in regards to games won and lost. The 1950 squad won five games, lost three and tied one. Wins were over Hoisington, Sterling, Ellsworth, Chase, and Larned. The three losses were to St. John, Lyons, and Claflin. The lone tie came with Lindsborg. The team managed a tie for second place in the Central Prairie League standings.

In 1951, Mr. Conley led his team to another second place finish in the Central Prairie League and a seasons record of Seven wins, two losses and one tie. Victories came over Hoisington, Sterling, Ellsworth, Chase, Larned, Lindsborg, and Claflin. Ellinwood was defeated by Lyons and Stafford and tied with St. John.

The 1952 squad played nine games, winning seven, losing one and tying one. This year the Ellinwood Eagles placed third in



hired as the head football coach in 1955. He was a graduate of Emporia State and taught drivers training and physical education. He served as head coach of football for five years. During this five year period, his teams won twenty-seven games, lost sixteen and tied one. Under the direction of Mr. Rodee, Ellinwood High had only one losing season, this coming in his last year as the head coach.

In 1955 the Eagles won six games, lost two and tied one. Wins were over Stafford, Hoisington, Sterling, Lindsborg, Ellsworth and Jetmore. Losses were to Lyons and St. John, and the one tie was with Chase.

The 1956 football season was a very successful one with eight wins and no losses. This team finished the season undefeated and untied as well as the Central Prairie League champions. At the end of this years football season the Eagles were ranked tenth in the state by the Associated Press. This team scored at least one touchdown in every quarter in every game. The 1956 Eagles were also the highest scoring team in the state with three hundred and forty-two points.

The 1957 squad played nine games, winning seven and losing two. The Eagles finished second in league play and won games over St. John, Sterling, Stafford, Ellsworth, Lindsborg, Hays Cadets, and Lyons. They lost to Clay Center, and Hoisington.

The 1958 football team won six games and lost three. They were third in Central Prairie League play. Victories were over Chase, St. John, Sterling, Stafford, Ellsworth, and Lyons. They lost to Lindsborg, Hoisington, and Hays Cadets.

Central Prairie League play, the lowest of any Conley coached teams. Wins were over St. John, Hoisington, Sterling, Chase, Lindsborg, Plainview, Wichita, and Claflin. The one loss was to Ellsworth and the tie was with Lyons, the Central Prairie League Champions.

1953 brought with it an undisputed first place finish in league play, an undefeated team and a ninth place ranking among the states top ten teams. It was from this team that Ellinwood was honored with their first all-state football player in Charlie Norris. Norris averaged 18 yards per carry and scored one hundred sixty-six points. He scored twenty-four touchdowns and kicked or ran twenty-two extra points. Another Eagle half back, Jim Wells, received honorable mention all-state for his contributions to the team.

This team was the highest scoring football team in the state with a grand total of four hundred and eight points.

Mr. Conley received an offer to coach at Synder, Texas, and by his request was released from his contract in February of 1954 to take this new coaching position.

#### Robert Powers (1954 through 1955)

Mr. Robert Powers, a graduate of Pittsburg State, was employed as the new head coach in football. Mr. Powers taught English II.

Mr. Powers's lone season was somewhat dismal as the Eagles won three games, and lost six, finishing seventh in the Central Prairie League.

#### Myron Rodee (1955 through 1960)

Mr. Myron Rodee, after serving as assistant coach under John Conley for two years and under Robert Powers for one year, was

In 1959 the Eagles lost every game. The worst season for an Eagle team in thirteen years. This year marked a season when only one returning letterman was starting. A lack of varsity experience was the main cause of this poor showing.

Mr. Rodee was assisted with coaching duties by Mr. Robert Robins, the head basketball coach. Also, during the 1958 and 1959 seasons, Mr. George Cusick, Mr. Asel Harder, and Mr. Wallace Good served as junior varsity assistants.

#### William Baughman (1960 through 1966)

Mr. William (Bill) Baughman coached six years at Ellinwood High School. Mr. Baughman was graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University and taught American History, American Government and drivers training. Enrollment at Ellinwood High School ranged from 218 to 267 during this six-year period.

Mr. Baughman's football teams compiled a six-year record of twenty-nine wins, twenty-one losses, and four ties. In 1961 his team won the Central Prairie League Championship and was undefeated and untied in nine games. Mr. Baughman had three winning seasons and three losing seasons. His teams placed second in the league in 1960 and again in 1965 (tied with three teams). Perhaps his poorest season came in 1962 when the Eagles won two, lost six and tied one, finishing in seventh place in league play.

The 1963 team compiled a record of three wins, five losses and one tie. This squad finished in fifth place in Central Prairie League play.

Mr. Baughman's 1964 Eagles won four and lost five. The team finished in fourth place in league competition. Mr. Baughman was fortunate to have Carl Spry, offensive end picked to represent Ellinwood on the all-state Topeka Capitol football team. Spry set the school record for total yards receiving in one season with 440. He also has the school record for most touchdown passes caught with a total of thirteen.

Mr. Baughman was assisted in his football program by Mr. Robert Robins, Mr. Roger Stremel and Mr. Jack Bowman. Mr. Robins serving as varsity assistant and Mr. Bowman and Mr. Stremel as junior varsity head coach and assistant.

#### Jack Bowman (1966 through 1968)

Mr. Jack Bowman, a graduate of Bethany College, was hired in 1966 to coach football along with his track and cross-country duties. Mr. Bowman came to the Ellinwood faculty as head coach of track in 1960. He served as junior varsity head coach for six years under William Baughman. Mr. Bowman teaches social studies and physical education at Ellinwood High School.

In the two seasons that this writer has been at the helm, the football teams have won fourteen games and lost four. During these two years one hundred and thirty boys participated in football.

In 1966 Mr. Bowman's team tied for first place in the Central Prairie League. The team won eight games and lost one. Wins were over Sacred Heart of Salina, St. John, Ellsworth, Holsington, Lyons, Lindsborg, Iarned and Stafford. The lone loss was at the hands of Sterling. The 1966 team led the Central Prairie League in offense

and defense. They scored the most points of any Ellinwood 11 since 1956 and held their opponents to the least number of points since 1944. Niles Hauser, a guard on the 1966 team was selected as a second team all-stater and Mike Scheufler received all-state honorable mention.

The 1967 squad managed a tie for second place in league competition and won six games while losing three. The team won from St. John, Sterling, Stafford, Lyons, Larned, and Lindsborg, losing to Sacred Heart of Salina, Ellsworth, and Hoisington. Jack Christiansen was selected as a class-B all-state tackle and voted by teammates and coaches to receive the Ronald G. Brown "Most Inspirational Athletic Award" in football for the 1967 season. This award was established for football, basketball and track in memory of the late Ronnie Brown. Ronnie was killed while working out for track practice in the spring of 1967.

During the 1966 season, Mr. Bowman was assisted by Mr. Terrence Masterson and Mr. Larry Peter in the varsity program. Mr. Roger Stremel and Mr. Larry Vogt were head and assistant coaches on the junior varsity level.

Mr. Lester Herrman replaced Mr. Masterson for the 1967 season and the other coaches retained their respective duties.

Mr. Bowman resigned the football coaching position, effective for the 1968-1969 school year.

#### Summary of Football Season Records

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>
1908	0	1	0
1911	0	1	0

## Summary of Football Season Records (continued)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>
1912	0	3	0
1913	0	1	0
1928	0	6	0
1929	2	4	1
1930	6	2	0
1931	6	0	2
1932	8	0	0
1933	5	2	1
1934	1	5	1
1935	0	7	0
1936	0	7	1
1937	3	2	3
1938	5	3	0
1939	3	4	1
1940	2	4	3
1941	5	2	2
1942	7	0	2
1943	9	0	0
1944	8	0	0
1945	8	1	0
1946	0	9	0
1947	0	6	3
1948	5	3	1
1949	7	3	0
1950	5	3	1
1951	7	2	1

## Summary of Football Season Records (continued)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>
1952	7	1	1
1953	9	0	0
1954	3	6	0
1955	6	2	1
1956	8	0	0
1957	7	2	0
1958	6	3	0
1959	0	9	0
1960	6	3	0
1961	9	0	0
1962	2	6	1
1963	3	5	1
1964	4	5	0
1965	5	2	2
1966	8	1	0
1967	6	3	0

In forty-four seasons of football Ellinwood High School has had ten football coaches with an average tenure of 4.4 years. Mr. Arthur Olson has the distinction of serving longer than any other football coach--twelve years from 1937 to 1949. Of the ten football coaches, three have served in this capacity for only one year. Bethany College having the distinction of providing two or 20 per cent of the football coaches for Ellinwood.

Football teams over the years have had from eleven boys in 1911 to seventy boys participating in the 1967 program. Of the 351

football games played in these forty-four years, Ellinwood High School has won 194 or 55 per cent, lost 128 or 36.5 per cent, and recorded twenty-nine ties or 8.5 per cent. There have been twenty-six winning seasons and seventeen losing seasons.

## BASKETBALL

Sports competition was introduced in the 1908-1909 school year. At this time the athletic program included baseball and basketball.

Basketball was played on a year to year basis and then only intramurals, providing student enrollment was sufficient to support a program.

The sport was played at Ellinwood in 1912 through 1915 on an intramural basis, competition afforded by class and faculty teams. A large per cent of the credit for introducing basketball into the high school is given to Charles Herold, a student at Ellinwood and manager of the intramural program in 1912.

The lack of indoor court facilities made it difficult to schedule games with outside teams. All games were played on hard dirt courts located near the school.

As interest in the sport grew, games and practices were staged in whatever building in town was vacant at the time, and could be transformed into a playing area. It was in 1917 that the first gymnasium, as such, was improvised in the local dance hall, called Maennerchor Hall. This first official school basketball team played thirteen games, five of them being home games. Maennerchor Hall was used for basketball from 1917 to 1926.



In 1926, a new school building was completed. This structure included what seemed at the time a fine gymnasium and athletic facility. It's dimensions were thirty-eight feet wide, sixty-eight feet long, and the ceiling was twenty-two feet high. The seating capacity of the gymnasium was around 300 people. Ellinwood received many compliments on their new gymnasium, and was invited to hold many county and later state sponsored tournaments.

In 1953 a bond issue for school improvements was approved, amounting to \$253,953.82 and the plans included a new and larger gymnasium. This facility is in use at this writing. This gymnasium comfortably accomodates 1,600 people. The dressing room facilities are inadequate, due to their small size, but have served very well for several years.

The basketball program received a boost when new dressing rooms were included in the new library-classroom complex, being completed this summer, making a total of four dressing rooms. The new dressing rooms are of the most modern design.

Glenn L. Wycoff (1916 through 1917)

Mr. Wycoff was superintendent of the Ellinwood schools from 1915 to 1917. During his stay at Ellinwood, he was instrumental in organizing a basketball team to play other schools in the area.

The 1917 squad had a total of seven members. They played a thirteen game schedule and managed to win three of the thirteen played. Wins came over Bushton, Hoisington, and Chase. Losses in this first year were to Lorraine, Lyons (twice), Bushton, Great Bend, Buhler, Chase, and Claflin (twice). Alden also defeated Ellinwood in two practice games.

Squad members for this first basketball team were as follows:

Edwin Hengstenberg, Norman Heim, Clarence Doherty, Jacob, Ben Jackson, Milton Isern, and Frank Kimpler.

#### No Records (1917 through 1920)

There are no records available to substantiate the basketball program during these years.

#### No Coach (1920 through 1922)

Due to the shortage of men teachers, no coach was available to handle the basketball program.

The high school Athletic Association sponsored the team and in the 1920-1921 season, the team won ten games and lost five. The nine opponents were Claflin, Sterling, Great Bend, Larned, Lyons, Spearville, Garfield, Pawnee Rock, and Holyrood.

The 1921-1922 team added one more game to their previous schedule, Raymond High was the new opponent. During this season Ellinwood won nine games and lost seven.

#### Everett Wood (1922 through 1923)

Mr. Wood's 1922-1923 basketball team played a limited schedule of eleven games. This season was quite unsuccessful in that the team won only one game, while losing ten.

#### E. H. Mattingly (1923 through 1929)

Mr. Mattingly taught manual training at Ellinwood High School. He was graduate of Emporia State, and served as basketball coach at

Ellinwood for six seasons. His record for this six-year tenure was twenty-six wins and forty-three losses.

Although only winning eight games the 1923-1924 team was credited with developing one of the most dangerous offensive and defensive machines in the area. As a reward for the fine spirit and sportsmanship displayed by the team through out the season, the school sent the team to the Kinsley tournament, taking third place in class C.

During the 1925-1926 season, the new gymnasium was completed. Ellinwood High School played the local City team. The City team won the game 20-16. The team finished the season with six wins and seven losses.

In 1926-1927, Ellinwood was host to the Barton County Tournament. Ellinwood was eliminated in the first game by Pawnee Rock, the eventual tournament winner. Mr. Mattingly's 1926-1927 squad won four games over the following: Hudson, Alden, Claflin, and Radium. They lost six games.

The 1927-1928 squad won only three games and lost seven. The squad was very small, due to the few boys in school. According to the Pepster, a school publication, Ellinwood High enrollment was ninety-seven students in January of 1927. A highlight of the 1927-1928 season was trip to Missouri where the team played in the home town of Coach Mattingly. One game was played in Mindenmines, Missouri, and the other in the nearby city of Liberal, Missouri. Ellinwood lost both games, but a good time was had by the visitors from Kansas.

Mr. Mattingly's 1928-1929 team failed to add more than three wins to their credit, while losing eleven. Ellinwood was host to a state sponsored district tournament in 1929. Ellinwood received the invitation to hold this tournament due to their excellent facilities.

Joe Bronson (1929 through 1934)

Mr. Bronson's 1929-1930 squad consisted of twenty boys, one of the larger groups out for basketball in many years. The team won five games and lost eight.

In 1930-1931 the Bronson coached basketball team won six games and lost seven, an improvement over the previous years record.

Mr. Bronson's 1931-1932 team played a seventeen game schedule, the heaviest schedule to date for Ellinwood High School. During this season Ellinwood was a member of the newly formed basketball league called the Barton Education Association League. Ellinwood won four games in league play while losing four, finishing in a tie for third place. Ellinwood played Bird City in the regional tournament in Hays, Bird City winning 28-24. This game was one of the first games in Kansas where a team used the full court press on defense. According to the Ellinwood Leader, the city newspaper, March 7, 1929, issue, Bird City completely dominated the game with the application of the press and fast breaking offense.

The 1932-1933 squad played eighteen games, winning thirteen and losing five. This team won nine straight games before being defeated. Four new opponents were added to the schedule for the 1932-1933 season. They were as follows: Nickerson, Bison, Buhler,

and Jetmore. Ellinwood was again chosen to hold a district tournament for the state eliminations. The team played in the McPherson tournament, the LaCrosse tournament and the Ellinwood district, being eliminated in the first round in all three tournaments.

In the 1933-1934 season, Mr. Bronson led his team through a twelve game schedule, winning five and losing seven. The team played seven games as a member of the Central Prairie League, winning three and losing four. The season's highlight was Christmas holiday trip to western Kansas to play Scott City and Leoti. Ellinwood lost both of these games. This marked the first year for Ellinwood to be classified as an "A" school.

Reuben E. Bowman (1934 through 1937)

During Mr. Bowman's three years as basketball coach at Ellinwood High School, his teams won ten games and lost thirty-seven. All three seasons were somewhat dismal. Mr. Bowman's second year (1935-1936) was his best when his team won seven and lost ten.

Arthur Olson (1937 through 1948)

Mr. Olson served as the head coach of basketball at Ellinwood for eleven years. During this period his teams won fifty-nine games and lost one hundred and twenty-eight. His teams never recorded a winning season. Mr. Olson's teams played from a schedule calling for thirteen games in the 1942-1943 season to a twenty game schedule in 1938-1939 and the 1945-1956 seasons, never winning more than nine games in one season. The 1944-1945 team managed a third

place finish in Central Prairie League play and a second place finish in the district tournament.

Jerry Redmon and Ronald Hall were selected from Mr. Olson's 1946-1947 team as all-league. Redmon making the first team and Hall being chosen for honorable mention. From the 1947-1948 team, Gene Koch was selected to the all-league team.

Mr. J. R. Linville served as Mr. Olson's assistant coach from 1946 through 1949 when he became head coach of basketball.

#### J. R. Linville (1948 through 1949)

After the Board of Education had decided to separate the football and basketball coaching duties, Mr. Linville became the first head basketball coach in the schools history.

During Mr. Linville's one year as basketball coach, his squad won six games and lost thirteen. The victories were over Chase, Claflin, (twice) Ellsworth, Lindsborg, and Sterling.

Norman Thorsen was selected to the Central Prairie League first team and Richard Moos was chosen to the second team, with John Franklin Doll being honorable mention.

#### John Conley (1949 through 1954)

Mr. Conley was hired as the basketball coach in 1949. In his first year as coach, his team won the first Central Prairie League Championship since Ellinwood joined the league. The team also placed third in the regional. The 1949-1950 squad won seventeen games and lost only four. This was the best record of any team since 1931-1932. From this team three boys were selected to

represent Ellinwood High School on the Central Prairie League all-star team. Norman Thorson was placed on the first team and William (Bill) Ernsting and Richard Moos were selected for the second team.

The 1950-1951 team was not to be outdone, and they improved on the previous record by winning one more game and also repeating as Central Prairie League Champions. This team also won third place in the regional.

In 1951-1952, the squad won seventeen games and lost three. They also won the Central Prairie League Championship, making it three C. P. L. Championships in a row.

Mr. Conley's 1952-1953 season was his only losing team, however, with the five wins and sixteen losses, Mr. Conley's record for his first four complete years was fifty-seven wins and twenty-seven losses.

In February of 1954, Mr. Conley received the opportunity to accept a coaching position in Synder, Texas. Following Mr. Conley's resignation, Mr. Don Binford a graduate of Texas A and M, serving up to this time as assistant coach, took over the head coaching responsibilities.

It was during Mr. Conley's tenure at Ellinwood that the new gymnasium was completed. This new addition was completed in 1953 and is at present still in use as the school's gymnasium. This improvement to the physical plant enabled the school to host many invitational and state sponsored tournaments.

Mr. Kenneth Secrist served as Mr. Conley's assistant coach in the 1949-1950 season. In 1951-1952, Mr. George K. Miller was hired as assistant coach to Mr. Conley, he served in the same capacity the following year.



Robert Robins (1954 through 1968)

Mr. Robins, a graduate of Kansas State University was the newly hired basketball coach at Ellinwood High School. He has served in this capacity for fourteen years and is currently serving in this same position.

During these fourteen years, Mr. Robins's teams have won one hundred forty-seven games, while losing one hundred thirty-four.

His teams have placed in the Central Prairie League as follows: First (outright)-twice, tied for first-twice, second-twice, third-once, fifth-twice, seventh-three times, and eighth-twice.

Perhaps the highlight of Mr. Robins tenure was the 1956-1957 season, when his team won the Central Prairie League Championship outright, won first place trophies in the district and regional tournament and placed second in the state tournament at Hutchinson, losing to Clay Center in the finals.

The teams and scores of this state tournament were as follows: first game-Marysville 56-43, second game-Girard 71-47, final game-Clay Center 43-47. This second place accomplishment was the highest placement in state tournament competition of any team in the history of Ellinwood High School. Arnie Link and Bob Veach were named to the all-tourney first team, Jim Schartz was selected on the second team.

Again, in 1962, the Ellinwood Eagles played in this same state tournament at Hutchinson, Kansas. The Eagles were defeated in the first game by Centre of Lincolnville 38-31.

In regards to district and regional competition, Mr. Robins's teams have won two district championships, the class A District in



1956-1957 and the class B district in 1968. His 1956-1957 squad won first place in class A regional play. The next two seasons, they placed second in the regional tournament. In the 1957-1958 and 1958-1959 district tournaments, Ellinwood placed second. In the 1967-1968 class B regional held in Claflin, the Eagles placed fourth.

Danny Robins, son of Coach Robins, was selected by the team and coaches to receive the Ronald G. Brown "Most Inspirational Athletic Award" in basketball for the 1967-1968 season.

#### Summary of Basketball Season Records

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>
1912-1916	Intramurals--No records available	
1916-1917	3	10
1917-1920	No records available	
1920-1921	10	5
1921-1922	9	7
1922-1923	1	10
1923-1924	8	5
1924-1925	2	8
1925-1926	6	7
1926-1927	4	6
1927-1928	3	7
1928-1929	3	11
1929-1930	5	8
1930-1931	6	7
1931-1932	8	9
1932-1933	13	5

## Summary of Basketball Season Records (continued)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>
1933-1934	5	7
1934-1935	3	12
1935-1936	7	10
1936-1937	0	15
1937-1938	4	13
1938-1939	9	11
1939-1940	2	14
1940-1941	1	16
1941-1942	4	11
1942-1943	3	10
1943-1944	3	12
1944-1945	9	10
1945-1946	9	11
1946-1947	7	11
1947-1948	8	10
1948-1949	6	13
1949-1950	17	4
1950-1951	18	4
1951-1952	17	3
1952-1953	5	16
1953-1954	4	14
1954-1955	1	17
1955-1956	4	15
1956-1957	19	6
1957-1958	17	6
1958-1959	18	4

## Summary of Basketball Season Records (continued)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>
1959-1960	2	16
1960-1961	12	6
1961-1962	19	5
1962-1963	7	11
1963-1964	6	10
1964-1965	18	3
1965-1966	6	12
1966-1967	4	15
1967-1968	14	8

In forty-nine years of basketball records there have been eleven coaches with an average tenure of 4.4 years. Mr. Robert Robins, who was hired as basketball coach in 1954 and is still serving in this capacity at this writing, has the distinction of serving longer than any other basketball coach--next year being his fifteenth season. Two, or about one-fifth, of the eleven basketball coaches graduated from Kansas State University, (College).

Basketball squads over the years have numbered from seven to thirty players. Of the 837 basketball games played during this time, Ellinwood has won 369 or forty-four per cent while losing 468 or fifty-six per cent. Only fourteen of the forty-nine seasons have been victorious, i.e., won over half of the games played.

## TRACK

Track was introduced at Ellinwood High School in the year 1911. Meets were held on school grounds and on roads surrounding the

school yard. Ellinwood did not have track facilities until 1964, when the school's first official 440 yard, six-lane track was completed. Up until this time, all track practices were held on the football field and on the immediate area surrounding the field.

This new track was one of the first all-weather tracks constructed in Kansas. Blue-prints called for an eight-lane straight-away, with thirty-six inch lanes, one hundred and sixty yards long, with the back side of the track having six, thirty-six inch lanes.

The first official track meet ever held in Ellinwood was the Central Prairie League track meet in 1964. Hoisington won this C. P. L. track meet.

In the spring of 1911, the athletic association, under the sponsorship of Superintendent H. E. Powers, conducted track practice and attended the Central Kansas track meet at Hutchinson. However, due to the lack of outstanding athletics and supervised coaching, no points were scored in any of the events.

#### Charles F. Grabske (1911 through 1912)

Mr. Charles F. Grabske was the first track coach at Ellinwood High School. Mr. Grabske did not teach in the school system. He was a business man hired to coach spring sports for the high school athletic program.

The spring of 1912, according to the Ellinwood Leader, March, 1912, issue, was somewhat inclimate for track. However, the team did manage to work out and attend two track meets, the Central Kansas track meet at Hutchinson and the county track meet held at Ellinwood. The Athletic Association under the leadership of

Curtis E. Stephan sponsored the meet. Twelve surrounding rural county schools were invited. Ellinwood placed second in the meet.

Some of the track records for practice and meets were recorded with the following being the seasons best.

Aubrey Smith	100 yard Dash	11.0 seconds
Elbert Smith	220 yard Dash	27.45 seconds
William Ernsting	880 yard Run	2:30.0
Ralph Tullis	Mile Run	5:43.0
Ferry Gafford	Discus	101 feet
Charles Herold	Shot Put	37 feet
Leon Ruddick	Pole Vault	9 feet 3 inches
Mile Relay		4:30.0

#### F. W. Huntington (1912 through 1913)

Mr. Huntington was hired as spring sports coach for the 1913 season. Records do not show Mr. Huntington as being a member of the school staff. Mr. Huntington was very interested in helping young boys, and he especially liked to coach track and field events.

The track season was not very promising in 1913, as most of the better track athletes went out for baseball.

At the Barton County track and field meet, Ellinwood High School had two representatives, Leon Ruddick and Albert Rock. Superintendent F. E. Powers ran in the special superintendent's race. Leon Ruddick won first place in the pole vault with a height of 7 feet 9 inches and immediately following the meet vaulted 9 feet 6 inches. He also took second place in the high jump with 5 feet 4 inches. Superintendent Powers won the seventy-five yard dash.

Seven new school records were posted in 1913. They were as follows:

Elbert Smith	220 yard Dash	27.35 seconds
Aubrey Smith	440 yard Dash	58.0 seconds
William Ernsting	880 yard Run	2 min. 18 sec.
Ralph Tullis	One Mile Run	5 min. 42 sec.
Leon Ruddick	Pole Vault	9 feet 6 inches
Leon Ruddick	High Jump	5 feet 4 inches
Charles Herold	Shot Put	37 feet 2 inches
Harry Gafford	Discus	101 feet 2 inches

No Track Records Available (1914 through 1921)

William Gray (1921 through 1922)

Mr. William Gray, Superintendent of the Ellinwood schools served as sponsor to the athletic association, and through this organization a track program was sponsored. The team attended the Barton County Literary and Field day meet.

The 1921 squad placed several men in the county event with Orin Turck receiving a medal for high scorer in the meet. Turck won the 100 yard Dash with a record time of 10.2 seconds. He also won the 220 yard Dash, the 50 yard Dash, and placed second in the 120 yard Hurdles. Frank Birzer took fourth in the mile. Everett Barnes won the high jump and placed second in the pole vault. Albert Iten won first place in the discus and Cecil Vossen placed fourth in the broad jump.

## Everett Wood (1922 through 1923)

In 1922 the track team was under the direction of Mr. Everett Wood. The team competed in the Barton County Literary and Field Day meet. Ellinwood placed fourth in this meet.

Albert Iten set a new school record in the discus with a heave of 101 feet and 8 inches. Frank Birzer placed fourth in the 50 yard dash, Frederick Kienzle took second in the pole vault and Norbert Werner placed fourth in the 440 yard dash.

A high light of the 1923 track season was the purchasing of new letter sweaters by the team. The sweaters were blue with red lettering. The total cost of the sweaters being divided equally among the boys and the school.

## E. H. Mattingly (1923 through 1927)

In 1923 thirteen boys participated in track. This squad competed in three dual meets--Hoisington, Holyrood and Pawnee Rock. Ellinwood won over Holyrood and Pawnee Rock, while losing to Hoisington.

Mr. Mattingly's 1924 track team consisted of eighteen members, the largest in school history. The schedule called for two dual meets, to be held with Pawnee Rock and Hoisington and the Barton County Meet. The team lost to Hoisington, won over Pawnee Rock and placed fourth in the county meet. Albert Iten broke his own school record in the discus with a toss of 111 feet, and Frederick Kienzle set a new school record in the pole vault with a winning height of 10 feet. A highlight of this season's efforts came when the team

was invited to compete in the Wichita Missouri Valley Invitational Track Meet. Albert Iten placed third in the discus and tied for second place in the shot put.

The 1925 squad competed against Pawnee Rock and Great Bend in dual meets and attended the county meet at Great Bend. The season was unsuccessful as they lost both dual meets and did not score in the county meet.

In 1926 under Coach Mattingly, Clarence Schneider set a new school record in the pole vault with a vault of 10 feet 4 inches, his vaulting pole broke as he was clearing the bar, and he landed on his shoulder and back, however, no injury was sustained. Ellinwood did not enter the Barton County Track Meet in 1925.

The lone track meet in 1927 was the County Meet at Great Bend. This was the first year that the meet was divided into classes. Ellinwood competed in class B with Pawnee Rock and Claflin, and placed third. Martin Birzer ran the 220 yard dash in 22.5 seconds to lower the school's record in that event.

Track was discontinued at Ellinwood High School in favor of baseball from the spring of 1928 through the spring of 1929.

#### Joe Bronson (1930 through 1933)

Track was again resumed in 1930 when Ellinwood participated in the County Track Meet. The 1930 squad consisted of nineteen boys and the team placed third in the county track meet. Milton Lebbin was invited to attend the Wichita University Invitational Relays and competed in the high and low hurdles and the high jump. Lebbin placed fourth in the low hurdles, fifth in the high hurdles



and tied for first in the high jump with a leap of 6 feet 2 inches, a new school record.

In 1931 ten boys participated in track. This squad was represented at the state meet by Martin Birzer who qualified in the 100 yard and 220 yard dashes. Milton Lebbin and Phil Koelsch were strong competitors in the hurdle events. Spring athletics were very limited this year due to the suspension of several athletes for violating the training rules.

Mr. Bronson's 1932 team competed in a track dual with Holyrood and won easily. Milton Lebbin, Leo Galyardt and Martin Birzer were outstanding performers on the 1932 squad.

In 1933 and 1934, track was again dropped in favor of other spring sports.

#### R. E. Bowman (1934 through 1937)

Under the coaching of Mr. Bowman, Ellinwood track teams participated nearly every year in the Sterling Relays, Central Prairie League Meet, dual meets with Stafford, Sterling and Hoisington. Virgil McIntire qualified for the state meet in the pole vault, along with Vernon Downey in the discus, however, neither placed in the state competition.

In 1937 Mr. Bowman's track squad scored eleven points in the Central Prairie League Meet. Clarence Nichols won first place in the broad jump and placed fourth in the pole vault. Vernon Downey won the discus. The following schools participated in the meet: Hoisington, Stafford, Sterling and Ellinwood.

## Arthur Olson (1937 through 1949)

In 1938 eight boys composed the track squad under the direction of Mr. Olson. The schedule called for a triangular meet with Sterling and Stafford, the Sterling Relays and also for the team to attend the Central Prairie League Meet. Vernon Downey established a new league record in the discus with a toss of 108 feet 7 inches.

In the Central Prairie League Meet of 1939, Ellinwood tied for last place with Ellsworth with thirteen points.

The 1940 squad competed in a triangular meet with Bushton and Geneseo, the Great Bend Invitational and at the regional meet in Hutchinson. Doster Daniels qualified for the state meet at Emporia by winning the shot put with a toss of 44 feet and 6.5 inches. This also set a new school record.

In 1941 more interest was shown for the sport of track than ever before in Ellinwood High history. Thirty-one boys were checked out for the sport. The team placed fourth out of field of five teams in the Central Prairie League Meet. Charles Miller tied the league record for the 440 yard dash in 54.0 seconds flat.

Mr. Olson's 1942 track team was considered to be a strong competitor on an area basis. They placed third in the Great Bend Invitational, fourth in the Central Prairie League, third in a triangular with Little River and Chase. Ellinwood qualified several boys for the regional meet at Hutchinson and also two boys for state competition at Wichita, however, it was agreed that because of gas rationing and transportation difficulties caused by World War II, the team agreed not to compete in the state meet.

In 1943 Mr. Olson's track squad took second place in the Central Prairie League Meet, the highest of any Ellinwood track team. They also placed second in the five team invitation at Great Bend and won a dual victory over Great Bend. This team sent five men to the state track meet, another high for Ellinwood. Joe Wirtz in the 880 yard run, Ralph Bryant in the 440 yard dash, Billy Hall in the pole vault and Preston Day in the javelin.

In 1944 Mr. Olson arranged his schedule to include only those track meets that would limit excessive travel due to the tire and gasoline ration. Ellinwood lost a dual meet to Great Bend and placed second in a triangular meet with Sterling and Stafford.

In 1945 Ellinwood placed third at the Sterling Relays with eighteen points. Harold Norris won the 220 yard dash with a meet record time of 22.8. He also won the 200 yard low hurdles. Clarence Thorsen placed fourth in the 200 yard low hurdles. Eugene Johnson took third place in the 220 yard dash and the 880 relay team, made up of Johnson, Neff, Thorsen and Norris took first place. Twenty-three boys were out for track in 1945 and eight of these boys represented Ellinwood in the regional meet at Hutchinson. Harold Norris won both the 100 and the 220 yard dash at the regional. He went on to become Ellinwoods first state champion, winning the 220 yard dash at the state meet and placing second in the 100 yard dash.

1946 was Mr. Olson's most successful season as track coach. His team placed third in the Central Prairie League Meet, won a triangular over Claflin and Bushton, placed fourth at the Sterling Relays, third at the Anthony Relays and third at the regional in Hutchinson. Harold Norris and Leland Mantel competed in the state

meet. Norris placing third in the 100 yard dash and second in the 220 yard dash. Mantel took fourth place in the shot put.

Records are not available for the 1947 and 1948 seasons. Ellinwood did compete in some track meets, however, interest was very low and the team competed in only two or three meets.

In the spring of 1949 fifteen boys participated in track. Ellinwood lost a dual meet with Chase and took third place in a triangular with Sterling and Nickerson.

#### John Conley (1949 through 1953)

Under Mr. Conley interest in track was given a boost. Twenty-nine boys were out for the sport in 1950. The team competed in dual track meets with Ellsworth and Holington, losing both. They also attended the Sterling Relays and the Larned Relays where they placed third. Ellinwood lost a triangular meet with Wilson and Ellsworth. The 1950 squad placed fourth out of six teams that participated in the Central Prairie League Meet. Richard Moos won two first places, in the broad jump with a leap of 19 feet and 4 inches, and the discus with a toss of 121 feet and 9 inches, a new school record. Norman Thorson won the shot put with a heave of forty-two feet and 3.25 inches.

In 1951 Ellinwood won a dual meet with Ellsworth and placed third in a triangular with Stafford and St. John. Mr. Conley had seventeen boys on the squad.

Nineteen boys participated in track in 1952. Mr. Conley's team competed in several meets around the area. The team again placed fourth in the Central Prairie League Meet, missing third

place by one-fourth point. Wayne Wilson added his name to the school records by running the mile in 5 minutes 4 seconds.

The 1953 track team were considered to be one of the best track teams in the school's history. The team placed sixth at the Sterling Relays, fourth at Larned, and second in the Central Prairie League Meet. Charlie Norris broke one record and tied another at the Sterling relays. Ellinwood scored fifteen points to finish in sixth place. Norris ran the 100 yard dash in 10.25 to break the old record of 10.3 seconds. He tied his brother Harold's record in the 220 yard dash, set several years before at 22.8 seconds. Norris also represented Ellinwood in the state meet, placing in the 100 and 220 yard dashes.

#### Myron Rodee (1954 through 1955)

Mr. Rodee was hired to coach freshman football for the fall of 1954 and inherited the duties of track coach in the spring. Fourteen boys took part in track in 1954. Charlie Norris set a new record in the 440 yard dash at the Sterling Relays with a time of 52.75 seconds. He also won the 100 yard dash with a meet tying time of 10.3 seconds, and the 220 yard dash with a time of 23.3 seconds. Ellinwood placed fifth in the Central Prairie League Meet.

#### Robert L. Powers and Robert Robins (1955 through 1956)

Co-coaches for the 1955 track season were Robert L. Powers and Robert Robins. There were thirty-four boys out for the team, one of the largest squads in school history. The team competed in the Sterling Relays, Central Prairie League Meet, Stafford Invitational and the Emporia Relays. No records were set during this season.

### Myron Rodee and Robert Robins (1956 through 1957)

Again in 1956 co-coaches were used in track, Mr. Rodee and Mr. Robins. The two coaches had twenty-four boys out for the team and several school and area meet records were set. Pat Rickert set a new school record in the high hurdles with a time of 15.9 seconds, he also set the school record in the low hurdles at 20.1 seconds. Both hurdle records were set in the Emporia Relays and Ellinwood won the class A division of the meet. Milton Schwertfeger won first in the high jump in the same meet with a new school record of 6 feet 3.5 inches. All three of these records still stand on the record board. Ellinwood placed third in the Central Prairie League Meet.

### Myron Rodee (1957 through 1960)

Under Mr. Rodee, Ellinwood's track teams participated nearly every year in the Sterling Relays, Emporia Relays, Hoisington Relays, Larned Relays, Kinsley Relays and the Central Prairie League Meet. They also had dual meets with area teams, primarily Hoisington, Pratt, Stafford and Ellsworth. The squad ranged from fourteen members to around twenty-four members and never placed higher than fifth in the Central Prairie League Meet from 1957 through 1961.

### Jack Bowman (1960 through 1968)

Mr. Jack Bowman was the first qualified individual to be employed specifically for the purpose of coaching track at Ellinwood High School. Previous to this time, the football coaches had always

served as head track coach. Since the fall of 1960, there have been head coaches in football, basketball, and track.

Mr. Bowman was a graduate of Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. Track squads under the tutelage of Mr. Bowman have averaged approximately fifty boys. During Mr. Bowman's eight years at the helm, teams have participated in the following meets: Sterling Relays, State Indoor Track Meet at Manhattan, Larned Relays, Garden City Relays, Stafford Relays, St. John Relays, Sacred Heart Invitational, Abilene Relays, Russell Relays, Buhler Relays, Central Prairie League and the State Regional and State Outdoor Championships. Mr. Bowman has had at least one athlete qualify for state competition every year during his reign as track coach at Ellinwood.

Eagle runners under Mr. Bowman are responsible for nineteen outdoor school records and eight indoor school records. The indoor records being establish at the Kansas State High School Indoor Championships held in Ahearn Fieldhouse in Manhattan.

The Ellinwood Eagles are currently the Central Prairie League Track Champions, having won this championship for the following years: 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. The team won two consecutive regional championships, 1967 and 1968.

Mr. Bowman's 1961 squad had twenty-four members. They took part in nine seasonal meets and placed last in the Central Prairie League meet with eleven points.

The 1962 track team had thirty-two members. They placed in most all of their scheduled meets among the top four teams. Jack Harms set a new League record in the 880 yard run with a time of 2 minutes 3.9 seconds. He also set a new school record in this



same event with a clocking of 2 minutes 2.9 seconds at the state meet. John Brown tied the school record in the 100 yard dash with 10.2 seconds.

In 1963 the track squad numbered forty boys. Eddie Batchman broke Jack Harm's league record in the 880 yard run. Batchman's time was 2 minutes 3.7 seconds.

The 1964 track team placed third in the Central Prairie League Meet and managed several second and third place finishes in other regular season meets.

In the 1964 State Indoor meet at Manhattan, Ellinwood's mile relay team of David Ames, Richard Conwell, Bill Chain and Jim Wheateroft won the state championship in that event. Their time of 3 minutes 37.1 seconds was a new school record and stood as such until the same event was run in 1968. A medley relay team consisting of Richard Conwell, David Ames, Jim Wheateroft and Errol Fildes took third place in the state meet, setting a new school record of 3 minutes 39.6 seconds.

The most exciting event in Ellinwood track history was in the spring of 1965 when the Eagles upset favored Hoisington, the then reigning state champs and undefeated for two straight years. This big event was the Central Prairie League Meet held at Hoisington. The final score was Ellinwood fifty-eight and a half points, and Hoisington fifty-six. This first ever Central Prairie League Championship resulted from placing many seconds and thirds in practically all events. Of the sixteen events the Eagles placed first in three: David Ames in the 440 yard dash, Jim Wheateroft in broad jump and Henry Wolf in the shot put. The victory, a team



effort, taxed every performer to his capacity. Eighteen boys received letters for their efforts in the track program for 1965. Richard Conwell, although placing second, set a new school record in the 100 yard dash with a performance of 9.95 seconds. David Ames also set a new school record in the 440 yard dash with a time of 51.8 seconds. At the Garden City Invitational, Conwell set the 220 yard dash record at 22.3 seconds.

As mentioned previously, the Eagles repeated as Central Prairie League Champs in 1966. Seventy-four squad members enjoyed the best track season in history of the school, winning six first place trophies, two second and three third. This 1966 squad took third place in the Regional at Hutchinson with forty points, barely being eased out by Concordia and Haven, both tying for first with forty-one. The teams finished in this same order in the state finals at Manhattan. As a result of the third place in this meet another record was set for Ellinwood High School in that it was the highest finish in the history of state track competition. At the state meet in 1966, Ellinwood placed as follows: Richard Conwell, third in the 100 yard dash and fifth in the 220 yard dash. David Ames, fifth in the 100 yard dash, third place finish in the 440 yard dash. Ronnie Brown, fourth place in the mile run. The 880 yard relay personel of Conwell, Ames, Keith Hazen and Kenny Petz finished second to Concordia. The mile relay team of Richard Hagen, Kenny Petz, Joe Jordan and Richard Conwell won the state championship in this event.

The 1967 season brought many happy times as well as a very sad one. Ronnie Brown, ace distance runner, who had paced Ellinwood's

first cross country team to the state championship in the fall, was killed in a hit-and-run accident while working out on the road. He had been ill during the early part of this very important final week of workouts before the state indoor and was working out alone. He was running a two mile road race heading north of the fieldhouse when the accident was discovered by a passing motorist. Ronnie died about three hours later in the Ellinwood Hospital. The driver was apprehended and confessed to being the party involved in the incident. Ronnie's death was a tremendous shock to the community and team. After this very sad event, the 1967 Eagles pulled together and developed into powerful competitors. They went on to win three regular season meets, plus the Class A Regional Championship at Hutchinson, the first such win in the school's history. Ellinwood placed first at the Ellinwood Invitational, Central Prairie League and the Kinsley Relays, second at Hoisington, third at Larned and Buhler, and fourth at the Garden City Relays. At the State Meet in Salina, Mike Scheufler became the second state track champion in Eagle history, when he won the javelin. He also took second in the discus. Scheufler qualified in the shot put but did not place. Other Eagle points were scored by Niles Hauser, fifth in the discus and Dennis Wheatercroft, fourth in the two mile run. Wheatercroft set the school record in this race with a time of 9 minutes 53.0 seconds. Ellinwood's 880 yard relay and medley relay failed to qualify for the finals. Team members were Don Richardson, Keith Hazen, John Huslig and Bob Peter.

Perhaps Ellinwood's finest track team was the 1968 squad which won four regular season meets, plus the regional at Hays and cap-

turing a third place tie with Marion at the State Meet in Salina. The Eagles won the Ellinwood Invitational, St. John Relays, Stafford Invitational and the Central Prairie League Meet, placing second at the Hoisington Relays and at the Sacred Heart Invitational. They also placed fourth at the State Indoor in Manhattan. A tremendous amount of hard work along with team depth, and a fine team spirit made the 1968 Eagles a tough opponent. At the state meet Ellinwood was paced by Dennis Wheatcroft, who became the third state champion in the school's history by winning the two mile run and placing second in the mile run. These ten points match Mike Scheufler's ten in 1967 to be the most points scored in a state meet by a single Ellinwood athlete. Lonnie Ogden took second place in the javelin with a toss of 182 feet 2.5 inches. Steve Flakus placed fifth in the 880 yard run, and the Eagle's mile relay team made up of Johnny Meyer, Steve Flakus, Bob Peter and Don Richardson placed second. In this same meet Don Richardson qualified for the finals of the 440 yard dash, but failed to place. Bob Peter qualified for state in the low hurdles, and Allen Petz qualified in the mile, however, both boys failed to score in the finals. Dennis Wheatcroft was chosen to receive the Ronald G. Brown "Most Inspirational Athletic Award" in track. Following are the Ellinwood High School records, all but three set during the last eight years while this writer was at the helm.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
100 Yard Dash	Richard Cornwell	9.9 seconds	1966
220 Yard Dash	Richard Cornwell	22.3 seconds	1965
440 Yard Dash	David Ames	50.1 seconds	1966
880 Yard Run	Steve Flakus	2 min. 00.9 sec.	1968

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Mile Run	Ronnie Brown	4 min. 30.0 sec.	1966
Two Mile Run	Dennis Wheatcroft	9 min. 53.0 sec.	1967
	Ronnie Brown	10 min. 10.9 sec.	1966
High Hurdles (120 yd)	Pat Rickert	15.9 seconds	1956
Low Hurdles (180 yd)	Pat Rickert	20.1 seconds	1956
330 Hurdles	Bob Peter	42.7 seconds	1968
High Jump	Milton Schwertfeger	6 ft. 3½ in.	1956
Broad Jump	Jim Wheatcroft	21 ft. 4 in.	1965
Triple Jump	Jim Wheatcroft	40 ft. 7½ in.	1965
Pole Vault	Phil Nix	10 ft. 6 in.	1966
	Keith Stone		1938
Shot Put	Mike Scheufler	50 ft. 10 in.	1967
Discus	Mike Scheufler	159 ft. 2 in.	1967
Javelin	Mike Scheufler	210 ft. ½ in.	1967
880 Yard Relay	K. Petz, K. Hazen R. Cornwell, D. Ames	1 min. 31.2 sec.	1966
Medley Relay	B. Peter, K. Hazen D. Richardson, J. Muslig	3 min. 39.3 sec.	1967
Mile Relay	B. Peter, R. Hagen R. Cornwell, D. Ames	3 min. 27.0 sec.	1966
Two Mile Relay	A. Petz, M. Brown S. Flakus, J. Meyer	8 min. 30.5 sec.	1968
Total points scored in one season - Mike Scheufler			
		129½ points	1967

Ellinwood High School Indoor records are as follows:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
60 Yard Dash	Richard Cornwell	6.5 seconds	1965
60 Yard High Hurdles			
70 Yard Low Hurdles	Bob Peter	8.2 seconds	1968
880 Yard Run	John Meyer	2 min. 3.2 sec.	1968

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Mile Run	Ronnie Brown	4 min. 35.0 sec.	1966
440 Yard Dash	R. Cornwell David Ames	53.9 seconds	1966
Pole Vault			
High Jump			
Broad Jump	Jim Wheatercroft	19 ft. 8 in.	1965
Shot Put	Jack Christiansen	44 ft. 10 in.	1968
Mile Relay	S. Flakus, B. Peter D. Richardson, J. Meyer	3 min. 35.2 sec.	1968

Mr. Bowman's assistant coaches have been as follows: William Baughman, from 1961 to 1966; Robert Robins, in 1964; Roger Stremel, from 1966 to 1968; Larry Peter, 1967 and 1968; Terry Masterson, in 1967 and Lester Herrman in 1968. Two to three individuals have assisted with the track teams since 1961.

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Ellinwood High School inaugurated the new sport of cross country in the fall of 1966 with this writer serving as the coach. Along with this new sport came the first athletic state championship in the school's history, the Class A State Championship in cross country.

Mr. Bowman's team competed in four invitational meets, winning all four, plus the Regional Meet at Elys and the State meet at Wamego.

Ten very hard working boys that reported for the new sport in 1966 experienced a wonderful thrill at being crowned the new Class

A State Champions on November 5, which was staged at the Wamego Golf Course in Wamego, Kansas.

The team won first place trophies in four of the five major meets they entered, placing second at the Hays Regional. They won the Buhler Invitational, the Oakley Invitational, and a second Buhler Invitational.

The accomplishments of this team proved noteworthy because, the school participated in the sport for the first time, and also because it was the first time any Ellinwood High School athletic team had won a state championship. Although not immediately apparent it served as a climax to the athletic career of Ronnie Brown, the team's best performer, who died the following spring from an accident while training for the state indoor meet. Members of the team were as follows: Ronnie Brown, John Huslig, Dennis Wheatcroft, Johnny Meyer, Don Werner and Allen Petz. The other squad members were Don Richardson, Steve Mattix and Mike Brown.

In 1967-1968 Ellinwood High School's second year in cross country ended equally as successful as the 1966-1967 season. The team produced another State Championship, but in Class B instead of the traditional Class A. The state's new system of classification moved Ellinwood from class A to class B competition. During the early fall meets, Ellinwood entered as a class A school, winning first place trophies at the Wamego Invitational, Hays Invitational, Buhler Invitational, Russell Invitational and placing second at the Sacred Heart Invitational. However, being notified of reclassification the week previous to the Regional, competed at the Regional and State in Class B. Dennis Wheatcroft was the team's number one

runner and Allen Petz the number two man. The State championship team consisted of the following: Dennis Wheatcroft, Allen Petz, Danny Robins, Johnny Meyer, Mike Brown, Eugene Huslig, and Mike Tatman. Other squad members were Gary Oberle and Jim Pruner.

## BASEBALL

Baseball was one of the first sports actively engaged in at Ellinwood High School. Baseball was played by students in the school's physical education programs from 1902 to 1910. The sport as an official school activity was inaugurated in 1911 under the supervision of H. E. Powers, Superintendent of schools.

Baseball was played off and on as a part of the athletic program since 1911. The last team to compete for Ellinwood was in 1962.

The first baseball diamond was located just northeast of the school on the same lot as the present school building.

In this sports early history, town people were allowed to play on the high school team, even though they were not enrolled in school. Superintendent H. E. Powers played as a squad member as well as serving as coach of the team.

### E. E. Powers (1911 through 1915)

Baseball was first played under Mr. Powers in the spring of 1911. Ellinwood played six games, winning four and losing two.

Interest for baseball in 1912 was high, due to the success of the 1911 team. Athletic Association President, Curtis Stephan called a meeting and W. J. Weber was re-elected manager for the



1912 season. Superintendent Powers was again serving as coach and supervisor, he also played second base for the team. The team manager, W. J. Weber, arranged the following schedule: Lyons at Lyons, Claflin at Ellinwood, Cooper College (Sterling) at Ellinwood, Chase at Chase, Claflin at Claflin, Great Bend at Ellinwood and Cooper College at Sterling. Ellinwood won four games and lost three.

In 1913, baseball was the favorite sport for Ellinwood athletes. An exceptionally large squad reported for practice under the management of W. J. Weber and coach H. E. Powers. The team played six games, winning four and losing two. In the fall of 1913, Ellinwood played one game against Claflin, losing by a score of 3-2.

The 1914 squad won six games and lost two. Ten boys, including Superintendent Powers made up the team. A highlight of the season was a win over Coopers College of Sterling. The team won five of eight games played.

The 1915 team won six games and lost two. Wins were over Great Bend (twice), Ellinwood City Team, Pawnee Rock and Lyons (twice). There were no records available from 1915 to 1922.

#### Everett Wood (1922 through 1923)

In the spring of 1922 the Ellinwood High School baseball team played a three game schedule, all three games with Claflin. Ellinwood won one game and lost two. In the one game in which Ellinwood won, Ralph Schartz struck out fourteen batters and pitched a no-hit game.



Baseball was played in the fall of every school year up through 1926, but no outside teams were scheduled. The sport was not played in high school again until 1929.

Elmar L. Dresslar (1929)

Baseball was revived again in the spring of 1929 and Superintendent Dresslar was the coach. The team played several games with surrounding towns, but summaries were not available.

Joe Bronson (1930 through 1932)

Mr. Bronson was appointed baseball coach in 1930, and his teams played four games, winning two and losing two.

In 1931, Ellinwood played three games winning one and losing two. Thirteen boys participated in baseball in 1931.

Ellinwood played one game in the spring of 1932 against Claflin. Ellinwood won the game 26-0. The reason for only one game played was the fact that the entire baseball team was suspended for violating training rules.

Baseball was discontinued again until 1951.

George Miller (1951 through 1952)

The first team for many years was fielded again in 1951 on the roster by Ellinwood High School. Mr. George Miller served as coach and this team won three games and lost two. Wins were over Chase, Hudson, and Lyons, losses were to Claflin and Great Bend.

In 1952 Mr. Miller's team won two games and lost one.

Robert Robins (1958 through 1962)

After a six year absence, the baseball program was again revived at Ellinwood High School.

Mr. Robins's 1958 baseball team completed a very successful season by winning twelve games while losing only two. This was the largest number of games ever played by an Ellinwood team in one season. The squad numbered nineteen boys. They acquired this enviable record by winning the Dodge City Tournament and eight of ten regular scheduled games. They also won their first regional tournament, but were beaten in the second round of regional play.

Mr. Robins's 1959 team won four games and lost five. Eleven boys participated on the team.

Baseball was on the school's athletic program for the spring of 1960, but no records or summaries were available.

The 1961 squad numbered fourteen boys and the team won three games and lost four.

In the spring of 1962 the Eagle's baseball team was successful in attaining a berth in the State Tournament, however, they lost to Wichita West in the first round of the tournament. The 1962 squad enjoyed one of the school's better seasons in that the team won nine games while losing five. The team placed second in the Regional at Great Bend and with this placing qualified to play at Eldorado in the State Tournament.

Baseball was once again discontinued as a part of the athletic program at Ellinwood High School and at present is not included as a sport in the athletic program.

## TENNIS

Tennis, as a form of recreation, was introduced at Ellinwood High School in 1911. The number of participants were usually less than ten. The tennis team played only for their own enjoyment and did not compete against other schools.

The Athletic Association supplied a team manager and controlled all aspects of playing this sport.

Tennis continued to be sponsored on the school's yearly activity calendar, however, Ellinwood tennis teams played no outside schools until the spring of 1923, when tennis became an official interscholastic activity in the athletic program.

## E. H. Mattingly (1923 through 1927)

In 1923 the high school tennis squad participated in the Barton County Meet held in Great Bend. Ronald Wagner of Ellinwood won the singles championship in this tournament.

In 1924 Ellinwood won both the singles and doubles at the Barton County Meet. Omar Wagner won the singles and Ronald Wagner and Frederick Kienzle won the doubles championship.

Mr. Mattingly's 1925 tennis team was the largest in school history, seventeen members made up the squad. Competing in the Barton County Tennis Meet, Ellinwood High School won both the singles and doubles divisions. Omar Wagner was again the singles champion, and Howard Mohn and Walter Meyer won the doubles championship. This tennis tournament was an annual event, held in conjunction with the County Literary Contest and Track and Field Meet.

In 1926 at the Barton County schools tournament, Omar Wagner repeated as singles champion. The doubles team of Howard Mohn and Walter Meyer placed second at Great Bend in the doubles.

The Ellinwood team was represented by Walter Meyers in the 1927 County Tournament. Meyers won the singles division. Ellinwood did not place in the doubles competition.

No Records Available (1928 through 1935)

R. E. Bowman (1936)

In the spring of 1936, the tennis squad played three dual matches, winning all three. Wins were over Great Bend, St. John and Hoisington. Jim Johnson won the singles championship at the Central Prairie League Meet held in St. John. Gilbert Sayre and Jim Johnson competed in the Regional Tennis Tournament at St. John and were defeated in the first round by Pratt.

The High School did not sponsor a tennis program in 1937, but Jim Johnson independently won for the school a second Central Prairie League singles championship. Johnson defeated Fleeson of Sterling, Brack of Stafford and Rankin of St. John to emerge as the victor.

H. G. Palmer (1938 through 1939)

Mr. Palmer taught music and directed the band at Ellinwood High School. In the spring of 1938, due to his interest in tennis, took over the coaching duties of the Ellinwood tennis team. In this first season as coach, Mr. Palmer's team was invited to join the

Central Kansas Tennis League. Members of the league included the following: Dodge City, Kinsley, Ness City, Hays, Great Bend, Pratt, Hutchinson, St. John, Larned and Ellinwood. All Ellinwood matches were played at Great Bend due to the lack of facilities at Ellinwood.

In 1939, Ellinwood did not compete in the Central Kansas Tennis League. They did, however, have several dual matches with nearby schools. The team lost dual matches to Lyons and Great Bend (twice). At the Central Prairie League Meet, the squad entered only the singles division and failed to place.

Arthur Olson (1940 through 1941)

In 1940 the tennis team played two dual matches, defeating St. John and Lyons.

Mr. Olson's 1941 squad played three dual matches, losing all three.

J. R. Linville (1945 through 1948)

Mr. Linville coached tennis from 1945 through 1948. Mr. Linville's team varied from five members in 1947 to thirteen members in 1948.

The 1945 team competed in two dual matches defeating Hoisington and Stafford.

In 1946 Mr. Linville's squad defeated Great Bend and Hoisington in dual competition.

The 1947 team had five boys on the squad. The team played six dual matches, losing all six.

Manley Huber (1948 through 1952)

The 1949 squad, under Mr. Huber, played eight dual matches, winning one match over Hoisington. Losses were to Hoisington (twice), Great Bend (twice), Sterling (twice) and Lyons. Six boys participated in the 1949 season.

In 1950 Ellinwood placed fourth in the Central Prairie League Tennis Meet. They also won a dual victory over Great Bend and were defeated by Ellsworth in a dual match.

The 1952 team again placed fourth out of four teams competing in the Central Prairie League Meet. They also lost dual matches to Great Bend and Hoisington.

Myron Rodee (1953)

No records available.

Don Binford (1954)

No records available.

Nick Perikli (1958 through 1959)

Mr. Perikli's tennis team played only one match besides the Central Prairie League Meet held at Ellsworth. There were seven members on the squad.

Wallace Good (1959 through 1960)

Six boys participated in tennis during the 1959 season. Several dual matches were played, and the team participated in the Central Prairie League Meet.

In 1960 eleven team members made up Mr. Good's tennis team. The team played four dual matches, winning one and losing three. They placed fourth out of four teams competing in the Central Prairie League Meet.

Tennis was dropped in the spring of 1961 and has been discontinued as a part of the school's athletic program since that time.

#### GOLF

Golf was first introduced into the athletic program at Ellinwood High School in the spring of 1955. The records indicate that golf letter awards were first issued in 1956. Due to the intense community interest in golf, many high school athletes have participated in the sport. In 1967, the Central Prairie League held its first League Invitational Golf Meet at Ellinwood.

Robert Robins (1955 through 1968)

Mr. Robins has served as the golf coach at Ellinwood High School since the sport was added to the spring athletic program. His teams have always been strong competitors in the sport.

There are no records available for the early years of golf competition at Ellinwood High School, therefore, years from 1955-1957 were omitted.

Seven boys made up the 1958 golf team. They were Jim Roth, Larry Manning, Tom Schroeder, Bill Sanford, Dennis Lebbin, Mike Goodspeed and Edward Isern. The team won four dual meets with Pratt, Great Bend, Lyons and Larned. They also attended the Hutchinson Invitational and Regional Meet at Hutchinson.

In 1959 eight boys participated in golf. Larry Manning and Jim Roth made up the two man team, and Dennis Lebbin, Edward Isern, Larry Manning and Jim Roth comprised the four man squad. The team attended several area Invationals and participated in the Regional Golf Meet at Hutchinson.

Mr. Robins's 1960 golf squad entered three dual meets, winning two and losing one, the team also competed in three Invationals, Garden City, Russell and Larned. The following six boys made up the 1960 golf team: Mike Robinson, Edward Isern, Bill Southern, Bill Sanford, Dennis Lebbin and William Panning.

In 1961, Mr. Robins had six boys participate in golf. Three dual matches were played, two with Lyons and one with Garden City. The 1961 squad competed in several Invational Golf Meets, and at the Regional Golf Meet in Salina.

In 1962 Mr. Robins's golf squad consisted of nine boys. The team competed in four Invational Golf Tournaments--Hays, Lyons, Larned and Pratt and the Regional at Salina. Squad members were Richard Kimple, Bill Southern, Mike Robinson, Pat Hershey, Jim Hershey, Bill Witercraft, Clifford Kendall, Richard Penner, and David Myers.

Seven boys made up the golf team in 1963. They placed third at the Salina Invational and second at the Lyons Invitation. Bill Southern took second medalist in the Russell Invational. The members of this years squad were Randy Roth, David Myers, Bill Witercraft, Jim Kimble, Richard Penner and Bill Southern.

Mr. Robins had four returning lettermen to weave into his six-man squad for the 1964 season. The school held an Ellinwood



Invitational that included eleven area teams. The two-man team of Randy Roth and David Myers placed second, with Roth losing medalist honors in a play-off. The four-man team placed sixth. Golf lettermen for 1964 were David Myers, Jim Hershey, Jimmy Banks, Pat Hershey, Randy Roth and Mike Scheufler.

Ellinwood High School golfers participated in eight matches in 1965. The team played in five Invitationals, Hays, Great Bend, Lyons, Russell and the Ellinwood Meet. They also played two dual meets with Great Bend and Lyons. The team also participated in the Regional Golf Meet at Salina. Twelve boys participated in the 1965 golf program. Golf lettermen for 1965 included: Pat Hershey, Randy Roth, Mike Scheufler, Barry Pruner, David Stutenroth, Danny Robins and Eddie Stacey.

In 1966 Ellinwood High School competed in seven Invitational Meets. They were as follows: Great Bend, Ellinwood, Hays, Lyons, Hutchinson, Russell and Liberal. The team also entered the Regional Tournament at Salina. At Liberal, the two-man team of Robins and Roth tied for first. The team placed ninth out of seventeen schools in the regional competition.

The 1967 squad consisted of twelve boys. The highlight of the golf season was a team victory in the first annual Central Prairie League Invitation Golf Meet. Top honors were won by Ellinwood by placing first in the four-man and third in the two-man division. The four man team was made up of Barry Pruner, Danny Robins, Wade Johnson and David Robins. This team gave Ellinwood a thirty-eight stroke victory in the four-man. Bruce Winkelman and Bobby Thomason made up the two-man team.

The 1968 golf squad with twenty members was the largest in Ellinwood High School's history. The team participated in the following Invitationals, Great Bend, Larned, Pratt, Lyons, Garden City, and Russell. The squad also had one dual meet with Lyons, with Lyons winning. The Regional Golf Meet for 1968 was held in Hays.

#### SUMMARY

The Ellinwood School District was established August 10, 1872, and the Ellinwood School opened in September of the same year. The high school has been located in three different buildings, moving into the present structure in 1926.

Early athletics at Ellinwood High School had a difficult time of surviving. The early football squads had no shower or dressing facilities, and each boy was required to furnish his own equipment and uniform. Early basketball teams furnished their own equipment and played some of their games on outdoor courts. The basketball teams from 1908 to 1922 really knew no home court as games were played in the various buildings in town which were adapted for this purpose. Since the construction of the new high school in 1926, the athletic teams have had excellent facilities. In 1953, an addition that included a new gymnasium was added to the school system, and many tournaments, including State District Tournaments and State Regional Tournaments, have been held in this gymnasium. The construction of a new all-weather track and dressing room facility in 1964 greatly added to the football and track programs.

The interscholastic athletic program throughout its existence has mainly supported itself through the collection of gate receipts. The gate receipts are estimated for the coming year by the school's business manager, and the difference has been appropriated to the athletic fund by the school board.

At the time of this writing, Ellinwood High School has had twenty-four head coaches in the seven sports in which the school has competed. The school participates in only five of these sports at the present time. Tennis was discontinued in 1961. Baseball was discontinued in 1963. Cross country is a relatively new sport in the school's athletic program beginning in the fall of 1966. At the present time, the head football coach is also head coach of track and cross country. There are four assistant football coaches and three assistant track coaches. The head basketball coach is the golf coach. There are two assistant basketball coaches.

Ellinwood High School has been a member of two leagues in its ninety-six years of existence. Ellinwood High School participated in the Barton Education Association League in 1931. Prior to this time, Ellinwood High School played an independent schedule. In 1933 Ellinwood joined the Central Prairie League and has been a member of this league until the present time. As a member of the Central Prairie League for thirty-five years, Ellinwood has won twenty league championships. Of these twenty championships, eight were won in football during the years of 1943, 1944, 1945, 1949, 1953, 1956, 1961 and 1966. Seven league championships were won in basketball during the years of 1949-1950, 1950-1951, 1951-1952, 1956-1957, 1957-1958, 1958-1959 and 1961-1962. Track championships

have been won the last four years, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. The other championship was won in golf in 1967.

In the history of athletics at Ellinwood High School the Eagles have played 351 football games winning 194, losing 128, and tying 29. This record shows that 55 per cent of the games were won, 36.5 per cent were lost, and 8.5 per cent ended in ties. Of the 837 basketball games played in the history of the school, Ellinwood has won 369 and lost 468. This record shows that the school has won 44 per cent of its basketball games.

The first athletic coach, as such, was Superintendent E. E. Powers, serving the Ellinwood School District from 1907 to 1915. Three superintendents have served as athletic coaches at Ellinwood High School.


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THE HISTORY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT  
ELLINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, ELLINWOOD, KANSAS

by

JACK L. BOWMAN

B. S., Bethany College, 1956

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

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Throughout the history of athletics at Ellinwood High School, no complete records are available. Information had to be obtained from several sources. Principle sources were: high school year-books, city newspaper, school newspapers, and records from the principal's office.

The Ellinwood School District No. 2 was established August 10, 1872, and the Ellinwood High School was opened in September of the same year. The high school has been located in three different buildings moving into the present structure in 1926.

The early athletic squad had no showers or dressing facilities, and each boy was required to furnish his own equipment and uniform. The basketball teams from 1908 to 1926 had no home court, as games were played in the various buildings in town which were adapted for this purpose.

The interscholastic athletic program throughout its existence has primarily supported itself through the collection of gate receipts. The gate receipts are estimated for the coming year by the school's business manager, and the difference has been appropriated to the athletic fund by the school board.

At the time of this writing, Ellinwood High School has had twenty-four head coaches in its ninety-six years of existence. Ellinwood High School participated in the Barton Education Association League in 1931. Prior to this time, Ellinwood High School played an independent schedule. In 1933 Ellinwood joined the Central Prairie League and has been a member of this league until the present time.

While a member of the Central Prairie League, Ellinwood High School has won twenty league championships. Eight were won in football during the years of 1943, 1944, 1945, 1949, 1953, 1956, 1961 and 1966. Seven league championships were won in basketball during the years of 1949-1950, 1950-1951, 1951-1952, 1956-1957, 1957-1958, 1958-1959 and 1961-1962. Track championships have been won the last four years, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. The other championship was won in golf in 1967.

In the history of athletics at Ellinwood High School the Eagles have played 351 football games winning 194, losing 128 and tying 29. This record shows that 55 per cent of the games were won and 36.5 per cent were lost, and 8.5 per cent ended in ties. Of the 837 basketball games played in the history of the school, Ellinwood has won 369 and lost 468. This record shows that the school has won 44 per cent of its basketball games.