

A STUDY OF PARTICIPATION IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS  
IN THE TOPEKA, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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by

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A MASTER'S REPORT

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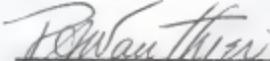
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

One of the most controversial questions in interscholastic athletics today is "whether junior high school boys should engage in interschool athletics." Those who are opposed to junior high athletics use as one of their main points of argumentation the fact that only the few gifted athletes at this age level benefit from the program, and the majority of the pupils are left on their own to satisfy their need for physical activity.

However, after glancing many articles on the subject there seems to be no conclusive evidence which will substantiate many of the criticisms directed at competitive athletics for boys at the junior high school level. Many authorities are not in accord with all phases of such a program but believe it has its merits and are hesitant to condemn competitive sports in their entirety.

It is the purpose of this study to show that if a junior high school athletic program is properly set up and administered; a far greater percentage of boys will participate and receive benefits from the program than many people realize. The writer elected to present a study of the program in operation in the junior high schools of Topeka, Kansas, where emphasis is placed on both intramurals and interschool athletics.

## I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. This study proposes to determine the percentage of boys who are participating in the interschool athletic program in the junior high schools of Topeka, Kansas.

Importance of the study. The Supervisor of Health and Physical Education for the Public Schools of Topeka and several of the athletic coaches have expressed an interest in the study.

It is realized that the needs of boys at the junior high school level are of vital importance in our educational system. This study will attempt to present facts showing that a tremendous amount of participation is being derived from our interschool athletic program. It is hoped that a thorough study of the principles and statistics presented herein will more than justify the existence of the junior high school interschool athletic program in Topeka, Kansas.

## II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Junior high school. All schools included in this study are composed of grades seven, eight, and nine.

Interschool Athletics. Games or meets which are played between teams representing two or more schools.

Total participation. The total number of all the boys who participated in the sport.

### III. METHODS OF STUDY

Coaches of the eleven junior high schools of Topeka were asked to furnish information revealing the number of boys participating in the various sports at the junior high schools.

All other information pertinent to this problem was secured from the office of the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education for the Topeka Public Schools.

The source of related literature is confined largely to periodicals which offer authoritative information on the subject.

Enrollments at the end of each school year were used for the Report. Variations for the remainder of the school year were not considered to be of major importance to the study.

### IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter II presents a review of related literature. Chapter III presents the over-all program with particular reference to: Administration, supervision, coaches, and the interschool athletic program with statistical data. The fourth and last chapter presents a summary of the study and offers recommendations for possible projections into the future.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many educators seem to agree that athletics can be highly valuable at the junior high school level. They strongly urge that such a program be educationally sound if it is to be incorporated into the education for the youth of today.

The thinking of many authorities is that school athletics, when properly conducted, play a vital role in the education of American youth. There are innumerable experiences associated with a sound athletic program which many believe cannot be experienced by youth in any other phase of his educational training.

One of the major criticisms of educational leaders of today is that school athletics are not designed to meet the needs of all the students and do not necessarily reflect the real purpose of education.

Gruhn and Douglas<sup>1</sup> note that the chief characteristic of competitive sports programs in the junior high school is its intramural organization. According to Gruhn and Douglas it was found that in many large communities there is intra city competition between junior high schools, but competition with schools in other communities is not very common. The thought is further expressed that for the most part sports activities in the junior high schools are usually organized so that all

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<sup>1</sup>William T. Gruhn and Earl R. Douglas, The Modern Junior High School (New York: Ronald Press Company, 1947), pp. 372-373.

interested and physically able youths have an opportunity to participate.

Gruhn and Douglas<sup>2</sup> also noted that more than fifty per cent of all pupils engage in some intraschool or interscholastic sport. It was their opinion that such extensive participation is due, in part, to the fact that the sports program is basically intraschool.

One of the better articles concerning athletics for junior high school boys was written by Elmer D. Mitchell. The author specifically points out that:

Physiologically, the growing boy is apt to be harmed; psychologically the boy eleven to fifteen is not ready to assume the stress of championship competition; sociologically, the junior high school movement is regimenting our youth in their early teens; economically, the system is wrong; educationally, the junior high school period is one of orientation and introduction to all subjects, leaving specialized pursuance to the senior high school and college years.<sup>3</sup>

This is the age at which boys are beginning to have their first experiences about themselves physically, according to Forsythe and Duncan.<sup>4</sup> This age also presents many opportunities to learn new game skills. It is the belief of the authors that an exposure to a variety of games and skills will give youngsters an opportunity to find themselves and to realize in which sports and activities they are most

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 372.

<sup>3</sup> Elmer D. Mitchell, "The Case Against Interscholastic Athletics in the Junior High School," The Bulletin. School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Vol. 23, No. 2, November, 1951, pp. 23-25.

<sup>4</sup> Charles E. Forsythe and Ray O. Duncan, Administration of Physical Education (New York: Prentice Hall Inc., 1951), p. 223.

interested and can do the best.

One of the most authoritative studies on interschool athletics was published in 1954 by the Educational Policies Commission.<sup>5</sup> This group made its recommendations after a three year study. The study also included the opinions of authorities in the various fields of education, medicine, health and physical education.

One of the principal themes carried throughout the report was that all children should share in the benefits of athletic participation. Much concern is expressed in the report that in too many instances the real values of participation are made available for too few children.

The report recognizes that there are numerous educational experiences of real value to be derived from sound athletic participation. Its contributions to health and happiness, physical skills and emotional maturity, social competence and moral values are not to be overshadowed so long as proper administration and supervision are provided by school authorities.

Nixon and Cosens<sup>6</sup> state that boys and girls are interested in playing games and are not necessarily interested in competing with groups from other schools unless they are artificially stimulated in that direction. This is not in accord with what most authorities

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<sup>5</sup> Educational Policies Commission, School Activities; Problems and Policies. National Educational Association, Washington, D. C., 1954, 116 pp.

<sup>6</sup> Eugene W. Nixon and Frederick W. Cosens, An Introduction to Physical Education (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1947), p. 134.

believe. Children are more desirous of playing teams from other schools than teams composed of their school mates. Many authorities are in agreement that unless a wholesome competitive program is provided the students will provide games for competition. This action very often concludes with large scale "sand lot" competition which for the most part is void of competent leadership.

Dr. Quentin Groves, Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, and Safety for the Topeka Public Schools states:

The purpose of the inter-school athletic program in the junior high school is to unite the student body through dramatic physical activities for the development of desirable moral, social, emotional, and physical qualities suitable to the age group involved on a continuing basis throughout his school career.

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<sup>7</sup>Dr. Quentin Groves, Bulletin to All Coaches, Topeka Public Schools, 1962-63.

## CHAPTER III

### THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM FOR BOYS IN TOPEKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

The organization of the program which includes interschool games and contests of a competitive nature may lead some readers to believe that the basic "musts" of education have been excluded.<sup>1</sup> However, a close study of the organization and administration will reveal that an attempt is being made to meet the needs of all boys who are interested in athletics.

Administrative. In the final analysis all problems arising out of the program are referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

Any administrative problems involving schools or personnel directing programs within a school are channeled by the Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, and Safety to the Assistant to the Superintendent.

Supervision. The primary responsibility for Supervision is likewise delegated to the Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Safety. Any problems arising out of supervision which are related to the curriculum are referred to the director of instruction.

Junior High School Principals. Principals of the respective junior high schools serve in an advisory capacity to the Supervisor of

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<sup>1</sup>John Gardner, "A Study of the Athletic Program for Boys in the Junior High Schools of Topeka, Kansas" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, 1956), p. 24.

Health, Physical Education, and Safety. They meet with the Supervisor and make recommendations concerning administration and supervision of the over-all program.

Coaches. In order to assure that all three grade levels are receiving adequate supervision and coaching, each junior high has at least one full time paid coach for each grade level. All coaches are regarded as special teachers and receive payment for their services in accordance with a schedule which takes into account the duties and responsibilities of different coaching assignments.

Interschool athletics. Every boy enrolled in school is invited to be a member of the squad for the sport in season. In most instances squads are representative of the three respective grade levels. Boys who show evidence of advanced physical maturity and emotional stability are sometimes moved up to teams which represent an advanced grade. This situation rarely prevails in the case of seventh grade boys. There are some instances when eighth grade boys are advanced to the ninth grade or "varsity" squad.

It is an administrative recommendation not to follow the practice of "cutting boys from the squad." It is felt that one of the fundamental aims of the program is to create and keep the interest of as many boys as possible in each sport.

Varsity football practice begins the first full day of school and the first games are scheduled on the third Thursday after school begins. The varsity plays either six or seven games depending on how the yearly round-robin affects them. All of the games are played on Thursday

afternoons at 3:45 P.M., except for a night game which all the schools participate in during the second week of the season. The night game was set up so that more of the parents would have the opportunity to see their sons perform.

All the equipment is furnished for the boys except shoes, socks, dental guards, and athletic supporters. All boys are required to wear either canvas football shoes with rubber cleats, or canvas gym shoes, and are not permitted to wear leather shoes with hard rubber or aluminum cleats. All the equipment is purchased by the central office and each junior high requisitions needed equipment from the central office. Thus, each school regardless of its financial background receives the best equipment available.

Since the varsity team from each school is playing for the city championship there are no restrictions on the number of boys who must participate in any given contest. The better athletes generally do the most playing, but all precautions are taken to see that as many boys as possible receive game experience as long as it doesn't affect the outcome of the game.

The seventh grade squad usually checks out equipment during the second week of school. Since the objective of the seventh and eighth grade program is that of a teaching and learning situation, practice time is devoted primarily to the teaching of fundamentals.

In order to further this objective in football the seventh and eighth grade only play four games. The games are held on Friday afternoons at 4:15 P.M. Emphasis is placed on instruction and participation

of large numbers of players. To further encourage participation at this age level each coach must divide his squad into at least three teams if at all possible. During the actual game which is divided into four quarters, each player will play at least one quarter. During the final quarter, the coach is free to substitute whatever combination of players he desires. Some of the larger schools who have as many as sixty out for seventh grade football have played as many as six quarters to a game.

The coaches of the seventh and eighth grade teams are asked to be on the field with their teams--supervising not only the team play, but also the work of the officials, so that, the game will be called in accordance with the ability of the players. It is expected that all coaches will give frequent instructions to members of their teams.

Tables I through VI will show the amount of participation in football during the following school years: 1958-59, 1959-60, 1961-65. During the six year period indicated in these tables 44.83% of the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in interschool football.

TABLE I  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	240	86
Capper . . . . .	250	140
Crane . . . . .	189	90
Curtis . . . . .	129	66
East Topeka . . . . .	195	71
Highland Park . . . . .	143	75
Holiday . . . . .	166	95
Roosevelt . . . . .	273	127
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1385</b>	<b>752</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 240 boys entered in school. 86 boys in all three grades participated in football. Roosevelt had the largest enrollment of boys with 273. Capper had the largest turnout with 140. For the year 47.40 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

TABLE II  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	290	134
Capper . . . . .	328	207
Crane . . . . .	211	85
Curtis . . . . .	150	65
East Topeka . . . . .	208	92
Highland Park . . . . .	182	110
Holiday . . . . .	165	95
Roosevelt . . . . .	255	117
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>905</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 290 boys entered in school. 134 boys in all three grades participated in football. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 328 and also the largest turnout with 207. For the year 50.58 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

TABLE III  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	90
Capper . . . . .	404	182
Crane . . . . .	207	91
Curtis . . . . .	147	86
East Topeka . . . . .	258	113
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	105
Highland Park . . . . .	387	125
Holliday . . . . .	185	97
Jardine . . . . .	255	156
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	114
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2610</b>	<b>1159</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys entered in school. 90 boys in all three grades participated in football. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404 and also the largest turnout with 182. For the year 44.40 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

TABLE IV  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	224	95
Capper . . . . .	365	163
Crane . . . . .	195	89
Curtis . . . . .	142	97
East Topoka . . . . .	271	109
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	111
Highland Park . . . . .	216	109
Holliday . . . . .	189	93
Jardine . . . . .	279	153
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	122
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2259</b>	<b>1141</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 224 boys entered in school. 95 boys in all three grades participated in football. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 365 and also the largest turnout with 163. For the year 50.51 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

TABLE V  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	139
Capper . . . . .	303	129
Crana . . . . .	179	78
Curtis . . . . .	142	85
East Topeka . . . . .	235	101
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	102
Highland Park . . . . .	233	103
Holliday . . . . .	188	75
Jardine . . . . .	336	163
Landon . . . . .	121	70
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	118
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>992</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 248 boys entered in school. 139 boys in all three grades participated in football. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 163. For the year 41.15 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

TABLE VI  
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	78
Capper . . . . .	315	121
Crane . . . . .	172	68
Curtis . . . . .	137	64
East Topeka . . . . .	270	102
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	94
Highland Park . . . . .	265	99
Holliday . . . . .	192	77
Jardine . . . . .	336	168
Landon . . . . .	132	77
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	124
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>992</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 261 boys entered in school. 78 boys in all three grades participated in football. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 168. For the year 34.94 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the football program.

The basketball program is set up almost identical to that of football, in that, each of the three grade levels have their own team and each plays their own schedule of games.

The varsity plays a ten game schedule usually beginning the first week of December and ending the last week of February. The team winning the most games at the end of the season is declared the city champion.

Basically, the seventh and eighth grade program is again a teaching and training program. Each school plays a five game schedule. The contests between schools are held because of the motivation values for boys, and because the contest provides a realistic teaching situation.

For the program to fulfill that purpose, a squad of at least fifteen players must be carried. The third team plays the first quarter, the second team the second quarter, the first team the third quarter, and the coach has freedom choice of use of players during the final quarter.

Only a man for man defense is allowed in these games. No zone or zone press can be used even in the closing minutes of the game. A man for man press can be used in the closing minutes, but not beyond the ten second restraining line.

Each of the three grade levels have their own full time coach who devotes full time coaching responsibilities to the particular grade level he is assigned.

Tables VII through XII will show the amount of participation in basketball during the following school years: 1958-59, 1959-60, 1961-65. During the six year period represented in these tables 41.65% of

the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in the interschool basketball program.

TABLE VII  
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	240	90
Capper . . . . .	250	85
Crane . . . . .	189	100
Curtis . . . . .	129	59
East Topeka . . . . .	195	56
Highland Park . . . . .	143	75
Holliday . . . . .	166	50
Roosevelt . . . . .	273	127
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>642</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 240 boys enrolled in school. 90 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Roosevelt had the largest enrollment of boys with 273 and also the largest turnout with 127. For the year 40.50 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

TABLE VIII  
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	290	133
Capper . . . . .	328	140
Crane . . . . .	211	75
Curtis . . . . .	150	46
East Topeka . . . . .	208	92
Highland Park . . . . .	182	30
Holliday . . . . .	165	62
Roosevelt . . . . .	255	120
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>698</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 290 boys enrolled in school. 133 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 328 and also the largest turnout with 140. For the year 39.01 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

TABLE IX  
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	96
Capper . . . . .	404	151
Crane . . . . .	207	93
Curtis . . . . .	147	76
East Topeka . . . . .	268	107
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	96
Highland Park . . . . .	387	97
Holliday . . . . .	185	103
Jardine . . . . .	255	118
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	94
Totals	2610	1021

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys enrolled in school. 96 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404 and also the largest turnout with 151. For the year 39.11 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

TABLE X  
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	224	80
Capper . . . . .	365	120
Crane . . . . .	195	82
Curtis . . . . .	142	75
East Topeka . . . . .	261	103
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	90
Highland Park . . . . .	216	113
Holliday . . . . .	189	97
Jardine . . . . .	279	138
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	125
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2259</b>	<b>1023</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 224 boys enrolled in school. 80 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 365. Jardine had the largest turnout with 138. For the year 45.28 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

TABLE XI  
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	89
Capper . . . . .	303	134
Crane . . . . .	179	82
Curtis . . . . .	142	50
East Topeka . . . . .	235	88
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	85
Highland Park . . . . .	233	92
Holliday . . . . .	188	84
Jardine . . . . .	336	180
Landon . . . . .	121	73
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	120
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>1077</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 248 boys enrolled in school. 89 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 180. For the year 44.73 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

TABLE XII  
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	88
Cepper . . . . .	315	106
Crane . . . . .	172	78
Curtis . . . . .	137	53
East Topaka . . . . .	270	94
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	94
Highland Park . . . . .	265	106
Holliday . . . . .	192	100
Jardine . . . . .	336	178
Landon . . . . .	132	62
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	95
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>1054</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 261 boys enrolled in school. 88 boys in all three grades participated in basketball. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 178. For the year 41.27 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the basketball program.

During the month of March each school has a tumbling and wrestling team. As in football and basketball each grade level has their own team and each competes in interschool competition.

The tumbling team participates in long mat tumbling, with five gymnasts from each grade level making up the school varsity team. Every school is urged to work with large number of boys in this sport, and to have competition for both a first and second team for each grade in the practice meets which will be scheduled every week during the month of March, culminated by a city-wide championship meet. In the city meet each school uses its best five tumblers in each grade level to compete against each other to determine who is the best individual tumbler in each grade, and also to determine a city team champion for each grade level.

The type of tumbling required is long mat, where each contestant is required to perform a required routine, which consists of a round-off-backroll to extension-snap down-backroll to extension-snap down-kip-handspring-headspring-forward roll-dive to forward roll. This routine is performed down and back a forty foot mat by each gymnast. He will then perform an optional routine of his own choice which will be judged fifty per cent on performance of skills and fifty per cent on the difficulty of the individual stunts.

Tables XIII through XVI will show the amount of participation in tumbling during the following school years: 1961-65. During the four year period which these tables represent 14.93% of the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in the interschool tumbling program.

TABLE XIII  
 TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	18
Capper . . . . .	404	37
Crana . . . . .	207	29
Curtis . . . . .	147	24
East Topeka . . . . .	268	34
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	35
Highland Park . . . . .	387	44
Holliday . . . . .	185	47
Jerdine . . . . .	255	79
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	34
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2610</b>	<b>381</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys enrolled in school. 18 boys in all three grades participated in tumbling. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404. Jerdine had the largest turnout with 79. For the year 14.59 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tumbling program.

TABLE XIV  
TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Beevell . . . . .	217	19
Capper . . . . .	370	20
Crane . . . . .	178	30
Curtis . . . . .	162	23
East Tepaka . . . . .	232	25
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	25
Highland Park . . . . .	210	40
Holliday . . . . .	202	33
Jardine . . . . .	279	30
Roosevelt . . . . .	241	73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2259</b>	<b>318</b>

Notes: Read table as follows: 217 boys enrolled in school. 19 boys in all three grades participated in tumbling. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 370. Roosevelt had the largest turnout with 73. For the year 13.65 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tumbling program.

TABLE XV  
TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	31
Capper . . . . .	303	28
Crane . . . . .	179	22
Curtis . . . . .	142	27
East Topeka . . . . .	235	33
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	37
Highland Park . . . . .	233	25
Holliday . . . . .	188	35
Jardine . . . . .	336	74
Landen . . . . .	121	22
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	88
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>422</b>

Notes: Read table as follows: 248 boys enrolled in school. 31 boys participated in tumbling from all three grades. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336. Roosevelt had the largest turnout with 88. For the year 17.52 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tumbling program.

TABLE XVI  
 TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	38
Capper . . . . .	315	33
Crans . . . . .	172	29
Curtis . . . . .	137	31
East Topeka . . . . .	270	37
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	30
Highland Park . . . . .	265	18
Holliday . . . . .	192	24
Jardina . . . . .	336	52
Landen . . . . .	132	21
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>356</b>

Nota: Read table as follows: 261 boys enrolled in school. 38 boys in all three grades participated in tumbling. Jardina had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 52. For the year 13.93 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tumbling program.

Wrestling is another sport along with tumbling where it is felt that a large number of boys who because of their lack of stature are able to compete on equal terms with their fellow classmates.

Once again each individual grade has its own team with thirteen individual weight classes at each grade level. These weight classes start at 75, 85, and 95 pounds for each of the three grades.

There are four practice matches against other schools with each grade participating in each match. Teams then draw for placement at two city regional tournaments. The first two place winners in each weight division then meet a week later in the city championship meet where individual and team champions are decided in each grade.

All boys participating in wrestling are weighed the week before the regional meet and are required to wrestle in that weight group.

The matches consist of three one minute periods. No riding time is kept. In case of a tie, at the end of the regulation time, there will be two thirty second overtime periods. Three judges shall declare a winner in case of a tie at the end of the overtime periods.

Tables XVII through XX will show the amount of participation in wrestling during the following school years: 1961-65. During the four year period which these tables represent 25.49% of the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in the interschool wrestling program.

During the month of March 40.42% of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in either tumbling or wrestling over the four year period.

TABLE XVII  
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	16
Capper . . . . .	404	71
Crane . . . . .	207	66
Curtis . . . . .	147	53
East Topeka . . . . .	268	30
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	45
Highland Park . . . . .	287	80
Holliday . . . . .	185	58
Jardine . . . . .	255	130
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	47
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2610</b>	<b>596</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys enrolled in school. 16 boys in all three grades participated in wrestling. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404. Jardine had the largest turnout with 130. For the year 22.83 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the wrestling program.

TABLE XVIII  
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	217	20
Copper . . . . .	370	115
Crene . . . . .	178	35
Curtis . . . . .	162	67
East Topeka . . . . .	232	51
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	50
Highland Park . . . . .	210	55
Holliday . . . . .	202	43
Jardine . . . . .	279	130
Roosevelt . . . . .	241	56
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>612</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 217 boys enrolled in school. 20 boys in all three grades participated in wrestling. Copper had the largest enrollment of boys with 370. Jardine had the largest turnout with 130. For the year 27.11 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the wrestling program.

TABLE XIX  
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	38
Cappar . . . . .	303	116
Crens . . . . .	179	54
Curtis . . . . .	142	60
East Topeka . . . . .	235	52
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	56
Highland Park . . . . .	233	54
Holliday . . . . .	188	51
Jardina . . . . .	336	170
Landon . . . . .	121	42
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	65
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>718</b>

Notes: Read table as follows: 248 boys enrolled in school. 38 boys in all three grades participated in wrestling. Jardina had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 170. For the year 29.86 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the wrestling program.

TABLE XX  
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	29
Capper . . . . .	315	79
Crane . . . . .	172	48
Curtis . . . . .	137	64
East Topeka . . . . .	270	50
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	50
Highland Park . . . . .	265	58
Holiday . . . . .	192	35
Jardine . . . . .	336	143
Landon . . . . .	132	28
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	75
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>578</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 261 boys enrolled in school. 29 boys in the three grades participated in wrestling. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 143. For the year 22.16 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the wrestling program.

The spring sports consist of track and tennis, with each grade level participating against the same age group from the other schools. In track each school can enter up to as many as three participants in each event except the ninth grade 220 yard dash, and the 70 yard hurdles in all three grades.

The field events for each of the three grade levels consist of the highjump, broadjump, polevault, and the eight pound shotput. The running events are the 70 yard dash, 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 880 yard run, 70 yard hurdles, 440 yard relay, and the medley (660) relay.

Each school participates in five meets during the season, and the city wide track meet which is held at Moore Bowl, Washburn University the last week of the season. School is dismissed in the afternoon of the city meet so that as many students as possible from each junior high school may attend.

Tables XXI through XXVI will show the amount of participation in track during the following school years: 1958-59, 1959-60, and 1961-65. During the six year period which these tables represent 39.21% of the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in the interschool track program.

TABLE XXI  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	240	93
Capper . . . . .	250	125
Crane . . . . .	189	93
Curtis . . . . .	129	56
East Topeka . . . . .	195	74
Highland Park . . . . .	143	90
Holliday . . . . .	166	108
Roosevelt . . . . .	273	122
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>763</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 240 boys enrolled in school. 93 boys in the three grades participated in the track program. Roosevelt had the largest enrollment of boys with 273. Capper had the largest turnout with 125. For the year 48.13 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

TABLE XXII  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	290	115
Capper . . . . .	328	163
Crane . . . . .	211	80
Curtis . . . . .	150	50
East Topeka . . . . .	208	80
Highland Park . . . . .	182	80
Holliday . . . . .	165	108
Roosevelt . . . . .	255	115
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>791</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 290 boys enrolled in school. 115 boys participated in the track program from three grades. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 328 and also the largest turnout with 163. For the year 44.22 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

TABLE XXIII  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	62
Capper . . . . .	404	138
Crane . . . . .	207	62
Curtis . . . . .	147	73
East Topeka . . . . .	268	73
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	80
Highland Park . . . . .	387	90
Holiday . . . . .	185	79
Jardine . . . . .	255	132
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	123
Totals	2610	912

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys enrolled in school. 62 boys in the three grades participated in the track program. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404 and also the largest turnout with 138. For the year 34.99 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

TABLE XXIV  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	217	79
Capper . . . . .	370	102
Crane . . . . .	178	60
Curtis . . . . .	162	72
East Topeka . . . . .	232	87
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	80
Highland Park . . . . .	210	57
Holliday . . . . .	202	82
Jardine . . . . .	279	149
Roosevelt . . . . .	241	125
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>893</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 217 boys enrolled in school. 79 boys in the three grades participated in the track program. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 370. Jardine had the largest turnout with 149. For the year 35.13 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

TABLE XXV  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	55
Capper . . . . .	303	86
Crane . . . . .	179	84
Curtis . . . . .	142	64
East Topeka . . . . .	235	91
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	75
Highland Park . . . . .	233	75
Holliday . . . . .	188	69
Jardine . . . . .	336	140
Landon . . . . .	121	49
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	105
Totals	2408	893

Note: Read table as follows: 248 boys enrolled in school. 55 boys in the three grades participated in the track program. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 140. For the year 37.09 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

TABLE XXVI  
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	64
Capper . . . . .	315	89
Crans . . . . .	172	63
Curtis . . . . .	137	66
East Topeka . . . . .	270	82
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	70
Highland Park . . . . .	265	89
Holliday . . . . .	192	93
Jardine . . . . .	336	140
Landon . . . . .	132	40
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	105
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>901</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 261 boys enrolled in school. 64 boys in the three grades participated in the track program. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 140. For the year 35.67 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the track program.

During tennis season each school will be represented by a singles player and a doubles team from each grade level. Each school will play five matches during the season and then take part in a city tournament where individual and team champions from each grade are crowned.

Tables XXVII through XXXII will show the amount of participation in tennis during the following school years: 1958-59, 1959-60, and 1961-65. During the six year period which these tables represent 10.38% of the total number of boys enrolled in the junior high schools of Topeka participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXVII  
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	240	16
Capper . . . . .	250	37
Crane . . . . .	189	34
Curtis . . . . .	129	10
East Topeka . . . . .	195	18
Highland Park . . . . .	143	13
Holliday . . . . .	166	65
Roosevelt . . . . .	273	9
Totals	1585	202

Note: Read table as follows: 240 boys enrolled in school. 16 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Roosevelt had the largest enrollment of boys with 273. Holliday had the largest turnout with 65. For the year 12.80 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXVIII  
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	290	18
Capper . . . . .	328	30
Crane . . . . .	211	20
Curtis . . . . .	150	9
East Topeka . . . . .	208	21
Highland Park . . . . .	182	12
Holliday . . . . .	165	40
Roosevelt . . . . .	255	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>185</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 290 boys enrolled in school. 18 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 328. Holliday had the largest turnout with 40. For the year 10.34 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXIX  
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	300	16
Capper . . . . .	404	25
Crane . . . . .	207	12
Curtis . . . . .	147	20
East Topeka . . . . .	268	27
Eisenhower . . . . .	188	22
Highland Park . . . . .	387	26
Holliday . . . . .	185	16
Jardine . . . . .	255	17
Roosevelt . . . . .	269	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2610</b>	<b>196</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 300 boys enrolled in school. 16 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 404. East Topeka had the largest turnout with 27. For the year 6.50 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXX  
 TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	217	21
Capper . . . . .	370	30
Crane . . . . .	178	17
Curtis . . . . .	162	18
East Topeka . . . . .	232	27
Eisenhower . . . . .	166	21
Highland Park . . . . .	210	30
Holliday . . . . .	202	22
Jardine . . . . .	279	33
Reosavalt . . . . .	241	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>239</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 217 boys enrolled in school. 21 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Capper had the largest enrollment of boys with 370. Jardine had the largest turnout with 33. For the year 10.58 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXXI  
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	248	22
Capper . . . . .	303	32
Crans . . . . .	179	21
Curtis . . . . .	142	9
East Topoka . . . . .	235	17
Eisenhower . . . . .	181	18
Highland Park . . . . .	233	28
Holliday . . . . .	188	27
Jardine . . . . .	336	39
Landon . . . . .	121	21
Roosevelt . . . . .	242	30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>264</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 248 boys entered in school. 22 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 39. For the year 10.96 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

TABLE XXXII  
 TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

School	Enrollment boys	Total participation
Boswell . . . . .	261	22
Capper . . . . .	315	20
Crene . . . . .	172	39
Curtis . . . . .	137	12
East Topeka . . . . .	270	22
Eisenhower . . . . .	206	34
Highland Park . . . . .	265	23
Holliday . . . . .	192	15
Jardine . . . . .	336	41
Landon . . . . .	132	26
Roosevelt . . . . .	268	29
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>283</b>

Note: Read table as follows: 261 boys enrolled in school. 22 boys in the three grades participated in tennis. Jardine had the largest enrollment of boys with 336 and also the largest turnout with 41. For the year 11.08 per cent of all the boys enrolled in the junior high schools participated in the tennis program.

## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### I. SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to determine the percentage of boys who are participating in the interschool athletic program of the junior high schools of Topeka, Kansas.

Coaches of the eleven junior high schools of Topeka were asked to furnish information revealing the number of boys participating in the various sports which the junior highs compete in.

Related literature was studied to determine the opinion of authorities on such an athletic program for boys of this age.

The final phase of the study presents a broad view of the athletic program for boys in Topeka junior high schools.

The following statements summarize the information obtained in the study.

1. Educational authorities do not agree on the merits of competitive athletics for the adolescent boy.
2. Many educators believe that athletics present opportunities which cannot be experienced in any other phase of school activities.
3. Athletics should be recognized as an educational force and their potentialities be developed for all youth.
4. Participation in interschool athletics is favorable in most instances in Topeka junior high schools.

5. All interschool sports, except tumbling and tennis, attract a favorable percentage of the boys enrolled.

6. Football is the sport with the largest percentage of participants, followed by basketball, track, wrestling, tumbling, and tennis.

7. Administration and supervision of the Topeka junior high school athletic program is designed to make the program a part of the total school activity.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further encouragement for more participation on the part of all boys in Topeka junior high schools in the interschool program.

2. A study to ascertain how the tumbling and tennis program in Topeka junior high schools can be made to serve a large number of boys.

3. Greater emphasis should be placed on large groups participation in ninth grade interschool athletics, particularly football and basketball.

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A STUDY OF PARTICIPATION IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS  
IN THE TOPEKA, KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

by

WILLIAM L. WHITE

B. S., Kansas State University, 1962

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

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Department of Physical Education

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The purpose of this study was to show that a junior high school athletic program properly organized and administered, will result in a greater percentage of boys' participation; and be of greater benefit to the participants than many people realize.

The following procedure was used in making the study:

1. The literature at both Kansas State University and Washburn University was gleaned to find out what had been published on the subject of competitive athletics at the junior high school level.

2. Coaches of the eleven junior high schools of Topeka, Kansas were asked to furnish information revealing the number of boys participating in the various sports which the junior highs compete in.

3. The Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation for the public schools of Topeka, Kansas was interviewed and kindly turned over all the information he had on the subject to the writer.

The enrollment of the total number of boys in each school at the end of the school year was used. The coaches of each sport from each school then furnished the total number of boys participating in each sport. It was then easy to determine the percentage of boys who are participating in the interschool athletic program in the junior high schools of Topeka, Kansas.

A summary of the percentages for the various sports included in the study were:

1. Football 44.83% of the total number of boys enrolled in the schools.

2. Basketball 41.65%.

3. Tumbling 14.93%.
4. Wrestling 40.42%.
5. Track 39.21%.
6. Tennis 10.38%.

The following conclusions seem justified as a result of the study:

1. Participating in interschool athletics is favorable in most instances in Topeka junior high schools.
2. All interschool sports, except tumbling and tennis, attract a favorable percentage of the boys enrolled.
3. Football is the sport with the largest percentage of participation, followed by basketball, track, wrestling, tumbling, and tennis.