

A SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PROGRAMS
IN CLASS-C SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

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INTRODUCTION

Two decades ago Nebraska High Schools were offering interscholastic football to their students as a program for Friday evening. Extra-curricular activities were not considered to be a very important spoke in the educational wheel. In a twenty year span many of these schools have developed a highly organized curriculum of activities other than those in the classroom. Schools are now hiring "activities directors" and school calendars are swamped by the demand for scheduling activities.

One of the most highly organized and sophisticated programs, is that of football. With many people questioning the value of this emphasis on football, we as coaches, should evaluate existing programs and realize the strengths and weaknesses. This type of information should help us keep the value of football in its proper prospective and protect the great game of football from those who are unsure of its many superior qualities.

PURPOSE

This survey was conducted to evaluate the status of football in class "C" high schools of Nebraska. It is intended that it will show where football is today and what direction coaches should take in the future.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Class C schools in Nebraska--The Nebraska Activities Association

rules that the top ninety-six schools in male enrollment be designated as class A and class B. The next 120 largest schools in male enrollment are designated as being class C.

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

This study includes information gathered from only class C schools in the state of Nebraska.

METHOD OF STUDY

From personal experience and discussions with a number of class C football coaches, a short answer questionnaire containing twenty questions was devised. The purpose of the questionnaire was to collect information concerning the status of football in class C high schools within the state. The questionnaire was two pages in length, and included mainly questions which could be answered "yes" or "no", with several short answer completion questions, to determine brief opinions about existing programs. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix.

The questionnaire was sent to the Head Football Coach in each of the one hundred and twenty class C schools in the state of Nebraska. The list was taken from the Nebraska School Activities Association membership and classification list for the 1971-72 school year. Also enclosed with the questionnaire was a self-addressed, stamped envelope to encourage a quicker and more complete response.

The first questionnaire returns were tabulated on December 15, 1971, and sixty-seven coaches responded. On January 5, 1972, fifty-three questionnaires were sent to those coaches who had not responded on the first mailing.

From this second mailing thirty-five responses were received.

The total number of schools that answered was one hundred and two on January 25, 1972. Eighteen schools failed to return their questionnaire.

The results of the first questionnaire were as follows:

Questionnaires Mailed	120
Questionnaires Returned	<u>67</u>
Percent of Returns	55.83%

The results of the second mailing were as follows:

Questionnaires Mailed	53
Questionnaires Returned	<u>35</u>
Percent of Returns	66.03%

Final results of all questionnaires sent were as follows:

Total Questionnaires Mailed	120
Total Questionnaires Returned	<u>102</u>
Total Percent of Returns	85.00%