

A STUDY OF THE PROFESSIONAL COACHING, COURSES  
TAKEN BY THE MALE COACHES  
IN THE A AND AA HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS

by

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Today in our progressive world many facets of education are changing. One problem of growing concern is the dilemma of finding qualified teachers who are also capable of coaching sports. Adding to this problem is the placement of such teacher-coaches in the jigsaw puzzle of vacancies and specialization; a task that continues to plague the profession.

In 1971 the Division of Men's Athletics of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation appointed a task force to study the problem of certification standards of high school coaches. They recommended that . . . "the best way to liquidate unqualified coaches is for each state to establish certification standards for teachers of academic subjects who desire to coach." (1)

The task force based their recommendation on the following facts (2).

1. Approximately 25 percent of all coaches have no education related to physical education teaching or coaching. As the numbers of sports teams increases so will the percentage of unqualified people.
2. There is a demand for more coaches than teachers of physical education so a person with experience in a sport often serves as coach.
3. Coaching is a specific area which requires a specific education. The health and safety of the participant in athletics is at stake, and of course, the unqualified coach does not provide the "optimal" learning experience for the student athlete.

Many states have now recognized the need for a coaching certification. States pioneering the program are Indiana (1965) which established an eight hour requirement for coaches and Minnesota (1966) which followed with a nine-semester hour certification program. Ohio and others are now following their lead. Like these states, Kansas hopes to propose a program for athletic coaches who work with boys and girls.

#### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the male coaches at the A - AA levels who are teaching are meeting the certification requirements suggested by the AAHPER Task Force.

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has a few weaknesses. The author of this study did not check the school records of the coaches in the other three classes in Kansas which are AAA, AAAA and AAAAA.

The conditions of this study were given to only three sports in high school: 1) football, 2) basketball, and 3) track. Another important factor concerning this study is that the author took a random selection of 50 coaches from each of the two classes.