

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

by

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A MASTER'S REPORT

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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%

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The first five questions dealt with the staff and salaries of each schools football program.

I. STAFF AND SALARIES

Question One: How many coaches are working in your entire football program, including yourself?

TABLE I
COACHES ON THE FOOTBALL STAFF

No. of Coaches	No. of Schools	Percent
2	20	19.60
3	48	47.06
4	21	20.60
5	11	10.78
6	2	1.96
		100.00

The above table shows that all schools provided at least two football coaches. The majority of schools (47.06%), provided three coaches for football, including the head coach. Twenty schools, (20.60%) provided four staff members while only eleven schools, (10.78%) provided five staff members and two schools, (1.96%) provided six staff members.

A close check of the schools providing five and six staff members indicated the fact that they were schools with a large number of boys participating, and they were at the top of the class C enrollment figures.

Question Two, Part One: Do you take advantage of graduated players as student assistants?

TABLE II
STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	7	6.86
No	95	<u>93.14</u>
		100.00

Seven schools (6.86%) responded "yes" to question two. Ninety-five schools (93.14%) responded "no" to this question.

The seven schools (6.86%) answering "yes" responded to the second part of the question.

Question Two, Part Two: How many student assistants do you use each year?

TABLE III
NUMBER OF STUDENT ASSISTANTS

No. of Student Ass't.	No. of Schools	Percent
1	6	85.71
2	1	<u>14.29</u>
		100.00

Six schools (85.71%) stated they used one student assistant per year. One of these schools stated that they had used them when available but did not seek them out. One school (14.29%) responded that they used two student assistants each year.

Question Three: What is the salary for head football coach?

TABLE IV
SALARY OF HEAD COACHES

Salary	No. of Schools	Percent
\$200.00	1	.98
300.00	7	6.86
350.00	8	7.84
400.00	9	8.82
500.00	23	22.55
550.00	31	30.39
650.00	7	6.86
700.00	15	14.72
800.00	1	.98
		100.00

There was a wide range in the salaries of head coaches with the lowest being one school (.98%) receiving two hundred dollars and the high being one school (.98%) receiving eight hundred dollars. The majority of coaches, twenty-three (22.55%) and thirty-one (30.39%) were receiving five hundred dollars and five hundred and fifty dollars respectively.

Question Four: What is the salary for your assistant coaches?

TABLE V
SALARY OF ASSISTANT COACHES

Salary	No. of Schools	Percent
\$100.00	3	2.94
200.00	15	14.72
250.00	27	26.46
300.00	31	30.39
450.00	22	21.57
500.00	4	3.92
		100.00

There seemed to be little correlation between the salaries of head coaches and their assistant coaches. Some of the low payed head coaches had assistants who were close to the same pay while others showed a very wide gap between head coach and assistant coaches. Three schools (2.94%) received only one hundred dollars for assistants while four schools (3.92%) received a high of five hundred dollars for assistants. The majority of assistant coaches, twenty-seven (26.46%) and thirty-one (30.39%) received two hundred and fifty dollars and three hundred dollars respectively.

Question Five: Do you use qualified, payed officials for your reserve, freshman and 7th & 8th grade games?

TABLE VI
QUALIFIED OFFICIALS FOR LOWER TEAMS

Response	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	9	8.82
No	93	<u>91.18</u>
		100.00

Nine schools (8.82%) indicated that they did use qualified, payed officials for their lower teams. Ninety-three schools (91.18%) responded that they did not use qualified officials. Many of the ninety-three schools (91.18%) commented that they used teachers, students, persons from the community, and one school remarked that they used any "warm bodys available".

II. SCHEDULES

Question Six, Part One: Over the past three years, what is the average number of boys who have competed in each of these categories?

This question helped to evaluate what type schedules each school would report. If there were some schools who did not offer junior high football or freshman football, it would alter the scope of their total program's scheduling.

TABLE VII
SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPANTS

No. of Participants	No. of Schools	Percent
0	23	22.55
10-20	13	12.75
21-30	19	18.62
31-40	33	32.36
41-50	14	<u>13.72</u>
		100.00

Twenty-three schools (22.55%) responded that they did not offer football at the seventh and eighth grade level. Those schools who gave reasons for not offering football at this level usually had one of three excuses, (1) school board felt students were too young, (2) not enough money to operate, and (3) not enough boys to warrant a program.

As stated in Table VII, thirty-three schools (32.36%) had a total of thirty-one to forty students participating. This compared with the low of thirteen schools (12.75%) who had only ten to twenty participants and the high of fourteen schools (13.72%) who had from forty-one to fifty participants in their program.

Question Six, Part Two: What is the average number of boys who have competed in the following category? 9th-12th grade
 21-30___ 31-40___ 41-50___ 51-60___ 61-70___

TABLE VIII
 HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

No. of Participants	No. of Schools	Percent
21-30	18	17.65
31-40	17	16.67
41-50	23	22.55
51-60	24	23.53
61-70	20	<u>19.60</u>
		100.00

Eighteen schools (17.65%) were in the low category of twenty-one to thirty boys competing while twenty schools (19.60%) were in the highest category of sixty-one to seventy participants. Most schools of class C distinction reported an average of forty-one to fifty and fifty-one to sixty participants.

Question Seven: How many reserve games are scheduled each season?

TABLE IX
RESERVE GAMES

No. of Games Played	No. of Schools	Percent
0	25	24.51
1	4	3.92
2	6	5.88
3	0	---
4	7	6.86
5	42	41.18
6	18	17.65
		100.00

Twenty-five schools (24.51%) did not play reserve games. These came from the thirty-five schools who had less than twenty-one to forty boys participating. Oddly there were no schools who played three reserve games. Four schools (3.92%) played only one game while the high of six games was played by eighteen schools (17.65%). A large majority, forty-two schools (41.18%) played a schedule of five reserve games.

Question Eight: How many freshman games are scheduled each season?

TABLE X
FRESHMAN GAMES

No. of Freshman Games	No. of Schools	Percent
0	31	30.39
1	4	3.92
2	14	13.72
3	7	6.86
4	20	19.60
5	26	<u>25.51</u>
		100.00

As was the case in question seven there were many schools who did not schedule freshman games, thirty-one schools (30.39%) fit into this category. Four schools (3.92%) played only one game while the high of five games was picked by twenty-six schools (25.51%)

Thirty-one schools (30.39%) seems like a large number of schools who do not schedule freshman games. It should be pointed out that many coaches commented that their freshman played with the reserve teams or the varsity teams.

Question Nine: How many seventh and eighth grade games are scheduled each season?

TABLE XI
SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE GAMES

No. of Games	No. of Schools	Percent
0	23	22.55
1	9	8.82
2	10	9.83
3	0	---
4	48	47.06
5	12	<u>11.74</u>
		100.00

Twenty-three schools (22.55%) did not schedule games at the seventh and eighth grade level. These schools did not offer football at this level. (See Table VII).

Nine schools (8.82%) scheduled one game at this level while the high was twelve schools (11.74%) scheduling five games. A large majority of schools, forty-eight (47.06%) played four games.

Of the schools who actually offered football at the seventh and eighth grade level, all played at least one game of competitive football with an opposing school.

III. AUDIO-VISUAL UTILIZATION

Question Ten: Do you film your games, videotape, or both?

TABLE XII
FILMING AND VIDEO-TAPING

Response	No. of Schools	Percent
Film	53	51.96
Video-tape	19	18.63
Neither	30	<u>29.41</u>
		100.00

Seventy-two schools (70.59%) filmed or video-taped their football games. From this total fifty-three schools (51.96%) filmed games and nineteen schools (18.63%) video-taped their games. Thirty schools (29.41%) replied that they did not film nor did they video-tape. A substantial number of coaches commented that they would be taking advantage of visual aids in the upcoming season.

Question Eleven: How many games do you film or video-tape each season?
 1-3__ 4-6__ 7-9__

This question was answered by the seventy-two schools who made affirmative answers to question ten.

TABLE XIII
 NUMBER OF GAMES FILMED AND VIDEO-TAPED

No. of Games	No. of Schools	Percent
1-3	8	11.11
4-6	17	23.61
7-9	47	<u>65.28</u>
		100.00

Forty-seven schools (65.28%) filmed or video-taped seven to nine ball games. This would cover an entire season of filming. Eight schools (11.11%) reported a low of one to three games and seventeen schools (23.61%) filmed or video-taped four to six games.

Many coaches commented that they did not film or video-tape the last game unless it was a championship game or of great importance.

Question Twelve: Do you film or video-tape any scrimmages?

TABLE XIV
SCRIMMAGES FILMED AND VIDEO-TAPED

Response	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	14	19.44
No	58	<u>80.56</u>
		100.00

Fourteen schools (19.44%) reported that they did film or video-tape scrimmages. Fifty-eight schools (80.56%) replied that they did not use film or video-tape in any scrimmage situations.

IV. BUDGET

Question Thirteen: Over the past three years, what has been your average budget for football? (exclude transportation, lights and rental of game field)

TABLE XV
MONEY ALLOCATED TO FOOTBALL

Money Allocated	No. of Schools	Percent
\$ 500-1000	16	15.68
1001-1500	49	48.03
1501-2000	11	10.78
2001-2500	9	8.82
2501-3000	10	9.83
3001-3500	7	<u>6.86</u>
		100.00

Sixteen schools (15.68%) responded that they budgeted between five hundred and one thousand dollars. This was the low amount reported and compared to the high of three thousand to three thousand five hundred dollars that was reported by seven schools (6.86%).

Forty-nine schools (48.03%) indicated that they were spending one thousand to one thousand five hundred dollars.

This question excluded transportation, lights and rental of game fields. It was felt that these items would give false conclusions to the amount spent for equipping the football team. Discussions with a number of sporting goods dealers, college equipment managers and high school coaches indicated that in order to maintain a quality line of safe equipment for a high school squad of forty boys, one would spend about one thousand and eight hundred dollars per year.

Question Fourteen: Do you have a booster club that helps support your program, that is separate from the school?

TABLE XVI
BOOSTER CLUBS

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	37	36.27
No	65	<u>63.73</u>
		100.00

Thirty-seven schools (36.27%) reported that they did have a booster club separate from the school which helped support the football program. Sixty-five schools (63.73%) indicated that they did not have a booster club.

V. ORGANIZATION

Question Fifteen: Approximately how many hours each week, (Friday to Friday) do you spend on football? (Include practice, games, films, etc. Do not count time in the school day unless it is a free period.)

TABLE XVII
HOURS SPENT WORKING ON FOOTBALL

No. of Hours	No. of Schools	Percent
11-15	21	20.60
16-20	30	29.41
21-25	11	10.78
26-30	14	13.72
31-35	11	10.78
36-40	15	<u>14.72</u>
		100.00

Twenty-one schools (20.60%) stated that they spent from eleven to fifteen hours per week working on their football program. Those coaches or schools who indicated the highest work load per week were fifteen schools (14.72%) who spent an average of thirty-six to forty hours per week.

Question Sixteen, Part One: Do you run an organized off-season program in the winter/spring months? _____

The "organized program" was explained to be meant as "one where a coach is assigned to work and supervise. Boys are not left on their own."

TABLE XVIII
WINTER/SPRING OFF-SEASON PROGRAM

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	17	16.67
No	85	<u>83.33</u>
		100.00

As Table XVIII shows, seventeen schools (16.67%) had organized winter/spring programs. Eighty-five schools (83.33%) indicated that they did not offer an off-season program in the winter/spring months.

Question Sixteen, Part Two: Do you run an organized off-season program in the summertime? _____

TABLE XIX
SUMMER OFF-SEASON PROGRAM

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	67	65.69
No	35	<u>34.31</u>
		100.00

Sixty-seven schools (65.69%) replied that they did operate an off-season program during the summer. Thirty-five schools (34.31%) did not run a program in the summer.

Question Seventeen, Part One: Is a doctor in attendance at all varsity home games?

TABLE XX
DOCTORS IN ATTENDANCE AT VARSITY GAMES

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	13	12.75
No	89	<u>87.25</u>
		100.00

Only thirteen schools (12.75%) were fortunate enough to have a doctor in attendance at all varsity football games. Eighty-nine schools (87.25%) did not have a doctor in attendance.

Question Seventeen, Part Two: Do you have an emergency unit at all varsity games?

TABLE XXI
EMERGENCY UNIT AT VARSITY GAMES

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	90	88.26
No	12	<u>11.74</u>
		100.00

Ninety schools (88.26%) did have an emergency unit at all varsity games while twelve schools (11.74%) reported that they did not have emergency unit help in attendance.

Question Eighteen, Part One: Is a doctor in attendance at all reserve, freshman and seventh and eighth grade games?

TABLE XXII

DOCTOR IN ATTENDANCE AT LOWER GAMES

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	0	0
No	102	<u>100</u>
		100

As shown in Table XXII all one hundred and two schools (100%) responded that they did not have a doctor in attendance.

Question Eighteen, Part Two: Do you have an emergency unit at all reserve, freshman and seventh and eighth grade games?

TABLE XXIII

EMERGENCY UNIT AT LOWER GAMES

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	27	26.46
No	75	<u>73.54</u>
		100.00

Twenty-seven schools (26.46%) had emergency units in attendance at lower level games. Seventy-five schools (73.54%) did not have an emergency unit in attendance at these games.

Question Nineteen, Part One: How many student trainers do you use?

TABLE XXIV
NUMBER OF STUDENT TRAINERS

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
0	23	22.55
1	51	50.00
2	28	<u>27.45</u>
		100.00

Twenty-three schools (22.55%) did not have a student trainer. Fifty-one schools (50.00%) indicated that they had one student trainer while twenty-eight schools (27.45%) had two students assigned to training duties.

Question Nineteen, Part Two: How many student managers do you use?

TABLE XXV
NUMBER OF STUDENT MANAGERS

No. of Managers	No. of Schools	Percent
1	13	12.75
2	48	47.06
3	20	19.60
4	21	<u>20.60</u>
		100.00

Thirteen schools (12.75%) had one student manager while twenty-one schools (20.60%) had a high of four student managers. Two student managers were used by forty-eight schools (47.06%). According to Table XXV this indicates a majority of the schools used two student managers.

According to question nineteen, part two, there were seventy-nine schools who used at least one student trainer. (See Table XXIV) The following question was answered by those schools.

Question Twenty: Has your student trainer had any training or education other than your own personal help?

TABLE XXVI
EDUCATION OF STUDENT TRAINERS

Responses	No. of Schools	Percent
Yes	21	20.60
No	81	<u>79.40</u>
		100.00

Twenty-one schools (20.60%) have given their student trainers some type of education other than instruction by the coach. Eighty-one schools (79.40%) have student trainers whose only instruction has come from the coach.

SUMMARY

This survey was sent to the one hundred and twenty class "C" schools in the state of Nebraska. It was an attempt to determine what kind of football programs existed at these schools. The survey was returned by one hundred and two schools for an 85.00% return.

The one hundred and two responding schools listed the number of coaches working in their program, and after tabulating the returns it was found that most schools had three coaches.

Thirty percent of the schools were paying their head football coach five hundred and fifty dollars while one school had a low of two hundred dollars and one school had a high of eight hundred dollars. Thirty percent of the schools were paying their assistant coaches three hundred dollars. Three schools payed a low of one hundred dollars while four schools payed their assistants five hundred dollars. There seemed to be no correlation of salaries as those schools who payed head coaches a high amount in some cases payed assistants a lower amount. Also some schools, whose head coach was in the lower salary range, payed their assistants a wage that ranked in the higher range.

Thirty-two percent of the schools had thirty-one to forty boys competing at the junior high level. Twenty-three schools (22.55%) did not have a junior high program. Forty-six percent of the schools had between forty and sixty boys competing at the high school level.

Seventy-one percent of the schools used either film or video-tape to record their games. Sixty-five percent of these schools recorded between

seven and nine games per season. Thirty schools did not use film or videotape.

Forty-eight percent of the schools reported that they spent an average of one thousand to one thousand five hundred dollars each year for equipment and supplies. This did not include transportation, lights, and rental fees.

Eighty-five percent of the schools did not operate an off-season program during the winter/spring months but a majority of schools (65.69%) did conduct off-season programs in the summer months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Registered officials should be mandatory for all inter-school contests, regardless of the level of football.
2. A medical doctor should be in attendance at all inter-school contests regardless of the level of football.
3. An emergency unit should be in attendance at all inter-school contests, regardless of the level of football.

APPENDIX

North Bend Central High School
North Bend, Nebraska 68649
November 18, 1971

Coach:

I am conducting a survey of high school football in the Nebraska class "C" schools, as partial fulfillment for my master's degree at Kansas State University.

As all of you are aware, the caliber of football in Nebraska high schools has risen considerably in the past ten to fifteen years. My survey will be an attempt to establish where North Bend Central's program is now and what direction we need to take in the future. It also will be an indicator of the broad scope of Nebraska High School football.

I would appreciate your cooperation in answering the questionnaire and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. If you would like a copy of the results of my survey just add your name and address at the bottom of the questionnaire and I will be glad to send you a copy.

Sincerely,

Dan J. Knight
Head Football Coach

Enclosures: 2

North Bend Central High School
North Bend, Nebraska 68649
January 5, 1972

Coach:

In November I mailed out a questionnaire concerning the status of high school football in Nebraska class "C" schools. I am enclosing another questionnaire and self-addressed envelope in case you have lost the first one.

Your reply will be very helpful by assuring that I have a majority consensus of football throughout the state. If you would like a copy of the survey, just sign your name and address at the bottom of the questionnaire.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dan J. Knight
Head Football Coach

Enclosures: 2

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How many coaches are working in your entire football program, including yourself? _____
 2. Do you take advantage of graduated players as student assistants? _____
If so, how many do you use each year? _____
 3. What is the salary for head football coach? _____
 4. What is the salary for your assistant coaches? _____
 5. Do you use qualified, payed officials for your reserve, freshman and seventh and eighth grade games? _____
 6. Over the past three years, what is the average number of boys who have competed in each of the following categories:
7th & 8th -- 0 _____ 10-20 _____ 21-30 _____ 31-40 _____ 41-50 _____
9th to 12th -- 21-30 _____ 31-40 _____ 41-50 _____ 51-60 _____ 61-70 _____
 7. How many reserve games are scheduled each season? _____
 8. How many freshman games are scheduled each season? _____
 9. How many seventh and eighth grade games are scheduled each season? _____
 10. Do you film your games, video-tape, or both? _____
 11. How many games do you film or video-tape each season? _____
 12. Do you film or video-tape scrimmages? _____
 13. Over the past three years, what has been your average budget for football? _____ (exclude transportation, lights and rental of game field)
 14. Do you have a booster club that helps support your program, that is separate from the school? _____
 15. Approximately how many hours each week, (Friday to Friday) do you spend on football? _____ (include practice, games, films, etc. Do not count time in the school day unless it is a free period.)
 16. Do you run an off season program in the winter/spring months _____
summer months _____?
- Organized program is meant as one where a coach is assigned to work and supervise. Boys are not left on their own.
17. Is a doctor in attendance at all home games? _____ Emergency unit? _____

18. Is a doctor in attendance at all reserve, freshman, and seventh and eighth grade games? _____ Emergency unit? _____
19. How many student trainers do you use? _____ Student managers? _____
20. Has your student trainer had any training or education other than your own personal help? _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Associate Professor Raymond A. Wauthier for his personal and professional advice and his time and effort throughout this study. Appreciation is also expressed to the one hundred and two schools for their cooperation.

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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

1972

This survey was undertaken to determine what other class "C" high schools were including in their football program.

A twenty question survey was sent to one hundred and twenty schools. The first return of questionnaires yielded sixty-seven for a 55.83 percent return on December 15, 1971. The final letter sent requesting the return of the questionnaires produced thirty-five more returned surveys for a total of one hundred and two of one hundred and twenty, or 85.00 percent final return.

Forty-seven percent of the replying schools had a coaching staff that numbered three, including the head coach. Two percent of the schools had a staff of six coaches.

Thirty percent of the head coaches were receiving a salary of five hundred and fifty dollars.

Twenty-three percent of the schools had an average of fifty-one to sixty boys competing at the high school level. Thirty-two percent of the schools had thirty-one to forty boys competing at the seventh and eighth grade level.

Forty-one percent of the schools played five reserve games. Freshman games were scheduled at a rate of five games per year by twenty-five percent of the schools. Thirty percent of the schools did not schedule any freshman games.

Fifty-one percent of the schools filmed their games. Video-tape was used by eighteen percent of the schools. Sixty-five percent of the schools utilized the visual aids in seven to nine ball games per year.

Forty-eight percent of the schools had an average budget over the

past three years of one thousand dollars to one thousand five hundred dollars.

Eighty-three percent of the schools replied that they did not offer an organized conditioning program during the winter/spring months. Sixty-five percent did organize for the summer months.

Eighty-seven percent of the schools did not have a doctor in attendance at home games. No school reported a doctor attending reserve, freshman or seventh and eighth grade games.

Seventy-nine percent of the schools indicated that their student trainers had not received any first aid training or injury prevention training of any kind.