

THE HISTORY OF ATHLETICS AT SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

by 6791

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. S. H. Thompson, principal of Sumner High School for the use of school files of the early school history. The yearbooks not available at the school were furnished the author by Mr. Thompson. Additional materials in the form of scrapbooks, personal records and papers were furnished by former Sumner coaches-- Mr. A. T. Edwards and Mr. James Thatcher. Mr. Edwards who was in charge of printing the school paper for over thirty years, arranged for the use of a private collection of the school paper owned by Mrs. Emma Creal.

The writer wishes to thank all these people, along with Mr. T. M. Evans and Mr. Raymond Wauthier for their time and assistance in making this report possible.

## INTRODUCTION

Prior to the year of 1905, Kansas City, Kansas had only one high school for the accommodation of both white and negro students. This school known as the Kansas City, Kansas High School was located on the northwest corner of Ninth Street and Minnesota Avenue, and constituted the first and second units of the Wyandotte High School destroyed by fire in 1933. Probably the highest number of negro students enrolled at any one time in this bi-racial high school was between fifty and sixty. From September, 1886, the date of the establishment of this high school in Kansas City, Kansas to the year, 1964, there was apparently very little friction between the white and negro students. However, a dispute between a white and a negro boy at a baseball game in Kerr's Park in April, 1904, terminated fatally for the white student. Despite the fact the negro boy was not a student, the incident was used as a pretext to launch an agitation for the separation of the races in the high school.

Conservatives of both races assembled in a mass meeting at the Carnegie Library Building and calmly and deliberately considered the critical state of affairs precipitated by the death of the white student. The meeting was presided over by W. W. Rose, a Democratic politician, who a short time later became mayor of the city. Prominent white citizens who attended the meeting and took an active part in the deliberations were Mr. Miller, a member of the board of education; Dr. Harris, a local physician; and Mr. Toothaker, a Democrat and ex-member of the legislature. Among the negro citizens present were the late Bishop Shaffer of the A.M.E. Church; Mr. B. S. Smith, a well-known lawyer; the Reverend Mitchell, Pastor of the First Baptist Church; and J. J. Lewis, an elementary school principal.

From this meeting the following resolutions presented by the late Mr. Toothaker were adopted:

"Whereas, an unfortunate incident, having bearing on the school system, aroused the ire of a number of white patrons and white friends of the Kansas City, Kansas High School and caused them to use such incident as a pretext to eject abruptly all negro students from said high school, to bar the door against them, and to deny them the privilege of attending said school, and whereas, said act is a gross violation of the school laws of the State of Kansas, and an infringement of the constitutional rights of the negro citizens of Kansas: Be it resolved that

- (1) We condemn such act as unconstitutional.
- (2) We recommend that the negro students be restored their rights or that in the name of justice the school be closed to both races until such laws are enacted by the state legislature repealing the law providing for mixed high schools in Kansas City, Kansas and enacting a law for separate high schools in Kansas City, Kansas.

The suggestions embodied in these resolutions were approved and plans were evolved whereby the negro students resumed their places in the Kansas City High School until the next meeting of the State legislature which convened in January, 1905.

At this session of the legislature a bill known as the "Segregation Bill" and bearing the title, House Bill, No. 890 an act relating to the government of schools in Kansas City, Kansas, and to amend Section 6290 of the General Statutes of 1901 was introduced. The bill read as follows:

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Kansas

Section 1. That section 6290 of the General Statutes of 1901 entitled "An act for the regulation and support of common school," be and the same is here-by amended so that the same shall read as follows:

The Board of Education shall have power to elect their own officers, make all necessary rules for the government of the schools of such cities under its charge and under the control of the board, subject to the provisions of this act and the law of this state, to organize and maintain separate schools for the education of white and negro children, including the high school of Kansas City, Kansas; no discrimination on account of color shall be made in high school except as provided there-in; to exercise the sole control over the public schools and school property of such city, and shall have the power to establish a high school or high schools in connection with manual training and instruction or otherwise, and to maintain the same as a part of the public school system of said city.

Section 2. That original Section 6290 of the General Statutes of 1901, of which section here of is amendatory, and all acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This act shall take effect and be enforced from and after its publication in the official state paper."

The bill was approved February 22, 1905 and published in the official state paper February 28, 1905. By the passage of the "Segregation Bill," the law of 1884 providing for mixed high schools in Kansas City, Kansas was repealed and a law enacted for the establishment of separate high schools in Kansas City, Kansas.<sup>1</sup>

Thus it was by the enactment of the legislation provided for in the House Bill, No. 890, Sumner High School was to open its doors in September, 1905. The site selected was at Ninth Street and Washington Boulevard.

Mr. J. E. Patterson was the principal; G. F. Porter assisted him and taught Latin; Mrs. Florence Crews, instructor of English; and Mr. G. B. Buster,

teacher of history. The first year, 1906, there were six graduated, all of whom were girls.

A negro educator formerly connected with the schools, speaking of the origin of Sumner High School said:

"Sumner is a child not of our own volition but rather an offspring of the race antipathy of a bygone period. It was a veritable blessing in disguise--a flower of which we may proudly say, The bud had a bitter taste, but sweet indeed is the flower."<sup>2</sup>

In June, 1905, the new high school was in process of construction at Ninth Street and Washington Boulevard.

Superintendent M. E. Pearson, principal J. E. Patterson of the new school, and G. F. Porter, and G. B. Buster, sat around a table in the Board of Education room in the Library Building pondering over names for the new school.

The name "Sumner" was finally decided upon. The name was taken from Charles Sumner, a negro scholar of highest rank, and possessed qualities of courage, integrity and scholarship.

#### PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this project is to provide a history of athletics at Sumner High School. It is desired this inquiry will be of assistance to the administration, faculty, students, and community.

A brief history of the school's inception has been provided.

This study was further concerned with the progress in athletics over Sumner's sixty-seven years of existence. The results will make available an accurate as possible history of the school's athletic accomplishments.

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES OR METHOD OF STUDY

Materials for this study were obtained from various sources. The school newspaper, The Sumner Courier, and the school yearbooks were the principal sources of information. A written history of the school compiled by the school's Journalism Department in 1935, was a fine aid. Additional materials were obtained through interviews with the current principal and two former coaches of all three sports at Sumner High School.

## ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

To further enhance athletics at Sumner, attempts had been made to perfect some kind of athletic association among the schools for Negroes. Accordingly, the Missouri Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association was founded in 1918.

The Interstate Athletic Association was the result of several unsuccessful attempts to join negro schools of the Missouri Valley into an association for the promotion of athletics. The organizational meeting was called by Mr. Thomas J. Taylor of Lincoln High School, Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting was held on December 6, 1918, at the Paseo Y. M. C. A.

The following schools sent representatives: Western University, Lincoln Institute, Kansas Industrial Institute, Lincoln High School, and Sumner High School. Schools to join later were Olathe High, Lawrence High, and Barlett High at St. Joseph, Missouri.

Sumner competed in this association distinguishing themselves quite well in Championship competition. The team played under the name of Sumner "Jayhawkers". The title was thought to conflict with that of the University of Kansas and was changed to "Spartans" in 1934.

The Spartans held championship cups from the Missouri Valley Inter-scholastic Association in Tennis, Track, and Cross Country.

Sumner was later to join the Kansas High School Activities Association in 1953.

#### FINANCING

All gate receipts collected for athletic events are placed in an athletic fund. This type of financing throughout Sumner's history has not been sufficient to maintain all athletics at the school.

The school has a policy set by the principal, Mr. S. H. Thompson, to equip every boy with game and practice equipment, including shoes, towels, and insurance protection. This type of assistance is provided to every athletic in every sport. The Board of Education had been most cooperative in subsidizing the athletic program.

A meal allowance of \$2.00 per individual is provided for athletes and coaches on trips with the school. For coaches driving their personal automobiles, a fee of \$.08 per mile is provided for operation.

To supplement the athletic fund, a coaches' club fund was initiated to purchase small items of equipment and provide meals for needy individuals on athletic teams at the school.

## THE NEW BUILDING

Classes began in the new Sumner High School on January 2, 1939. The move from the old building took place during the Christmas holidays. Governor Payne Rather was one of the speakers at the dedication ceremony.

The new building has a capacity for 1,200 students. The building contains a large auditorium, offices, a library, cafeteria, two study halls, twelve academic classrooms, four science rooms, three commercial rooms, five home rooms, one dramatics room, an activities room, gymnasium, swimming pool and health suite.

## FOOTBALL

Charles Starr (1906-1907) through (1908-1909)

During the first year of Sumner High School there was no participation in athletics. Classes were being held in the afternoon in the building shared by the students of Wyandotte High School.

In 1907, Mr. Charles Starr, Manual training teacher at Sumner, coached the first organized football team. Assisting Mr. Starr were J. P. King, and G. W. Buster. Vacant lots, parks, and sometimes alleys were used for practice. Games were held free of charge at Swift, Heathwood, and Waterway Parks. Sumner's opponents were Western University Academy, and Lincoln High School of Kansas City, Missouri. No record of results were available. Members of the team were Ed Tribune, Morris Mosley, Walter Maddox, Alonzo Morgan, George Dunn, Wayman Ward, Orestor Scott, George Scales, Tom Brown, Parker Gardner, Frank Thompson, Levewellyn Morehead, Roy Fulcher, Houston Marr, John Wilson and Howard Barry, student manager.



The football from its beginning through 1921, was not very successful. The school made no allowance for athletic activities. The visiting team came at their own expense.

J. P. King (1909-1910) through (1914-1915)

Mr. J. P. King replaced Mr. Starr, coach of boys' athletics. The boys participated in baseball, football, and basketball. There is no record of competitive contests with outside teams. However, students who participated in football these years were: Morris Mosley, Collins, Graves, Walter Ross, Walter Singleton, Ora Sanders, James Sanders, Eddie Dwight, Jim Skinner, Chester Gaskin, Wilber Ragan, George Wheeler, and Ophelia Calhoun.

Henry S. Williams (1915-1916) through (1921-1922)

For a period of six years, the football program had a difficult time surviving. The game had all but declined in interscholastic competition. The lack of finance and proper equipment contributed to token participation. Basketball was very popular; however, and both boys' and girls' teams won Association Championships. Coaches continued to work at the game with no success. No form of compensation was offered to the coach; he worked for love of the game. Mr. Henry S. Williams served during these years as boys' athletic coach.

A. T. Edwards (1922-1923) through (1932-1933)

The fall of 1923, Sumner witnessed the return of football. That year,

the acquisition of Mr. A. T. Edwards, the new football coach, presented the boys a chance to develop a team. The boys had no uniforms the first weeks of practice. A football was the only equipment owned by the school.

Students were called upon to help equip the team members by contributing funds. The faculty and student body donated \$180.00 to aid the team.

That year, Mr. Edwards withheld his team from the association. However, the team did engage in three games against local challengers. The results were:

Sumner	48	Missouri Scouts	0
Sumner	0	K. U. Alpha Phi Alphi	13
Sumner	12	Hardy Harpole Post	0

The starting line-up was: Godfrey Pleasant, Ralph Lyles, Wallace Ford, Eddie Dwight, James Thatcher, Kenneth Hill (both later returned to Sumner as head coaches), A. B. Howard, John Young, Purcell Parker, Sidney Lewis, and Joseph Ellis. Capable substitutes were Calhoun, Esters, Thompson, and Hannock. Mr. Henry S. Williams was assistant coach. This year marked the first time the school made provisions in the budget to finance football.

The "Jayhawkers" opened their 1924 football season with a 6-4 victory over St. Joseph. The second game of the season ended in a scoreless tie with Bartlett High School. The defeats were to a strong Western University team 28-0, and a 15-12 loss to Lincoln High School. Team members were: Dowdal Carroll, Robert Green, Russell, Young, William Posey, Junior Greene, Oscar Jones, Clarence Dillingham, Anderson Carey, William Cooper, John Lucas, Frank Chambers, Jones Gaines, Harold Thatcher, Lehman Walker, and Horce Dwiggins. Mr. A. T. Evans coached the team, and Mr. Henry Williams was the Athletic Director.

With the passing of the 1925-1926 football season, the "Jayhawkers" saw their program further decline. No record of results was found for this year. The students were still proud of the team and under the coaching of Mr. Edwards were looking forward to a brighter future. Boys making up the team were: Robert Cotton, John Lucas, Frank Chambers, Manual Jackson, Howard Rogers, Horace Dwiggin, Wilton Jackson, Shelton Nutall, Elsworth Harpole, James Gaines, Monroe Bolton, Vernon Kirkpatrick, and Robert Kimbrough.

The five years after 1926 season were not successful ones for Sumner football. Basketball was popular and Sumner was winning the glory in that sport during these years. Lack of practice and playing facilities hampered the football efforts. During this entire ten-year period, Sumner was not very successful in football because of the lack of an athletic field.

In 1931, the Board of Education of Kansas City, Kansas purchased at a total cost of \$100,000, ground for a new Sumner High School and a site for a football stadium.

The new school and stadium were to be located at Eighth and Oakland Avenue. The new athletic field with 440-yard track was dedicated on October 28, 1932. It seated ten to twelve thousand fans, and means could be provided for a larger number.

James L. Thatcher (1933-1934) through (1940-1941)

Progressive changes were taking place with Sumner High School in 1933. A new high school was under construction directly across the street from the new stadium. A new football coach was hired in the person of Mr. James L. "Jim" Thatcher. He was also to be head coach of varsity track. The

Spartans under Mr. Thatcher started their rebuilding year with three victories in succession, a 27-0 victory over the Alumni, 37-0 win over Columbia Douglass, and a 20-0 victory over St. Louis' Sumner, while Booker T. Washington of Tulsa, Oklahoma prevailed 27-13. The season's final games with Lincoln High School resulted in a 32-19 victory for a season record of 4 wins, 3 losses.

The 1934 Spartans opened the season with three more consecutive victories to match the previous year. Western University fell 7-6, and Higginsville was overpowered 59-12. A fine Vocational School at Topeka dropped the Spartans again that year 13-0. Saint Louis Vashon edged out a hard-fought 7-0 victory over Sumner at St. Louis.

The Spartans were feeling the "Bite" while traveling. Booker T. Washington at Tulsa, Oklahoma handled the Spartans 38-0. However, the following week yielded a 12-6 victory over St. Louis' Sumner. The season closed with a 19-2 victory, Lincoln High, and a 14-14 tie with Wendell Phillip of Chicago, Illinois. The seasonal record showed 5 wins, 3 losses, and one tie.

Mr. Thatcher's 1935 Spartans had grown out of the association; the scheduling of games was a problem. The season opened with a 13-0 win over the Alumni. Western University defeated the Spartans 7-6. The Hornets from Booker T. Washington tacked a 66-6 defeat to Sumner on the Spartan Field.

Sumner Football players rallied back for a 13-6 victory over Lincoln, and a 63-0 shut out over Independence. The final game ended with St. Louis' Sumner winning 6-0 over the Spartans.

The pep squad and boosters were 100 per cent behind the 1936 football team. Some of the outstanding players on the squad were Nathaniel Love, Thomas Dooley, J. D. Downs, and Elbott Ferguson.

Sumner lost to the Alumni 15-6, defeated Liberty 18-13, and won over Independence 6-0 in a hard-fought contest. Columbia Douglas and Sedalia both fell to the Spartans 18-6, and 43-0. St. Louis' Sumner Bulldogs bit the Spartans 12-0. Sumner sought revenge on a Lexington team by running over them by a 70-6 score. The Lincoln Tigers of Kansas City, Missouri played the Spartans on even terms for a 6-6 tie. The Spartans showed four wins, two losses, and one tie.

The Sumner Spartans defeated the Alumni 7-0; Sedalia, Missouri dropped a 13-7 decision to the Spartans in 1937. The two sister schools from St. Louis dealt Sumner losses. The Sumner Bulldogs from St. Louis won 26-0, while Vashon whipped the Spartans 13-0. The Kansas Vocational School defeated the Spartans 12-6. Liberty, Missouri was defeated 19-6, while Lincoln played the Spartans to a 6-6 tie.

The 1938 teams won four games, lost two and tied three. Sumner defeated Sedalia twice, 2-0 and 6-0, smothered Joplin by a 40-6 count, lost to Vashon of St. Louis 19-12, and lost to Sumner of St. Louis 20-8.

The Spartans battled the Alumni and Lincoln Tigers to scoreless ties. The team finally caught the Kansas Vocational School for a 6-6 tie. Young High School of Independence was trounced 27-6.

Some of the outstanding players of the 1938 team were: Clarence Turner, Robert Vincson, Amzi Boozer, Maurice Barksdale, Clifford, Girffin, Jesse King, Andrew Kelso, Robert Long, Howard Brown, Leo Fine, Baldwin Whitfield, Manester Dawson, Quinton Clark, Curtis Guinn, Howard Johnson, Henry Halfor, Jesse Spearman, Lawrence Dacis, and Henry Bobo. Mr. Paul Mobiley served as assistant coach.

Sumner Spartans closed a successful 1939 football season, featuring three victories, two losses, and three scoreless ties. The Spartans successfully

celebrated the homecoming game with a 13-0 win over Kansas Vocational school of Topeka, Kansas. It was the first time the local boys had defeated the Buffaloes on the first homecoming triumph in over five years.

Admission to all home games was 40 cents for adults and 25 cents for students.

The Spartans played Kansas Vocational School twice in 1940. The first encounter resulted in a scoreless tie, and the second game ended in a 6-0 Sumner victory.

Principal J. A. Hodge announced to the student body to encourage others to attend the games. If athletics at Sumner were to be maintained, in the face of rising taxes and rising prices, athletics must receive greater support from the student body.

The Spartans opened the 1941 season with a hard-fought 6-0 victory over Liberty, Missouri. Kenneth Taylor, Fullback, intercepted a pass and ran 80 yards for a touchdown

Scoring a touchdown in the last minute of play, the Spartans turned seeming defeat into a 6-6 tie with Vashon High School of St. Louis. Kenneth Taylor was again equal to the occasion as he circled right and from the one yard line for the score. The extra point attempt failed.

The following week, with only two minutes and forty-nine seconds remaining and the game scoreless, the Sumner High School Bulldogs of St. Louis, Missouri unleashed a brilliant passing attack from their own three yard line and on four forward passes made the lone touchdown of the game to hand the Sumner Spartans a heartbreaking 7-0 defeat. Outstanding in the loss to St. Louis' Sumner were: Harry Goff, Kenneth Taylor, Andrew Jackson, and Sonny Harrison.

The Lincoln High School of Sedalia won 13-0 over Sumner the following week. However, the Spartans returned to victory with a fine play 9-7 victory over Garrison High School of Mexico, Missouri.

Before a Thanksgiving Day crowd of 1800, the Lincoln Tigers of Kansas City, Missouri, established two records. By defeating the Spartans 12-6, this broke the eight year "Jinx" of no victories over Sumner since the annual rivalry began in 1932. The second record was the Tigers completed and undefeated season.

The Sumner team finished the season with two wins, three defeats, and two ties to its credit.

#### Paul Mobiley (1942-1943) through 1944

The 1942-1943 football season opened with its last coach, Jim Thatcher, serving his tour of duty with the United States Army. Assistant Coach Paul Mobiley moved up to coach the Sumner Spartans. This year the team won two and lost five for their new coach.

The season opened with the Alumni defeating the Spartans 26-0, behind the play of William Collins, John Holly, and Howard Johnson. The team was defeated 52-0 by Sedalia Lincoln High Bulldogs. St. Louis' Sumner tromped over the boys only to see them come back and win 19-13 over Kansas Vocational School for homecoming.

R. T. Coles came back to get revenge for their earlier loss, and beat the Spartans 6-0. Lincoln routed the squad 31-0 in the worst defeat Sumner ever suffered at the hands of their intercity foes.

1943--No record available.

The rugged 1944 Spartan team started the season off with a 12-0 defeat by the Alumni. In a hard fought game with Douglas High of Columbia, the Spartans returned home with a scoreless tie.

The Sumner team found the key to scoring in the Sedalia game. However, the best they could do was a 6-6 stalemate. An inspired Spartan eleven smashed a favored R. T. Coles aggregation by a 13-7 score. Vernon Coffey saved the day with two scoring dashes of fifty-five yards, and sixty-five yards.

The team battled with age-old rivals, Lincoln Blue Tigers; the game was fought to a close finish with a 7-6 victory for Lincoln. The next outing featured the Spartans in a game with Douglass High of Webster Groves, Missouri. The Douglass Boys put up a strong opposition, but the Spartans had a 13-7 lead when the game was called due to the failure of the lighting system.

The Sumner Spartan Homecoming game was played with the Manual Training High School of Muskogee, Oklahoma. The elaborate program was very successful despite the 25-0 Muskogee victory. The seasonal slate registered two wins, five defeats, and two ties.

#### J. L. Thatcher (1945-1946) through (1952-1953)

Mr. James L. Thatcher returned to coach football during the 1945 football season.

Sixty football candidates reported out for football in the fall of 1945. Coach J. L. Thatcher cut the squad by ten as a result of strenuous drills.

Teams on the schedule that year were R. T. Coles St. Louis' Sumner, Lincoln of Joplin, Muskogee High School of Oklahoma. The Spartans defeated Coles 8-0 and scored a 24-7 victory over Lincoln of Kansas City, Missouri. The Spartans were defeated 18-7 by the Sumner Bulldogs of St. Louis.



Coffey, three letter winner was made captain of the team.

The Sumner High School Spartans opened their 1946 football season with a 18-0 victory over R. T. Coles. Robert Weems, Captain of the Spartans intercepted a pass and raced 68 yards for the first touchdown of the game.

The Spartans sustained a 31-12 lost to the Vashon Wolverines. The third game of the season saw Sumner High School Bulldogs of St. Louis, Missouri, out class the Spartans by a 19-0 score. On October 24, the Spartans smothered the Lincoln Blue Tigers 40-0.

Scoring twice in the first quarter, the Manual High Bulldogs of Muskogee, Oklahoma, defeated the Sumnerites 12-7 on November 9, 1946. James Burns scored the Spartan's touchdown in the third period.

With the second meeting of the Spartans and R. T. Coles High School, the Spartans defeated the Jeeps 14-0.

Spartans' football season began, September 19, 1947 with 67 gridders out for the team. The season's play opened with a 21-0 victory over Webster Groves, Missouri. Coach Thatcher's Spartans defeated the C. C. Hubbard High School Tigers of Sedalia, Missouri 27-7.

Still smarting from a 25-0 defeat at the hands of the Vashon High School Wolverines, the Sumner squad dumped the Lincoln Tigers 30-0 at the Blue Stadium. Spartans this year held the Sumner High School Bulldogs of St. Louis to a scoreless tie. The two teams are old rivals and are usually evenly matched. When the gun sounded to end the game, the Spartans were on the Cananie's 5 yard line. Assisting Mr. Thatcher were Coaches Paul Mobiley, and D. W. White. Outstanding players were Alfred House, William Vanoy, and Kenneth Wyatt.

The Sumner High School Football, despite the 13-0 loss to their intercity rivals, Lincoln High School, won three games on their five game schedule in 1948.

The Spartans always seemed at their best at home, defeating a strong Sumner High of St. Louis, 8-6. The Lincoln High Tigers of Joplin, Missouri were defeated 20-0. The Spartans overpowered Lincoln of Kansas City, Missouri, 6-0 in their first of two meetings.

Some team members making up the 1948 group were: Captain Albert Moore, William Vanoy, Ronald Lucas, Maurice Foster, Leroy Davis, Stanley Griffin and James Martin.

Football season started with forty-seven prospective players for the team. Seventeen of whom were veterans of the past year. Thirty-nine players finished the season.

The Spartans opened the season with a humilitating 41-0 defeat by the Vashon Wolverines of St. Louis; R. T. Coles, of Kansas City, Missouri handed the Spartans a large 37-0 defeat. The third consecutive loss came by way of Joplin, where the Tigers defeated the Spartans 19-6. The lone touchdown came on a forward pass thrown by Gerald Hall to Henry Curry.

The St. Monica Saints of Tulsa, Oklahoma fought by the Spartans 6-0. Lincoln Tigers of Missouri took the Thanksgiving Day victory 6-0. The season concluded with no wins and five defeats.

Football kicked off for the Spartans on September 19, 1950 with 54 prospective players out for the team, fifteen lettermen from the previous year.

The first game was captured over Joplin 21-7. Exceptional open field running of James Gentry, excellent line play of Captain Henry Curry and Harold Dickens were outstanding.

The Spartans featured outstanding efforts by Joe Watson, Alton Iverson and James Gentry in a 6-0 loss to R. T. Coles. Outclassed by Vashon, Sumner did manage to push over two scored through a pass from Watson to Curry and a plunge by Gentry. The final score being 36-12.

In the final minutes of the game with Sedalia the Spartans, through excellent play, obtained the ball at midfield and with only three seconds to play, James Wilson, faded back and hit Curry in the end zone for the winning touchdown. In the second meeting with R. T. Coles, the Spartans could do no better losing 20-6.

Playing in freezing weather the Spartans came from behind to defeat the Lincoln Tigers 13-12. Passes from Iverson to Curry, and the hard running of Gentry, and Watson highlited the victory.

Just as Mr. Jim Thatcher had opened his football coaching career with a victory, the Spartans closed the final football season for Mr. Thatcher completing thirteen years as head coach of football.

The opening of Sumner High School in 1951 bought the school a new principal, Mr. S. H. Thompson.

#### Delbert White (1949-1950) through (1951-1952)

The football team received a new coach in the person of Mr. Delbert White. Mr. Paul Mobiley was the assistant coach.

A strong Alumni squad overcame the Sumner High School Spartans 12-0, in the season's opener.

Coach White's Spartans triumphant return to Kansas City from Columbia, where they defeated the Columbians 12-6. The following week found the Spartans engaged in a rough defensive battle with R. F. Coles High School.

The Coles defense was a strong and tight one. The Spartans also played a game of tight defense, letting nothing slip through. The score after end of regulation time stood 0-0.

For the first time in three years, the tough Sumner High School Bulldogs of St. Louis returned to Kansas City. Trailing 6-0, going into the fourth quarter, the Spartans scored a touchdown and a safety to nose out the Bulldogs 8-6.

Onan Burnett (1952-1953) through (1954)

#### Sumner Joins State Association

Sumner began a new era in sports when the department of athletics assumed full membership in the Kansas High School Activities Association this year, participating in football, basketball, and track. Previously, Sumner had held limited membership because it was not possible to obtain satisfactory football and basketball schedules with member schools of the association and those of other states; and because of the fact that Sumner did not have the privilege of interscholastic relations with other schools of the city.

By becoming a member of the association, St. Joseph's Military Academy, Hays, Kansas and Highland Park of Topeka were added to the football schedule. In basketball, Immaculata High School of Leavenworth; Emporia High, Sacred Heart of Salina, and Highland Park of Topeka, extended the basketball schedule.

A homecoming crowd witnessed the Lincoln Tigers mark the festivities with a 19-6 victory over the Spartans. The only win came over Lincoln High of Joplin, Missouri.

Coach Onan Burnett, placing major responsibility on his sophomores and juniors that season for experience. Ken Careron, Eulisha Herron, Clyde Newman, and Craig Hall were standouts.

William (Bill) Bradley (1954-1955) through (1956-1957)

Spartans football fans witnessed one of Sumner's darkest seasons with the team winning only one of eight games. The lone victory was over the Olathe Eagles 19-0.

Under Head Coach Bill Bradley, the Spartans worked on an entirely different system from that of former years. They changed from a singled-wing team to a "T" formation. John Hartman, the only Caucasian on the team played quarterback.

Teams on the 1955 schedule were: Lincoln, St. Joseph Christian Brothers, Olathe, Hays Cadets, De La Salle, Highland Park, Liberal and Haskell.

The Spartans scored 77 points out of their new offense that year, while the opposition scored 154 points. Some outstanding team members were: John Yates, John Holly, Preston Thomas, Reginald Estell, Frankie Smith, Marvin Trammel, Charles Weems, and Craig Hall.

To open the 1956 season, the Spartans scored in the final quarter to break a Lincoln stranglehold, but failed to convert the point, and dropped the season opener to the rival Tigers, 6-7, before an overflow crowd. Adolph Wilson, Craig Hall, and George Harris had 9, 78, and 5 yards rushing respectively.

Sumner suffered its second defeat of the season 47-0, as they seemed unable to do anything right. Manhattan seemed to be able to do everything right.

Christian Brothers of St. Joseph edged out the Spartans 19-7, for their third defeat. Adolph Wilson made the lone tally for the Spartans, and Bob Johnson made the extra point. The Spartans battled the Hays Cadets to a 6-6 homecoming tie as the cadets came back to tie the game with less than four minutes in the game. Bob Johnson scored the Spartan touchdown on a 75 yard run back of an intercepted pass.

Sumner rebounded from a 0-6 first-half lag by scoring in both the third and fourth quarter to down Atchison 13-6.

Highland Park of Topeka downed the Spartans 31-0. Sumner came closest to scoring on hard running by Bob Johnson and Craig Hall moving the ball to the 12 yard line but a fifteen yard penalty aided in stopping the drive.

Spartan fullback George Harris scored on a 50-yard touchdown sprint with three minutes left in the fourth quarter for a 13-7 victory over the Liberal. Kansas team to close out the home schedule.

The first meeting between Sumner and Argentine was far from a Sumner success as Argentine downed the Spartans, 19-0. Sumner's Craig Hall and Bob Johnson ended their high school careers making good gains, but deep in their own territory. The Spartans won two games, lost six, and tied one.

The 1957 Spartans were turned back 25-7 in this opener with Lincoln. The local eleven were outweighed and out played by the Manhattan Indians and lost 25-6. Preston Thomas scored for the Spartans on a 3-yard run. Christian Brothers of St. Joseph scored a 26-7 victory over the Spartans the following week.

Fort Hays Cadets dealt Sumner a 25-19 set back for their fourth consecutive loss. Adolph Wilson scored two touchdowns, and John Keith added one. Sumner tasted their fifth defeat at the hands of their new opponent, Ward High School, 26-6. Preston Thomas, with 34 yards rushing led Sumner's offense. On defense Vernon Preece and John Morgan carried the load.

The Spartans were set back 30-13 by Atchison for their sixth defeat. John Keith and John Morgan scored the touchdowns. Morgan passed to Delbert Kimbrough for the conversion.

Still seeking their first win, Sumner wound up in a 7-7 tie in the homecoming game against Argentine. Against Liberal High School, fumbles led to a 18-6 defeat at the Indian's homecoming. Adolph Wilson's 60-yard run accounted for the only score.

In the final game of the season the Spartans scored a 45-0 victory over Manual High School of Kansas City, Missouri. The seasonal record was one win, seven defeats, and one tie.

#### Gerald Hall (1957-1958) through (1961-1962)

The 1958 season had new birth when Gerald Hall was announced as Sumner's new head football coach. Mr. Hall, a former Sumner athlete and student, led the Spartans to five victories in seven games. This marked the Spartans' greatest record in football in ten years.

Victories were: 12-0 over Lincoln, 6-2 over Christian Brothers, a 21-13 victory over St. Joseph's Cadets, a 27-0 victory over Paola, Kansas, and a 13-7 victory over Argentine Mustangs. The two defeats were by Liberal, 14-13 and a 27-7 victory for Ward.

In the 1959 football opener the Spartans defeated host Lincoln Tigers 14-12. Walter Bailey and William Perry scored Spartan touchdowns.

The first defeat was to the Wichita Kapaun team by a 38-0. The Christian Brothers Golden Eagles defeated the Spartans 13-6 the following week on Sumner's rain-soaked field.

Ronald Holly was the only spark in the Spartans' backfield as Sumner lost 47-6 to St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays, Kansas.

The Spartans edged the Paola Panthers 7-6 in Sumner's homecoming. Charles Payne's 88-yard race for a touchdown and Robert Harper's conversion gave Sumner a come from behind victory.

Sumner ended the campaign on the Iola Mustang's field being defeated 22-12. The seasonal slate showed two wins and four defeats. Mr. Bernard Bennett assisted with the varsity. Edward Beasley served as sophomore coach.

The 1960 Spartan football team made two additions to its coaching staff. Assisting with football was Richard Miller, Spartan Alumnus, and Mr. Joseph Samuels.

The only victory out of this year's seven-game schedule was a 32-6 victory over Paola. The Lincoln Tigers defeated the Spartans in a rough game 6-0. Bonner Springs prevailed 20-13, and Christian Brothers continued their mastery over the Spartans 34-6. Kapaun an easy 33-0 victory as well as Hays Cadets 20-12 victory.

Mr. Hall's 1961 Spartans opened with a 20-13 victory over the Liberal Redskins. Willie Starks threw two scoring passes to Forrest Coulter and scored another to seal the victory.

With 49 seconds left on the clock in the final period, Christian Brothers scored a touchdown to defeat the Spartans 19-13. Starks again threw two scoring passes to Coulter and Johnny Collins.

The 1961 Spartans won three games and lost six. Walter Rice and Victor Williams were appointed captains of the team. The longest trip was to Omaha, Nebraska to play Bishop Ryan High School. Ryan defeated the Spartans 56-19. The final game of the season ended with Sumner defeating Lincoln 33-6. John Rollins scored 26 points against the Tigers. Chester Pittman became assistant coach, replacing Mr. Miller.



Team speed and abundance of youth was the Spartans grid outlooks as the football season opened.

Five lettermen returned. All were slated for first team duty: Victor Williams, Forrest Coulter, Robert Edwards, Elroy Hawkins, and Charles Atkins returned on the line. Sumner's opponents were rugged. They journeyed three hundred miles to play Liberal and finished the season with a 1-8 record.

The season opened with Sumner losing to Dodge City, 18-6. The homecoming rival in the 1962 grid class A was Washburn Rural who handed the Spartans a 41-6 setback.

Rudolph Thompson galloped 37 yards against Bonner Springs for a touchdown and along with Willie Dixon, a transferee from Rosedale, led Sumner to a 21-6 victory. The Spartans suffered four seasonal shutouts.

#### Cleveland Jones (1963-1964) through (1967)

The only scores available for the 1963 football season was a 40-6 victory for St. Joseph Christian Brothers. A victory over the Argentine Mustangs was the only victory of the season. Robert Edwards, Victor Williams, and Walter Rice closed out three years of varsity competition.

The "New Breed" was the cry in 1964. The Spartans opened the season with a 30-0 victory over Sacred Heart of Salina. For good measure, Bonner Springs felt a 45-6 defeat at the football might of the Spartans.

The only defeat came in the third game of the season when Southeastern Kansas Champion's, Fort Scott, tamed the Spartans 27-0. The Spartans bounced back with a 19-0 victory over Argentine, and a 28-6 homecoming victory over Bishop Hogan High School. Washington Rural was defeated 13-6 by the Spartans in one of the best football games played on the Spartan field. Crosstown

teams, Manual High, fell 20-7 to the Spartans, while a tough Lincoln Tiger team finally gave in 33-21. Assisting with football were Freeman Crawford, Chester Pittman, and Charles Robinson.

The fete by the 1964 Spartans is the best record by a Sumner High School football team to this date.

The 1965 Spartans dropped the opener to the Lincoln Tigers by a 15-12 count. Five straight victories were chalked up by the Spartans before a mighty De La Salle team turned the Spartans back 14-6. The Spartans dropped a 20-12 decision to Rockhurst before the largest crowd of the season.

The Spartans closed the season out with a 37-21 victory over Sacred Heart of Salina.

The 1966 Spartans under Coach Jones opened the season with a 14-0 loss to Lincoln High School. However, the following weekend Sumner defeated St. Pius X 24-13 and won four straight games before Ward stopped them 35-0. De La Salle blistered the Spartans 30-7, while the Spartans managed to tie Bonner Springs, 6-6.

The final game with Altamont ended 7-6 for the Southeastern Kansas foe. Roy Flook assisted Jones this season, becoming the first Caucasian to coach football at Sumner High School.

#### William Spencer (1966-1967) through (1968-1969)

Mr. Cleveland Jones resigned in the summer of 1967. However, Mr. William Spencer came to the Spartans from Lincoln High School in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Felton Denham, Richard Parsons, James Whitcomb, and Manuel Morris, served as assistant coaches.

The Spartans dropped their opener to Lincoln 39-13 under head coach William Spencer. The Spartans managed a 19-6 victory over Fort Scott, and a 13-0 score over Southern Kansas league foes.

Two victories, and a scoreless tie with St. Joseph Christian Brothers add-up the Spartans success out of an eight-game schedule.

Mr. Spencer's 1968 Spartans managed three victories. In the season opener, Argentine fell 14-2, to the Spartans, while the Hays Cadets lost 12-6.

The longest game, probably, of the season was the 13-6 victory over Christian Brothers of St. Joseph. The season concluded with a 13-13 tie with Atchison High School.

The 1969 Spartan team probably faced one of the longest and disappointing seasons in its football history. Only three games were played that year. The Spartans opened with a 12-0 victory over Argentine and saw a penalty nulify a last second touchdown over Wyandotte which would have won the game for the Spartans. The Spartans fell 14-12 to the Bulldogs.

The Spartans were suspended from further football competition in the 1969 season after a 28-18 loss to Wichita Bishop Carroll.

Some over-zealous fans attacked the game official after the game. Some fans were quite irriate due to the Spartans having two touchdowns recalled. The entire Spartan football team was handed a suspension for the remainder of the season by the Activities Association. The Sophomore and Junior varsity programs suffered greatly.

Five members of that team received athletic scholarships to play football after graduation.

### Felton Denham (1970 through 1971)

The Activities Association lifted the suspension which allowed the Spartans to continue football the fall of 1970. Mr. Felton Denham was selected as head coach of football. In the first game of the season, Argentine High School defeated the Spartans 12-0. In the second football meeting with the Wyandotte High School Bulldogs, the Spartans managed a 6-6 tie. The homecoming game with De La Salle saw the Titans rally to defeat the Spartans 26-22. The Western Kansas Independent power Liberal Redskins defeated the Spartans soundly. In the first football meeting ever with the Washington Wildcats, the Spartans were defeated 6-0 at Washington. In the final game of the season, the Spartans defeated the Rosedale Wildcats by three touchdowns. Assisting Mr. Denham were Henry Hampton, Delbert Ayers, and Richard Gooden.

### BASKETBALL

In the second year of Sumner High School, 1906-1907, four girls' basketball teams were organized under the supervision of G. B. Buster. The school at this time had no gymnasium or place in which to practice, nor did the school furnish or make any allowance for equipment. The members of the team paid a weekly fee in order to rent a hall for practice and to purchase equipment. The practice and games were held at the Knights of Tabor Hall located at Eleventh and Washington Boulevard. Games were held on Saturday afternoons and were well attended. During this year, only interclass games were held.

During the second year of the school's existence, 1907-1908, the teams played other schools. Contests were engaged in with Western University Academy and Edwardsville, Kansas.

In the next three years, Miss Jeanette Green, who was a former member of the girls' basketball team, became the coach. Miss Minnie Howard, a domestic science teacher at Sumner, was the chaperone. Mr. J. P. King coached the boys' basketball.

No written record of games and results are available in the early years of Sumner basketball.

#### Henry Williams and A. T. Edwards (1922-1933)

During the years 1922 through 1923, the basketball teams practiced in building outdoor courts. The team had to move to the old Metropolitan Church. This church building was soon condemned, and the team was forced to practice in much smaller quarters. From one of these one-room buildings, however, was produced a Championship basketball team.

Sumner won the Association Trophy Cup Championship in 1923. The teams and results of games played are listed:

#### 1923 Results

Sumner	21	Olathe	14
Sumner	38	Alumni	27
Sumner	18	Topeka	8
Sumner	25	Western	21
Sumner	15	Lincoln	11
Sumner	38	Western College	6
Sumner	13	Lincoln	16
Sumner	27	Western	18

Two players on the 1923 team made the All-Star Valley team. Captain Jim Thatcher and Willie Lambright were honored.

The girls' team of 1923 was composed almost entirely of inexperienced players. Of the four games played, the team won two. The game results were:

Sumner	31	Topeka	24
Sumner	40	Western College	4
Sumner	18	Western University	28
Sumner	16	Lincoln	27

Members of the team were Lois Hill, Bessie Jones, Florence Jones, Margaret Baylis, Henrietta Gayden, Elnor Smith, Burnetta Jackson, and Mary Hill. Miss Kealing was the team coach. No further records were found to show when the girls' competition ended.

The 1925 Basketball team finished with a 10-3 record. Tulsa Booker T. Washington defeated the "Jayhawks" 19-10. A team from Ft. Scott, Kansas defeated the home team twice, 12-11 and 13-12. Mr. Edwards was assisted by Mr. Henry Williams, who served as Athletic Director.

Coach A. T. Edwards had experience in football. He had never really participated in basketball. When he took charge of athletics, he found himself with a basketball team on his hands and a reputation in Missouri Valley Athletics to retain for the school. From Mr. Edwards' first year on, his team annexed the Valley Basketball Championship or tied for the top honors with only one exception, that being the year of 1930. In the years 1925, 1926, and 1927, Sumner supremacy in basketball was unattacked. Joe Lowe, Manual Jackson, Johnny Lucas, Bobby Cotton and "Snake" Harris were the classiest cage players at Sumner High School.

In 1928 Lincoln grabbed a slice of the Valley Championship with a tie

for the first place with the Sumner team. Northeast Junior High joined in 1929 to make a triple tie for the first place.

The Sumner Jayhawkers tasted their first real defeat in basketball when the 1930 Sumner team failed to finish any better than fourth.

In 1930, Sumner's new gym was completed at a cost of \$50,000. The new structure was placed just north of the main building. The first floor was above ground, and housed the cafeteria, domestic science room, the girls' shower and locker rooms and the boys' shower and locker rooms. The upper floor is entirely for physical education except two small rooms for consultation and storage.

In 1931, the Jayhawk whirl wind bowled over all opposition to sweep through the season undefeated and into a tie with Northeast Junior High. The two tied in 1932 for the Championship of the Missouri circuit.

The 1933-1935 basketball seasons produced all championship players. The Sumner "Spartans", so called because during the year the team changed its name from "Jayhawkers" to "Spartans". The team was sent to the Midwest Basketball Tournament at Jefferson City, Missouri on the ninth and tenth of March, 1934.

The Spartans proved victorious over nine high school teams. In the finale of the tournament before a capacity crowd of enthusiastic fans, Sumner played Booker T. Washington High School of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Spartans won with a score of 32-31.

No records are available for the 1936 season.

A look at 1937 Spartan record showed a four-game winning streak. The total number of points scored in four games were 133, to the opponents 64. In the four victories the leading scorers have been Clyde Hibler, Wilson Smith and J. D. Downs.

The Spartans handed the Lincoln Tigers their first loss of the season by a 26-13 score. Clyde Hibler scored six points to pace the Spartans.

No complete record of seasonal results are available.

#### James L. Thatcher (1938-1939)

A fifteen-game schedule was set for the 1938 Spartan Basketball team. Out of state trips were to be made to Oklahoma, playing at Tulsa, and Sands Springs. The season opened with the Spartans scoring a 43-31 victory over the Alumni.

The second victory was over the Atchison Kittens, 39-16. A complete record of results was not available.

#### Kenneth Hill (1939-1940) through (1945-1946)

Mr. Kenneth Hill was transferred to Sumner to take over the coaching duties of the varsity team. He replaced James L. Thatcher, who coached the Spartans to the Valley State Championship in 1938 and 1939, winning twenty-three games and losing two.

Gus Stiles, William Woods, and Marthalee Carter made the all-state team. The Alumni Association was putting on a drive to purchase a scoreboard to be used in the new building.

The Spartans of 1940, won the State Championship for the second straight year. Paced by Captain Henry Bobo and Willie Curry, forwards scoring six points each, they downed the Douglas High School Panthers of Webster Grove, Missouri 23-17.



The basketball season of 1941 began with a new team. Probably the most dangerous opponents that the Spartans met that season were the Sand Springs team from Oklahoma, which won the Negro National Championship in 1941-1942.

In the 1942 season, Sumner lost twice to Sands Springs, Oklahoma. Sumner played eleven regular season games, losing two, both of which were lost to Sands Springs by one point and two points.

The Spartans won the State Tournament at Atchison thus becoming eligible to compete in the National meet. Coach Kenneth Hill's Spartans returned from Durham, North Carolina bearing the title, National Negro Champions.

The Sumner Squad captured the National title by defeating Garnet High School of Charleston, West Virginia 31 to 26 in the finals. In the first game, the Spartans defeated Armstrong High School 19-18; Andrew Jackson made a long goal to win the game. The second game was between the Spartans and Kelley Miller High School of Clarksburg, West Virginia. The Spartans won with a 37-34 score to put them in the finals. Marion Pumphrey was selected as an All-American Basketball Player at the National Basketball Tournament.

The 1943 Spartans won twelve regular season games and lost one. The lone defeat suffered by the Spartans was to Jefferson City, 35-31.

The season ended with boys still National Champions because of the postponement of the national tournament due to transportation difficulties. The boys, however, received a little consolation for the postponement by winning the nine-team R. T. Coles tournament.

The Spartans won twenty out of twenty-one games during the 1944-1945 season, not including the winning of the tri-state tournament. They scored a total of 901 points compared to their opponents, 362.

Delbert W. White (1946-1947) through (1950)

In 1946 the Spartans cage aggregation did not win the National tournament held at Nashville, Tennessee, but they did win third place. The Spartans started the tourney off with a bang by defeating Little Rock, Arkansas 59-17. In the second game they advanced into the semi-finals by whipping Gilbert Academy of New Orleans, 46-30. Ronald Gardner led the team with 17 points. Chsion, Oklahoma defeated the Spartans 34-30 to prevent a first or second place finish. Montgomery, Alabama defeated the Spartans 46-27 for third place.

The Spartans ended the 1947 season with a 47-26 win over the Sumner Division of the Kansas City, Kansas Junior College. The Spartans played and defeated the undefeated Attucks Warriors of Vinita, Oklahoma, 42-32. A rematch with the Cushing, Oklahoma National Champion "Sooners". Coach Delbert White's outstanding players were Garcia Massingale and Richard Evans.

The Oklahoma teams, Douglass of Oklahoma City and Cushing handed the Spartans their first two losses of the 1948 season. The Douglass encounter ended 44-40, while Cushing took a 27-24 victory over the Spartans.

In 1949 the Spartans chalked up their third straight victory by trouncing Lincoln High School of Joplin, Missouri 40-26. A fifteen-game schedule was set for the year. The most exciting game of the season took place at Lincoln High School, when Lewis Dudley with less than a minute to play, broke a 34-34 tie, to defeat the Spartans 36-34.

The 1950 Spartans won their fourth game in six starts by defeating the Lincoln Blue Tigers 59-46. The team was dominated by seniors. However, it did not develop into a fine team by Spartan expectations. Welton Knox, Captain Henry Curry, and James Gentry were the team leaders.

## James L. Thatcher (1951) through (1953)

Mr. Jim Thatcher and Mr. Delbert W. White exchanged head coaching assignments. Mr. Thatcher scheduled sixteen games for the 1951 Spartan basketball team. The Spartans wound up the cage season in a blaze of glory scoring three wins over the March 2 weekend. The victories were over Lincoln Laboratory High squad from Jefferson City 55-40. The following Saturday night, the Spartans overcame Douglass High School of Oklahoma City 73-46. The team's record was eleven wins and five losses.

Mr. Jim Thatcher's team closed out the 1952 cage season with a 38-46 loss to the R. T. Coles Jeeps. The Spartans won sixteen games and lost five. Wendell Henderson and Daniel Harvey led the Spartans in scoring for the season.

Again, it was Oklahoma teams defeating the Spartans. Douglass of Oklahoma City nipped the Spartans 64-62, the Trojans scoring three points in the last eight seconds. Dunbar High School of Shawnee, Oklahoma handed the Spartans their second defeat of the season 54-50 at Shawnee. Daniel Harvey scored 22 points for Sumner.

Sumner probably enjoyed one of its best basketball seasons during the 1953 season. The following season was to see the Spartans becoming a member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association. The Association rules would restrict the extensive travel and limit the game to a set number.

However, in 1953 the Spartans played twenty-one games, lost two, and won nineteen. Teams were played over Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Langston High School of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Dunbar High School of Little Rock, Arkansas were on the schedule.

Daniel Harvey scored 326 points in 21 games to support a 15.5 average. Wendell Henderson scored 288 in 21 games for a 13.7 average. Ronald Hamilton scored 283 points in 20 games for a 14.1 average. Mr. Thatcher's assistants were Henry McCrary and William Parker.

### Henry McCary (1954) through (1955)

The 1954 Spartan team boasted the best 1-2 scoring punch in the State of Kansas. However, with Henderson and Hamilton scoring in the double figures, the Spartans finished the season with eight wins and eight losses. The Spartans lost to Shawnee Mission North in the semi-final game of the regional tournament.

Only four losses were recorded through the 1955 season. The Spartans won twelve games. A 94-43 victory over a Princeton, Missouri team accounted for the Spartans widest point margin. John Robinson, Charles Weems, Craig Hall, John Yates, and Benoyd Meyers were outstanding for the Spartans.

### Thomas Rhone (1955-1956) through (1964)

The prospects for a successful season for 1956, hinged on coach Thomas Rhone, who was elevated to the top basketball job. Mr. Rhone served as assistant the previous year.

The new mentor had only five returning lettermen to face a total of thirteen opponents. The schedule showed that three teams would play the Sumner varsity for the first time in regular season play. They were Ward, Turner, Rosedale. Rosedale defeated the Spartans 44-40 with a four-minute delay game. Argentine defeated the Spartans 73-48 to defeat the Spartans twice. New opponent Ward initiated their series in style. A 48-47 Ward victory ended one of the most exciting games of the season.

Mr. Rhone's 1957 basketball team enjoyed one of its finest seasons during his coaching tenure. The Spartans won thirteen games during the regular season and lost two.

The 1958-1959 Spartans finished the regular season with twelve wins and four defeats. After winning the regional over Atchison 62-50, the Spartans made their first appearance in the State Championship playoff sponsored by the Activities Association.

Sam Malone, a reserve guard made two free throws to declare the Spartans a 56-64 overtime victory over Newton, Kansas. Spartan guard Earnest Moore scored thirty-three points to lead all scores.

The Spartans rated as the Cinderella team of the tournament. The under rated Spartans came from behind in two regional tournament games to down Ward and Argentine, there in the state for the first time, came from behind the eliminate Newton and Atchison.

The Spartans met Wyandotte High School in the finale of the state tournament. The two teams in their beginning attending the same high school.

The Spartans led 42-41 at half-time on the fire play of All-State candidate Ernie Moore. Moore accumulated seventeen of his twenty-six points during the final sixteen minutes of play.

Wyandotte won the final game for their third straight Championship by defeating a determined Spartan five 52-50 in an overtime battle. This meeting of the Spartans marked another milestone for the school in their long athletic history.

The 1959-60 Spartan team returned only one player from the 1959 second place state team. The Spartans managed a .500 mark by winning eight and losing eight. New teams on the 16-game schedule were Lillis, Shawnee Mission East and North.

The Spartans came on in a fast finish to take their second Championship in three years. In the Class AA State Tournament at Wichita in March, 1960, the Spartans lost to Wyandotte 61-45. The Bulldogs went on to take their fifth consecutive title.

The 1961-1962 basketball season with the Spartans facing a tough sixteen-game schedule. The Spartans received a Christmas Holiday Tournament invitation at Columbus, Kansas.

Ward High School defeated the Spartans 78-56 in the opening round of the Class AA Regional Tournament.

The Columbus Invitational first place trophy and a third place regional trophy were all the Spartans showed for the season. In regular season, the Spartans finished with a 17-1 mark. The defeat by Ward and third place game left the seasonal mark at 19-2. Four Sumner Spartans made the area All-Star team. Richard Dumas, Herman Watson, Bill Owens, and Willie Stark made the team.

Defeat hit the 1962-1963 Spartans early. After two straight victories, Argentine defeated the Spartans 51-49 in a fine coached and played game. In the Wichita West Invitational, the Spartans fell to fifth place. A seasonal finish of thirteen wins and five losses was recorded.

Dwight Henderson, 6-1 forward, led all Spartans scorers with an 18-4 average. The team averaged 52.5 points a game. In the Regional Tournament, Sumner was never able to find the hoop. Shawnee Mission West defeated the Spartans 51-49 in the first round.

The Spartans of Coach Rhome, and Assistant Coach Nolen Ellison went through twelve straight opponents before Warren Armstrong and the Central Eagles defeated the Spartans 65-64.

Sumner downed Wichita West 79-53, to win the invitational tournament in 1963-1964.

Nolen Ellison (1964-1965) through (1967)

The 1965-1966 Spartans won five consecutive games before Shawnee Mission West halted them 50-49. Missouri Champions, Springfield Parkview defeated the Spartans 74-57. Coach Nolen Ellison finished his first season as Spartan Coach with a 15-6 record.

The Spartans of 1966-1967 won seven games before De La Salle halted the winning streak, 52-43.

A second place finish to Ward in the Regional Tournament was as far as Sumner Advanced toward the state. Mr. Roy Flook served as assistant coach to Mr. Ellison and coached the junior varsity to a perfect season.

Roy Flook (1967-1968) through (1969)

Mr. Roy Flook coached two Spartan teams that have set the best two-year record that any teams in Spartan history. The team won nineteen games, and lost two. For the best record in the Metropolitan area, Coach Flook was voted "Coach of the Year".

The Spartans won eleven consecutive games before being defeated 59-50 by the Wyandotte Bulldogs. Outstanding players were: Donald Franklin, Leonard Gray, Zack Townsend, and Rufus Caruthers.

Ward High School defeated the Spartans in the Regional finals at Shawnee Mission South. The Spartans were competing in the new reclassification by the Activities Association which was 4-A.

The Sumner High School's 1968-1969 basketball squad ranks as the greatest in the history of the school. The Spartans under head coach Flook and assistant, Sylvester Benson, went through the season, the regionals,



and the State undefeated. That year the Spartans also won the Dodge City Tournament of Champions. A perfect seasonal record of twenty-three victories brings the two-year total to 42 wins and only two defeats.

Leonard Gray was named to the All-Area Team, and All-State Team. He later received a certificate as being selected to the All-American High School Basketball Team for 1968-1969.

#### Craig Hall (1970-1971)

The 1970 Spartans under Mr. Craig Hall showed resemblance to the last year Champions. Mr. Hall's Spartans swept through the season with only one defeat. The team won the tournament of Champions Tournament at Dodge City and won the regional championship before Highland Park defeated the Spartans. The Spartans finished third in the state.

Basketball in the past five years has been the best ever in the Spartan history. Being a class 4-A school did not prevent the Spartans from scheduling larger class on any school wanting to play.

The Spartans entered the Dodge City Tournament of Champions undefeated. A tall and talented Marysville, Kansas team defeated the Spartans for the first time during the season. The Spartan victory included a win over the home town, Wyandotte Bulldogs by a Spartan basketball team.

The Spartans won the regional tournament at Seaman High School and advanced to the State. There they defeated a strong Emporia Spartan team before bowing out in a double overtime loss to undefeated Coffeyville High School. The Spartans defeated Junction City for a third place finish in the State. Sumner High School has won their regional three consecutive years, and finished the State tournament in first place once, and third place twice.



## TRACK

## A. T. Edwards (1923)

The earliest record available shows that in 1923, Sumner took the first All-Negro team to the Kansas University Relays. The members of the track team were the four winners of the elimination contest which was a race run from Eighth and Washington Boulevard to Ninth and Washington Boulevard in a heavy shower. The members of this team were Sidney Loveless, Joseph Ellis, Kenneth Hill, and James Thatcher. Kenneth Hill and James Thatcher later became head coaches at Sumner High School. Mr. A. T. Edwards was their coach.

## (1926)

To the call of spring in 1926, fifty candidates responded for track. No records of meets entered were found.

## (1930)

The Spartans entered two relay teams in the Lincoln University Relays at Jefferson City, Missouri. The one-half mile relay and quarter-mile relay teams won first place trophy cups for Sumner.

Mr. J. L. Thatcher was instrumental in initiating an annual track meet at Sumner High School. The meet was billed as the Kansas City, Kansas Relays. Negro High Schools from as far as Oklahoma City entered this meet.

The first meet was held in April, 1935. The highest number of teams to ever enter the meet was thirteen high school teams, and five grade school teams in 1939.

The high schools entered were:

Douglass High School of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Douglass High School of Columbia, Missouri

Douglass High School of Lexington, Missouri

Lincoln High School of Joplin, Missouri

Lincoln High School of Moberly, Missouri

Lincoln High School of Kansas City, Missouri

Lincoln High School of Jefferson City, Missouri

R. T. Coles High School of Kansas City, Missouri

Western University of Quindaro, Kansas

Dunbar High School of Bunceton, Missouri

Northeast Junior High School of Kansas City, Kansas

Sumner High School of Booneville, Missouri

Sumner High School of Kansas City, Kansas

Five trophies were presented to the four relay winners and the meet winner.

In 1933, the first written history of cross country showed Sumner winning a quadrangular cross country meet contested against Lincoln High, Western University, and Northeast Junior High School.

#### James L. Thatcher (1934 through 1951)

Sumner had a large track team for Mr. Jim Thatcher's first year as track coach. At the University of Kansas Relays, Sumner made the best showing of the meet by any Kansas City, Kansas team. The Spartans placed fourth in the high school section of the meet. Sumner also tied for fifth in the State meet at Emporia, besides running away with a triangular meet on the home field with Liberty, Missouri and Northeast Junior High School.

Donald Dunn was the season's outstanding star. He won individual honors in Class A at the University of Kansas Relays when he won both the 100 and

220 yard dashed. Dunn won the 100 in 10.4 seconds and the 220-dash in 22.8 seconds. Merle Anderson won the broad jump at Kansas University.

(1935)

The track team of 1935 placed more trophies in the trophy case of Sumner High School. Sumner won honors in Kansas City, Kansas Relays and the State Meet at Leavenworth. The Kansas City, Kansas Relays was initiated by James L. Thatcher in 1934.

(1936)

The Sumner High School won the two-mile relay in the high school section of the Kansas Relays. The following week the Spartans' foursome of Claude McPherson, Theodore Watson, Leroy Stewart, and Lewis Whitworth made up the relay team that finished in third place in the 1936 Drake Relays. James L. Thatcher was the coach.

(1937)

The third annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays, after an absence of one year included an entry of nine different schools from Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Coach Jim Thatcher's track specialists almost completely monopolized all winning honors with the exception of three events during the relays. The Spartans scored 90 points in winning.

(1939)

Thirteen High School teams entered the fifth annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays held at Sumner High School. Douglass High School of Oklahoma City traveled the longest distance for the meet. Sumner won the fifth annual meet.

(1940)

Sumner Spartans scored 61 points to win the Sixth Annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays. The Lincoln tigers scored 47 points to take second honors.

Over 200 Negro high and grade school athletes braved a chilly and rainy afternoon to participate in the event.

A sixth place finish by the Spartans was taken at the regional meet at Leavenworth, Kansas. Maurice Barksdale won the 100-yard dash in 10.4 seconds, Arthur Jackson placed third in the mile, and Lindsey Harris vaulted 11 feet, 2 inches in the pole vault for second place.

(1941)

Ten schools entered the seventh annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays. The 1961 team trophy was won by Kansas Vocational School of Topeka.

The meet records for the 1941 Relays are listed:

120-yard High Hurdles	15.7
100-yard Dash	10.0
1-Mile Run	4:42.7
Half-Mile Relay	1:35.2
440-yard Dash	51.0
220-yard Low Hurdles	22.7
440-yard Relay	45.8
880-yard Run	2:05
Medley Relay	3:36.8
220-yard Dash	22.7
Mile Relay	3:37.6
Broad Jump	21' 3"
High Jump	6'
Discus Throw	125' 4½"
Pole Vault	11'

(1942)

The Spartan track team won the eight annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays with  $45\frac{1}{2}$  points. Second place went to Lincoln High School of Jefferson City, Missouri with  $35\frac{1}{2}$  points.

Taking individual scoring honors were Jack Bush of Lincoln High of Kansas City, Missouri with first place in pole vault, and second in the short put, broad jump and 440-yard dash for 14 points.

(1943)

Lincoln University High defeated the Spartans by a margin of one sixteenth of a point in the Ninth Annual Kansas City, Kansas Relays. Lincoln's final score was 56-5/16 points and Sumner's, 56-4/16, a five-way tie because all available poles were rendered unfit for use. Sumner was represented by three good vaulters against only two other entrants. The Spartans scored 6-3/4 points but probably would have scored 8 points with a first and second.

(1944)

Members of the 1943 and 1944 track teams were: Sammie Banks, Daniel Borders, Wellington Clemmons, Vernon Coffey, Norris Davis, Joseph Germany, Hoyt Givens, Donald Jackson, William Johnson, John Lunn, Jesse Milan, Arthur Mitchell, Napoleon Northern, Edward Stafford and George Taylor.

(1946)

Forty participants reported for track. More were expected after basketball season. In the annual Kansas University Relays, the Spartans won fourth place out of eighteen Class AA schools.

Vernon Coffey won the 120-yard high hurdles in 15.1 seconds.

(1947)

The senior track team opened the season with the interclass meet. The seniors won the meet with a total of 55 points. The juniors were second with  $33\frac{1}{2}$  points, and the sophomore were third with  $18\frac{1}{2}$  points.

The Spartans entered ten men in the Regional Meet at Lawrence. Walter Parker entered the 100-yard dash; Alfred House, the 220-yard dash; James Fisher and Jerry Watson participated in the 880-yard relay; and Henry Thompson, the Medley Relay; Theodore Madison and James Burns participated in the broad jump.

(1948)

Coach James Thatcher opened the 1948 cinder season by entering sixteen participants in the Ottawa Relays. The Spartans scored 19 points and finished in sixth place. Charles Anderson won the mile run in 4:58 seconds, and Alfred House won the hundred-yard dash, setting a new record of 9.9. seconds.

(1949)

The Spartans only placed in the high jump, and the Sprint Medley Relay at Baker Relays.

Lincoln High School, Sumner's intercity rival, handed the Spartans two losses in dual meets. In the initial clash at Sumner, the Tigers won practically all events to gain a decisive victory. The Spartans mile relay team of Breedlove, Blair, Gardner and Foreman, outstepped the Tigers relay squad in 3:30.1 seconds.

(1950)

Lincoln High School defeated Sumner in a dual meet, 54 to 29. The Spartans won 50 to 38 in the second meeting. The team won third place

in the annual Kansas University Relays at Lawrence. Boys participating in the relays were Clarence Berry, James Gentry, William Thomas, Carl Dixon, James Wilson, Thomas Sneed, Okie Long, John Neale, and Hasley Gulley.

(1951)

The 1951 track schedule included the Kansas University Relays, Baker Relays, and Lincoln High School. Four men from Sumner represented the school at Kansas University. John Neal placed fifth in the 440-yard dash. Clarence Berry, miler for the Spartans, took the sixteenth spot in the mile run. James Blanks finished tenth in the shot put. La Forest Wilkins high jumped 5' 8".

Lincoln defeated the Spartans 66-2/3 points to 28-1/3. One new meet record was established. Gene Buie of Lincoln ran the 100-yard dash in 10.0 seconds. Mr. J. L. Thatcher completed fifteen years as head track coach.

Delbert White (1952)

Raymond McDaniels, a senior, placed fifth for Coach Delbert White's team in the 440-yard dash. In the first meet of the season, Lincoln High School won over the Spartans by a score of 74 to 41.

(1953)

Sumner opened the 1953 season with sixty-five track hopefuls reporting for track. The Ottawa Relays was the first stop for the Spartans. A fifth place finish in the mile relay run by Russel Fagan, Bert Grisby, Nathaniel Watson, and Jerry Weeden accounted for the only point in the meet.

(1954)

Mr. Delbert White, track coach, announced that he had begun classifying track entrants in special track skills.

Sumner finished in seventh place in the high school section of the Ottawa Relays. The Spartans scored seven points. In the Baker Relays the Spartans took fifth place with  $12\frac{1}{2}$  points. Sumner set one record, the Medley Relay team finished 3:32.2 seconds to clip one score off the record set by Topeka in 1938.

In the Sunflower League Quadrangular, the Spartans took third place scoring 28 points. Topeka Trojans took first with 73 points, Wyandotte second with 55 points, Ward was fourth with 19 points. Don Davis, Bert Grigsby, and Claude Malone won the first three places in the 100-yard dash. The Spartans ended the regular season with a sixth place finish in the regional meet scoring 10 points.

In the State Meet, the Spartans placed tenth in the Class AA State Meet with 9 points. The Medley Relay team set a new state record of 3:27.1 seconds in the meet.

(1955)

The Spartans tied with Ward High for fourth place with 13 points in the Ottawa Relays. John Bruce placed first in the 100-yard dash and third in the 220-yard dash.

In the Pittsburg Relays, Sumner and Fort Scott tied for eighth place with 12 points each. Sumner scored a total of twelve points and tied with six other Class AA teams for fifth place.

Competing in the State meet at Wichita, the Spartans won the 880-yard relay. The team was composed of Richard Newman, John Bruce, Bert Grigsby, and James Wakefield.



(1956)

The Sumner track team opened the season at the State Indoor meet at Manhattan, Kansas. Harvey Shannon made the only showing for the Spartans. He finished second in the 60-yard dash.

In the first Argentine relays, Sumner placed fourth with  $38\frac{1}{2}$  points. The Spartans scored 18 points to take third in the Shawnee Mission Relays.

(1957)

The Sumner Spartans opened their track and field season by taking third in the Argentine Relays. The meet in its second year had eight teams competing.

In a dual meet with Argentine, the Spartans were defeated 75-56.

Wyandotte High School held their first annual Relays, with the Spartans taking a fourth place tie with 20 points. The Spartans participated in the Kansas Relays, Shawnee Mission Relays, and the Baker Relays but managed to get only one point at Baker.

(1958)

Sumner captured nine of sixteen events to defeat Argentine, 71-61 in a dual meet at Sumner. Double winners for Sumner were Wallace Caroline in both hurdles and Archie Welch, who took the 100 and 220-yard dashes.

The Sumner track team smashed six records in capturing second place in the Washington Invitational. The Spartans wound up with five firsts, two seconds, two thirds, and three fifths for 41 points.

A third place finish was captured by the Spartans in the Shawnee Mission Relays.

The Spartans finished first in a triangular meet with Lincoln and Manual. Sumner scored 49 points, to Lincoln's 43 and Manual's 23 points.

In the Regional, Sumner scored 21 points to take third place. Assisting in the track was Mr. Joseph Redden and Mr. Bernard Bennett.

(1959)

Sumner's track team took fourth at the Wyandotte Invitational. The 880-yard relay team placed second. Martin Grizzel ran fifth in the mile.

The Argentine Relays produced a second place finish, and a sixth place finish at the Shawnee Mission Relays.

Thomas Lewis won the 100 and 220-yard dashes to pace Sumner to a fifth place finish in the Ottawa Relays. In the first home meet, the Spartans collected ten firsts in sixteen events to defeat Argentine and Ward.

(1960)

Coach Delbert White started the 1960 season with five returning lettermen and about forty eager-to-become Spartan trackmen. The team placed in three events at the Wyandotte County Relays.

Spartans Robert McCormick and Director Collins paved the way with  $8\frac{1}{2}$  points as the team scored  $17\frac{1}{2}$  points for their biggest scoring of the season at the Washington Relays.

Richard Miller (1961)

The track team boasted of a successful season with new head coach Richard Miller. The team finished second in the Argentine Relays compared to a tenth place finish last year. In the Washington Relays, John Collins won the 220-yard dash and the Spartans finished in third place with 29 points. Tommy Nash, a junior, performed in the Shawnee Mission East Quadrangulars with first place honors in the 120-yard high hurdles and the 180-yard low hurdles.

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## Chester Pittman (1962)

During the Shawnee Mission East Quadrangular, Sumner entered thirty participants. The Spartans, under new head coach, Chester Pittman, tallied  $37\frac{1}{2}$  points for third place. Sumner won ten of thirteen events and scored 70 points to take an easy victory over Lincoln and Manual, who scored 34 and 33 points respectively. Twenty-six points were scored at the Washington Relays for fourth place. Eight teams competed.

In the Argentine Relays, Sumner won the meet with  $55\frac{1}{2}$  points over runner up Washington with 41 points.

The Spartans' third team victory was won at Immaculata Invitational Track Meet held at Leavenworth. The Spartans scored  $79\frac{1}{2}$  points followed by Osawatomie with 43 points and Immaculata with 41 points. Nine teams competed in the meet.

## (1963)

The Summer High School track team place fourteenth out of a field of sixteen AA schools. The Spartans scored  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points with Forrest Coulter placing 4th in the 60-yard dash. Lee James tied for third in the high jump.

In a dual with Manual Cardinals, Sumner scored seventeen first places to win  $71\frac{1}{2}$  to  $44\frac{1}{2}$  for Manual. Lee James broke one of the oldest records on the book by high jumping 6 feet 1 inch to erase Roger Williams' six foot high jump record set in 1935.

The Spartans qualified two individuals and two relay teams in the Class AA regional meet. Rudolph Thompson tied one meet record, set a new school standard in the 220 and anchored the 880 relay team. His time

in the 220 was 21.0. The mile relay team of Ken Cloud, Ron Lewis, Forrest Coulter, and Ben Johnson ran 1:30.7 to clip a full second off the old school record set ten years previously. Assistant coaches for the 1963 season were Mr. Marvin Trammell, Mr. Joseph Samuels, Mr. Thomas Rhone, and Mr. David Brooks.

(1964)

In the 1964 State Indoor Meet, Sumner tied for sixth place with Argentine High School with twelve points. Eighteen schools entered the meet. Burnell Davis placed second in the Broad Jump with a 21 feet 5 inch jump. Rudolph Thompson placed second in the 60-yard dash. Burnell Davis, Darthell Davis, Ben Johnson, and Robert White finished second in the mile relay with a 3:35 time.

Burnell Davis won the Regional Board Jump with a 22 feet, 3-3/4 inch leap. The mile relay won with a 3:24.4 second time. The Medley relay was won by the Spartans in 3:36.7 seconds. Robert Brown won third in the 120-yard high hurdles, and 880-yard relay ran a 1:30.1 for a new meet and school record.

In the State Meet, the Spartans finished in twelfth place out of twenty-eight teams with 10 points.

(1965)

Sumner High School track team placed fifth in the State Indoor Meet with 10 points. Eighteen schools competed in the meet.

The 1965 Spartans put on a 94½ point exhibition in capturing the Lawrence High School Invitational. The Spartans broke four records and tied a fifth as they led their closest challenger, Lawrence, by 26½ points. Seven teams made up the field.

In the Emporia Relays, the Spartans captured fifth place in a field of eighteen teams.

The state meet at Wichita produced a fourth place finish behind Wichita East, Wyandotte, and Topeka. The highest state finish by the Spartans under the classification of double AA.

(1966)

In the 1966 State Indoor Meet, Sumner finished in sixth place, one point out of a four was tie for third. Nineteen teams were represented in Class AA.

With only four seniors on the team, the Spartans were in a rebuilding year. Sheffrin Johnson set a meet record of 6.3 sconds in the 60-yard dash preliminaries. The mile relay team of Darthell Davis, Robert White, Amos McCluney, and Gary Byers placed first in 3:31.4 seconds.

The Spartans tied for tenth place in the State Meet. Twenty-nine teams w entered in Class AA.

(1967)

Sumner did not enter the State Indoor Meet. This was the first year for baseball at Sumner and the Spring sports split the athletic programs for the spring into two sports. It took the Spartans a year to rebuild the team to meet state competition.

The team entered two individuals in the state meet at Salina; both failed to place.

(1968)

The 1968 indoor season marked the final time that the Spartans would compete in the Class AA division. The Spartans finished in sixth place with ten points. Twenty teams finished the competition. Frank Johnson, James Heggie, Anthony Glenn, and Mike Lee finished first in 3:30.8 for the mile relay.

Sumner won the 440-yard relay in 43.8 at the Kansas University Relays. Heggie, Glenn, Graham, and Johnson were on the team which ran first in the 880-yard relay in the time of 1:30.9 seconds.

During the State Championships, the Spartans placed seventh with 12 points. Twenty-eight schools competed in the division.

The 880-yard relay team finished in first place with a 1:30.4 clocking. The Spartans won third place in the Regional Meet at Atchison.

#### (1969)

The 1969 Spartan track team competed for the first time this year in the newly formed Class 4-A competition. The season was opened with the Spartans taking the State Indoor Championship. The Spartans tallied 29 points to capture the meet. Paul Graham won both hurdle races and first in the 60-yard dash. Graham set a new school record in the 120-yard high hurdle race he entered in 1969.

Sumner won the regional meet and placed second in the State Meet at Emporia, Kansas. The team scored  $32\frac{1}{2}$  points to finish  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points behind State winner Junction City. Anthony Glenn won the 100 and 220-yard dashes in a 9.6 second and 21.5 seconds. Don Young won the long jump with a 22 feet, 3 inch effort, while regional winner Brian Rollins remained home with illness.

Anthony Glenn won the S. H. Thompson Award, a trophy presented annually in the honor of the current principal. The award was initiated to have the individuals' name inscribed on the surface and remain at the school. It is presented to the Athlete who displays leadership qualities and academic excellence.

#### (1970)

Sumner High School repeated as State Class 4-A Champions in the state indoor track meet. The Spartans wrapped up its second straight indoor title

with a record setting mile relay victory. John Lee, Rodney Redic, Brian Rollins, and Michael Lee ran a 3:28.9 second victory.

Everett Morgan won the high and low hurdles in record setting time. The team standings were  $35\frac{1}{2}$  points for the Spartans and  $25\frac{1}{2}$  for Great Bend.

During the regular season, three key men received injuries which slowed the overall showing of the team. Brian Rollins and Don Young were consistent in the long jump all season. Rollins set the school record with a 25 feet, 2 inch effort, while Don Young was a close second with a 23 feet even mark.

In the State Outdoor Meet, the Spartans fell to fifth place after winning the regional for two consecutive years. Mr. Sylvester Benson, William Spencer, Cecil Carter, and Larry Williams assisted in coaching the Spartans to victory.

Brian Rollins won the S. H. Thompson Award.

#### Cecil Carter (1971)

Mr. Cecil Carter moved up from assistant coach to head the Spartans in 1971. The Spartans competed above average all season with the greatest success coming at Shawnee Mission North Relays where they won the 440-yard and 880-yard relay trophies. In the regionals and State, the Spartans finished well back of the top five teams, but had a fine young team competing.

Bruce Johnson, and Melvin Lee head a group of seniors which should put the track team back on State competition level.

Senior Tyrone Harland was the recipient of the S. H. Thompson Award.

A new award in the honor of former Coach Jim Thatcher was initiated this season. The trophy is awarded to the senior athlete who ranks highest, academically, among his graduating class. Robert Ragsdale, a senior wrestler, won the first award.



## FOLLOWING ARE THE SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR TRACK RECORDS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
100-Yard Dash	Anthony Glenn	9.6 sconds	1969
Mile Run	Harry Edwards	4:32.8	1965
880-Yard Relay	Darthell Davis-Amos McCluney, Henry Davis, Mike Malone	1:28.6	1965
440-Yard Dash	Mike Lee	50.0	1970
880-Yard Run	Bruce Johnson	1:59.8	1970
180-Yard Low Hurdles	Everett Morgan	19.4	1970
220-Yard Dash	Anthony Glenn	21.5	1969
Medley Relay	220-110-440-880 Don Davis, Claude Malone, Bert Grigsby, Jerry Weeden	3:27.1	1954
Medley Relay	440-220-220-880 Jeff Foster, Darthell Davis, Burnell Davis, Walter Smith	3:36.7	1965
Mile Relay	Forrest Coulter, Kenneth Cloud Ronald Lewis, Ben Johnson	3:24.6	1963
330 Intermediate Hurdles	Mike Lee	38.9	1970
440-Yard Relay	D. Davis, B. Davis, H. Davis, M. Malone	43.2	1966
Sprint Medley	220-110-110-440 Anthony Glenn, Paul Graham David Parker, Mike Lee	1:33.4	1970
Javelin	Victor Williams	202'3"	1963
High Jump	Lee James	6' 1 inch	1963
Long Jump	Brian Rollins	23' 2 inches	1970
Pole Vault	Lawrence Carroll	11' 11 inches	1969
Discus	Leonard Sparks	153' 2½ inches	1967
2-Mile Run	Clifton Russell	10:01	1969

## SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK RECORDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ATHLETE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
60-Yard Dash	Sheffrin Johnson	6.3	1965
	Paul Graham	6.4	1969
60-Yard High Hurdles	Everett Morgan	7.9	1970
Mile Relay	John Lee, Rodney Redic, Brian Rollins, Mike Lee	3:28.6	1970
440-Yard Dash	John Lee	51.5	1970
Long Jump	Brian Rollins	21' 10 inches	1970
Mile Run	Clifton Russell	4:48.8	1969

During the span of nine years this writer was track coach, every record on the Spartans' track board was set. The exception was the mile medley relay (220-110-440-880) which is not included in the list of present track events of competition. The revised medley relay of which the 1962-1970 teams participated consisted of (440-220-220-880) yards by each man.

Probably the accomplishment of any track season in the history of the school dates to the state championships in which the 1969 and 1970 teams won.

## BASEBALL

Baseball games were played in the early history of the school but was not considered a part of the interscholastic sports program. The game as a part of the athletic program was introduced in the spring of 1967 by Roy Flook, a former member of the St. Louis Cardinal Baseball Organization.

The first game of the season was won by the Spartans 9-8 over St. Joseph Central. The Spartans won seven games and lost five. Mr. Felton Denham served as assistant coach of the Spartans.

## (1968) Felton Denham

In 1968, Mr. Felton Denham served as varsity baseball coach. Assisting Mr. Denham was Mr. Elijah Copeland.

Sumner had one of the best hitting teams in the Border League. Rufus Caruthers was the most outstanding pitcher. The boys with the best hitting averages were Nathaniel Smith, Calvin Mitchell, Reginal Cheney, and Marvin Chandler. The team won seven games and lost seven in regular season play. In the regional game, Washington High School knocked the Spartans out of the tourney in the first round of play. Rufus Caruthers was selected to attend the Kansas City Royals' Baseball Academy.

The 1969 and 1970 baseball team won three games and lost fifteen during the regular season of play. Dewayne Heggie, a sophomore pitcher, won two of the games for the team. Ward High School defeated the Spartans in the opening game of the regional tournament.

(1970-1971) Richard Gooden

The Sumner baseball team, playing under its third coach in four years of baseball, won three games and lost fourteen. Mr. Gooden and assistant, Larry Rayes, found it tough going in the Border League. Teams making up the league are: St. Joseph Central, St. Joseph Lafayette, and St. Joseph Benton, all from St. Joseph, Missouri. De La Salle, Washington, Pem Day, Wyandotte, Ward and Sumner round out the league.

### WRESTLING

(1967 through 1970) Chester Pittman

Wrestling as an interscholastic sport at Sumner High School was introduced by the writer. A group of twelve individuals from three boys' physical education classes performed exhibition matches for parents during the annual open house night. From these physical education classes, eighteen boys remained out and wrestled against the Washington High School reserves, Rosedale High School, and Wyandotte High School.

During the fall of 1968, wrestling uniforms were purchased and five duel matches and two tournaments were entered. As a team, the Spartans won two duel meets and found four outstanding individuals in Mike Lee, Ron Gunnells, John Poke, and Duane Perry. The highest place won in tournament competition was won by Mike Lee at the Bonner Springs Tournament. Mike won second place and the first wrestling medal ever won by a Sumner High School Wrestler.

The 1968 and 1969 wrestling teams at Sumner High School finished the season with a 3-3 won lost record. In Tournament competition, Andrew Goff and William Olds were winners in their weight class at the Olathe

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Invitational Meet. Goff won the 98 pound division over seven other wrestlers, and Billy Olds won the heavy weight championship division. In the District meet Olds and Goff won third places and advanced to the Regional meet in Manhattan where they were both defeated in the first round.

Members of the team were: Peter McGee, John Cage, Willie Young, Perry Gaskin, Willie Richardson, Mike Lee, Miles Kendall, John Poke, Sylvester Washington, Marvin Bailey, and Billy Olds.

The 1969 and 1970 wrestling team won four duel matches and a second place finish in the Olathe Invitational Meet. The 1970 team boasted five outstanding wrestlers and has been the best team the school has produced as of date. John Poke and Andrew Goff set the pace for the team by winning championships at the Olathe Invitational. For the same season, Goff won twelve matches and lost two. Poke won ten matches and lost two.

This team produced the first wrestling trophy in the school's history. The team won second place at the Olathe Meet over a field of twelve teams. Members of the team were: Andrew Goff, Reggie McKamie, Ozie Sims, John Cage, Perry Gaskin, Mike Lee, Miles Kendall, John Poke, Sylvester Washington, Frankie Boyd, and Cecil Brown.

#### (1970-1971) Felton Denham

Mr. Felton Denham, head coach of football, coached the team last season. Six lettermen returned, but were unable to pin many victories. The team was victorious over De La Salle and Osawatomie in duel meet competition. In the two invitational tournaments, the Spartans competed gamely but were unable to finish very high up in the standings.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The first written records of cross country at Sumner High School were kept in the fall of 1933. Mr. A. T. Edwards was the coach. Sumner competed in a quadrangular meet and won over Lincoln, Western University, and Northeast Junior High School.

(1956 and 1957) Mr. Delbert White

Sumner, in their second year, took second place in their opening cross country meet by scoring 41 points in a quadrangular at Olathe. The Olathe team topped the Spartans with 20 points. Bonner Springs was third and Turner was last. Scoring for the Spartans were Arthur Howard, fourth place; John Yates, fifth; Wallace Carpline, sixth; Arthur Bolden, twelfth; and Martin Grizzel, fourteenth.

With Bonner Springs and Turner, Sumner took first place with 36 points. Bonner was second, and Turner finished third.

In the Regional Meet at Lawrence, Sumner took seventh place. Haskell was the meet winner. No other records of cross country participation were found until 1964. Mr. David Brooks coached a cross country team. No records were found to establish any results.

(1964-1965) Mr. James Rozine

In 1965, Mr. James Rozine coached cross country at Sumner High School. Members of the team were: John Heggie, General Swan, Bartell Berry, Sidney Jones, James Tillman, Robert Weaver, Charles Calhoun, and Wayne Robinson. The team ran at Wamego and participated between half time of two home football games.

(1966)

Mr. Marvin Trammel coached cross country, but no records were available of team competition.

(1967 through 1969) Chester Pittman

During the author's first year as coach of cross country, eight meets were scheduled. The season opened with the team running in an eight-team meet at Swope Park. The team finished fifth with Clifton Russel finishing third for the Spartans. A course of two miles was laid out in Parkwood Park for all home meets and practice sessions.

Sumner won its first home meet ever by defeating De La Salle, Manual, St. Pius X, and Lincoln. Members of the team were: Wayne Robinson, Charles Calhoun, Wesley Lee, John Jarrett, Charlie Mitchell, Jesse Gray, and Lawrence Garrison.

In 1968, the cross country team with three wins and three duel meet losses. The Spartans won a duel meet against St. Pius X High School by taking the first five places in the race. Clifton Russell was the captain of the team and ran the fastest two miles in the history of Sumner cross country. Clifton recorded a 9:57.0 time for a two mile course.

In the Regional Meet, Clifton Russell finished first in a time of ten minutes and one second to pace the Spartans to a first place victory. The team finished in ninth place with 223 points in the state meet at Wamego, Kansas. Members of the team were: John Glenn, Hansel Banks, Tyrone Harland, Michael Lee, Jesse Gray, Lefelt Jackson, Clifton Russell, and Julius Claibourne.

The 1969 team won two quadrangular meets and three duel meets. Going in to the Regional meet, the Spartans had defeated the team from Miego four consecutive meets. However, the Spartans were defeated by a good Miego team and placed third in the meet. The team finished out of the top ten at the state meet at Wamego, Kansas.

(1970-1971) Cecil Carter

Mr. Cecil Carter coached the school's cross country team last year. The team, under Mr. Carter won one duel meet and won the Independent Invitational Meet. The Independent Meet consisted of all the school in the Kansas City area that compete outside of any league. Twelve boys lettered in the sport last season. The team failed to qualify in the regional meet.



## SUMMARY AND OVER-VIEW

The Supreme Court decision of 1954 declaring segregation in the public schools as unconstitutional, has created concern for Sumner High School. Although there may be numerous points to substantiate these discussions, this writer is of the opinion that there are also many points to be considered in keeping the school open for the people in the community for which it serves. Some of the merits for the need of this community high school to remain open will be discussed briefly.

Sumner High School is accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education and has recently gone through a state evaluation committee. An adequately prepared integrated faculty is employed at the school and the general impressions are that the faculty-student relationship creates a type of family atmosphere. This would imply a great deal more special attention is given to students as a result.

In 1968, forty-eight percent of the graduating class attended college or some other phase of higher education. In 1969, seventy-five percent of that year's graduating class attended college or some type of professional training program. During these years, the graduating classes averaged two hundred and fifty students. The type of guidance and work with these students may be attributed to the dedication and outstanding work done by the school's three member guidance department. This writer's opinion is of the belief that those faculty members who for years remain in the inner-city school situations, are in a true sense the real dedicated teachers. From a more personal point of view, the rewards of teaching and coaching at Sumner High School cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents. The wealth and richness from this writers point of view is that final development of the product through his accomplishments beyond graduation.

Well over one-hundred forms of aid and scholarships were awarded members of the 1971 graduating class. The most impressive scholarship was awarded to the student council president and captain of the varsity cheerleaders squad. The University presented this young lady with a full four-year academic scholarship.

Many professional organizations, composed of former Sumner graduates have made funds available for student use through the guidance department. This money may be obtained by students in the form of student loans. This money is repaid back into the fund by the student before he may borrow more. It is a fact that thirty-six percent of the students enrolled at Sumner are welfare recipients. Much care and precautions are used to prevent promotions to various activities which might limit majority student participation. The principal has set a policy making it possible for every athlete to be properly equipped by the school for any type of athletic competition. The coaches have formed a coaches' club with its funds under the control of the athletic fund to assist any needy athlete through a lunch program.

From some of the personalities listed in the history of Sumner High School Athletics, the writer will list some of the accomplishments in which many of the graduates have achieved. The majority of the individuals listed will consist of students who participated in athletics only. The time and extent of this report will not in all fairness, mention the numerous outstanding achievements of all the former students. The writer will list those individuals who have gained medical degrees since graduating from Sumner. Dr. Harold Thatcher and Dr. Horace Dwiggin both played football and were team members. A more recent graduate to receive his medical degree was Dr. Herman Watson, who served as captain of the 1962 basketball team. The writer discovered that four former graduates of Sumner received Veterinary Medicine Degrees from Kansas State University. They were Dr. Monroe Balton, Dr. Theodore Williams,

Dr. Norman Howell, and Dr. Cornelius Mobiley. Thirteen other former graduates were found to have received medical degrees. In education, Dr. Bertram Caruthers is now employed by the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education as Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Community Relations and Special Projects.

A short statement of some of the coaches and athletes of the last ten years will be listed in their present capacity since leaving Sumner.

Mr. Johnny McLendon served as student assistant for Mr. A. T. Edwards' championship teams and later coached Tennessee State University to three consecutive N. A. I. A. championships. Mr. McLendon became the first negro to become head coach in the professional basketball ranks. He is also a member of the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Gerald Hall played football and graduated from Sumner in 1950. He returned as teacher and head football coach. Mr. Hall is presently serving as Vice-President of Douglass State Bank in Kansas City, Kansas.

Mr. Thomas Rhone coached Sumner basketball for eight years and coached the team to a second place finish in the state championships since joining the Kansas High School Activities Association. Mr. Rhone is now assistant principal of Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas.

Mr. Cleveland Jones coached Sumner football for five years. The teams under Mr. Jones hold the best won-lost records in the history of Sumner football. Mr. Jones is not an administrative assistant with the Good Year Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio.

Mr. Nolen Ellison coached the Sumner basketball teams for three years. He recently accepted the position as assistant to the president at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Marvin Trammel graduated from Sumner in 1957. He returned as teacher and coach for four years and now is the assistant to the Superintendent of School In Charge of Instruction in the Minneapolis, Minnesota School System.

Dr. Herman Watson was captain of the 1962 basketball squad. In his senior year at Drake University, he served as team captain there also. Dr. Watson is House Surgeon at General Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Victor Williams was a 1964 graduate of Sumner and played college football at North Texas State University. After graduation, he was hired as an assistant defensive backfield coach.

Leonard Sparks of the graduating class of 1966 became the first Sumner graduate to receive an athletic scholarship to the University of Missouri.

Rufus Caruthers, a graduate of the 1968 class is enrolled as a member of the Kansas City Royals Baseball Academy.

James Heggie and Mike, a 1967 and a 1970 graduate ran track at Sumner and now comprise one-half of the Kansas State University mile-relay team which established the new school record last spring in the mile relay.

In college football this fall, Billy Olds will be in the starting backfield for the University of Nebraska. Billy is a junior in the school of engineering.

Brian Rollins of the 1969 graduating class will begin his second year at the University of Iowa where he has been picked as a potential super star in the Big Ten conference.

The writer realizes that only the surface is scratched in listing the countless achievements of the Sumner graduates. This listing was for the purpose of only making a small point toward Sumner High School's graduating students with outstanding talents and abilities.

## ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FACTS

The building which the community knows as Sumner High School was built in 1905 and began without a name. The new building being built at Ninth and Washington sixty-five years ago needed a new name. In June, 1906, four men sat around a table in the Board of Education room in the Public Library to pick a new name.

The school was named after Charles Sumner, an American statesman and an anti-slavery leader. The committee, composed of M. E. Pearson, late superintendent of schools; J. E. Patterson, Sumner principal, 1905-1908; G. F. Porter and G. B. Buster, thought that Charles Sumner's name would be more appropriate because of the many fine qualities he possessed.

Sumner was a scholar of the highest rank. He was courageous. He stood up for principles. He was broad-minded. He belied in equal rights and equal opportunities for all men, regardless of race.

In 1920, the north wing was added to the old building. In 1925, the gymnasium, cafeteria, and domestic science annex were added. Sumner was unchanged until the late thirties. Then, because of the rapidly increasing population, the need for a new location became evident.

The present building at Eighth and Oakland was opened in January, 1940. Cost of the new school was \$1,000,000. The athletic field cost \$100,000 and was completed in 1932. Sumner was designed by one of the country's top architects, Joseph W. Radotinsky.

Enrollment at Sumner at the beginning of each school year averages about 800 students from grades 10 through 12. There are at present 50 teachers, eight custodians, one full-time librarian, and one part-time registered nurse, four full-time clerks, two vice-principals, three full-time counselors and the principal.

Sumner has come a long way from the half-day classes of 1905 to a new and beautiful building erected for the future. The many achievements of her alumni managed a first place in the Greater Kansas City Science Fair every year except 1954 when the school took a second place. Sumner has a charter of the National Honor Society, sponsored by Mr. John W. Henderson. A school paper (Sumner Courier) and the yearbook (Sumnerian) are published by students of the journalism classes. There is an active P.T.A. group that supports all school activities.

Many clubs have organized. These included the Future Teachers of America, Future Nurses of America, S-Club, Horizon Club, Hi-Y, Future Business Leaders, Chess Club and numerous others.

The school nickname, "Spartan", was chosen by the student body from the word, "Sparta", a city in Greece noted for its warriors. The Sumner football, basketball, and track teams have always been something the community could be proud of.

1 Students at Sumner are often said to be among the best-dressed students in any high school and among the best mannered. Sumner has some of the top high school scholars anywhere and the instructors are among the best. Sound scholarship, courage, and broad-mindedness were qualities possessed by Charles Sumner. It is still the hope that every student who enters Sumner High School will possess these qualities before he leaves her walls.

Sumner High School, a three-year comprehensive public high school, is accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education as a standard high school. Sumner has an enrollment of 800 students and is classified by the Kansas State High School Activities Association as a Class 4A school for inter-school competition.

The professional staff consists of fifty people. Forty-nine are assigned to the high school full time, and one is shared with other schools

in the system. Ninety-eight percent of our staff members are assigned to Summer full time. Excellence of education is being achieved through an adequately trained faculty. Through the student body now is composed entirely of Negroes, the faculty has been integrated since the 1963-1964 school year.

An attempt is made to provide for individual difference not only by a wide selection of course offerings, but also by sectioning of high and low ability student in some areas.

About forty-eight percent of the students go on to college. Provision is made for these people as well as for those students who terminate their formal education and enter the labor market upon graduation from high school.

Situated in the northeast section of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, Sumner High School serves as an educational institution in the "inner city". Typical factors which characterize the inner city are as follows: Dense population, concentration of the poor, the Negroes, the aged, rectilinear platting with narrow lots, heavy traffic, overcrowding, educational deficiencies, and a multitude of social problems.

Located at Eighth and Oakland are the Sumner edifice and stadium. While these exists some deterioration at the present time in the are, there are large areas which are not significantly blighted but which could become so if present conditions are not changed.

Within this area are found many welfare cases and a number of Headstart programs. Median income figures are consistently lower than those of the newly developing suburband regions. The 1960 Census Data reveal that the average income in the suburban districts is \$7121; whereas immediateley north of the downtown area, the average income is \$3550, approximately one-half as much. A low median income has two significant aspects. These are:

- (1) Home maintenance usually suffers when income falls below an acceptable level.



- (2) The purchasing powers of the family decreases, having an impact on the vitality of the businesses of the area.

Education attainment for this area is substantially lower than for the county as a whole, according to the 1960 census figures. In several census tracts in the inner city, only twenty-five percent of the persons over twenty-five years of age have graduated from high school. Although a number of individuals have professional and semi-professional jobs, a large percentage of the community works as common laborers.

Land use in the inner city area, while predominately residential, tends to be mixed to a far greater extent than in the suburban areas. Strip commercial uses are common along major streets. Legal or illegal subdivision of the single-family structures is common. In some places, industry borders on residential areas. In many instances, incompatibility of land uses and illegal conversions have been a destroyer of the living environment.

The industrial area which has the closest geographic relationships to the Sumner High School District is Fairfax.

That the inner city area is conveniently located with respect to the "desire areas" of the metropolitan area is quite evident. It is near the entertainment-shopping-financial-cultural corridor extending from Downtown Kansas City to the Plaza. It is adjacent to a major portion of the industrial and business districts in the metropolitan area, represented by Downtown Kansas City, Fairfax, Central Industrial, North Kansas City, and Amourdale. As regards transportation, bus and rail centers are located in the corridor mentioned above; the area is very near Municipal Airport and much closer than much of the Metropolitan area to Kansas City International Airport. In addition, those in the Sumner district have access to other portions of the metropolitan area through the highway network that serves it.



The flight to the suburbs of the white residents of the inner city has been caused in part by the westerly expansion of the place of residence of the Negro. Movement of white families appears to have occurred as a result of two factors (in addition to the appeal of the open space of the suburbs). In the first instance, white families have moved out as Negroes have moved into a block or neighborhood. In the second, a white exodus has been prominent whenever Negro attendance at a school has reached a significant percentage.

It is suggested that the most meaningful device to maintain racial balance might be the provision of facilities and programs at these schools to the extent that the educational offering is sufficiently superior to offset the effects of the racial bias.

It would certainly appear that it is in the best interest of the community as a whole to seek some sort of formula for peaceful coexistence between the races.

Whether or not Sumner should remain an all-Negro school continues to be a weighty problem for the members of the community and the Board of Education. The most vital question facing Kansas City, Kansas is whether the leadership and citizenry throughout the community will recognize that a city is strong and then do something about it.

#### The SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The Sumner High School Philosophy is in accord with the philosophy of the Board of Education of Kansas City, Kansas. It also includes the fundamental ideas and programs that are recommended by authorities in the field of education, especially those programs on the secondary level. The

students reflect the needs of the community which the school serves; therefore all specific objectives are based upon the composition of the student body. Chief among Sumner's goals is the development of each student to the limit of his abilities.

Sumner regards every enrollee as a distinct personality who has reached a point at this level of his education and training where there may be a need for readaptation in his programing for desirable growth. It is understood that there will be additional program adjustments as he grows and as his needs are revealed. Consequently, the school program must be flexible to meet the individual needs.

Growth considered in its broadest terms includes the total individual. In order to develop the whole student, the school must have the program and its implementations centered around the physical, the mental, the vocational, the social, the emotional, and the moral development of each student.

We realize that we must provide a good physical fitness program and a health education program that will make it possible to cooperate with the community health program. We have to recognize that the mind is a body function and to build a strong mind, we must develop a strong body.

Academically all persons do not achieve at the same rate nor to the same degree. Therefore, the curriculum is designed to accommodate the development of the student's capabilities. The counselors' services provide for intelligent acceptance on the part of the person concerned, thus opening avenues for concerted effort in the areas requiring the talents with which the student is endowed. Here we also find our leaders in whom we must instill the idea that leaders in a democracy need more than intelligence, knowledge, and skills. They need character whose principal ingredients are personal integrity, human sympathy, and a sense of social responsibility.

Vocationally, we assume that each student can make a productive contribution to society. This contribution refers to no specific intellectual level but is constructive and provides a means of livelihood for the individual and his dependents. Terminal courses are primarily for those students whose capabilities seem to be limited to the extent that formal training beyond high school would not be profitable. We, however, give maximum encouragement to the student who wishes to further his development if authoritative judgment, through basic accumulative data, seems to indicate that it is possible for him to do so.

We hope that the students will be able to discover himself through the curricular and extra-curricular experiences which should instill a sense of achievement and confidence in the individual as well as give him a sense of direction.

Creativity only comes with vision, and vision can come with the development of innate abilities and tendencies. It is our aim to see that the potential of any student never remains dormant at Sumner.

Knowing how to earn a living is not considered sufficient preparation for life. The development of the aesthetic tastes comes through active physical expressions or a deep sense of intelligent appreciation. This appreciation phase of the educational process cannot be measured. It may come through formal instruction or direct exposure within the school, or from recommended outside media. Provisions for ground work from which the student may develop is our goal.

It is the intention of Sumner High School to provide environmental situations which encourage the development of all human resources and to provide an environment that is conducive to the development of the student who practices critical thinking, who keeps open-minded attitudes, and who accepts the responsibility of a self-directive and productive citizen in a democracy.

In concluding this report a quote from Principal S. H. Thompson to many of the graduates seems appropriate:

"You are at the vanguard in a new era of living set apart by technological developments and man's ability to reach beyond the confines of the earth. To this point you are morally obligated to assume your responsibilities sanely, energetically, and with a high degree of integrity.

Many, undoubtedly, are to take formidable parts in the direction of the course scientifically, politically, intellectually, and militarily. The majority will pursue their vocational interests to various degrees and constitute the great consuming public. Life should be full of rich experiences. Let us so prepare that our individual worlds will be rewarding."

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THE HISTORY OF ATHLETICS AT SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

by

CHESTER PITTMAN

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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  
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Complete records are not available for the total history of athletics at Sumner High School. The information for this study was obtained from several sources. The principle sources of information were: high school newspapers, high school yearbooks, and records filed in the principal's office. Interviews from former coaches also serves as a source.

Sumner High School was opened in September, 1906. Before that date, school for all high school students was the Kansas City, Kansas High School. This school was established in 1906, through special legislature. The results being the establishment of an all-negro school.

The first Sumner High School was located at Ninth and Washington Avenue. The present building was built and dedicated in 1939. The present school is located at Eighth and Oakland Avenue. A new football stadium and track were erected at this site in 1932.

In the early years of the school's athletic program, no provision for financial assistance was given. It was not until 1923 that the school budget provided athletics with financial support. Presently, the over-all support of the athletic program is from revenue collected from the sales of tickets to athletic contests. This money goes into the athletic fund only. The Board of Education has in the years been instrumental in supplementing the athletic programs at Sumner.

At the time of this writing, Sumner High School has employed twenty-one head coaches in its sixty-five years of existence. Half of this group of coaches served as head of two or more sports. The football program now has six coaches; basketball employs four coaches; and track has five. The baseball team is coached by two men, and cross country and wrestling have one coach each.

Since the disbanding of the Missouri Valley Athletic Association, Sumner has played an independent schedule. The baseball team plays in the Border League which is for the baseball teams only. Sumner joined the Kansas State High School Activities Association in 1953. League membership had been applied for in the past but without success. With the start of football in the fall of 1973, Sumner will begin play in a new league in the eastern part of the state.

The school, over the years, has enjoyed its greatest athletic success in the sport of basketball. The records show the Spartans winning championships in 1922-1923, 1924-1925, 1926-1927, and in 1928. There was a tie for the championship in 1929 and a three-way tie in 1931. Outright championships were won in 1932-1933, 1934-1935 and in 1938-1939. The team won the state play-off in 1942 and attended the Negro National Championships in Durham, South Carolina where they won over all opposition and returned as National Champions. Again in 1946, the team won the tri-state tournament and finished in third place in the National Tournament held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Since becoming a member of the Activities Association, the basketball teams have won five regional championships and finished third on three occasions. In state tournament play, Sumner has won a first place trophy, and a second place trophy. Three third place trophies have been won in the state. The 1969 basketball team won first place at the Dodge City, Kansas Tournament of Champions. The 1970 team accomplished the same feat. It was the 1969 team that won twenty-three consecutive games to be the only team to hold that distinction in the school's history.

The track teams have, throughout the years, had outstanding teams. The 1939 team participated in the Drake Relays after a first place finish in the two-mile relay at the University of Kansas Relays. Two State Indoor

Championships were won by the 1969 and the 1970 track teams. The same teams won the outdoor regional championship for two consecutive years.

The cross country team won one regional championship and one invitational championship. The 1964 football team won eight games and lost one to hold the most outstanding football record in the school's history. Baseball and wrestling are two relatively new sports at Sumner, and has not as of this writing competed on the state level.

The author, through this study, feels that Sumner has made outstanding progress in athletics. Athletes have throughout the years received aid in the form of athletic scholarships to continue their education. Much opportunity for the student at Sumner is afforded to attain leadership, and other qualities which have aided many of them to hold outstanding positions throughout the nation. This report was not intended to note the accomplishments of all the athletes who participated at Sumner; however, one outstanding athlete will be listed in the person of Mr. John McLendon, who became the first black coach in professional basketball.