

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

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by

WILLIAM L. WHITE

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Major Professor

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

I. THE PROBLEM

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

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

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

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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

III. METHODS OF STUDY

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

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

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

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

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

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

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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

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

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

Gruhn and Douglas¹ note that the chief characteristic of competitive sports programs in the junior high school is its intramural organization. According to Gruhn and Douglas it was found that in many large communities there is intra city competition between junior high schools, but competition with schools in other communities is not very common. The thought is further expressed that for the most part sports activities in the junior high schools are usually organized so that all

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

interested and physically able youths have an opportunity to participate.

Gruhn and Douglas² also noted that more than fifty per cent of all pupils engage in some intraschool or interscholastic sport. It was their opinion that such extensive participation is due, in part, to the fact that the sports program is basically intraschool.

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

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

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

² Ibid., p. 372.

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

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

interested and can do the best.

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

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

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

Nixon and Cosens⁶ state that boys and girls are interested in playing games and are not necessarily interested in competing with groups from other schools unless they are artificially stimulated in that direction. This is not in accord with what most authorities

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER III

THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM FOR BOYS IN TOPEKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE I
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

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

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

TABLE II
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

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

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

TABLE III
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE IV
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE V
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE VI
FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE VII
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

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

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

TABLE VIII
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

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

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

TABLE IX
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE X
 BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE XI
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE XII
BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE XIII
 TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE XIV
TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE XV
 TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE XVI
 TUMBLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE XVII
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE XVIII
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE XIX
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE XX
WRESTLING PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE XXI
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

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

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

TABLE XXII
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

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

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

TABLE XXIII
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE XXIV
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE XXV
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE XXVI
 TRACK PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

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

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

TABLE XXVII
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1958-59

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

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

TABLE XXVIII
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1959-60

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

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

TABLE XXIX
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1961-62

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

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

TABLE XXX
 TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1962-63

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

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

TABLE XXXI
TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1963-64

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

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

TABLE XXXII
 TENNIS PARTICIPATION YEAR 1964-65

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

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

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

The following statements summarize the information obtained in the study.

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

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

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

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

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

by

WILLIAM L. WHITE

B. S., Kansas State University, 1962

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

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

The following procedure was used in making the study:

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Basketball 41.65%.

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

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

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