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AN INVESTIGATION OF PRETESTING INDIVIDUALS AS A MEANS
OF BALANCING THE COMPARATIVE STRENGTHS OF
LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL TEAMS

by

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

One of the basic arguments against organized little league athletic programs is that each boy participating does not receive an opportunity to succeed, nor does each boy play an equal amount. Every attempt must be made in such a program to insure that each boy is placed in a position where he feels he has achieved some success during the program.

The study discussed in this paper was instigated by the formation of a little league football program in Rawlins, Wyoming, to commence in September, 1971. The program was to consist of six teams made up of fifth and sixth grade level boys. Part of the formation of this program was to devise a method by which boys could be equitably placed on teams, thereby providing each boy with the greatest possible chance of success.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study was to see if the following questions could be satisfactorily answered.

- (1) Can team performance be predicted by a pretest of individual members?
- (2) Can an individual's ability in football be predicted by a pretest?
- (3) Does a pretest of individuals lead to a balance of team strength as reflected in statistics of team offense and defense?

Limitations of Study

The scoring system for the skill-fitness pretest was based on a controlled study of that test but because of the unavailability of national norms in this area a more desirable method could not be used. A second limitation of this study is the lack of investigation into the effects of the variances in the coaching staffs and their influence upon the outcome of the season.

CHAPTER 2

METHOD OF STUDY

The first stage of the study was to determine the method by which team personnel would be selected. The second part was to compile statistics of the season. The final task was to correlate the results of the season to the method of selection.

The method of selecting team personnel was to be a physical skill-fitness test. The compiled statistics for the season included individual yards rushed from scrimmage, individual passing and receiving statistics, individual punting and kicking-off yardage and returns. Team statistics were then figured from individually collected statistics. Correlation of season statistics to the pretest were then figured according to percentile rankings of individual boys in relation to their success as ball carriers, passers, receivers or kickers. Correlations between team success in various categories, such as team rushing, team passing, etc., and pretest scores were also made.