

Bulletin on Athletics in High School

Basketball Tournaments for School Girls

Putnam County Sentinel – April 18, 1930

Correct Mistakes

Different High Schools Should Not Compete

County basketball tournaments for high school girls were condemned and interscholastic competition by girls was considered of “a questionable value” in a bulletin issued this week by the state department of education.

In the foreword, director Clifton said, “The decade from 1930 to 1940 will be an important one in the development of physical education for girls and women. These ten years will see athletics for girls make an educational, rather than a commercial or exhibitional enterprise. The thousands of girls and women in America should be accorded every opportunity for play, and need to be spared the mistakes which have been made in administering athletics for boys.

“American womanhood can profit from sport. It is an essential element in a complete life. The advancing times, let us hope, will provide space, teachers and equipment so that no girls will be denied the joy that comes from participation in educational athletics. Administrators are urged to use the material and advice in this publication as an aid in the intelligent direction of physical education programs.”

Competition between girls’ teams from different high schools was frowned on by the report which said they should be a part of the physical education program where ever they exist. In large high schools it is pointed out that, it is not necessary to have interscholastic competition because a program of intramural athletics could be easily carried on. “Interscholastic games do not come first”, the report read, “and should be

most economically financed, and finally were termed nuisances because too frequently there followed after victory the traditional hysterias and after defeat melancholia”.

Championship tournaments and meets were said to be “useful only for senior high school and college girls, and then only in the absence of any other opportunity for competition”.

Girls’ teams should be coached by women only because, “men do not realize the limitation of girls and cannot discuss health problems frankly with girls”.

Views on girls’ basketball represented the best opinion among leaders of physical education in the state. The unanimous opinion of the educators was that, in the last analysis, the administrator is responsible for the types of athletic programs in any community. The games, sports and events approved for junior high school girls were approved also for senior high school girls, and, in addition, the following games were suggested: “basketball (girls’ rules), soccer (girls’ rules), badminton, clock golf, golf, field archery, Lacrosse, speedball, indoor baseball and playground baseball.”

H. R. Townsend, Commissioner of the Ohio School Athletic Association, said, if the recommendations were enforced, they would mean discontinuance of 70 high school county basketball tournaments for girls, such as were held last year. The only counties not having such tournaments were Highland, Meigs, Scioto, Clinton, Greene, Miami, Jefferson, Tuscarawas, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Stark, Crawford, Huron, Mercer, Coshocton, Wood and Lake.