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# Comparing the Success of Former Class "C" Basketball Teams in North Dakota Before and After Reclassification to "B"

E. Raymond Gibbons

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COMPARING THE SUCCESS OF FORMER CLASS
"C" BASKETBALL TEAMS IN NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE AND AFTER RECLASSIFICATION TO "B"

by

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B. S. in Physical Education

and

Business Education

Mayville State College

Mayville, North Dakota, 1966

An Independent Study
Submitted to the Faculty
of the

University of North Dakota
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Education

Grand Forks, North Dakota
August

G352

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#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

Schools in North Dakota are classified as either "A" or "B" schools according to their enrollments in grades 9-12. This classification is done by the North Dakota High School Activities Association for the purpose of post-season tournament drawings in basketball. Prior to the 1963-64 school year there were three classes of schools in North Dakota. This third class included schools with enrollments below 75 students in grades 9-12 and these schools were designated as class "C" schools.

## Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this study was to show the success and/or failure in post-season basketball competition of the smaller schools in North Dakota since reclassification in 1963-64. The periods covered for this study were the years 1955-63--before reclassification, and the years 1964-72--after the schools were reclassified. On the basis of points awarded for various place finishes in post-season tournaments, an attempt was made to show the success or failure of the smaller school districts against schools of near equal size (years 1955-63) as compared to competition against schools of larger size (years 1964-72).

#### Need for the Study

There existed in North Dakota an uneveness of school population which has been a problem for many years as pertained to interscholastic competition. In 1908, the North Dakota High School League was

formed. This League was formed by the Classified schools only and automatically eliminated about one-third of the smaller schools in North Dakota. These smaller schools formed their own league in 1922 known as the Consolidated League. From 1922 to 1950, there were two leagues in existence. At that time, the two merged, inviting all high schools of the state under one organization. From 1950-63 there were three classes of schools in the state based on school enrollment in grades 9-12. These were known as class "A", "B" and "C" with class "C" being those schools with enrollments under 75 students in grades 9-12. In 1964, the schools were reclassified as either "A" or "B" with 300 students in grades 9-12 being the maximum amount allowable for class "B" designation. Schools with enrollments under 75 students had to compete against schools with enrollments up to 300 students in post-season basketball tournaments. Under the former method of three classes for sports competition, the smaller school districts had an opportunity to compete against schools very close to their own size (under 75 students) (1).

#### Definition of Terms

- 1. Class "C" Schools: Those schools that were so classed for 1961-62
  and were in operation as class "B" schools at the time of the study.
- 2. Post-Season Tournaments: Tournaments such as district, region, and state competition in basketball which are held at the end of the regular season for the purpose of recognizing an eventual state champion in basketball.
- 3. Reclassification: The process of placing the schools of North

  Dakota into one of two categories based on enrollment in grades 9-12.

- 4. NDHSAA: North Dakota High School Activities Association hereafter referred to as the NDHSAA.
- 5. School Enrollment: Enrollment in grades 9-12.

#### Limitations of the Study

The study was limited to former class "C" schools that were still in operation as high schools in 1971-72. The study pertained to the sport of basketball and the post-season tournaments in that sport. The year 1961-62 was used from which to form a population, since in 1962-63 many of the class "C" schools had petitioned into class "B" already and this would have limited the size of the population. A random sample of five former class "C" schools was used for this study. Two of the subjects changed to class "B" competition for the school year 1962-63 and therefore their post-season play for that year was not included in this study. For the years before reclassification, consecutive years 1955-63 were used. For the years after reclassification, consecutive years 1964-72 were used.

#### Related Literature

If high school athletic teams are to contest on a basis of equality, it is necessary, above all other considerations to hold the players of the contesting teams to the same standards in regard to their amateur standing, enrollment requirements, scholarship, age, duration of eligibility, residence and character (2).

One of the functions of the High School Associations was commonly assumed to be the promotion of equitable competition. This was attained to a degree by the classification system used in North Dakota.

Under Article II, Section I of the North Dakota High School Activities
Association Constitution and By-Laws it was stated: (3)

Should a school rise above 249 in enrollment in grades 9-12, inclusive, and continue above that figure for two consecutive years, this school must be classified as an "A" school.

Under Section II of the same Article it further reads:

All member high schools, other than those designated class "A" shall be classified as class "B" schools.

Section III reads:

Class "A" and class "B" schools shall compete in separate classes to determine state basketball championships.

These By-Laws were adopted to go in effect for the 1963-64 school year, thus eliminating class "C" schools as they were known.

According to Jamerson and Shepard (1953) the two-classification scheme hardly appeared to provide for equitable competition. They stated:

Since no definite trend toward the elimination of state championships is evident, the practice of providing more classifications of schools for competition and determining champions within each classification is more defensible than the practice of declaring only one championship in each sport. One of the glaring weaknesses in many of the state associations is the failure to provide more classification of schools for competitive purposes (2).

#### CHAPTER II

#### PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

WINS AND LUNSLS OF SCHOOLS BEFORE

A tabulation of each sample school's post-season play was recorded (see tables 1 - 18). Tables 1-9 indicate the number of wins and losses each year, while the schools were still in class "C". Tables 10-18 indicate the number of wins and losses each year, after the schools were reclassified to class "B". The NDHSAA handbooks for 1955 through 1972 were used for the compilation of this information.

A point system was devised by this writer for the purpose of measuring a degree of success in post-season play by the schools. This system was based on the place a team finished in the post-season tournaments during a given year (see tables 19 and 20).

The point values were assigned as follows:

#### District

1st place = 4 pts. 2nd " = 3 pts. 3rd " = 2 pts. 4th " = 1 pts.

#### Region

1st place = 8 pts. 2nd " = 7 pts. 3rd " = 6 pts. 4th " = 5 pts.

#### State

1st place = 14 pts.
2nd " = 13 pts.

3rd the "District Pts trament. Envalled placed
4th ment and 11 pts her schools didn't placed
5th = 10 pts.
6th " = 9 pts.

TABLE I WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS BEFORE

## RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

		TO A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Year 19	55		
School_	<u>Dist</u> School	rict Result	Reg. School	ion Result	Star School	te Result
Lignite	Noonan	L L				
Surrey	Bergen Sawyer Balfour	W W L				
doc't	but te Bowdon	L				
Hurds- field	Denhoff Mercer	W W				
f 1 = 2 -	Demontf					
Dodge	Dunn Center Werner	L L				
	Logies				20	
Souris	Newburg Willow City	W L			,	
Secret	Antaer Antaer	1. A				

Surrey placed 2nd in the District tournament. Hurdsfield placed 5th in the District tournament and the other schools didn't place any higher.

TABLE 2
WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS BEFORE
RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year <u>19</u>	56			
	Distr			ion	State		
School School	School School	Result	School School	Result	School	Result	
The second secon		THE BOOK SHIP SHIP HAVE BEEN BOOK OF	and the Management of the Control of				
	Noonan	W					
Lignite	Flaxton	L					
	Powers-						
	Lake	L					
	Marie 12						
	Balfour	W					
Surrey	Butte	W					
	Sawyer	L					
	Gathay	AV.					
Hurds-	Mercer	Ŀ					
field	Denhoff	L					
	Zap	L					
Dodge	Dunn						
	Center	L					
	1210						
	Notre	A.c.					
	Dame	W					
Souris	Antler	L					
	Gardena	W					

Lignite placed 2nd and bundstelld placed 3rd in their respective Lignite placed 4th in the District tournament, Surrey placed 2nd in their District tournament and Souris placed 3rd in their District tournement.

TABLE 3

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

## Year 1957

School_	Distr School	ict Result	Regi School	on Result	Sta School	Result
	Ambrose	W				
Lignite	Flaxton	W				
	Portal	L	¥			
	Martin	W				
Surrey	Sawyer	L				
•	Butte	$\Gamma$ .				
Burds -	Cathay	W				
Hurds-	Bowdon	L				
field	Denhoff	W				
nidge	Mandale	- L				
	Golden					
Dodge	Valley	L				
	Zap	L				
	Krimer	Sec.				
Souris	Berwick		Berthol			1
	Antler		. Nergen	No Report		
Souris	Deering	W				
	Kramer	W				

Lignite placed 2nd in their District commament Sentie placed ist in the District tournament and 4th in the Region cournament.

District tournaments. None of the other schools placed higher than either of those two schools.

TABLE 4.
WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS BEFORE
RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 195	8		
School	Distr School	ict Result	Regi School	on Result	School School	Result
	Til and an	7.7	angular a security that		The state of the s	
Tionito	A CONTRACTOR OF THE	W				
Lignite	Ambrose	W				
	10155					
	Ambrose					
	Bye					
Surrey	Bergen	$\tau$ <b>L</b>				
00000	Butte	L				
77 1	Calhay.	1.				
Hurds-	Goodrich	**				
field	Cathay	Ĺ				
Dodge	Mandaree	e L				
the eff	Werner	L				
	Golden	L.				
	Valley	T.				
	Kramer	W				
Souris	Berwick	W	Berthol	d L		
	Newburg	W	Bergen	No Repor	St.	
west is	Kraner	Si.	bergen	W.	Anthony	W -
	Newburg	lw.	Newbur 2	W	Buffalo	W.
					Plaza .	L

Lignite placed 2nd in their District tournament. Souris placed 1st in the District tournament and 4th in the Region tournament, although a final score was not reported. None of the other schools placed higher than those two schools.

TABLE 5

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 195				
	1718.1	i ert	RSRI	n	2000		
0.001	Distr	The state of the s	Regi		Sta		
School	School School	Result	School School	Result	School School	Result	
	Carpio	34					
Lynito	Flaxton	Ŵ				,	
Lignite	Berthold	L					
	Portal	W					
	Ambrose	L					
rrev	Newburg						
	Deering						
Surrey	Butte	L					
	Goograck.	1/4					
	Cathay	L					
Hurds-	Denhoff	W					
field	Mercer	L					
	Zap						
	Dunn						
Dodge	Center	L					
	Golden	W.	IL CEEL	V.			
	Valley S	L	Newbork				
	Berwick	W			St.		
Souris	Kramer	W	Bergen	W	Anthony	W	
Souris	Newburg	W	Newburg	W	Buffalo Plaza	W L	

Sourisaplaced 4th in the District Tournament, lst in the Region tournament and 2nd in the State tournament. None of the other schools advanced from their District tournaments.

TABLE 6

## RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 196	0		
School	Distr: School	ict Result	Regi School	on Result	Sta School	<u>Result</u>
Lignite	Carpio Flaxton Noonan	W L L	Ranc Angenti	V		
Surrey	Newburg Deering					
Hurds- field	Goodrich Martin	W L				
Dodge	Zap	L				
Souris	Antler Gardena	W W	Bergen	W		
204125	Newburg	$\mathbf{L}_{_{\mid_{N}}}$	Newburg	L		
	Deering		Sect.			
Studie .	Surrey Newhork	18	Newtonte	W- Repor		

Lignite placed 4th in the District tournament. Souris placed 2nd in the District, and under the rules in force by the NDHSAA at that time, advanced to the Region tournament, where they placed 3rd.

their District tournament. Souris placed 2nd in the District tournament and 4th in the Region tournament, although a final score was not reported.

TABLE 7

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 1961	<u>L</u>			
	Dist	rict	Regio	on	State		
School	School School	Result	School School	Result	School	Result	
	Noonan	W	Makoti	W			
Lignite .	Ambrose	W	Arne-				
	Flaxton	L	gard	L			
	Kramer	W					
Surrey	Souris	$\mathbf{L}$					
	Maxbass	$\mathbf{L}_{i}^{r}$					
Hurds- field	Mercer	L					
's tpr	Dunn Center	W					
Dodge	Zap	L					
	Golden		De l'est la				
	Valley	W.		In Robert			
	Nov. 12 1.18	1					
	Deering	W	Butte	L			
Souris	Surrey Newburg	W	Newburg	No Report			

Lignite placed 2nd in the District and Region tournaments. Surrey placed 4th in the District tournament. Dodge placed 3rd in their District tournament. Souris placed 2nd in the District tournament and 4th in the Region tournament, although a final score was not reported.

#### TABLE 81...

#### WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS BEFORE

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year <u>196</u>	2			
-C \ 1 1	Distr:		Regi		Saboal		
School_	School	Result	School_	Result	School	Result	
Light:	Ambrose	s <b>L</b> :					
Lignite	Alkabo	W					
G	Fortuna	L					
	Beering						
Survey	Kramer	L.					
	Souris	WL.					
Surrey	Deering	W					
-	Antler	W					
Hurds-							
Field	Sec. 84.6 12						
Hurds- field	No Repor	t					
Uniter	btanton						
Dodge	Solen	L					
Scaris	wer Clas	4 8					
	Surrey	W	Bergen	L			
Souris	Kramer	W	Newburg	No Repor	t		
	Newburg	L					

Souris placed 1st in the District tournament and 4th in the Region tournament, although a final score was not reported. None of the other schools placed in their respective District tournaments.

TABLE 9

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 196	63		
	District		Reg	ion	St	ate
School School	School School	Result	School	Result	School	Result
Lignite	Went Cla	ss B				
Surrey	Deering Kramer Maxbass	W L W				
Hurds- field	Bergen	Ĺ				
Dodge	Stanton	L				
Souris	Went Cla					

Surrey placed 3rd in the District tournament for the best finish by any of the schools still in Class C. Lignite and Souris competed in Class B tournaments and their results were not calculated.

Souris placed 4th in the District rournament for the highest

mish of the schools.

TABLE 10
WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

# RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

	_		Year 19	54		
School	Distr School	ict Result	Reg School	ion Result	School	ate Result
Lignite	Tolley	Ĺ			9	
Surrey	Dakota Lutheran Lansford					
Hurds- field	Wilton Wilton	L <b>L</b>				
Dodge	Hazen Beulah	l L				
Souris	Antler Westhope Newburg	W L L	Varion Mined Moder			

Souris placed ist in the district tournament and ath in the Souris placed 4th in the District tournament for the highest finish of the schools.

TABLE 11
WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER
RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 19	55		
	Distr	District		ion	State	
School School	School	Result	School	Result	School	Result
to retract	Noonan	Ŵ				
Lignite	Columbus					
Surrey	Lansford					
	proce					
Hurds-						
field	Wilton	L				
Hards-	. oterle					
Dodge	Hazen	L				
in distri	Antler	W	Velva	L		
Souris	Newburg	M -	Minot	_		
	Westhope Deerang	W	Mode1	L		
Souris	Westnop-					
	STATE I	1				

Souris placed 1st in the District tournament and 4th in the Region tournament. None of the other schools placed higher.

TABLE 112

#### WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

#### RRECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

#### Year 1966 Region District School School School Result School Result School Result Lignite Tolley Mohall Donney-Surrey brook Wooddurd ... worth Steele Hurds-L field Driscoll W Dodge Beulah Deering

And the list run tournaments because the atter School high Hurdsfield and Souris each placed 3rd in their respective District tournaments. None of the other schools placed higher.

Souris

Westhope L Kramer W

TABLE 13

### WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

#### Year 1967 District Region State School Result School Result School School Result Noonan W Lignite Mohall L Powers W Lake Surrey Lansford L Hurds-Tappen L field Zap datee L Dodge

Maxbass W

Upham W Newburg L

Souris

Lignite placed 3rd in the District tournament and Souris placed 2nd in their District tournament. None of the other schools placed higher.

TABLE 114 WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

# RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

		Year <u>1968</u>		
School_	District School Result	Region School Result	State School Result	
Lignite	Sherwood W Kenmare L Columbus L			
Surrey Surrey Hurds- field	No Report			
Hords - Dodge	Beulah L Mandaree L			
Dodge	Antler W			
Souris	Westhope W Upham L			
Souris	Antier W			

Lignite placed 4th in the District tournament and Souris placed 2nd in their District tournament. None of the other schools placed higher for tournament where they placed 2nd More of the schools placed schools placed higher.

TABLE 15 WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

#### Year 1969 Region District State Result School Result School Result School -School Moha11 Columbus L Lignite Kenmare Des Lacs L Donney-Surrey brook Lansford W Hurds-Tappen field Beulah Dodge L Mandaree L Deering W Antler Sherwood W Souris W Newburg Berthold L

Souris placed 1st in the District tournament and advanced to the Region tournament where they placed 2nd. None of the other schools placed higher.

TABLE 16
WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER
RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

	Year <u>1970</u>							
School	District School Result		Reg School	Region School Result		State School Result		
Lignite	Tolley Columbus Bowbells				,			
Surrey	Des Lacs Palermo Carpio	W L L						
Hurds- field	Robinson	L						
Dodge	Beulah Zap Hazen	L W L				×.		
Souris	Deering Newburg Westhope	W L L						

None of the schools placed higher than 5th in their respective District tournaments.

artor w placed higher.

TABLE 17

#### WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year 197	71		
	Distr	District		Region		ate
School School	School	Result	School	Result	School	Result
	Palermo	L				
Lignite	Flaxton	W				
	Noonan	L				
					· · ·	
		1."				
	ville	W				
Surrey	Velva	W				
	Berthold	Ļ				
Hurds-	Fess-					
field	enden	L				
'soline	Stanton	L				
Dodge	Golden					
	Valley	L				
	457 450					
Souris	Antler	L				

Surrey placed 2nd in the District tournament. None of the other schools placed higher to the Class & normalities

TABLE 18

#### WINS AND LOSSES OF SCHOOLS AFTER

#### RECLASSIFICATION TO CLASS B

			Year <u>19</u>	72		
	District		Region		State	
School School	School	Result	School	Result	School	Result
*Lignite	Powers Lake Flaxton	L L				
Surrey	Sawyer Des Lacs Gran- ville					
Hurds- field	McClusky	L				
Dodge	Killdeer Hazen	L L				
Souris	Antler	L				

None of the schools placed higher than 5th in their respective District tournaments.

<sup>\*</sup>Lignite had competed in Class B competition.

#### CHAPTER III

#### FINDINGS

On the basis of the point system devised by this writer, all sample schools scored some points in post-season tournaments (see tables 19 and 20). The sample schools scored 94 points while competing against schools of class "C" size (table 19) and scored 37 points while competing against schools of class "B" size (table 20). This would seem to verify the contention that if high school athletic teams are to compete on an equal basis, the players of the contesting teams should be held to the same standards in regard to their enrollment requirements, among other standards (2).

The team that scored the most points was Souris, N.D., with 63 points being earned against class "C" schools and 29 points being earned while playing against class "B" schools. Dodge, N.D. scored two points during post-season play for the years of the study. The Dodge team scored the lowest total of the sample schools and they were earned while playing against class "C" schools. Hurdsfield, N.D. earned points while playing against both class "B" and "C" schools—a total of four points. Lignite, N.D. earned 18 points while playing against class "C" schools and three points while playing against class "B" schools. Surrey, N.D. earned nine points while playing against class "C" schools and three points while playing against class "C" schools and three points while playing against class "C" schools.

One of the sample schools, Souris, N.D. was successful enough to advance to the State Basketball Tournament, in 1959, while still

in class "C". The team finished second that year in the state tournament to Plaza, N.D.

FINISH IN PCHAPTER IV

BEFORE PECLASS FIGATION

DISCUSSION

The three class system of interscholastic athletic competition has worked in North Dakota. However, with reorganistation and consolidation of many school districts since the late 1950's, many school rivalries have disappeared.

It would appear to this writer that a return to the three sclass system of competition would be economically unfeasible in North Dakota. The distances the schools would have to travel in worder to compete against schools of near equal size would seem prohibitive. It appears the schools districts, of 75 students or Aess, will have to continue playing schools two or three times larger during post-season basketball competition, because of the travel involved. The hypothesis is that more reorganizations and consolidations of school districts in North Dakota will eventually solve the problem of unequal size of school districts as pertained to interscholastic athletics.

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# TABLE 19

# POINTS WON ACCORDING TO PLACE OF FINISH IN POST-SEASON PLAY BEFORE RECLASSIFICATION

School School	Place Won	Tournament	Year	Points
Surrey	2nd	District	1955	3
Souris	40.1 %	Diatrac'	304	
Lignite	4th	District	1956	1
Sour -	lst	District	1 14(1.5)	1.6
Surrey	2nd	District	1956	3
Souris	3rd	District	1956	2
Lignite	2nd	District	1957	3
Hurdsfield	3rd	District	1957	2
Lignite	2nd	District	1958	3
Souris	1st	District	1958	4
Souris	4th	Region	1958	5
Seart	2 m/d	District	19.8	
Souris	1sŧ	District	1959	4
Souris	1st	Region	1959	8
Souris	2nd	State	1959	13
Lignite	4th	District	1960	1
Souris	2nd	District	1960	3
Souris	2nd	Region	1960	7
			=1972	
Lignite	2nd	District	1961	3
Lignite	2nd	Region	1961	7
Surrey	4th	District	1961	1
Dodge	3rd	District	1961	2
Souris	2nd	District	1961	3
Souris	4th	Region	1961	5
Souris	lst	District	1962	4
Souris of the	couns 4thced h	Region	11962	Criticis (d)
Surrey	the years 1970	District	1963	2

TABLE 20

#### POINTS WON ACCORDING TO PLACE OF FINISH IN POST-SEASON PLAY AFTER RECLASSIFICATION

School	Place Won	Tournament	Year	Points
Geller		<u> </u>		
Souris	4th	District	1964	1
Souris	lst	District	1965	4
Souris	4th	Region	1965	5
Hurdsfield	3rd	District	1966	2
Souris	3rd	District	1966	2
Lignite	3rd	District	1967	2
Souris	2nd	District	1967	3
Lignite	4th	District	1968	1
Souris	2nd	District	1968	3
Souris	1st	District	1969	4
Souris	2nd	Region	1969	7
8.00			*1970	
Surrey	2nd	District	1971	3
			*1972	
TOTAL				37

<sup>\*</sup>None of the teams placed higher than 5th in the District tournaments for the years 1970 and 1972.

#### CHAPTER V

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# second to the Smith, Executive suit 13, 1973, Conclusions,

Based on the data collected and within the limits of this study, the following conclusion was drawn: The schools seemed to do better during post-season play when they were competing against schools of nearly equal size. This would seem to be verified by the number of points the sample schools earned while competing at the two levels.

#### Recommendations

- 1. It is recommended that in any further study similar to this that a larger sample be used.
- 2. A study using only schools that have had an enrollment under
  55 students, before and after reclassification to class "B",
  would be worthwhile from the standpoint of the very small school.
- A study comparing school enrollments of each opponent, might show interesting results.

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