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## A Study of Ice Hockey and its Development in North Dakota class "A" High Schools

Maurice P. Roberge

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The thesis here abstracted, submitted by Maurice P. Roberge in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the University of North Dakota, is hereby approved by the Committee under whom the work of the thesis has been done.

*W. C. Koenig*

Chairman

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A STUDY OF ICE HOCKEY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT IN  
NORTH DAKOTA CLASS "A" HIGH SCHOOLS

Maurice P. Roberge, Master of Science

The thesis here abstracted was written under the direction of W. C. Koenig and approved by John L. Quaday and Archie L. Gray as members of the examining committee, of which W. C. Koenig was chairman.

The purposes of this study have been to determine the status of class "A" high school ice hockey in North Dakota, and to investigate problems which prevent many schools from introducing a hockey program.

Questionnaires were sent to thirty-three class "A" high schools in North Dakota. A review of literature involved a presentation of the development of ice hockey to its present status, and ice hockey's historical development in North Dakota class "A" high schools.

Major conclusions indicated that nine, or twenty-seven percent, of the schools participated in ice hockey on an interscholastic basis in 1964-65. Three schools plan to add hockey to their interscholastic programs within the next one to four years. A greater number of qualified coaches and extensive park-board programs could increase the number of schools now participating in ice hockey, as

well as improve the caliber of the high school player.

Recommendations were made to schools who might desire to introduce ice hockey into their athletic programs, and to interest more schools in conducting ice hockey programs. These recommendations included: (1) hiring a competent, enthusiastic coach; (2) procuring a minimum list of materials necessary to ice a presentable team; (3) sponsoring and conducting of clinics by the North Central High School Hockey League and other interested organizations; (4) publicizing of the hockey program by coaches; (5) creating an awareness on the part of the community, parents, school administrators, and coaches of the needs of the students including a program of high school ice hockey.

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A STUDY OF ICE HOCKEY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT  
IN NORTH DAKOTA CLASS "A" HIGH SCHOOLS

by  
Maurice P. Roberge

A Thesis  
Submitted to the Faculty  
of the  
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This thesis, submitted by Maurice P. Roberge in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the University of North Dakota, is hereby approved by the Committee under whom the work has been done.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Athletics should foster the growth and well-being of the individual. Authorities who are recognized as leaders in the field of physical education agree that a wider variety of activities can enrich and stimulate a program immensely. The Educational Policies Commission of the National Education Association expresses the same idea:

Athletics promote individual development, health, strength, self-reliance, emotional maturity, social growth, and sportsmanship. In athletics, as in other areas of the curriculum, the school should offer some activities designed to serve the common needs of all pupils and other activities appealing to a variety of needs and interests.<sup>1</sup>

This study was conducted to determine the status of ice hockey in North Dakota class "A" high schools. In order to make this study as complete as possible, a survey of all North Dakota class "A" high schools was made along with a brief outline of the historical development of ice hockey in general and specifically in North Dakota high schools.

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<sup>1</sup>Educational Policies Commission, NEA, School Athletics, (Washington, D.C.: National Education Association, 1954), p. 23.

### Need for the Study

Ice hockey is increasing in popularity and as such should eventually play a prominent part in high school athletics.

Ice hockey should be a part of the school's sports program because of its contribution not only to the educational processes of the school itself, but to the individual as well. Any just better than average high school hockey player, upon graduation, can choose to play with any institution of higher learning conducting ice hockey on an interscholastic basis.

The only other winter sports conducted on an interschool basis in most North Dakota high schools are basketball and, to a lesser degree, wrestling.

The fact that ice hockey has not become as popular as it should be throughout North Dakota may be due to the following several reasons: (1) the lack of coaching personnel; (2) the school administration is unaware of the benefits of an ice hockey program; (3) the lack of finances, facilities, and knowledgeable interest.

### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to present a background of hockey in North Dakota as well as to survey the problems which have been encountered in establishing as well as maintaining an ice hockey program in North Dakota class "A" high schools.

Through this study it is hoped that a greater number of North Dakota high schools will incorporate ice hockey into their interscholastic athletic programs.

#### Method of Procedure

Text books and other available sources were used for information concerning the historical development of ice hockey to its present status in North America. Text books in this area are very limited.

In regard to the growth of ice hockey in North Dakota, information was obtained principally from the Grand Forks Herald, The Sioux Sports Information Service, the Dacotah Student, and Dakotah Annual, and interviews with men instrumental in shaping ice hockey to its present form.

In order to make this study as complete as possible, questionnaires were sent to the thirty-three class "A" high schools in North Dakota as listed in the Activities Bulletin of October 1964. This is the official publication of the North Dakota High School Activities Association which has its headquarters at Valley City, North Dakota. Questionnaires were sent to coaches or principals as listed in the Activities Bulletin.

A survey was deemed necessary to: (1) investigate the problems which have confronted each school in establishing an ice hockey program; and (2) to make available all the information possible on the status of origin, participation, instruction, facilities, injuries, finance, publicity, and program evaluation.

Each questionnaire was accompanied by a letter of introduction and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The results of the returned questionnaires were gratifying.

Definition of Terms Involved

Interscholastic program. The interscholastic program is the phase of physical education where athletic competition is provided between two or more schools.

Class "A". The thirty-three largest schools in North Dakota are known as Class "A" schools. Fargo North which will be a Class "A" school is not yet completed and was not considered in this study.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to North Dakota class "A" high schools.

The historical development of ice hockey to its present status is limited due to the lack of available sources in this particular area.

## CHAPTER II

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICE HOCKEY

#### Introduction

In a study of this nature it was felt that an understanding of the growth and development of ice hockey can be greatly enhanced by first, giving a brief consideration to the evolution of ice hockey in other nations of the world as it affected the development in North America.

The absence of records kept for the purpose of accumulating data of the embryonic forms of the game of ice hockey make its origin very obscure.

It is assumed that the original idea of the game didn't just "flash a light bulb" in someone's brain, but that ice hockey slowly evolved, step-by-step, into the fast, exciting game that it is today.

#### European Influence

In the national museum in Athens, Greece, at the base of an ancient Greek statue is an artist's conception of two persons about to begin a "hockey" game. Their curved sticks seemed to suggest that they were about to play field hockey or similarly ice hockey as played in Europe, the United States, Canada, and other countries today. The European games of shinney in Scotland, hurley

in Ireland, and the Welsh game of bandy could have influenced the development of the idea, since basically these games do resemble ice hockey.<sup>1</sup>

The Northern Europeans developed skates with blades and became proficient at skating as far back as eight hundred years ago. As the skaters improved and perfected their techniques, a number of games were devised to be played on the frozen waters.<sup>2</sup>

In the small village of Bury Fen, in England, an organized hockey team was reported as long ago as 1813, where the contests were played on frozen meadows. A large playing area with a goal six feet wide and four feet high was used on each end. With the addition of extra pads to increase the body size of the goal-keeper, the goal dimensions were altered to twelve feet wide by seven feet high. Then a reduction of the number of players on the ice at one time resulted in an additional alteration back to its original size.<sup>3</sup>

The term "hockey" itself is said to be an Anglicization of "hoquet" the French term for a shepherd's stick, which resembles the hockey stick.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>John H. Shaw, Selected Team Sports for Men (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1952), p. 18.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>4</sup>Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports (New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1953), p. 592.



Canada: Possible Origin and Rapid Development

It is possible that ice hockey is a relatively new game that began in one of the Canadian provinces, either Ontario, Quebec, or Nova Scotia.

In order to discover the exact origin of ice hockey, considerable research has been done in Canada. The inconclusive research resulted in pin-pointing Kingston, Ontario, as the most probable origin. Today hockey's hall of fame rests at this same location.<sup>5</sup>

The exact date of ice hockey's origin is a little more confusing. McGill University in Montreal did much to develop the sport in North America. This University supported a skating rink and sponsored winter carnivals as early as 1826. Shortly after this date, the Amateur Hockey Association of Canada was organized. At this time the number of players playing on one side was reduced from one hundred and fifty to seven players.<sup>6</sup>

The playing surface must have been more than likely the size of a large pond or a small lake to accommodate such large numbers.

The reduction in the number of players per side to seven resulted in increased teamwork, individual skill, speed, agility, and endurance.

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<sup>5</sup>Shaw, p. 19.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

COTTON FIBER CONTENT

Skillful stick handling and skating became an essential part of the game.<sup>7</sup>

In tracing the origin of ice hockey, as was previously mentioned, many ran into problems leading back to shinney, field hockey, hurley, and others to the European game of bandy. These games possibly had some influence on the origin of ice hockey itself, but in a more accurate sense of the word these games are not ice hockey.

Frank G. Menke's, The Encyclopedia of Sports, suggested that ice hockey originated in eastern Canada in the latter nineteenth century. Because it offered most evidence as the game's birthplace, Kingston, Ontario, was awarded the ice hockey hall of fame. An investigation committee headed by William A. Hewitt, George Slater, and Captain James T. Sutherland, traced the game back to Kingston, Ontario, in 1855.<sup>8</sup>

The first players were members of Her Majesty's Royal Canadian Rifles--an imperial army unit who played on the harbor to the rear of Tete DuPont barracks in Kingston, Ontario.<sup>9</sup>

Counterclaims insist that the first true game of ice hockey was played in Montreal by teams of McGill University in 1875. At this time McGill students are said to have created rules for the game.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Menke, p. 592.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

Research also indicates that a McGill student responsible for introducing the sport to his college was J. G. A. Creighton, who had brought ice hockey from Halifax, Nova Scotia.<sup>11</sup>

Ice hockey began to grow rapidly after 1880. The first league was established in Kingston, Ontario, in 1885. Leagues were also formed in Montreal and other Quebec cities. A few years later the prairie provinces and British Columbia began to play the game.<sup>12</sup>

The first league was a four team organization in Kingston. The participating members were the Royal Military College, Queen's University (the first champions), the Kingston Athletics, and the Kingston Hockey Club. To Queen's University was presented the first Stanley Cup in 1893, denoting the Canadian champion.<sup>13</sup>

The Stanley Cup came into being through Lord Kilcoursie, aide to Lord Stanley of Preston, then Governor General of the Dominion of Canada. Lord Kilcoursie prevailed upon Lord Stanley to donate the forty-eight dollar and sixty-six cent trophy.<sup>14</sup>

Around 1900, the game of ice hockey became more complex when the two defensemen were allowed to move up in the

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

offensive zone along with the forwards. Prior to this time defensemen had to remain back within their defensive areas.<sup>15</sup>

Three to four forwards, one of which was called a rover, made up the front line. The number of players on the forward line, and the length of the game, depended on local custom more than anything else. A regular game consisted of three periods, twenty to twenty-five minutes in length.<sup>16</sup>

The position of the rover was an advantageous one especially for an agile, brilliant player. The rover was the "free-lance" of the rink and worked wherever he saw an opening.<sup>17</sup>

Besides changes in the number of players on the ice at one time, additional innovations included improved hockey sticks, added cooperative team play, and a new substitution rule. The new free substitution rule allowed any number of players to be replaced at any one time. Prior to this time seven players played the whole game.<sup>18</sup>

#### The Development of Amateur Hockey in the United States

Ice Hockey first appeared in the United States in 1893, at Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities. Two Yale tennis stars, M. G. Chase and A. E. Foote, on a visit to Canada, became enthusiasts of the game of ice hockey and returned home with it.

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>W. Dustin White, The Book of Winter Sports (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1953) p. 97.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Menke, p. 592.

Simultaneously, a Canadian student at Johns Hopkins University formed a team of students and induced Quebec teams to come to Maryland to play the Collegians.

M. G. Chase and A. E. Foote then, influenced the formation of the American Hockey League in New York in November 1896. Four teams made up the first league with St. Nicholas and the Brooklyn Skating Club squaring off on the very first match.

Another Canadian, S. Alf. Mitchell, along with a Baltimorian, W. A. Bisney, stimulated hockey activity between the years 1893 and 1895, resulting in the formation of the Baltimore hockey league. The rapid spread of hockey between the winters of 1895 - 1896 and 1896 - 1897 saw teams playing throughout New England, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Washington, D. C.<sup>19</sup>

#### The Development of Professional Ice Hockey

Professional hockey appeared in the early nineteen hundreds. The Portage Lakers from Houghton, Michigan, in 1903, won twenty-four out of twenty-six games. This team was reputedly the first professional ice hockey team in the United States.<sup>20</sup>

In the period from 1912 to 1915, champions from the Pacific Coast League (including both Canada and the United States) met eastern titleholders for the Stanley Cup. Rapid

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

progress by the National Hockey League in eastern North America was part of the cause of disbandment of big league hockey in the west. The Stanley Cup then became identified solely with the National Hockey League.

The Pacific Coast League of Canada admitted Portland in 1914 and Seattle in 1915. In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans won the league championship and went on to be the first United States team ever to win the coveted Stanley Cup.<sup>21</sup>

Regulations of Stanley Cup possession stated: "This trophy is to be presented to the team winning the professional hockey championship of the world."<sup>22</sup>

#### A Brief Outline of Hockey History

To give the reader a clearer picture of the general historical development of ice hockey to its professional status, a chronological order is given of the events which contributed to making the game what it is today.

The game of ice hockey probably originated between the years 1855 and 1860 at Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Montreal and Halifax also laid claims as the site of origin.<sup>23</sup>

In 1875, formal rules for ice hockey were created by students of McGill University.

In 1875, the first hockey league was formed at Kingston, Ontario.

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<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Norris and Ross McWhirther, Guinness Book of World Records (New York: Sterling Publisher Co. Inc., 1964), p. 266.

In 1893, the Stanley Cup was donated to designate world supremacy in ice hockey. At this time also, hockey was introduced at Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities.

In 1896, the first United States hockey league was organized in New York City.

In 1909, the National Hockey Association was established as the forerunner of the National Hockey League.

In 1917, the National Hockey Association disbanded and the National Hockey League was formed on November twenty-second, in Montreal, Quebec.

The teams included were the Montreal Canadiens, the Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa, Quebec, and the Toronto Arenas. Frank Calder was elected both President and Secretary-

treasurer. The first league games were played on December nineteenth, 1917. Only Toronto had artificial ice.

In 1918, three playing zones and forward passing in the center ice area came into being. Assists began to be tabulated along with the number of goals which had already been kept in record books.

In 1919, the Quebec Bulldogs operated their franchise in the National Hockey League.

In 1920, the Hamilton Tigers replaced Quebec. Goal keepers were now allowed to pass the puck forward. At this time ice hockey became a part of Olympic competition as well.

In 1924, Boston joined the National Hockey League along with the Montreal Maroons.

In 1925, Hamilton sold their franchise to the New York Americans. The third United States club, the Pittsburgh Pirates also entered the league.

In 1926, New York, Chicago, and Detroit were admitted to the National Hockey League. The National Hockey League was a nine team circuit at that time and was divided into two sections:

1. The Canadian section including: Toronto, Ottawa, two Montreal teams, and New York.
2. The American section including: Boston, Chicago, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

Forty-four games were played by each team in the league.

In 1927, forward passes were allowed in all attacking zones.

In 1928, legislation removed all restrictions from forward passes in all zones.

In 1930, Pittsburgh transferred their franchise to Philadelphia.

In 1931, Philadelphia dropped out of the league and Ottawa retired for the year. The National Hockey League schedule was upped to forty-eight games.

In 1932, Ottawa resumed play for two seasons.

In 1933, Detroit changed their name from the Falcons to the Red Wings.



In 1934, Ottawa transferred their franchise to the St. Louis Eagles which was made up mostly of Ottawa players. Also at this time the penalty shot appeared in the rules.

In 1935, St. Louis dropped out of the league leaving only eight teams remaining.

In 1937, the American Hockey Association of the United States was formed.

In 1938, the Montreal Maroons withdrew from the league.

In 1941, the New York Americans changed their name to the Brooklyn Americans.

In 1942, Brooklyn withdrew from the league and the schedule was upped to fifty games.

In 1943, Frank Calder, President of the National Hockey League, since its inception, died. Mervyn (Red) Dutton, succeeded him.

In 1946, Mervyn Dutton retired prior to the 1946-47 season and was succeeded by Clarence S. Campbell, who is at present the President of the National Hockey League.

The schedule was upped to sixty games.

In 1949, the schedule was increased to seventy games as is the case today.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Menke, p. 594.

### CHAPTER III

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICE HOCKEY IN NORTH DAKOTA

The neighboring state of Minnesota played hockey on a highly organized basis for a number of years before North Dakota did. It is likely due to this neighborly influence that eastern North Dakota cities acquired the sport first and utilized it on an interscholastic basis.

Ice hockey was played on a very informal basis prior to 1929-30 in a number of North Dakota communities. Grand Forks was the location where ice hockey established firm roots which gradually spread through other eastern North Dakota communities.

It is believed that there were at least two major reasons why this phenomenon occurred in Grand Forks.

The primary reason is the location of Grand Forks. Excellent competition was relatively close, just across the Red River. Crookston, Hallock, Thief River Falls, Warroad, and Roseau in Minnesota, to name a few high schools, were highly organized and consequently any competition had to be of high caliber. These circumstances led to the rapid development of ice hockey in Grand Forks.

The second major reason was the unceasing efforts of a number of Grand Forks citizens (to be mentioned later) who

were instrumental in putting ice hockey on its feet in North Dakota. One such man was Cliff "Fido" Purpur, who eventually went on to play professional hockey. Cliff Purpur's success spread much optimism and enthusiasm among the Grand Forks youth who felt they also had a chance, with a little effort, to become proficient, successful hockey players.

#### Park-Board Hockey

In the year 1925 or even earlier, ice hockey originated on a very informal basis in Grand Forks, on the English Coulee below the Phi Delta Theta house. Here, even before the construction of the crudest outdoor rinks, hockey began to take root.

Why would ice hockey have started at this particular location?

It was highly likely that with the shallowness and calmness of the water, ice quickly formed and was safe enough to skate on before other locations could freeze over.<sup>1</sup>

It was felt that at this location then, laid the elementary vestiges of the present day park-board hockey program in Grand Forks which was so vital to the success of ice hockey in this area.

Under the influence of P. E. Mickelson, and youth enthusiasm, Fargo played hockey on a very informal basis

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Bill Julison, Grand Forks, North Dakota, March 21, 1965.

somewhere in the Island Park area. Consequently, Fargo Central Midgets iced a team of high enough caliber to challenge Grand Forks Central in the 1929-30 season.<sup>2</sup>

Valley City could already play hockey well enough to become part of the original 1929-30 schedule, only to drop out of high school competition a few years later.<sup>3</sup>

It was felt that the continued success of the Grand Forks youth hockey program over other similar programs in North Dakota was mainly due to the efforts and example exhibited by Cliff "Fido" Purpur.

Community leadership, youthful enthusiasm, and continuous participation can be cited as reasons why Grand Forks and Fargo had successful ice hockey programs before other schools did.

As hockey history progressed in North Dakota, it was quite evident that in each community the success of the high school program depended upon the park-board as a "feeder-system" in order to develop sound hockey talent and assure hockey's future success.

It was also quite evident that the park-board program itself depended upon the interests of the leadership and youth within each community. Facilities were secondary, at least in the elementary developmental stages of the youth hockey program. A number of boys who wanted to play hockey

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

could always find a frozen patch of ice, like the English Coulee, on which to play. As soon as enough interest was aroused, young men, parents, and community leaders began to build facilities to suit the needs of their children.

As Mr. Manny Bertsch stated:

The Grand Forks park-board hockey program began in the late nineteen-twenties, of its own accord, and without any supervision until about 1932-33. Teams were sponsored by local commercial interests under the supervision of Mr. Leonard Shore. Gradually, and fortunately, the commercial sponsorship declined when players began to bicker about one team having better equipment than another.<sup>4</sup>

Park-board hockey gradually expanded through eastern North Dakota communities and on westward. While the Fargo and Grand Forks programs continued to flourish, initial steps toward a well organized program were taken by Devils Lake.

A field day in 1951, under the direction of Don Norman, park superintendent, was held in the Devils Lake Winter Sports Building, as evidence of the progress made in skating and ice hockey in this community.<sup>5</sup>

Devils Lake had already progressed through the preliminary stages of the program by 1951, and had had a covered rink with natural ice since the 1946-47 season.<sup>6</sup>

In order to add more enthusiasm and experience to every community program, teams from North Dakota were entered in

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<sup>4</sup>Interview with Manny Bertsch, Supervisor of the park-board hockey program, Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 10, 1965.

<sup>5</sup>Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, North Dakota, February 22, 1951, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup>Interview with Bill Julison, Grand Forks, North Dakota, March 21, 1965.

national tournaments.

On March 5, 1954, the Grand Forks Pee Wees nosed out the Devils Lake Pee Wees to take consolation honors in the sixth annual National Pee Wee Tournament held at the Grand Forks Winter Sports Building.<sup>7</sup>

Park-board hockey eventually spread to Gando, Rolla, Bottineau, and as far west as Crosby, and Williston, North Dakota.

Both Crosby and Williston were represented in the 1955 Pee Wee Tournament held at Grand Forks. Williston had won the western division by defeating Crosby nine to two in Williston prior to the final tournament. Devils Lake won the state championship, edging the defending champions Grand Forks two to one.<sup>8</sup>

In 1957, Grafton entered the hockey picture with representation for the first time in the North Dakota Pee Wee Tournament.<sup>9</sup>

An added attraction to the young hockey program in North Dakota, were the fine hockey clinics organized for anyone interested in North Dakota as well as Minnesota.

The University of North Dakota Winter Sports Building in Grand Forks was the setting in 1958 for the second hockey clinic which attracted approximately three hundred and twenty

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<sup>7</sup>Irv Letofsky, Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, North Dakota: March 6, 1954, p. 7.

<sup>8</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 17, 1955, p. 16.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., February 14, 1957, p. 10.

young hockey players between the ages of eight and fifteen, from both Minnesota and North Dakota.<sup>10</sup>

George Vogan's staff from Saskatchewan, Canada, attended the first clinic, and even professional National League stars were brought in later to teach the boys the finer points of the game. Unfortunately the summer clinic of 1961, under the direction of University of North Dakota coach Barry Thorndycraft, was the last clinic organized because a Minnesota high school ruling prevented high school hockey players from attending. The rule indicated that any attendance of Minnesota high school boys at the clinic would result in the loss of one year of high school eligibility.<sup>11</sup>

This ruling diminished clinic attendance to where it was impractical to continue the program.

The extinction of the elaborate summer clinic, although detrimental to the development of hockey in North Dakota, did not prevent the continued expansion of ice hockey into other communities.

Gradually, ten teams were entered in the North Dakota State Pee Wee Tournament. New arrivals to the 1961 tournament were Northwood, Dickinson, Park River, and Gilby.<sup>12</sup>

Jamestown was ripe for representation in local hockey circles. It was predicted that more North Dakota community teams will be playing ice hockey in the near future.

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid., February 2, 1958, p. 18.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., February 19, 1961, p. 16.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., February 2, 1961, p. 18.

The Grand Forks youth hockey program has expanded from an unsupervised, "youth-running-the-show," program to a fully efficient, highly organized program, supervised by park-board officials and coaches under the direction of Mr. Manny Bertsch.

Facilities utilized during the 1964-65 hockey season included five lighted outdoor hockey rinks along with five pleasure skating areas which provide an enriching winter environment utilized by over five hundred Grand Forks youth.<sup>13</sup>

A giant stride in the Grand Forks park-board program was climaxed by the Grand Forks Arena Association's ground breaking ceremonies in June, 1965. A new two hundred and fifty thousand dollar ice arena is to be constructed. Leaders of the association who piloted the drive for the new building were: Mr. Jerry Ryan, Mr. Manny Bertsch, Mr. John O'Keefe, Mr. Bob Nassee, Mr. Bob Wedin, and Mr. Mel Novotny.

Fargo was also contemplating a five hundred thousand dollar structure in the near future, while Grafton completed a very adequate structure in 1964 which was to have artificial ice by the fall of 1965.

In 1964, Devils Lake got into the act and capitalized on their opportunities by converting their natural ice surface into a more practical artificial surface.

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<sup>13</sup>Interview with Mr. Manny Bertsch, June 10, 1965.



When properly organized, ice hockey within these new, more comfortable structures can provide many citizens with the opportunity of vigorous activity as well as spectator enjoyment throughout the long winter months.

### High School Hockey in North Dakota

Grand Forks youth continued to play ice hockey on the English Coulee and other such natural areas until about 1929-30. Then these same youth, gradually increasing in numbers, scrambled to more accessible man-made outdoor rinks at 206 North 12th Street and 117 North Washington Street. The needs of these youth were even more fully realized when the old Caledonian, or Grand Forks Curling Rink by the Northern Pacific Railway depot was converted into a covered hockey rink. Here local boys of all ages competed on a recreational basis, with the high school team, and on a commercial team then known as the Grand Forks Dragons.<sup>14</sup>

The evidence that Grand Forks youth provided the impetus for facility improvement is confirmed in this statement by Mr. Al Purpur, "We broke into the old Grand Forks Curling Rink to skate when it was not in use for curling."<sup>15</sup>

Some of the organizers, instrumental in shaping the hockey trends during these early 1930's were Rudy and Einar Jondahl, Dr. Ralph Leigh, and Mr. Leonard Shore.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Interview with Mr. Cliff "Fido" Purpur, Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 9, 1965.

<sup>15</sup>Interview with Mr. Al Purpur, Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 14, 1965.

<sup>16</sup>Interview with Mr. Manny Bertsch, June 10, 1965.

Four years after the re-construction for hockey of the old Grand Forks Curling Rink, the covered rink collapsed and all junior, intermediate and senior hockey transferred to the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Arena.

The Grand Forks Redskin's team was the only high school team playing hockey in Grand Forks in the 1930's.

Cliff "Fido" Purpur, was an exceptionally good hockey player with the Grand Forks Redskins coached by Elroy Scharf in their first year of organized competition. Most of the Redskins schedule involved Minnesota high school competition except for Fargo and Valley City. These two cities were the only communities who played good enough hockey to compete with Grand Forks. Other Redskin coaches following Elroy Scharf were, N. B. Knapp, Ed Butler, and John McDougal.<sup>17</sup>

It is believed that many other communities were playing ice hockey at this time, but only on a very limited basis.

"Fido" Purpur described conditions:

As being a lot different than they are now. We walked the streets to gather money for uniforms while our mothers sewed canvas together to make hockey pants.

We built rinks by hand at North 14th Street, and Dyke Avenue; and North 12th Street, and old International Avenue (22nd Avenue North). The fence was made of dirt banks, and we got city officials to open water hydrants so we could keep the ice flooded.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Interview with Mr. Bill Julison, March 21, 1965.

<sup>18</sup>Interview with Mr. Cliff "Fido" Purpur, June 9, 1965.

Informally, hockey was concentrated in the Dyke Avenue area, where the outdoor rink was most often occupied by the Purpur, Julison, and Feist families.<sup>19</sup>

Cliff Purpur, as brother Al Purpur related, developed out of this sand-lot hockey "a life's ambition to play for the Chicago Black Hawks: and he did."<sup>20</sup> Upon leaving high school in 1931, Cliff Purpur played hockey with the Grand Forks Dragons in 1931-32 and went on to play professional hockey with the Minneapolis Millers and ultimately the Chicago Black Hawks. Upon returning to Grand Forks, after fourteen years of professional hockey, "Fido" Purpur spent many years supervising park-board hockey as well as coach and player of the Grand Forks entry into the States-Dominion League, and as coach of the University of North Dakota Sioux hockey team.

High school hockey continued to progress slowly. Grand Forks Central and the Fargo Midgets, under P. E. Mickelson, continued schedules while Valley City dropped out.

The oncoming war years reduced hockey's "snail pace" development to a stand-still. In addition, since ice hockey was played on outdoor rinks, adverse weather conditions from thawing to blizzards, forced teams from practicing and consequently many games were cancelled.

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<sup>19</sup>Interview with Mr. Manny Bertsch, June 10, 1965.

<sup>20</sup>Interview with Al Purpur, June 14, 1965.

It was clearly evident that, since both hockey ability and wide spectator enthusiasm persisted, a covered rink would solve many problems.

Meanwhile, the University of North Dakota was introduced to ice hockey on an intramural basis by Athletic Director Paul J. Davis in 1926.<sup>21</sup>

The games were played on the Steffenson outdoor rink, situated where the Student Center is presently located on the University of North Dakota campus. The rink itself was fairly large with boards on either side. Only snow banks on the ends behind the goal nets prevented pucks from flying too far.<sup>22</sup>

Intercollegiate hockey officially had its beginning on the University of North Dakota campus in 1928. A regular varsity aggregation blossomed out under the scrutinizing eyes of head coach L. A. Quinn. This was the first University of North Dakota team formed and it paved the way for varsity hockey the following year.<sup>23</sup> In 1933 the Minneapolis Tribune overlooked the initial developmental stages of ice hockey at the University of North Dakota, and indicated that the first team played in 1932-33.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Edmund O. Belsheim, Dacotah Annual, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1927, p. 118.

<sup>22</sup>Dakota Student, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, December 4, 1926, p. 2.

<sup>23</sup>Nelson Harlan, Dacotah Annual, 1929, p. 208.

<sup>24</sup>Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 8, 1933.

The University of North Dakota's first schedule included the North Dakota State Bison who played hockey even prior to 1928. The Bison beat the University of North Dakota four to one and brought the University of North Dakota schedule to a five hundred average. The Sioux had beaten Minnesota University by that same score.<sup>25</sup>

The University of North Dakota began having its troubles too, when on November 2, 1934, a group of University officials decided hockey should be dropped because of the lack of players, money, and equipment.<sup>26</sup>

The perhaps dim future of ice hockey cleared up when the dream of a new covered arena with natural ice soon became a reality. Ice hockey was given a tremendous boost when the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Building was completed in 1936. The arena housed two rinks (a hockey rink and a public skating rink), a wrestling room, a shower room, and a cafeteria. Space was also provided for those who wished to brush up on their golf game during the winter months.<sup>27</sup>

Even though hockey at the University of North Dakota had a new home, it wasn't until the 1946-47 season that major varsity hockey came to the campus.

Now that the new University of North Dakota Winter Sports Building could be utilized by the general public,

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<sup>25</sup>Sioux Sports Information Service, 1962-63 Winter Sports Information, p. 75.

<sup>26</sup>Dacotah Student, November 2, 1934, p. 2.

<sup>27</sup>Dacotah Student, October 7, 1963, p. 1.

more boys played ice hockey and more schools incorporated the game into their extra-curricular activity schedule.

In 1947, the St. Mike Squires, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, and composed mainly of Academy of St. James, Grand Forks, players became part of the local high school circuit under coach Father Joseph Hylden. The Sacred Heart Academy of Fargo began to compete on an inter-scholastic basis as well.<sup>28</sup>

The winter of 1948-49, became the season of the first state high school tournament in North Dakota. Six teams competed in this first annual, invitational, Herald-KILO, high school tournament held in Grand Forks at the Winter Sports Arena in February. Tournament director Glenn Jarrett received entries from Grand Forks Central, St. James Academy, Rolla, Fargo, Cando, and the Sacred Heart Academy of Fargo.<sup>29</sup>

No evidence was available as to whether the North Dakota High School Activities Association sanctioned the tournament. Glenn Jarrett had this to say:

Permission to call the tournament a state meet has not been received from the North Dakota state high school league. However, since it is the only high school tournament to be held in North Dakota, the winner will be regarded as a state champion.<sup>30</sup>

Grand Forks Central captured the 1949 title by defeating Fargo Central, eight to two, in the final game

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<sup>28</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 19, 1947, p. 8.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid., February 4, 1949, p. 12.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

before eight hundred excited fans. The Redskins gained the final by defeating St. James. Fargo advanced to the final by default when Gando couldn't make the game because of severe weather conditions.<sup>31</sup>

Coaches in this first tournament were: Howard Holfmeyer of Rolla, Don Blanchard of Fargo Sacred Heart, Ray Purpur of Grand Forks St. James, "Fido" Purpur of Grand Forks Central, and P. E. Mickelson of Fargo Central.<sup>32</sup>

Players making the first tournament team were: Bob McNamee of St. James in goal, Don Carlson of Rolla at defense, Tom Mickelson of Fargo Central at defense, Roy Twedell of Grand Forks Central played the wing position along with George (Dutch) Deraney of St. James, while Kenny Purpur of Grand Forks Central filled the center ice spot.<sup>33</sup>

The participating teams deserved congratulations for the outstanding exhibition of sportsmanship when each team cheered after a game. Each team gave a loud and lusty cheer for the opposing team.<sup>34</sup>

In 1950, Fargo Central took championship honors by defeating runner-up Sacred Heart in the second, four team,

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<sup>31</sup>Ibid., February 13, 1949, p. 22.

<sup>32</sup>Loel Schrader, Grand Forks Herald, February 13, 1949, p. 14.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.

<sup>34</sup>Terry Collette, Grand Forks Herald, February 13, 1949, p. 22.

high school hockey tournament. Crookston and Grand Forks Central were the other two teams competing.<sup>35</sup>

The year 1951 showed no evidence of a high school tournament although St. James, Grand Forks Central, and Fargo Central competed on an interscholastic basis throughout the winter months.

Between the years 1952 and 1960 hockey expanded to more schools even though no state tournament climaxed the seasons.

Fargo Shanley iced a team in 1951-52.<sup>36</sup> They played some seasons and didn't play others until they finally dropped out in 1962. Devils Lake adopted hockey in 1953 under head coach Charles Hurley. The Devils Lake team used the junior team's equipment furnished by the Elks Lodge in 1952.<sup>37</sup>

Mr. Serge Gambucci, present Grand Forks Central coach, took over the position from Mr. Carl Morken in 1956.<sup>38</sup>

An interesting speculation was presented in the Grand Forks Herald in 1956, stating basically:

The time is not too far off when North Dakota will be able to hold its own State High School Hockey Tournament. High School hockey is being played in Fargo, Devils Lake,

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<sup>35</sup>Ibid., February 18, 1950, p. 7.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid., February 16, 1952, p. 16.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid., February 24, 1955, p. 19.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., February 16, 1956, p. 16.



Grand Forks and Cando, and will probably start next year in Minot and Williston, critics to the contrary.<sup>39</sup>

This prediction as yet has not come true as hockey has never really become a part of the activities engaged in by western North Dakota schools. Chances are, a little skillful and enthusiastic leadership would go a long way.

Almost one year later the same Grand Forks Herald writer was not so optimistic about the future of high school hockey in North Dakota.

But Friday night's 4-0 win over Fargo is ample evidence that hockey in North Dakota is a far cry from Minnesota's brand, in both caliber and scope. Central and Devils Lake have played twice, and both clubs seem fairly evenly matched in ability and potential.

But without ridiculing the Fargo team, some of its skaters are just learning what to do on blades and the fact that hockey over the state will take years to reach even the interesting stage, the question is, what can be done to speed up the process?

Quite a few cities have park or playground hockey of sorts. Grand Forks, Devils Lake, and Fargo are the only ones with good instructional systems and with enough ice and coaches to accommodate the thousands of youth who want to play.<sup>40</sup>

During the years 1958-1960, high school hockey experienced gradual growth without the added attraction of a state tournament. Serge Gambucci's Redskins gradually pulled ahead in both individual skill and systematic team-

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<sup>39</sup>Don Tuttle, Grand Forks Herald, February 19, 1956, p. 19.

<sup>40</sup>Don Tuttle, Ibid., February 10, 1957, p. 25.

work. Besides the coaching itself, Grand Forks Central's highly organized hockey program attracted a large majority of the well developed players from the Grand Forks park-board system.

Devils Lake managed to push the Redskins ahead at a more rapid rate, while Fargo Central remained at a static plateau.

St. James continued to struggle with less manpower to choose from, inferior finance and facilities.

The long awaited new arrival of the East Grand Forks Green Wave in 1958, under coach Rudy Slupski, attracted many more people to the game of ice hockey as played in the Greater Grand Forks area. Competition for the Grand Forks teams was made more convenient, plentiful, and exciting.<sup>41</sup>

Annual state tournaments resumed in North Dakota in 1961. The tournament was sponsored by the Greater Grand Forks Exchange Club and the University of North Dakota Athletic Department.

The tournament was sanctioned by the North Dakota High School Activities Association, but the winner was not yet recognized as a state champion.<sup>42</sup>

Teams entered in the tournament included favorite Grand Forks Central, which had just completed a twelve-three-two record under Serge Gambucci. Grand Forks St. James,

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<sup>41</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 1, 1959, p. 19.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid., February 5, 1961, p. 22.

which won six and lost ten under the direction of Stan Paschke. Devils Lake under coach Walt Pederson had an eight-eleven record,<sup>43</sup> while Fargo managed an eight-four season under coach Don Bredell.<sup>44</sup>

Grand Forks Central Redskins defeated the Satans from Devils Lake, three to one, to win the state's unofficial championship while St. James won the consolation round by trimming Fargo Central six to four. Nine hundred fans were on hand at the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Arena to witness the final game of the tournament.<sup>45</sup>

The 1961-62 hockey season saw a great deal of action. The Devils Lake Holiday Tournament was establishing itself as quite an annual occasion. Four teams, two from Grand Forks, one from Crookston, and one from Devils Lake squared off on January fourth. Grand Forks Central swept the tournament seven to nothing over Devils Lake in the final, while St. James was again consolation winner, defeating Crookston.<sup>46</sup>

The season records of the high school teams playing this winter went like this:

Fargo Central coached by Don Bredell experienced a ten win-three loss record. Fargo Shanley under John Noah had a six-five season.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>43</sup>Ibid., February 14, 1961, p. 10.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid., February 15, 1961, p. 21.

<sup>45</sup>Jerry Nemanic, Grand Forks Herald, February 19, 1961, p. 16.

<sup>46</sup>Grand Forks Herald, January 3, 1962, p. 12.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid., February 13, 1962, p. 10.

Grand Forks St. James under the direction of newly appointed head coach Vern Hebert set a six-nine record,<sup>48</sup> while Devils Lake with Walt Pederson still at the helm, chalked up an eight-seven winner.<sup>49</sup>

Grand Forks Central played twenty games, many of which were against tough Minnesota clubs and the Redskins set an eighteen-two mark. Serge Gambucci's club was again definitely favored to recapture the unofficial North Dakota State Championship.<sup>50</sup>

The University of North Dakota Winter Sports Arena hosted the second annual high school tournament from February fifteenth to seventeenth. The new entry, Fargo Shanley brought the participating number to five teams.<sup>51</sup>

Grand Forks Central played up to expectations by defeating Devils Lake five to two in the final, while St. James took Fargo Central seven to two. Fargo Central had previously eliminated Shanley of Fargo.<sup>52</sup>

The 1962-63 season was highlighted by the unveiling of the newly organized North Central High School League as well as the coming of the Grafton Spoilers to the local hockey scene.

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<sup>48</sup>Ibid., February 15, 1962, p. 10.

<sup>49</sup>Ibid., February 14, 1962, p. 22.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid., February 16, 1962, p. 4.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid., February 4, 1962, p. 23.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid., February 18, 1962, p. 18.

The North Central High School Hockey Conference held an official clinic. Stan Paschke, Conference secretary, said that about twenty-five coaches and hockey officials were expected to discuss rules and techniques for the coming season.

Schools in the Conference were Grand Forks Central, St. James, Grafton (new entry), Devils Lake, Fargo Central, and Crookston Cathedral.<sup>53</sup>

The seventeen members on the Grafton High School hockey team, all graduates from the 1962 Pee Wee championship team were to be coached by Stan Paschke.

Early in the season the squad worked out on a frozen swamp. All their home games were scheduled on an outdoor rink but Stan Paschke hoped for a new arena to replace the old one which was destroyed by fire in 1946.<sup>54</sup>

After a short 1962-63 hockey season, due to a long warm fall, only four teams entered the third annual North Dakota High School Hockey Tournament. The tournament, held again in the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Arena, began on February fifteenth and concluded on the sixteenth. Teams in the tournament were Grafton, for the first time, Grand Forks St. James, Fargo Central, and defending champions Grand Forks Central.

Mr. L. R. Marti, University of North Dakota Athletic

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<sup>53</sup>Ibid., December 9, 1962, p. 36.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid.

Director, and tournament manager for the first time, said all teams in the state were invited. The tournament was not yet the official state tournament but it was sanctioned by the North Dakota High School Activities Association. Pairings in the tournament were made according to the final league standings. The first team played the fourth team and the second team played the third.<sup>55</sup>

The season record for each team was: Devils Lake, six wins, eight losses, and one tie; Fargo, nine-three, coached by Mr. Dave Pilkey; St. James, six-five and three; Grafton, two-nine and one; and Grand Forks Central, sixteen and four.<sup>56</sup>

Devils Lake had to play Fargo to qualify for fourth spot in the tournament.<sup>57</sup>

The scene was set for an all-city, Grand Forks final for state honors after St. James had beaten Grafton three to one, and Grand Forks Central defeated Devils Lake five to nothing.<sup>58</sup>

Grand Forks Central lived up to all expectations to keep the crown from St. James. Grafton went on to notch third spot in the consolation round.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup>Ibid., February 6, 1963, p. 5.

<sup>56</sup>Lee Bohnet, Sioux Sports Information Service, University of North Dakota Athletic Department, Grand Forks, North Dakota, March 1963.

<sup>57</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 12, 1963, p. 13.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid., February 16, 1963, p. 2.

<sup>59</sup>Ibid., February 17, 1963, p. 23.

The 1963-64 high school hockey season saw gradual, yet continuous improvement that comes with experience in both coaching and playing.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association sanctioned the tournament again this year but did not recognize the winner as the official state champion.

Grand Forks Central aimed for its fourth straight high school title, boasting a nineteen -- two record, the best regular season ever. The only two losses suffered were at the hands of top Minnesota teams, even though the Redskins were able to victoriously survive the pressure of the International Falls Christmas Hockey Tournament.

Other teams in the five-team tournament were: Grafton who had a six-six-one overall record; Devils Lake, concluded with a seven-four-two mark; Grand Forks St. James struggled through a six-seven-one season, and out of the twelve games played by Fargo they concluded five victoriously.

Mr. L. R. Marti, University of North Dakota Athletic Director, was once again the tournament manager.<sup>60</sup>

The semifinal round of the fourth annual North Dakota State High School Tournament got under way on February seventeenth, after Fargo Central survived the elementary round by turning back St. James, four to one.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>60</sup>Mike Gutensohn, Grand Forks Herald, February 19, 1964, p. 28.

<sup>61</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 17, 1964, p. 11.

The ultimate conclusion of this high school hockey year came when once again Grand Forks Central downed Grafton five to four before fifteen hundred fans in the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Arena.

Coach Serge Gambucci's Redskins had a real fight on their hands from the opening faceoff. Stan Paschke's Grafton club came on the ice to hustle and hustle they did, right down to the final buzzer.<sup>62</sup>

The consolation winner was Devils Lake, six to two over Fargo.

The 1964-65 season saw more hockey than the previous year because weather conditions were more suitable for the sport.

The North Central High School League pulled even closer together in order to get the fifth annual state tournament officially sanctioned and recognized by the North Dakota High School Activities Association, but without immediate success.

St. James experienced a reasonable season record of nine and nine under first season coach Maurice "Sonny" Roberge who took the reins from former coach Vern Hebert.<sup>63</sup>

Walt Pederson's Devils Lake Satans tied with St. James for third place. Both teams displayed identical three-five league records.

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<sup>62</sup>Mike Gutensohn, Grand Forks Herald, February 19, 1964, p. 19.

<sup>63</sup>Grand Forks Herald, February 16, 1965, p. 13.



Tom Egan's Fargo Central Midgets posted a season record of nine-five and one tie.<sup>64</sup>

Grand Forks Central Redskins, under coach Serge Gambucci, entered the tournament with a sixteen-four overall record.<sup>65</sup>

Grand Forks St. James in the qualifying round, took a thrilling two to one win over Fargo after five sudden death overtime periods.<sup>66</sup>

Grand Forks Central went on to take their fifth straight tournament with a win over Grafton. Devils Lake settled for consolation honors over St. James in the second round.

In the month of June following the state tournament, the North Dakota High School Activities Association finally adopted hockey for its own.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association made an excellent move when it accepted hockey as an interscholastic sport in the state. This means the invitational state tournament held at the University of North Dakota Arena will now produce an official champion. More than that, however, it will mean a steady growth of the sport over the state.<sup>67</sup>

The fact that hockey is very likely to grow in North Dakota high schools will create problems along with the benefits derived.

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<sup>64</sup>Ibid., February 18, 1965, p. 14.

<sup>65</sup>Ibid., February 19, 1965, p. 13.

<sup>66</sup>Ibid.

<sup>67</sup>C. D. Locklin, "Looking Through The Knothole", Grand Forks Herald, June 20, 1965.

The following chapter explains the difficulties and benefits which have occurred in class "A" schools conducting ice hockey on an interscholastic basis.

## CHAPTER IV

### PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY HIGH SCHOOLS CONDUCTING AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM

The analysis of the data presented in this chapter was based on questionnaire response from North Dakota class "A" high schools. Questionnaires were sent to all thirty-three North Dakota class "A" high schools. The new Fargo North high school was not included in this study because school officials were not yet available for comment at this time even though ice hockey is speculated as part of the program for the 1965-66 season.

#### The Status of Ice Hockey in North Dakota Class "A" High Schools

Six class "A" high schools in North Dakota conducted an interscholastic ice hockey program in the 1964-65 season. Five of the schools, or eighty three per cent responded to the questionnaire. Unless otherwise stated, future references in this chapter to schools participating in ice hockey will refer to the five schools that gave their reactions to the questionnaire.

At the present time the only schools in North Dakota conducting ice hockey programs are class "A" schools.

The number of students enrolled in a high school seems to have some bearing on whether ice hockey has been started. One of the greatest factors was the location of schools relative to the nearness of competition.

All five schools have a male enrollment of one hundred and fifty or more. The average number of boys enrolled was four hundred and eighty-eight. The average number of boys participating in the high school hockey program was twenty-eight.

Table I below, indicates the male enrollment, and number of boys participating in the ice hockey program.

TABLE I  
THE NUMBER OF BOYS PARTICIPATING IN ICE HOCKEY

Total Male Enrollment	Number of boys participating in hockey program	Per cent of boys participating in hockey program
850	38	4.4
780	40	5
450	20	4.4
200	20	10
160	20	12.5

Ice hockey was not a new sport in North Dakota as was evidenced in the Grand Forks Herald and by local hockey

enthusiasts. Three schools had participated in hockey as early as 1930. Two schools showed participation since 1947, two more indicated participation in 1948, one in 1951, one in 1952, and one in 1962.

#### Origin

As indicated in table II on page forty-four, Class "A" schools in North Dakota began to participate in interscholastic hockey competition for a number of reasons. Four out of five schools, or eighty per cent indicated student pressure as the primary reason. Three out of five schools, or sixty per cent, indicated parental influence and providing an opportunity for more boys to participate, as secondary reasons. Two of the five schools, or forty per cent, indicated convenience of competition as important. One out of five schools, or twenty per cent, indicated the convenience of facilities, and North Dakota's natural hockey climate as determining factors in the origin of a program.

A dedicated junior high school student can become a proficient wrestler, gymnast, or tennis player by his senior year in high school. This is not the case with ice hockey. A youth skating and hockey program, starting with age six or even sooner, is not only beneficial but necessary to the development of skillful hockey players at the high school level. All five schools presently participating in inter-

TABLE II  
REASONS FOR HOCKEY ORIGINATING IN THESE SCHOOLS

Reasons for the addition of ice hockey to the school's program	Number of responses	Per cent
To provide an opportunity for more boys to participate	4	80
Convenience of facilities	3	60
Parental influence	3	60
Convenience of competition	1	20
Natural activity for North Dakota's climate	1	20

scholastic hockey competition, indicated that youth ice hockey programs existed in their communities.

#### Instruction

Every effort should be made by teacher training institutions to include hockey in the physical education program for majors and minors. In order that the hockey program may flourish, more qualified coaches are necessary.

One hundred per cent of the North Dakota high school head coaches have participated in high school hockey. Four

out of the five, or eighty per cent, have participated in hockey on the college level.

One coach has sixteen years of coaching experience in hockey, one has eight years of experience, one has five years of experience, and two have one year's experience. All of these coaches have a bachelor's degree and a North Dakota teaching certificate. One out of the five head coaches was a graduate student not on the school faculty. The remaining coaches were full time staff members.

Four out of the five schools, or eighty per cent, have assistant coaches all of which have played at least high school hockey. Only one out of the four assistants had played college hockey.

Two out of the five schools utilized other available sources as assistant coaches. One school used college students, not on the faculty, while another school used a former high school and college player from the community but not on the teaching staff.

Table III on page forty-six, indicates the tabulation of results obtained in the instruction of ice hockey.

#### Facilities and Games

Ideally, a hockey program should include a heated, covered rink for both practice and game use. As indicated in Table IV on page forty-eight, four of the five, or eighty per cent of the schools which make up the majority of the

**TABLE III**  
**PERSONNEL IN THE ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM**

Questions and Responses	Number of Positive Indications	Per Cent
<b>School head hockey coach</b>		
Faculty member	4	80
Person not associated with the school	1	20
<b>Qualifications of the coach</b>		
Bachelor's degree	5	100
Teacher certificate	5	100
<b>Experience as a player</b>		
High school hockey	5	100
College hockey	4	80
Schools with assistant coaches	4	80
<b>Background of assistant coaches</b>		
Played high school hockey	4	100
Played college hockey	1	25
Not on faculty	1	25



North Central High School Hockey League, had access to covered rinks, none of which were heated. Two of the five schools have had access to a covered rink since 1936, one had access to a covered rink in 1952, while another rink was made available in 1964. Two of the three communities with covered rinks had artificial ice. The third rink expected artificial ice in 1965-66.

For practice purposes one school used an outside rink completely constructed, maintained, and financed by the community. Two out of the five schools had their own private outdoor rinks constructed by the school but maintained by the park-board. During poor hockey weather these same two teams rented the local covered indoor facility for practice.

Four of the North Dakota schools participating in the North Central High School Hockey League, had access to an indoor rink for game purposes.

#### Practice and Competition

The time of day for hockey practice, or length of practice period differed because of the schedule differences in the high schools, the availability of students after school, the administrative policies of the high schools and the availability of the facility if it was on community property.

As indicated in Table V on page fifty, four out of the five schools used a community rink for practice after school

TABLE IV

THE UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES FOR BOTH PRACTICES  
AND GAMES IN HIGH SCHOOLS CONDUCTING  
AN ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM

Facilities for practice and games	Responses Indicated	Per Cent
<b>Practice facility</b>		
indoor community rink		
full-time	2	40
part-time	2	40
private outdoor rink		
full-time	2	40
<b>Finance of practice rink</b>		
by the community	3	60
combined between school and community	2	40
<b>Game facility</b>		
indoor	4	80
artificial ice	3	75
natural ice	1	25
outdoor	1	20

or evenings whenever ice was available. Two of these four teams were forced to schedule early morning practices before school for part of the year. Two of the five schools with private outdoor rinks practiced immediately after school. The average length of the practice sessions was one and one half hours.

Although North Dakota class "A" high schools had an average of twenty-seven boys in the hockey program, only two schools had "B" squads.

The total number of "A" squad games averaged twenty-one, while the "B" squad averaged sixteen. The "A" squads of five schools played a total of one hundred and ten games in the 1964-65 season.

Athletic awards to members of the hockey team in most high schools are awarded in the same manner as to lettermen in other sports. More than one particular method was utilized to determine the letter award.

All five schools used subjective, "ability", as a factor in determining the award of a letter. Four out of five schools, or eighty per cent also used the number of games played as a factor in choosing lettermen. One school, or twenty per cent determined the award of a hockey letter by just being a member of the "A" squad.

TABLE V

PRACTICE AND COMPETITION STATUS IN SCHOOLS  
CONDUCTING AN ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM

Number of schools using different length practice period		Schedule of "A" squad games by school			Number of schools using various methods to determine letter awards		
1.5 hrs.	2 hrs.	home	away	total	ability	number of games played	making the "A" squad
4	1	20	11	31	5	4	1
		10	13	23			
		8	12	20			
		8	10	18			
		9	9	18			
Total of "A" Squad games played		55	55	110			
		Schedule of "B" squad games by school					
		16	7	23			
		5	5	10			
Total of "B" Squad games played		21	12	33			
Total number of A and B games played		76	67	143			
Average number of A and B games played		15	13	28			

## Injuries

Injuries occurred in ice hockey as they did in most other sports. The game is fast and demands top conditioning as well as instantaneous reaction time. The occurrence of injuries can be diminished with suitable equipment, facilities, rule adherence, and proper instruction. Yet, injuries are bound to occur. Leslie W. Irwin expressed this idea:

There should be no attempt on the part of teachers in physical education to usurp, dominate, or departmentalize the safety program. Yet, because a majority of the accidents to school children occur on play grounds, athletic fields, and gymnasiums, physical education teachers have a strong responsibility in the field of safety.<sup>1</sup>

The number of injuries in high school hockey in North Dakota have been comparatively few. The results indicated in Table VI on page fifty-two, five schools reported an average of approximately none injuries last season. The greatest number of injuries in any school was fourteen, the least number of injuries was seven. No permanent injuries resulted.

## Financing the Program

The initial cost of establishing a high school hockey program would probably place a heavy burden on small or even large schools, for that matter, unless conservative methods of purchasing and operation are employed. In most cases an ice skating rink already exists within the community and may

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<sup>1</sup>Leslie W. Irwin, The Curriculum in Health and Physical Education (St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Co., 1951), p. 260.



be utilized by the school. Equipment would then probably create the greatest initial expense.

As indicated in Table VII on page fifty-four, the average cost per school amounted to three thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars and sixteen cents. All of the schools, except one, balanced out their budgets with general school fund assistance. Otherwise the greatest amount of income came from game receipts. One school had no gate receipts at all and received support from the general school fund to finance the program.

Only one school out of three accumulated expenses in the construction of an outdoor practice rink. One of the schools constructed the outside practice rink with volunteer help, while the other school used the community outdoor rink for all practices and games without cost to the school.

The total expenses for one school were financed by the school district. Three schools balanced the budgets with school district finance since no other source was indicated. The one remaining school balanced the budget through finances from its own athletic association.

The cost of any athletic program can be justified if the educational values are of benefit to the student. C. O. Jackson expressed this idea:

There must be education experiences for the participants. Otherwise, it's difficult to justify the expenditure of money, time, and leadership, not to mention the participants' dedicated and often naive striving for an ideal. The students must

TABLE VII

EXPENDITURES OF ICE HOCKEY PROGRAMS IN  
NORTH DAKOTA CLASS "A" HIGH SCHOOLS

Expense items	Total cost for five schools unless indicated to the contrary	Average cost per school
Practice rink, outdoor		
construction	\$ 1,000.00 (one school)	\$1,000.00
maintenance	600.00 (two schools)	300.00
Rental of indoor rink for both games and practice	2,855.00 (four schools)	713.75
New equipment other than sticks	2,491.80	498.36
Referee costs	1,190.00	238.00
Police protection at games	135.00 (three schools)	45.00
Transportation	2,850.00	570.00
Meals on trips	1,164.00	232.80
Expendable equipment (sticks, tape, pucks, etc.)	2,875.00	575.00
Equipment repair	290.00	58.00
Trainer's supplies	115.00	23.00
Total expenses for the five schools	\$15,565.80	Average expenses \$3,113.16



always be the primary concern, and the best safeguard in this direction is educated and dedicated leadership. Too often, the standards set by adults are the basic reasons why some athletic programs aren't too successful in terms of education.<sup>2</sup>

Indicated on Table VIII below, was the average income received per school.

TABLE VIII  
INCOME OF ICE HOCKEY PROGRAMS IN NORTH DAKOTA  
CLASS "A" HIGH SCHOOLS

Receipts	Total receipts for five schools unless indicated to the contrary	Average receipts per school
Games	\$ 3110.00 (four schools)	\$ 777.50
Tournaments	790.00 (four schools)	197.70
Activity tickets	2110.00 (four schools)	527.50
Season tickets	400.00 (three schools)	133.33
<b>Total receipts for four schools</b>	<b>\$ 6410.00</b>	<b>Average receipts \$1602.50</b>

The Educational Policies Commission made these recommendations:

Boards of education shall establish policies for financial support of interscholastic athletics that will free the interscholastic program from dependence on gate receipts. School and community leaders should

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<sup>2</sup>G. O. Jackson, "Why Competitive Athletics?", Scholastic Coach, XXIX (May, 1960), p. 22.

make every effort to finance athletics completely out of general school funds at the earliest possible date.<sup>3</sup>

It was also significant to note, in all cases the players provided their own skates.

#### Program Publicity

A highly organized public relations program, early in the developmental stages of an ice hockey program, will not only help to stimulate community interest but will also help the community become aware of the values and objectives of such a program.

Interest can be created in the hockey program in many ways. The most important interest builder is a well outfitted, well coached, winning hockey team. But before such a team can be formed other means of public relations must be utilized.

As indicated in Table IX on page fifty-seven, North Dakota high schools conducting hockey programs have utilized many promotional means in the development of their programs. All five schools created interest in their program through stories sent to newspapers, radio, and television, and through distributing schedule posters. Four out of the five schools used descriptive material before games and demonstrations to help create interest. Two out of the five schools also used hockey clinics and portions of some games held on television as a means of publicity.

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<sup>3</sup>Educational Policies Commissions, NEA, School Athletics (Washington, D.C.: National Education Association, 1954), p. 84.

Because the promotional publicity in the high schools has been varied, four out of the five schools reported that the students and community were aware of the value and objectives of high school hockey. One school indicated that some students and community members were aware of the values and objectives of high school hockey while others were not.

Four of the five schools indicated an increase in spectator interest. The same school that indicated a lack of awareness of the values and objectives of high school hockey in the students and community also indicated a static condition concerning spectator interest.

TABLE IX  
PUBLICITY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ICE HOCKEY  
PROGRAM IN NORTH DAKOTA

Extent of publicity	Responses indicating methods utilized
Methods of creating interest in the hockey program	
Schedule posters	5
Games broadcast on radio	5
Interest stories sent out to radio	5
television	5
newspapers	5
Demonstrations	4
Descriptive material handed out	4
Clinics	2
Game held on television	2

## CHAPTER V

### EVALUATION OF EXISTING HOCKEY PROGRAMS

Every type of sport has been criticized at one time or another and the sport of ice hockey is no exception. Criticism can be of great value to a program if it is constructive and will help promote a better program.

#### Criticism of Existing Hockey Programs

As indicated in Table X on page fifty-nine, four out of five schools indicated that they had received criticism of the hockey program. The phase of the program which was most often criticized, as indicated by three of the four schools, was that expenses were too great. One school indicated that criticism resulted from the lack of facilities, while another school indicated that criticism resulted from coaches of other sports who were afraid of losing boys to the hockey program.

Two of the four schools indicated that the main source of criticism originated with school administration. Two other schools indicated that other teachers were the main source of criticism.

#### Evaluation of Existing Hockey Programs

Each school poses an unique situation and each situation must be handled differently by the coach when he is promoting

TABLE X  
CRITICISM OF A HOCKEY PROGRAM

Type of problems	Number of responses
Schools reporting criticism of the hockey program	4
Reasons for criticism of the hockey program	
Expenses too great	4
Lack of facilities	1
Other coaches losing players to the hockey program	1
Main sources of criticism	
School administrators	2
Other teacher (coaches)	2

the hockey program both in the school and community.

It is felt that a coach, wishing to sell the hockey program to the community, or school administration, must have some factual material available.

1. The community members and school administration must become aware of the nature of ice hockey. Many people today know very little about the game itself. So it is the job of the coach to make people aware of the fundamentals and rules of ice hockey.

2. A complete outline of the game, and the proposed program should be written. Included in this outline should

be values, aims, objectives, health and safety precautions, and coaching techniques to be utilized.

3. Every coach should formulate a proposed, specifically itemized budget for his particular situation, in order to initiate as well as conduct a hockey program.

#### Plans to Improve Existing Programs

Providing a worthwhile and beneficial hockey program is a continuous task which does not terminate once the program is in operation. Plans must also be in operation after the program is functioning to improve the benefits of the program.

All of the five schools listed extensive plans to improve and facilitate their programs.

Three of the five schools participating in high school interscholastic ice hockey competition plan to have new indoor, heated, artificial ice arenas at their disposal for the 1965-66 hockey season. Two of the five teams already have indoor, unheated arenas, only one of which has artificial ice, and artificial ice was planned for the other arena in the very near future.

One school will improve its coaching staff with the addition of an assistant to the program. Another school plans to assist in providing a greater number of outdoor rinks at the elementary school level.

Serge Gambucci, veteran coach of the Grand Forks Central Redskins, who is to a great extent, responsible for boosting

high school hockey in North Dakota to its present level indicated:

We feel that we have as good a hockey program as any high school team in the country. Our equipment is tops. We play a very attractive schedule. And we do have student and community interest.

We feel that a new indoor, heated, artificial ice rink will make definite improvement.<sup>1</sup>

All five schools as indicated in Table XI on page sixty-two, were in favor of making some important rule changes. All five schools agreed that body-checking should be allowed behind the red lines.

The reason for the suggested change is that college hockey enforces this rule and a similar rule in high school hockey would involve direct positive transfer to the college level. At the present time body-checking is penalized ahead of the defending blue line.

All five schools also agreed that an immediate whistle should be sounded as soon as the puck crosses the goal line on an icing charge.

The reason for full agreement by all coaches on this point involves the safety and well-being of their players. An immediate whistle would prevent unnecessary impact into the end boards and possible injury.

Four of the five schools also indicated a positive reaction to making mouth-pieces mandatory.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association in

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Mr. Serge Gambucci, Grand Forks Central Hockey Coach, April 23, 1965.

TABLE XI  
SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE HOCKEY PROGRAM

Suggestions	Number of responses
New indoor arena	3
heated	3
artificial ice	3
Addition of	
artificial ice to indoor arena	1
more outside rinks	1
more coaching staff	1
Rule changes	
body-checking behind red line	5
immediate whistle as puck crosses goal-line on icing charge	5
mandatory mouth pieces	4

June of 1965 officially sanctioned the North Central High School Hockey League and the State Tournament. The winner of the state tournament will now officially be declared the state champion.

This recognition by the North Dakota High School Activities Association is bound to have a positive reaction on the development of high school ice hockey in North Dakota.



Motives for the Addition of Ice Hockey  
in the Sports Program

Athletic programs, as part of the physical education curriculum, enable boys to participate in various sports and represent the school in athletic contests. High schools in North Dakota have participated largely in a basketball program, and partly in a wrestling program during the winter months. Basketball is a great sport which has enabled even the smallest school to conduct a program and compete with all schools because of the number of boys needed to participate. Wrestling is an incomparable individual sport. It provides for equalization of competition which allows even the smallest boys to compete and is relatively inexpensive to initiate. Even so, only a select group of boys are chosen to participate on an interscholastic level and the other boys are relegated to the role of spectator.

Ice hockey takes the boys outside into the refreshing outdoor atmosphere. In addition to becoming proficient at the game of ice hockey, a player must become a competent skater, which in itself, is very valuable for its carry-over possibilities.

The high schools in North Dakota which are now conducting an ice hockey program have indicated that interschool hockey competition has allowed more boys the experience of competition. Four of the five schools indicated that hockey helped more people to become interested in the school program.

All five schools indicated that hockey has given the school and community more recognition in athletics.

All sports, if properly coached, offer like-values to the participants. Some of these, such as loyalty, team-work, self confidence, and sportsmanship not only contribute to the objectives of athletics but contribute to the objectives of the total educational program.

As with each academic subject each sport also has something unique to offer its participants, and ice hockey is no exception.

Four out of the five schools indicated that ice hockey can provide competitive opportunity for a boy of any body build. Hockey is one of the few remaining team sports played in high schools in North Dakota which allows the smaller along with the larger boy to experience the unique learning possibilities of a competitive situation. One school indicated a negative reaction to the idea that hockey can provide opportunity for a boy of any body build.

Four out of the five schools indicated that the sport of ice hockey has offered benefits that could not be gained in other team sports played in North Dakota high schools. Hockey has provided athletes more and better opportunities to obtain athletic scholarships in the colleges of their choice. Athletic scholarships have been awarded to a number of players from each of the five schools participating in

hockey in North Dakota. Some of these scholarships were from Big Ten universities. To get an equivalent basketball, football, or wrestling scholarship at these same universities would be much more difficult because competition for scholarships in these sports is much greater than it is for hockey. Since there are relatively few high schools playing hockey, not only in North Dakota, but throughout the United States, the opportunity to get a hockey scholarship is greater.

For example, three or four of the top performers on the high school hockey team in such a community as Grafton, North Dakota, have an excellent chance of obtaining a full scholarship at most Eastern as well as "Big Ten" or other universities sponsoring hockey. Opportunity for the top three or four performers on the basketball, football, or even wrestling team, to obtain comparable scholarships are much more remote.

Another factor adding to the scholarship opportunity of the North Dakota high school hockey player, besides improvement in skill, is the gradual delimitation of Canadian players.

Table XII on page sixty-six, lists the motives for the addition of ice hockey in the sports program.

TABLE XII  
MOTIVES FOR DEVELOPING AN ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM

Motives used	Total number of responses
<b>Reasons for the addition of ice hockey to the sports program</b>	
Opportunity for more boys to participate	5
Better opportunity for boys in North Dakota to get scholarships to the college of their choice	4
<b>Aids to the sports program, school and community by the hockey program</b>	
Allowing small boys to compete	4
Allowing more boys to compete	5
Helping more people to become interested in the school's sports program	5
Giving the school and community more recognition in athletics	5

## CHAPTER VI

### THE FUTURE AND TRENDS OF ICE HOCKEY IN NORTH DAKOTA CLASS "A" HIGH SCHOOLS

The future looks bright for ice hockey in North Dakota class "A" high schools. The delimitation of the Canadian player from United States College hockey has provided added incentive to the American high school hockey player. In addition, the North Dakota High School Activities Association, in June of 1965, sanctioned the North Central High School Hockey League and the state tournament will be state tournament winner recognized as the state hockey champion.

The 1964-65 hockey season also saw the addition of Jamestown to high school hockey competition even though it was on a "B" squad basis.

Fargo North, a new class "A" high school, has planned to participate in the 1965-66 high school hockey campaign. Results of the questionnaire also indicated that two more class "A" high schools were contemplating participation in high school hockey within the next three or four years.

The results of the questionnaire also indicated that three of the five schools now participating in the North Central High School Hockey League will have access to new,

heated, indoor arenas with artificial ice. Two of the five schools presently have access to indoor arenas, one of which has artificial ice. The school having an indoor arena with natural ice plans to have it converted to artificial ice for 1965-66 hockey season.

To start an ice hockey program in any school would create problems unique to each situation. In other words, some communities might have the playing facilities, but the school might not be able to afford the program financially. In other communities the schools might be able to afford the program if adequate facilities existed.

The questionnaire indicated some confusion as to what might be the biggest problem in initiating a hockey program. Four of the five schools indicated that finances are the biggest problem but one of these schools also indicated that facilities could be the primary barrier to overcome.

Three out of the five schools also indicated that facilities were the biggest problem while two of these same three schools indicated that the shortage of coaching could also be the biggest problem.

Logically, it is presumed that:

1. Without adequate leadership the program would probably never get started.
2. Facilities should be the responsibility of the community as a whole. Part of the cost could be shared by the school.

3. If the school has adequate finance, then the hockey program can be set on a solid foundation, and if properly organized, may eventually pay for itself. If the students demand the activity then finance will not be a hindrance because money can always be raised in one way or another.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Summary

The purposes of this study were to present a background of the history of ice hockey, and the problems encountered in establishing as well as maintaining an ice hockey program in North Dakota class "A" high schools.

It is believed that ice hockey, through the influence of comparable European games played without skates, originated between the years 1855 and 1860 at Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Montreal and Halifax also laid claims as the originators. Ice hockey grew rapidly in eastern North America and spread gradually toward the west. The professional status of ice hockey was established in 1909 when the National Hockey Association was formed as the forerunner of the National Hockey League.

Ice hockey was played in North Dakota communities on an informal basis before 1929-30. At this time, hockey became established at Grand Forks Central, Fargo Central, and Valley City. Later, hockey spread to Fargo Shanley and Grand Forks St. James in 1947, Devils Lake in 1953, and Grafton in 1962. These teams, with the exception of Valley



City and Fargo Shanley, formed the North Central High School Hockey League in 1962. Hockey spread farther westward to Minot, Crosby, and Williston, but never really became established in these communities.

The first and second high school hockey tournaments in 1949 and 1950, and every tournament thereafter were held at the University of North Dakota Winter Sports Building. Then it was not until 1961 that the hockey tournaments were once again resumed. The North Dakota High School Activities Association sanctioned but did not sponsor the tournaments until June of 1965.

During the 1964-65 school year, five schools competed in ice hockey on an interscholastic basis at an average cost of three thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars per team. Eighty per cent of these five schools averaged an income of one thousand six hundred and two dollars. The hockey budgets were balanced from the general school fund.

Eighty per cent of the class "A" schools conducting ice hockey programs indicated that expenses incurred drew the greatest amount of criticism.

The qualifications of high school hockey coaches in North Dakota were favorable to hockey progress but more equally qualified coaches were needed.

A hockey program can be justified in a number of ways. Besides the increase in participation, physical and mental development, ice hockey can provide excellent opportunities for athletic scholarships in colleges and universities.

Further investigation revealed that three more class "A" high schools plan to adopt hockey within the next three or four years.

### Conclusions

The conclusions drawn pertain only to the five class "A" high schools participating in ice hockey. Even though these five schools represent one hundred per cent of the high schools playing in the North Dakota Central High School Hockey League, it was difficult to draw generalizing conclusions.

Ice hockey has been played, and will probably be continued, in five schools, as indicated by the questionnaire. The main reasons why hockey has been played in these schools were listed in order of importance as follows:

1. The presence of adequate leadership in each community.
2. The presence of adequate finance and facilities.
3. The existence of an organized park-board program in each community.
4. The geographical location of each community.

Responses to the questionnaire revealed that the success of high school hockey as it existed in 1964-65 in North Dakota, could be attributed to:

1. Personnel qualifications
  - (a) One hundred per cent of the coaches possess at least a bachelors degree.
  - (b) All of the coaches had played high school hockey.

(c) Eighty per cent of the hockey coaches had played college hockey or better.

2. The recognition by school officials of the benefits of a hockey program.

3. The addition of sports to provide more opportunity for participation.

Some inhibiting factors of hockey growth in North Dakota class "A" schools listed in order of importance were:

1. The shortage of qualified coaches.

2. The cost to originate the program at the high school level.

3. The lack of adequate facilities.

4. Extreme temperatures.

Even though seven additional communities surrounding class "A" schools indicated participation in community hockey, only three schools had plans to conduct an ice hockey program at the high school level within the next three or four years.

#### Recommendations

One purpose of this thesis is to provide information to schools interested in adopting an ice hockey program. Some suggestions are listed below.

1. If a public ice rink is available and numerous youth are playing hockey, then half of the battle is won. These two factors alone, though, will not put hockey into the school program.

2. Enthusiastic leadership should be obtained to develop interested youth into sound hockey players.

3. The coach should draw up and present to the community and school, values, and objectives of the proposed hockey program.

4. An absolute minimum list of suggested materials necessary to conduct a hockey program should include: (1) an average sized outdoor rink; (2) two goal nets; (3) one set of goal equipment costing approximately eighty-three dollars; (4) about three dozen pucks costing approximately fifteen dollars; (5) a minimum of seven dozen sticks and necessary tape costing in the vicinity of two hundred and fifty dollars; (6) and jerseys, pants, and socks, totalling approximately seven hundred and eight dollars. These items could ice a very presentable team if the under-equipment was purchased by each individual player. These items would include skates, gloves, shin guards, helmet, shoulder pads, elbow pads, suspenders, garter belt, and protective cup.

5. A suggested program for schools interested in initiating hockey, should include the following items: (1) films on hockey fundamentals, offensive and defensive strategy; (2) medical examinations for all participants; (3) a thorough pre-season conditioning program; (4) and plenty of practice for conditioning and teamwork before the opening game.

6. Coaches should conduct a Parents Night to demonstrate the benefits and values of a hockey program.

7. Hockey clinics should be conducted by the North Central High School Hockey League. Demonstrations by schools conducting a hockey program could be held in conjunction with the clinic.

8. Hockey coaches should write articles to be given to the newspapers, Activities Bulletin of the North Dakota High School Activities Association, and radio and television stations.

9. Coaches should display hockey stories on school bulletin boards, and in store windows to create interest among the students and community.

10. North Dakota Colleges should be made aware of the necessity for including ice hockey as part of their physical education programs.

11. Referees should be made aware of rules and procedures.

12. Emphasis should be placed on conducting a hockey program which will benefit the participant.

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A P P E N D I X

**A P P E N D I X   A**

**LETTER TO SCHOOLS**

Letter to Schools

April 1, 1965

Dear Sir:

I am making a study of ice hockey and its development in North Dakota class "A" high schools. I hope to establish a guide through which pertinent information may be obtained in making, or improving upon, ice hockey as part of the high school athletic program. Through this study I plan to evaluate many of the problems and perhaps make recommendations which will enable more class "A" high schools to establish or improve their ice hockey programs.

Your cooperation would be appreciated in completing this questionnaire, since a higher percentage of returns will tend to make possible more accurate conclusions.

If interscholastic ice hockey is not part of your program, then please react only to Part I. If interscholastic ice hockey is part of your program, then your reactions to Part II would be most appropriate.

I realize the extent of your schedule at this time of the year but in order to tabulate the data, draw conclusions, and make recommendations by July 8, 1965, it will be preferred to have the completed survey by April 15.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

If you would be interested in the results, please state your name and address at completion of the questionnaire.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice "Sonny" Roberge

**A P P E N D I X   B**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

A Study of High School Ice Hockey in Class "A"  
High Schools in North Dakota

PART I

1. Does ice hockey exist in your community? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does ice hockey exist in your school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did your school ever have ice hockey in the program?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you plan to have ice hockey in your program? Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you do not intend to have an ice hockey within the next two years, then please return questionnaire in self-addressed envelope provided.

PART II

A. Origin

1. On what basis is ice hockey played in your community?
  - a. community recreation \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. youth ice hockey program (park-board) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. junior high school \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. senior high school \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ice hockey became part of your school program in what year?
  - a. On what basis? (check where appropriate)
    1. intramural basis \_\_\_\_\_ what year \_\_\_\_\_
    2. interscholastic basis \_\_\_\_\_ what year \_\_\_\_\_
    3. part of the p.e. program \_\_\_\_\_ what year \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was ice hockey added to the sports program?  
(check where appropriate)
  - a. administration influence \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. faculty influence \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. parental influence \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. student influence \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. to provide an opportunity for more boys to participate \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. convenience of facilities \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. convenience of competition \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Participation 1964-65 season

1. number of boys enrolled in school? \_\_\_\_\_
2. number of boys participating in ice hockey?
  - a. "A" squad \_\_\_\_\_ number participating \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. "B" squad \_\_\_\_\_ number participating \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are letters earned? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. If so, how are they determined?
  - a. just being out for the squad \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ability \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. number of games played \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. number of periods played \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are student managers utilized? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. if so, how many freshmen \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. sophomores \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. juniors \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. seniors \_\_\_\_\_

C. Instruction

1. Head coaches background:
  - a. As a player, the head coach played at the level of?
    - 1) park-board \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) high school \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) college \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4) senior hockey \_\_\_\_\_
    - 5) professional \_\_\_\_\_
    - 6) other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many years in actual coaching experience in high school? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What degree do you have? B.A. \_\_\_\_\_ B.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
M.A. \_\_\_\_\_ M.S. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Assistant coaches background:
  - a. Does your school have an assistant coach?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If so, what is his background:
    - 1) parkboard \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) high school \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) college \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4) senior hockey \_\_\_\_\_
    - 5) professional \_\_\_\_\_
    - 6) other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Other people who might coach hockey in your school:
- a. faculty member not in the Physical Education Department \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. faculty member without hockey background \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. former high school hockey player \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. college student not on faculty \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. some member of the community other than those named above (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

D. Facilities

1. Practice rink:
- a. school's private facility \_\_\_\_\_ indoor \_\_\_\_\_ outdoor \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) If outdoor:
      - a) lights \_\_\_\_\_ no lights \_\_\_\_\_
      - b) who finances practice rink construction?
        - 1) school \_\_\_\_\_
        - 2) community \_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
      - c) who finances practice rink maintenance?
        - 1) school \_\_\_\_\_
        - 2) community \_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
      - d) who maintains practice rink?
        - 1) coach \_\_\_\_\_
        - 2) custodian \_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) park board \_\_\_\_\_
        - 4) employee hired for that purpose \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) If indoor:
      - a) artificial ice \_\_\_\_\_ natural ice \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. community facility \_\_\_\_\_ outdoor \_\_\_\_\_ indoor \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) If outdoor:
      - a) lights \_\_\_\_\_ no lights \_\_\_\_\_
      - b) who finances practice rink construction?
        - 1) school \_\_\_\_\_
        - 2) community \_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
      - c) who finances practice rink maintenance?
        - 1) school \_\_\_\_\_
        - 2) community \_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_

d) who maintains practice rink?

- 1) coach \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) school custodian \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) park board \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) employee hired for that purpose \_\_\_\_\_

2) If indoor:

- a) artificial ice \_\_\_\_\_ natural ice \_\_\_\_\_
- b) length of practice \_\_\_\_\_

2. Game facilities:

- a. school facility \_\_\_\_\_ outdoor \_\_\_\_\_ indoor \_\_\_\_\_
- b. community facility \_\_\_\_\_ outdoor \_\_\_\_\_ indoor \_\_\_\_\_
- c. How many games were played in the 64-65 season?
  - 1) "A" squad-home \_\_\_\_\_ away \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) "B" squad-home \_\_\_\_\_ away \_\_\_\_\_

E. Injuries 64-65 season

1. Kind of injuries: (approximate number)

- a. face lacerations \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- b. nose (broken) \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- c. teeth (lost or chipped) \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- d. shoulder injuries \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- e. arm injuries \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- f. wrist injuries \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- g. finger injuries \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- h. broken or dislocated ribs \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- i. hip pointers \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- j. groin injuries \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- k. "charlie horses" \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- l. ankle injuries \_\_\_\_\_ sprain \_\_\_\_\_ break \_\_\_\_\_  
number \_\_\_\_\_
- m. knee \_\_\_\_\_ cartilage \_\_\_\_\_ ligament \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_
- n. foot injuries \_\_\_\_\_ toes \_\_\_\_\_ sprained \_\_\_\_\_  
broken \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Any permanent injuries? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain \_\_\_\_\_

F. Some problems in having an ice hockey program

- 1. Have you had criticism because of the addition of hockey to the sports? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. If so, what are the main reasons for the criticism?  
(check where appropriate)
  - a. lack of facilities \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. lack of qualified coach \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. fear of injury \_\_\_\_\_





2. How is interest created in your hockey program?
- a. descriptive material handed out: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. demonstrations: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. hockey clinics: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. schedule posters: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. interest stories sent out to newspapers and television: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. games held on television: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
3. Spectator interest has increased \_\_\_\_\_ decreased \_\_\_\_\_  
same \_\_\_\_\_

I. Evaluation

1. Does ice hockey develop such positive aspects of personality as loyalty, self confidence, sportsmanship?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you feel that ice hockey offers benefits that cannot be gained in other team sports?
- a. provides better opportunity for players in this area to get scholarships in the college of their choice: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. better opportunity allowed for a boy of any body build: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
3. How has hockey helped the sports program, school community?
- a. by allowing more boys to compete \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. helping more people to become interested in the school's program \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. by giving the school and community more recognition in athletics \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. other \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_
4. Should hockey rules be changed? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- a. body checking behind red line? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. immediate whistle as puck crosses goal line on icing charge? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. should mouth pieces be mandatory? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
5. What plans are being made to improve hockey at your school?

A P P E N D I X C

LIST AND COST OF EQUIPMENT FOR A SIXTEEN MAN HOCKEY SQUAD

A complete list and cost of items necessary to fully and adequately ice a hockey team is listed below.

Quantity	Description	Price	Amount
16 pr.	Elbow pads	\$ 4.30	\$ 64.50
16 pr.	Suspenders	.83	13.28
16 each	Garter Belts	1.63	26.08
4 pr. #155	Shin pads (defenceman)	10.15	40.60
6 pr. #115	Shin pads (short-forwards)	3.90	23.40
5 pr. #118	Shin pads (long-forwards)	5.20	26.00
16 pr.	Hockey stockings	2.75	44.00
16 pr.	Laces	.30	4.80
15 pr.	Hockey gloves	25.00	375.00
16 each	Hockey helmets	5.45	87.20
11 pr.	Shoulder pads (forward)	6.25	68.75
4 pr.	Shoulder pads (defence)	14.90	59.60
16 pr.	Hockey pants	24.70	395.20
16	Game jerseys	14.00	224.00
16	Game socks	3.50	56.00
2 dozen	Hockey sticks	24.00	48.00
2	Goal sticks	5.60	11.20
2 dozen	Friction tape	6.00	12.00
1 pr.	Goal Gloves	25.00	25.00
1 pr.	Goal pads	47.00	47.00
1 each	Goal chest protector	11.25	11.25
1 pr.	Goal shoulder pads	12.75	12.75
			<u>\$1675.61</u>