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A Survey of Curling Participation Among High School Age Students in Selected States of the Upper Midwest

Donald D. Pottinger

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A SURVEY OF CURLING PARTICIPATION AMONG HIGH SCHOOL
AGE STUDENTS IN SELECTED STATES
OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

by

Donald D. Pottinger

A Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty
of the
University of North Dakota
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Science

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June
1966

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This abstract, submitted by Donald D. Pottinger
in partial fulfillment of the requirement 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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A SURVEY OF CURLING PARTICIPATION AMONG HIGH SCHOOL
AGE STUDENTS IN SELECTED STATES
OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

Donald D. Pottinger, Master of Science

The thesis here abstracted was written under the direction of Walter C. Koenig and Dr. John L. Quaday and approved by Dr. R. Peterson as a member of the examining committee, of which Mr. Koenig was chairman.

This study was designed to gather information concerning curling for high school age students in the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The study was structured to gain information in the areas of history, finance and sponsorship of high school curling. It also determined the present level of interest in curling among high school students.

The survey method was employed in this study. Questionnaires were sent to those persons believed most closely associated with high school curling in each town or city with a curling rink. Seventy questionnaires were sent out and forty-eight were returned for a total return of 68.57 per cent.

The findings of this survey suggest that school-sponsored curling programs for high school students are more beneficial than programs with other means of sponsorship. It was also found that the level of interest in curling among high school age students had increased

greatly. The suggestion that the respective State High School Activities Associations adopt the sport of curling was the main recommendation to come from the findings of this study. Many respondents stated that their school will sponsor curling as soon as the State High School Activities Association sponsors the sport.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer wishes to express his gratitude to Mr. W.C. Koenig and to Dr. J.L. Quaday for their help and cooperation both in the construction of the questionnaire used in this survey and in the writing of this thesis.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Since the author is extremely interested in the development of the sport of curling, he decided to do his thesis on some aspect of that sport which is stimulating to him. He has had a great deal of experience with teen age curlers both as a participant and as an instructor. In 1960, he skipped the rink which represented Manitoba in the Canadian Schools Curling Championship in Heranda, Quebec. In 1964-1965, he was the supervisor and instructor of the Grand Forks Park Board curling program. During 1965-1966, he instructed curling in the physical education service program at the University of North Dakota.

Curling has long been a favorite winter sport for high school students in Canada. In fact, more students compete in the game of curling than in any other winter sport in the Dominion of Canada. The sport continues to grow each year in terms of high school participants.

In the United States, curling is a relatively new sport for this age group. Most areas of the United States which now have high school curling did not begin

their programs until the late 1950's or early 1960's. Many other regions are beginning such programs each year.

The continued growth of high school curling in the United States is virtually certain for two main reasons:

1. The sport of curling is presently growing at a fantastic rate among adults in the United States.
2. In areas where high school curling programs have been initiated, they have almost invariably been met with an enthusiastic acceptance.

Certain areas of the United States have high school curling programs while other areas with curling facilities do not. The upper midwestern states seem to be the hotbed for high school curling. One of these states, namely Wisconsin, has included curling as an activity in its Interscholastic Athletic Association program. Many levels of competition, from physical education classes to park board leagues, exist in the other states.

Statement of the Problem

This study was designed to collect information pertaining to high school curling in selected states of the upper midwest.

There are various methods of sponsoring and con-

ducting high school curling programs. Some such programs are sponsored by curling clubs or recreation boards and are completely independent of the schools. Other programs are conducted as integral parts of school athletic departments.

Specifically, the purposes of this study were:

1. to gather facts about the history of curling and of high school curling in the selected area;
2. to gather information on the financing of high school curling;
3. to determine dominant practices of sponsorship of high school curling;
4. to determine the status of high school curling;
5. to determine the level of interest among high school curlers;
6. to make suggestions which will help to develop high school curling programs.

Need for the Study

The increase in curling participation among high school students in the United States has been exponential in certain areas. However, there has been very little research completed on the sport of curling and there apparently has been little such research reported relative to the high school level in the United States.

In the United States, this game is merely begin-

ning to become an accepted sport in high schools. With the results of the study, the author hopes to be able to make sound recommendations to schools interested in beginning a high school curling program or to those interested in expanding an already existing program.

Definition of Terms

RINK - a curling team consisting of four players including a skip (directs play), third, second and lead.

BONSPIEL - the traditional name for a curling tournament in which there are several events. Each rink is assured a certain number of games, depending only upon the number of events included in the bonspiel.

CORECREATIONAL or COEDUCATIONAL CURLING - curling leagues in which both boys and girls participate. Each rink is usually composed of two members of each sex.

PLAYDOWN - elimination play to determine the winning rink.

SPONSOR - the agency which administers and/or finances the high school curling program.

Delimitations of the Study

Since the states which border Canada are the ones in which curling is most prevalent, this study was confined to North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. All the towns and cities in these states

which contained curling clubs were included in the survey.

Limitations of the Study

The usual shortcomings of the questionnaire method, such as the possibility of misinterpretation or suggestiveness of the questions, may have affected the responses. There may have been a tendency for respondents to emphasize the correct practices rather than the prevalent ones.

Despite its shortcomings, the questionnaire method represented the most feasible means of conducting a study of this nature. Involvement of time and money would have made it impossible to interview all the respondents even though such an approach conceivably could have yielded more valid and reliable data.

Survey of Related Literature

History of curling

Historians are not absolutely sure of the date or the location of the origin of curling. Since the game is played on ice, most of them feel that the game was developed in countries located within the North Temperate Zone.

Both Scotland and Flanders claim credit for the origin of the sport of curling. There is no evidence that anything similar to curling existed in any part of the Netherlands before Scotland had elevated curling to

the status of a major sport. A pond drained near Dunblane, Scotland about 1890 revealed a curling stone in which was carved "1551." This evidence that the game was established in Scotland more than four centuries ago pre-dated claims by the Netherlands advocates.¹ Thus the birth-place of the "Rearing Game" may well have been in Scotland.

The oldest curling club in existence is the Dudingston Curling Society, organized in Edinburgh on January 17, 1795. This group played according to its own rules until 1834 at which time the "Amateur Curling Club of Scotland" was formed. This new organization decided that there should be a standardization of the rules of curling and it went into convention with the Dudingston and other outstanding clubs of that period. Curling as a regulated sport dates from that time. The Amateur Curling Club ceased to function as a separate unit after November 15, 1838 when it was merged into the Grand Caledonian Curling Club. In 1834, Her Majesty, Queen Adelaide, granted this organization the title "Royal Caledonian Curling Club."² This club is still regarded in all parts of the world as the Mother-Club and legislative body of the game of curling.

Some historians feel that the game of curling

¹Frank G. Menke, the Encyclopedia of Sports (New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1953), pp. 308-312.

²"Curling," Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th ed., Vol. VIII, pp. 645-646.

was carried across the Atlantic Ocean to the North American Continent in the fall of 1759. During the winter of 1759-60, British soldiers under the leadership of Wolfe lived on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec. Many authors feel that these men were the first to curl on the North American Continent. This reasoning seems logical but there is no actual evidence available to support their beliefs.³

The climate of Canada is more conducive to curling than is that of most parts of the United States. Mainly because of this factor, the sport of curling became more popular north of the border. Organized curling began in Canada in 1807 with the formation of the Royal Montreal Curling Club. This club confined its activities to curling and it has the distinction of being the oldest club for any kind of sport in North America.

Curling caught on in Eastern Canada and then moved west with the settlers. Regularly constituted curling clubs began to appear in Ontario. The first one to appear was in Kingston in 1820 and it was followed by Fergus in 1834, Toronto in 1837 and Galt and Guelph in 1837. The growth of the game had begun.

The greatest expansion of curling was yet to take place. The long, dry winters of the prairies were

³"Curling," Encyclopedia Canadianna, Vol. III, 1958, pp. 171-173.

ideal for the development of the game, and the Scottish background of the settlers ordained that curling would become a major sport west of the Great Lakes. The cold winters assured many months of natural ice of the highest quality and in 1875, the Winnipeg Curling Club became the first one in Manitoba. Soon after, clubs were begun in Emerson and Portage La Prairie in 1880, in Brandon in 1883 and in Stonewall in 1884. In 1888, a meeting was held at the Winnipeg Granite Club to organize a provincial association and out of that meeting eventually came the famous Winnipeg bonspiel, which is now the largest in the world.

The spread of the game across the prairies to the foothills of the Rockies was certain and steady. Both Saskatchewan and Alberta took up the game during the 1880's and, in 1895, a club was organized in Kaslo, British Columbia.⁴ The sport was popular from coast to coast in Canada by the turn of the century.

By 1920, the caliber of curlers throughout the Dominion had improved considerably. Bonspiels were more numerous and, though the game was still mainly a recreational pastime, the better level of competition led to increased emphasis upon winning. In the mid 1920's, a group of avid curlers met in Winnipeg to discuss the

⁴Ernie Richardson, Joyce McKee, and Doug Maxwell, Curling (Toronto: Thomas Allen Limited, 1962), p. 22.

possibilities of having an annual playdown to determine the champion Canadian curling rink. They hoped to design a playdown that would pit rinks representing each province against each other in a round robin competition. The Macdonald Tobacco Company agreed to sponsor the contest and donated the famous Brier Tankard for competition. Plans were laid immediately for the first playdown to be held at the Granite Club in Toronto in 1927.

Since its origin in 1927, the Brier has become one of Canada's major sport spectacles. It is held each year in March at various locations across Canada. Eleven rinks participate since each province declares one representative except Ontario which is allowed a representative from the north and another from the south.

Until 1935, there was no single body to regulate and unify all the various curling clubs in Canada. It was felt that such a governing body was needed. The Dominion Curling Association was formed in 1935 and was affiliated with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. At that time the various associations coming under this body had an accredited membership of 22,604.

Curling first appeared in the United States about 1830 when it crept down across the Canadian border into the New England States and into the northern part of Michigan. The first club to be formed in the United

States, the Orchard Lakes Club, near Pontiac, Michigan, was organized in 1842.⁵ The first association, known as the Grand National Curling Club of America was founded in 1867 and is still in operation. The Mid-West Curling Association was set up in 1945 to revive the game in the central states where it had been dormant since about 1910. The sport of curling is, in a sense, relatively young in the United States since it is only in the past few years that interest has begun to gather momentum.

After the formation of the Mid-West Curling Association in 1945, curling competition in the United States began to approach the Canadian level. In March, 1957, using the Canadian Brier as a pattern, the first United States Men's Curling Championship, sponsored by Marshall Field and Company, was held at the Chicago Stadium. The state champions of New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington and Alaska competed. There were more than 20,000 spectators in attendance at this event.⁶

As in Canada, a National organization was needed to regulate curling in the United States. It was not until 1959, the third year of the National Championships,

⁵"Curling," Universal Standard Encyclopedia, Vol. VI, p. 2169.

⁶Dar Curtis, Curling---Fun for Everyone, p. 3.

that the United States Men's Curling Association was founded.⁷ The members of this governing body are representatives of all areas of the United States where curling flourishes.

Thus far, champions had been declared in several individual countries. In 1959, the Scotch Cup Whiskey Association, covering all expenses, established the international championships of curling known as the "Scotch Cup" matches. Since its origin, this affair has been held each year in Scotland except in 1964 when it was held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. It is scheduled for Vancouver, Canada, from March 21-24, 1966. The nations which have competed in the Scotch Cup to date are Canada, United States, Sweden, Scotland, Norway, and Switzerland. In 1966, France will make its first appearance in Scotch Cup play. Canada won the cup each year through 1964 but in 1965, Bud Somerville and his rink from Wisconsin brought the honors to the United States.

The game of curling has enjoyed a great deal of growth in North America from the standpoint of the number of participants as well as the number of spectators. There are many facts and figures available to substantiate this statement:

⁷Annual of the United States Men's Curling Association (South Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Voice Publications, 1964), p. 5.

1. When the Dominion Curling Association was formed in 1935, it had a membership of 22,604. In 1945, there were 850 clubs and 85,000 curlers in Canada; in 1955, 1000 clubs and 200,000 curlers; in 1965, more than 2,000 clubs and 600,000 curlers.⁸
2. Curling is over one hundred years old in the United States but it did not catch on in this country until a few years ago. There are now 115 curling clubs in twenty-one states and more than 12,000 curlers. There is ice of legal size available in forty-eight of the fifty states. There are more than 20,000 curlers in the United States including both sexes and all ages.⁹
3. There are now more than 1,000 curlers in the Boston area where the game has been played since 1897.¹⁰
4. The Chicago suburbs have witnessed the greatest growth in curling in the United States. In 1936, there were only 40 curlers in this area and now more than 4,000 people

⁸The Curler, Vol. II, No. 6, (November, 1965), p. 30.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Philip Brady, "Curling Comes into its Own," United Mainliner, Vol. X, No. 1 (January, 1966), p. 4.

curl at a number of suburban clubs. One thousand of these participants are women.¹¹

5. Since its origin in Scotland, the game of curling has spread to many other parts of the world. Other countries which now curl are Switzerland (where there are upwards of sixty clubs), Canada, United States, England, Sweden, Norway, France, Italy, Austria, New Zealand and even China.¹²
6. Curling may soon become a part of the Winter Olympics. If Banff, Canada, is chosen as the site for the 1972 Winter Olympics, officials hope to include curling as one of the host country's choices of an "extra Game."¹³

There are several reasons for the tremendous growth of curling:

1. The development of artificial ice has lengthened the season. The game can now be played earlier in the fall, later in the spring or even in the summer and also in the warmer climates.
2. The development of the long sliding delivery by Ken Watson made the game more spectacular

¹¹The Curler, loc. cit.

¹²Der Curtis, loc. cit.

¹³The Curler, loc. cit.

to watch and more challenging to try.

3. Curlers who move to reside in another location where there is no curling often initiate a general interest in curling in the new area. Many of the new curling clubs have been developed in this manner.
4. The curling rink itself is now a more attractive building. It is no longer a drab, cold structure housing one poorly illuminated sheet of ice. The waiting room is no longer cold and dark. The newer rinks contain up to forty-eight sheets of ice in a well-lit, heated playing area. The waiting room often has a restaurant or bar and lounge area. Most rinks have an upstairs with windows overlooking the ice for better viewing. The current trend seems to be to combine a curling club with a golf or country club in one large building for year-round entertainment.
5. Better roads and modern methods of travel make it possible for curlers to attend bonspiels at greater distances from home.
6. Curling has been found to be a satisfactory activity for physical education and recreation programs. It is also being used in industrial recreation.

7. The emphasis on national and international championships has helped to create enthusiasm in the sport. In Canada, there are several dominion champions declared each year. There is the Brier (open to all male curlers affiliated with a curling club) which declares the champion Canadian rink; the Dominion Diamond D which declares the ladies champion Canadian rink; the Seagram Cup for curlers older than fifty years; the schoolboy championship; the Curl-O-Rama which declares a dominion farmers champion (25,000 farmers participated in 1965); and the O'Keefe Mixed which has two men and two women on each rink. Some clubs sponsor their own dominion curling championships such as the Elks, Legion, Firemen and Police. The United States now declares a men's champion which competes with other national champions in the Scotch Cup International Playdowns.
8. Prizes offered for winners of curling competition are very attractive. For example, the Tournament of Champions in Toronto offers a first prize of \$10,000.
9. There is now more publicity given to the sport by television, radio and the press. There are now magazines published on a monthly basis

solely on the subject of curling.

10. Curling is a relatively inexpensive sport. Average yearly membership fee in most clubs would be between twenty-five and fifty dollars. For most curlers, this fee would work out to about seventy-five cents per game or thirty-five cents an hour which would have to be considered as reasonably inexpensive entertainment.

History of Canadian high school curling

Until fairly recently, curling had been considered an "old man's game." One author stated:

In most sports you're an old man at 30 and out of competition at 40. But in the great old Scottish game of curling, you seldom start to play before 30, reach your peak at 50, and you are often still going strong at 70.¹⁴

This view may have been almost correct fifty years ago, but today it could scarcely be further from the truth.

Curling is more and more becoming a young man's game. This fact is true mainly because those younger people who have taken up the game have become more proficient than those who began to participate at a later age. Younger people have more stamina and endurance and they learn athletic skills easier than their elders do. A

¹⁴3. Herman Macy, "Sweep Your Cares Away," Rotarian, Vol. XCIV, No. 3, (March, 1959), pp. 16-17.

survey of several Ontario curling clubs revealed that average age of curlers had dropped fifteen years in the last five years.¹⁵

Prior to 1940, high school students were not encouraged to curl. In fact, in many cases they were not allowed in the rink. This came, by tradition, was reserved for older people.

Ken Watson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, did more to encourage high school curling than has any other person. He was well qualified to be such a leader since he had a sincere interest in young people and he was the greatest curler in the country at the time. He was a Winnipeg school teacher and three time Erier champion.

In 1940, Mr. Watson decided that it was time that high school students be given a chance to participate in a curling bonspiel. Under his guidance, the first provincial school bonspiel was held in Winnipeg in 1940. It was sponsored by the Winnipeg Free Press and the Manitoba Curling Association. Sixteen rinks participated. In recent years, upwards of 400 high school rinks have participated annually during Christmas holidays in this event. These figures show that high school curling has enjoyed a great amount of success in the province of Manitoba.

Saskatchewan and Alberta were quick to follow

¹⁵The Curler, loc. cit.

the lead of Manitoba. Spectators flocked to the rinks to watch the boys and they liked what they saw.

Because of the tremendous interest shown by the public in school curling, the Winnipeg Free Press suggested that a prairie champion should be declared. In 1947, the Provincial Curling Association formulated plans for this interprovincial playdown. Rinks from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta met in Regina, Saskatchewan with Manitoba declared the winner.

In 1947, Jim Weyman organized school curling in Quebec and from there it spread to the Maritimes. He wrote:

There is no doubt that students become better members of society through the high ethics and attributes of this, the greatest social sporting game the world has ever known.¹⁶

In 1950, all the provinces except Newfoundland participated in the first Canadian School Curling Championship. In 1951 at Nelson, British Columbia, all the provinces participated. Each year since that time, each province has been represented at the Canadian School Curling Championship held at various locations across Canada.

Presently, more teenagers participate in curling than in hockey which has long been considered Canada's national sport. It is the only school sport in Canada

¹⁶Gen Moir and C.H. Seryngeour, History of Canadian School Curling Championships (Dominion Curling Association School Curling Committee, 1964), p. 7.

in which a Canadian champion is declared. More than 80,000 students participate in the playdowns in their respective provinces for the right to attend the Dominion championships. The provincial winners fly to the site of the Championships to compete for the Pepsi-Cola trophy.

Curling participation takes place from leagues which are merely for recreation and exercise to those which determine Dominion champions as described previously. Thus, students of all levels of ability can participate and improve their performance. Many high schools have been teaching curling in physical education classes for years. Almost every high school in Canada has a curling league of its own. Youth organizations such as church groups and 4H clubs often sponsor bonspiels as social functions. High school bonspiels with several rinks from many different schools competing are very common, but dual meets between schools are not so common. The Montreal school system is just beginning to introduce this level of competition. It has been accepted fairly well and this may be the next trend in high school curling.

In the book, History of Canadian High School Championships, two conclusions regarding the results of high school curling to the present time are drawn:

1. The unsung heroes of curling are the coaches. If the caliber of curling is to improve, it

will be because some man has devoted his time to coaching. If the caliber of curling does not improve, public interest will wane.

2. A survey of the past fifteen years has shown that the men who spent so much time and effort in the promotion of school curling across Canada were justified in their belief that the game would develop character and good citizenship. Boys who have taken part in Canadian Championships are now doctors, lawyers, architects and executives in commerce and industry; more important, they are continuing to be participants rather than spectators. Many former provincial school champions are now to be found taking part in Canadian Curling Championships. In 1962, at Kitchener, there were representatives on more than half the rinks who had formerly competed in the Canadian School Championships.¹⁷

Girls are not left out of the sport of curling in Canada. There are hundreds of school girls who engage in regularly scheduled curling leagues. Many leagues and bonspiels allow only female competitors. There has even been some discussion concerning the beginning of a Canadian girls' high school curling championship since some of the western provinces have playdowns to declare a provincial winner. Girls who begin curling as teenagers and who continue after they leave school become extremely accurate curlers.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 15.

CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan were selected as the states to be included in the survey since they displayed a great deal of variation in their high school curling programs. North Dakota was chosen because curling was popular in the state but high school curling was in its infancy. Minnesota was similar to North Dakota but was somewhat more advanced. In both states the trend was for the curling clubs or recreation departments rather than the schools to sponsor high school curling. Wisconsin was chosen since it had a well organized interscholastic curling program. Michigan had no high school curling as such but did, in some cases, allow youngsters of curling club members to curl in special weekend leagues.

The author was familiar with high school curling in North Dakota since he had worked with students and curling enthusiasts from all parts of the state in the 1965 State High School Bonspiel in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Jim Jawarsky, secretary of the Minnesota High School Curling Association, Elgie Noble, principal and curling coach from Poynette, Wisconsin, and M.J. Brokaw

of Detroit supplied the author with pertinent background information which was used to design this study.

It was decided that a well constructed questionnaire would be the most appropriate means of collecting the necessary data. Such a questionnaire¹⁸ was constructed and was worded in such a way that it could be completed in ten minutes. A cover letter¹⁹ and a stamped, self-addressed envelope were also included. This material was sent to all potential respondents on November 18th, 1966.

A complete list of the curling rinks in the selected states was found in a book called World Skating Guide.²⁰ For North Dakota, the athletic directors of the various high schools listed in the North Dakota State High School Activities Association Bulletin received the questionnaires. In the case of Grand Forks, North Dakota, the questionnaire was completed by Mr. Homer Abbott, Park Board Superintendent. The same procedure was followed for the state of Minnesota. In those cities with more than one high school, a copy of the questionnaire was sent to each school. Mr. Elgie Noble supplied the author with a complete list of the curling coaches in

¹⁸Appendix A.

¹⁹Appendix A.

²⁰World Skating Guide (Madison, Wisconsin: Fenton Kelsey Jr., 1966), pp. 74-75.

the state of Wisconsin. Questionnaires were sent to these coaches. For those towns and cities in Wisconsin with a curling rink and no curling coach, the questionnaires were sent to the curling club presidents as listed in the United States Men's Curling Association Bulletin.²¹ It was found that there were only four curling clubs in the state of Michigan. In each case, the curling club president received a copy of the questionnaire.

The tables in Appendix B show the number of questionnaires sent to each state as well as the number returned.

²¹Annual of the United States Men's Curling Association, loc. cit.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS AND TREATMENT OF DATA

The questionnaires used in this study were completed by those people in the selected communities believed most closely associated with high school curling. A total of seventy questionnaires were sent out, and forty-eight were returned for a total return of 68.57 per cent.

Almost one-half, or twenty of forty-two respondents called themselves curling coaches. Fifteen of these were from Wisconsin where curling is an interscholastic sport. Three were from Minnesota and the remaining two were from North Dakota. Those from Wisconsin can be thought of as coaches in the true sense of the word since they coach teams which enter competition with other schools. The others possibly should have been called supervisors or instructors since they concentrated on all the high school curlers in the program, not merely the selected few who represent their schools in competition. As is illustrated in Table 1, page 25, most of the remaining questionnaires were completed by athletic directors, superintendents of schools, high school principals and curling club presidents.

TABLE 1

POSITIONS OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS

Position	Total	Per Cent	North Dakota	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Michigan
Athletic Director	7	16.67	2	4	1	
Superintendent	2	4.75	1		1	
Principal	4	9.52	3	1		
Club President	3	7.04		1		2

The final six returns were from the Park Board Superintendent in Grand Forks, North Dakota, a North Dakota girls' physical education instructor, a physical education instructor from Minnesota, the secretary and the chairman of the Minnesota State Schoolboy Curling Association, and a volunteer junior curling chairman from Wisconsin.

TABLE 2

LOCATIONS OF COMMUNITIES REPORTING
NO HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

State	Number	Per Cent
North Dakota	5	10.42
Minnesota	2	4.17
Wisconsin	0	0.00
Michigan	1	2.08
Total	8	16.67

Table 2, page 25, tells of the communities which reported no high school curling of any nature. Three of these respondents stated that they would be initiating high school curling in the near future.

TABLE 3
INFORMATION CONCERNING COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED
IN THE SURVEY

Popu- lations of the Communi- ties	Num- ber	Per Cent	Grades In- cluded in the School	Num- ber	Per Cent	Enroll- ments of the Schools	Num- ber	Per Cent
Less than 1,000	6	12.50	10-12	18	39.14	Less than 200	5	10.64
1,000 to 10,000	20	41.67	9-12	14	30.34	200 to 500	12	25.63
10,000 to 40,000	8	16.67	7-12	7	15.22	More than 500	30	63.93
More than 40,000	14	29.17	1-12	7	15.22			

The figures from Table 3 revealed that students from larger schools generally had a better opportunity to participate in a curling program than did those from smaller schools.

General History of Curling in the Area Studied

The median year for the origin of curling in

the selected area was 1934. Portage, Wisconsin, and Hallock, Minnesota, represent the two extremes with the years 1850 and 1964 respectively. Table 4, page 28, reveals the tremendous growth in the number of curling participants as well as in the number of new curling clubs. There are presently 5,147 male and female curlers in the thirty-one clubs which reported their current membership as compared with 1,018 in the twenty-three clubs which reported their charter members.

In 1965, the Bemidji Curling Club of Bemidji, Minnesota, had 400 male members while Gilbert, Minnesota, was at the opposite end of the scale with only twelve curlers. Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, reported 155 female curlers while Racine, Wisconsin, had only three.

History of High School Curling in the Selected Area

High school curling followed by an average of more than thirty years the advent of general curling in the four states surveyed. The median year for the beginning of high school curling was 1955 with Eveleth, Minnesota, being the pioneer in 1920 and Fargo, North Dakota, being the most recent addition in 1965. Only six communities had high school curling of any kind before 1950. Grand Forks, North Dakota, had the largest male membership with 148 boys while Thief River Falls, Minnesota, reported ninety-two girls. Foyette, Wisconsin, had only eight male curlers while St. Paul, Minnesota,

TABLE 4
INCREASE IN CURLING PARTICIPATION

Periods of Origin	No. of Clubs Originated in These Periods	No. of Clubs Reporting Original Membership	Total Original Male Membership	Total Original Female Membership
Before 1900	7	2	20	2
1900-1904	4	1	50	-
1905-1909	1	0	-	-
1910-1914	0	0	0	0
1915-1919	0	0	0	0
1920-1924	5	4	104	20
1925-1929	1	1	60	-
1930-1934	2	2	45	10
1935-1939	3	2	67	-
1940-1944	1	1	8	-
1945-1949	1	1	80	-
1950-1954	0	0	0	0
1955-1959	6	5	216	91
1960-1965	6	4	165	81
Total	36	23	815	204

TABLE 4--Continued

Total Original Male and Female Membership	No. of Clubs Reporting Present Membership	1965		Total Present Male and Female Membership
		Male Membership	Female Membership	
22	6	879	577	1256
50	4	415	185	600
-	1	300	100	400
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
124	5	494	278	772
60	1	305	185	530
55	2	480	132	612
67	2	193	85	278
8	1	12	12	24
80	1	56	24	80
0	0	0	0	0
307	4	202	99	301
246	4	315	178	493
1,091	31	3,545	1,604	5,147

and Medford, Wisconsin, had no curling at all for girls. Table 5, page 31, reveals that sixteen of the thirty-five high school curling programs began after 1960. Almost one-half of the high school students curling in 1965 were curling in programs which began after 1960. It also shows that there were only ten girls of this age curling before 1960.

Many additions and improvements had been made on the curling rinks themselves in the selected area. Of the forty-two questionnaires with this particular section completed, twenty-five (59.52 per cent) indicated that a new curling rink had been erected since curling began in that community. The remaining areas were still using original buildings. Most of the towns which had not built new curling rinks had not begun curling until during the past ten years. Artificial ice had been installed in twenty-six rinks (61.90 per cent). Nine, or 21.43 per cent of the respondents indicated that their rink had been enlarged and one respondent (2.38 per cent) stated that the rink in his community had been insulated.

Of the forty communities with high school curling, only fourteen (35 per cent) reported the sponsorship of a high school bonspiel. The years of origin for these bonspiels ranged from 1948 to 1966 with the median year being 1959. The average number

TABLE 5--Continued

Total Original Male and Female Member- ship	Number Reporting Present Member- ship	1965		Total Pres- ent Male and Female Member- ship
		Male Member- ship	Female Member- ship	
40	2	110	60	170
24	1	24	0	24
63	2	80	110	190
63	5	103	100	203
38	3	102	0	102
578	11	482	241	723
811	24	801	511	1,412

of bonspiel entries had increased from fifteen teams in the beginning to 19 teams in 1965. In many cases, the number of entries was limited to eight, sixteen, twenty-four or thirty-two since these numbers helped to simplify scheduling the draw.

Twenty-four (57.57 per cent) of the forty-two curling programs for school age students received money from the school to help to operate the high school curling program. Most of these were from areas in which the school assumed the responsibility of sponsorship of the curling program. Eighteen respondents (42.43 per cent) stated that they did not receive money from their school. In those cases in which the school helped to support the program, the average amount received was \$241.33. Some schools were on an unfixed or unlimited budget for curling while others ranged from \$50 in Grand Marais, Minnesota, to \$750 in Medford, Wisconsin. Only four of the schools heard from in Wisconsin did not allot any money at all.

TABLE 6
FINANCING HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

Sources of Finances	Number	Per Cent
Curling Club	13	30.14
Athletic Department	7	25.92
Students	4	14.85
Recreation Department	3	11.11

The respondents were instructed to rank the four agencies listed in Table 6, page 33, from one to four in terms of importance concerning financial aid. Following the curling club which was a unanimous first, the other three places were distributed almost evenly.

Curling is not an expensive sport. For the students, expenses seemed to be remaining constant while the cost to the sponsoring agent had generally increased since the origin of the program. Table 7 illustrates the cost of curling to both students and sponsor since it began. It would seem significant that the cost of curling had decreased in some cases.

TABLE 7
COST OF CURLING SINCE ORIGIN

To the Student			To the Sponsor		
	Number	Per Cent		Number	Per Cent
Decreased	6	20.00	Decreased	2	6.45
Remained constant	19	63.33	Remained constant	14	45.16
Increased	5	16.67	Increased	15	48.39

The curling clubs seemed to bear most of the expenses associated with high school curling, but the schools also contributed financially. In most cases, the students bought their own curling brooms while the

school paid bonspiel entry fees as well as transportation to and from the curling rink. Table 8 illustrates the trends in financing high school curling.

TABLE 8
FINANCING HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

League Curling Fees			Bonspiel Entry Fees		
Agent	Number	Per Cent	Agent	Number	Per Cent
Students	13	35.14	Students	13	41.94
School	14	37.84	School	16	51.61
Curling club	6	16.22	Curling club	2	6.45
Other	1	2.70	Other		
No fees	3	8.11	No fees		

Curling Brooms			Transportation to the Rink		
Agent	Number	Per Cent	Agent	Number	Per Cent
Students	19	55.56	Students	11	33.33
School	11	33.33	School	19	57.58
Curling club	4	11.11	Curling club	1	3.03
Other			Other	2*	6.06

*In the case of transportation to the curling rinks, both respondents who checked "other" indicated that parents transported students to and from the curling rink.

Among the forty-two towns with some type of

high school curling, nineteen (45.23 per cent) respondents revealed that the school athletic department sponsored or administered the program. Of these nineteen, fourteen (59.57 per cent) were from Wisconsin while two others from Wisconsin stated that the sponsorship was handled by a combination of the school athletic department working with the curling club. In thirteen of the forty-two cases (30.95 per cent), the curling club itself sponsored the program and in no cases did the students sponsor their own program. Four recreation boards (9.52 per cent) organized and operated the high school curling program. One respondent checked "other" and he stated that the school, not the school athletic department, sponsored the curling program.

In twenty-two communities, the school did not sponsor the curling program. As was previously stated, curling is not an expensive sport. This statement was substantiated by the fact that none of the respondents checked the column on the questionnaire which would indicate that the expense of curling was the reason why it was not sponsored by the school. Table 9, page 37, shows that there were various reasons why schools did not sponsor curling.

It seems significant that more than one-third of the schools which did not sponsor high school curling did not sponsor the program simply because such sponsor-

ship had never been considered by school officials.

TABLE 9
REASONS WHY SCHOOLS DID NOT SPONSOR
HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

Reason	Number	Per Cent
Too expensive	0	0
Lack of qualified personnel to supervise	5	25.00
Lack of interest among those qualified to supervise	2	10.00
Never been considered	7	35.00
Other	6	30.00

School sponsored programs have proved themselves to be more satisfactory than any other type according to those schools which have adopted the sponsorship of the programs. No respondent indicated that he found the school sponsored program to be less beneficial to the participants than under any previous type of sponsorship. Only four (19.04 per cent) found this type of sponsorship to be unchanged from previous sponsorship in terms of benefits to the participants. Seventeen respondents (80.96 per cent) stated that the program sponsored by the school was more beneficial to the participants. Several reasons were stated concerning the benefits of school sponsorship. Miss Ann Gerencer of Eveleth High

School stated, "The school-sponsored program allows for a larger number to participate." James Sharp of Bemidji commented that it "lets them have organized practice and intramural league competition." Jim Jawarski, secretary of the Minnesota State School Boy Curling Association felt, "It gives students who don't like contact sports a chance to engage in sports." Wayne Sheil, curling coach in Lodi, Wisconsin, said, "Not just the sons of curlers, but all students get a chance to curl." Marv Crowley, Athletic Director at Superior, Wisconsin, Senior High School was all for his school-sponsored curling program. He noted, "The world champion in curling last year was the Bud Sommerville rink of Superior and all four boys started curling in Superior Senior High School." A better opportunity with better coaching seemed to be the most common reason given supporting the school sponsored program. It seems obvious that the school is the most logical entity to operate a curling program for school students.

Curling was used for many different phases of the physical education, athletic and recreation programs in the various schools. Table 10, page 39, illustrates the number of schools or communities falling into each category. Of these sixteen communities with interscholastic curling, twelve were in Wisconsin. One other respondent from Wisconsin hoped to enter interscholastic compet-

ition in the fall of 1965.

TABLE 10
PHASES OF THE ACTIVITY PROGRAM
FOR WHICH CURLING IS USED

Phase of the Activity Program	Number	Per Cent
Physical education classes	9	16.89
Intrasural activity	12	22.64
Interscholastic competition	16	30.19
Recreational purposes	14	26.42
Other	2	3.77

Only thirteen (81.25 per cent) of the sixteen schools which curled at the interscholastic level indicated that they were in a league or conference. The other three (18.75 per cent) had exhibition games and home-and-home series with other schools. In Wisconsin, there were three interschool curling leagues under the control of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. It would seem that two of these leagues included four schools while the other one included six.

Interscholastic curling was not wholeheartedly accepted by those schools who operated such a program. More than half the respondents (57.14 per cent) found it to be about the same as bonspiel participation alone.

Bonspiels would have to be considered as interscholastic competition since schools compete against one another. In this survey, the interscholastic competition referred to scheduled games between two specific schools whereas bonspiel competition referred to curling tournaments in which winners competed against winners. Two respondents (14.29 per cent) stated that interscholastic competition was less satisfactory than bonspiel participation while four (28.57 per cent) found it to be more satisfactory. Mr. Elgie Noble of Poynette, Wisconsin, found the two levels of competition to be about the same because "both 'spiels and league play promote the same competitive competition." Brian Bennett, curling coach at Wausau, Wisconsin, preferred bonspiel play. He stated, "This is my personal bias, bonspiel is traditional in curling, more schools and boys are involved, and in more immediate competition." Those who preferred interscholastic competition felt that more students were able to participate in a better overall caliber of competition.

The number of games per season in the interscholastic leagues varied from five to twenty. Most schools played one or two games per week but one school reported playing three interscholastic games per week. These curlers on the varsity rinks practiced an average of four hours per week. All sixteen schools with interscholastic competition reported that they had a coach who was, in

most cases, a teacher paid extra for this duty. Fourteen (87.50 per cent) of the schools with interschool curling offered school athletic letters for the participants.

Twenty-eight respondents (77.78 per cent) stated that they did not use curling in their physical education classes while eight did use the sport as a physical education activity.

Table 11 illustrates the various reasons, cited by respondents, that prevented schools from offering a unit in curling.

TABLE 11
REASONS WHY CURLING IS NOT USED
IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Reason	Number	Per Cent
Lack of general student interest	5	13.16
Distance from the rink	14	36.84
Lack of qualified instructors	8	21.05
Considered to be an inappropriate activity	4	10.53
Other	7	18.42

All eight respondents who indicated that they had curling classes stated that many of their students developed interest in curling during their class experience and, as a result, joined other curling leagues.

Ten respondents stated that they planned to fit curling into the physical education curriculum in the near future.

Only Minnesota and Wisconsin declared a state high school curling champion. The Minnesota state champion was declared by a championship bonspiel. The Wisconsin state champion was decided by a sectional elimination playdown followed by a bonspiel for the qualifiers from each region. Neither North Dakota nor Michigan declared a state high school curling champion.

Table 12 tells of the levels of competition at which high school girls in the selected area competed.

TABLE 12
LEVELS OF CURLING COMPETITION FOR GIRLS

Level of Competition	Number	Per Cent
Physical education classes	8	30.77
Intramural activity	9	34.62
Interscholastic competition	0	00.00
Recreational purposes	9	34.62

Interest among girls who had been given a chance to participate in a curling program had shown a definite increase at the time of this survey. Table 13, page 43, shows that in only one of nineteen cases had the level of interest decreased. The girls in more than three-

fourths of the schools showed an increase in interest in curling.

TABLE 13

LEVELS OF INTEREST IN CURLING AMONG HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Level of Interest	Number	Per Cent
Decreasing	1	5.26
Remaining constant	3	15.79
Increasing	15	78.95

In only ten communities were there programs reported which included both boys and girls curling together in co-recreational leagues. Eight respondents (80 per cent) stated that co-recreational curling attracted more girls than leagues including only girls. Six respondents (60 per cent) found that the boys also would rather compete in co-recreational curling.

In order to participate in the sport of curling, students must have sufficient strength to push a curling stone from one end of a sheet of curling ice to the other. Table 14, page 44, shows how the respondents to this survey felt concerning the minimum age for beginning curlers. Most respondents felt that thirteen years was the most appropriate age for youngsters to begin curling.

TABLE 14

MINIMUM AGES RECOMMENDED FOR BEGINNING CURLERS

Age	Number	Per Cent
Less than thirteen years of age	8	23.53
Thirteen years of age	13	39.23
Fourteen	6	17.65
Fifteen	7	20.59
More than fifteen	0	00.00

Students of high school age are interested in participating in activities which meet with the approval of their fellow students. Table 15 relates the level of prestige associated with curling ability on the part of high school students. It would seem significant that in two-thirds of the cases, the amount of prestige which curling ability received was on the increase.

TABLE 15

PRESTIGE ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

Amount of Prestige	Number	Per Cent
Decreasing	0	00.00
Remaining constant	12	33.33
Increasing	24	66.67

Students who have been introduced to the game of curling generally wanted to curl more than they were allowed by the school or the curling club. Twenty-two respondents (62.86 per cent) stated that their students wanted to curl more than they were allowed while only five (14.29 per cent) felt that their students did not want more curling than they were presently permitted. In eight cases (22.86 per cent) the respondent did not know whether or not the students were satisfied with the present amount of curling.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association permitted students to participate in four bonspiels per year. Many students in Wisconsin and other states do not compete in this many bonspiels in a given year. Table 16, page 46, shows the number of bonspiels available to students in the selected area. The number of bonspiels tended to increase every year. In only ten cases of a possible thirty were there not more bonspiels for students in 1965 than there were in 1960.

In six communities (15.79 per cent), the status of curling was such that it drew participants from other winter sports. In eighteen cases (47.37 per cent) the opposite was true while in fourteen instances (36.84 per cent), the respondent did not know whether or not curling drew participants from other winter games.

TABLE 16
 NUMBER OF BONSPIELS AVAILABLE
 TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Number of Bonspiels Available	Number	Per Cent
None	5	8.82
One	4	11.76
Two	9	26.47
Three	5	14.71
Four	8	23.53
More than four	5	14.71

The increase in the interest that had been shown in curling was fantastic at the time of this study. More than seventy-five per cent of the communities realized an increase in curling interest while no communities felt a decrease in interest. Table 17 illustrates the increased interest in curling.

TABLE 17
 GENERAL INTEREST IN CURLING

Interest Level	Number	Per Cent
Decreased	0	00.00
Remained constant	9	24.32
Increased	19	48.65
Greatly increased	10	27.03

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

It was gratifying to this writer to find that only eight of the forty-eight returns indicated that no high school curling existed in their particular communities. It was not so gratifying, however, to discover that twenty-two communities which had high school curling did not sponsor a high school bonspiel. This absence of bonspiels for high school age students is a shame since bonspiels are exciting and competitive for the participants. In areas where they have been organized, bonspiels have helped to create interest in curling among high school students.

The tremendous increase in the number of curling participants in the selected area suggests that the game has finally secured a hold in this region. Each year, more and more curlers of all ages are swarming to the rinks and each year more communities are constructing new or improved curling facilities. This game has been accepted in most countries of the world in which it has been given an opportunity, and it is almost a certainty that a sports-minded society as that of the United States will be no exception.

The expense of operating the curling program was in no case an insurmountable problem in operating a high school curling program. This survey indicated that, in most communities, curling club officials were willing to make their facilities available for the promotion of curling for high school age youngsters. After all, these youngsters are the future curlers of America.

It would seem fair to require that students buy their own curling brooms because this is all the equipment they need for the sport. Brooms cost \$4.50 or less when bought by the dozen and one broom should last most students for an entire season. Students would probably take better care of brooms which were their own than those issued by the school. The author feels that the school should pay entry fees for students to attend bonspiels. These fees are nominal and in most cases amount to less than \$5.00 per rink per bonspiel. It also seems reasonable to have the school pay any fees which the curling club may charge for ice rental. Transportation to and from the curling rink could also easily be provided by the school, especially in those cases where the rink is more than a few blocks from the school.

The curling program for high school students was sponsored by the school in only twenty-four communities. Sixteen of these twenty-four were in Wisconsin. The

school would seem to be the most logical entity to sponsor the curling program for youngsters who attend school. The reasons given by those schools which did not sponsor curling were, in most cases, feeble. More than one-third of these schools did not sponsor curling merely because it had never been considered. Possibly some of these schools will learn of the merits of such an undertaking and will adopt the curling program. Lack of qualified personnel to supervise high school curling prevented twenty-five per cent of the schools from sponsoring curling. It seems to this author that most teachers would be qualified supervisors. They may not be qualified to coach or instruct, but they could organize and administer the programs with the help of students. No respondents indicated that the expense of curling prevented the school from sponsoring the program.

It was made obvious by this survey that more qualified instructors were needed to promote high school curling. Possibly school administrators could consider this aspect of the athletic program when hiring new teachers.

Respondents from areas in which curling was school sponsored felt that this type of sponsorship was superior to any previous type. More than eighty per cent of the respondents believed that since the school accepted sponsorship of high school curling, the program

became more beneficial to the participants.

Only nine schools offered a unit in curling in physical education classes. Since curling has a great deal of carry-over value into later life, physical educators who have access to curling facilities could do well in offering a unit in curling. In eight of the nine schools which offered a curling unit, the respondents stated that many of their students developed interest in curling in physical education classes and, as a result, joined other leagues. This fact suggests that the potential interest in curling is present in many students and that an introduction to the game could develop this interest. The physical education class is an ideal condition in which to introduce students to a wide variety of sports, including curling.

The main reason given for omitting curling from the physical education curriculum was the problem of transportation between the school and the curling rink. Commuting was a problem in fourteen communities. It may be a tough problem to overcome in some cases. Transporting the students to and from the rink by school bus would probably be the simplest procedure. Other communities stated various reasons, most of which could easily be overcome. Ten other respondents stated that they planned to use curling in physical education classes in the future.

The sport of curling could easily be administered at the interscholastic level. Very little equipment is needed for the sport and even smaller schools could compete since only four players comprise each team. This level of competition has already been organized in Wisconsin under the auspices of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. Many respondents from the other three states felt that their school would sponsor curling for high school age students if the State High School Activities Association would adopt the sport. If such sponsorship were to take place, high school curlers would be under the same amount of control as other high school athletes.

Sixteen communities which offered curling for high school age students did not include girls in the program. Of those areas in which girls were included in high school curling, their interest in the sport had been increasing at a tremendous rate. In only one school had the level of interest among girls decreased since the program began and in more than three-quarters of the communities, the interest shown by the female curlers had increased. All of these girls curled in either physical education classes, intramural or recreational leagues. Until 1965, there was no record of any interscholastic curling competition for girls. This endeavor has been tried recently in parts of Canada and

it has been met with a great deal of approval. The province of Alberta presently has an annual playdown to determine the provincial high school girls' championship team. Hundreds of girls from all parts of the province take part in these regional playdowns.

A very small number of respondents stated that co-recreational leagues were included in their curling program. This finding was surprising since this type of organization has been very common and extremely satisfactory in programs with which this author has been associated. It has been found in some cases that this type of organization serves as a stimulus to attract members of both sexes to the curling club. High school students are definitely at the age at which boys and girls enjoy being together and curling is one sport in which boys and girls can compete together. This author found, while working with the Grand Forks Park Board curling program, that the girls were very interested in curling in leagues with two boys and two girls on each team. These girls were not so interested, however, in competing with girls only. This survey revealed the same types of findings. Eighty per cent of the respondents concerned with co-recreational curling stated co-recreational leagues attracted more girls than leagues including only girls. Sixty per cent of these respondents found that the boys also would rather compete in co-recreational

curling.

Students of high school age are most interested in participating in activities which meet with the approval of their peers. For this reason, the author was interested in determining the amount of prestige associated with curling ability. In two-thirds of the cases, this prestige was on the increase and no respondents reported a decrease. The awarding of high school letters for curling participation would definitely help to increase the amount of prestige associated with ability in the sport. In 1965, six respondents felt that the sport of curling drew participants from other winter sports. As the interest and prestige in curling increase, this number of participants drawn from other sports will probably also increase.

The increase in the number of curling participants during the past few years has been paralleled by the general interest in the sport. The level of interest in the states surveyed showed a definite increase with more than one-fourth of the respondents stating that their community had experienced a "great increase" in interest in curling.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary and Conclusions

1. Of the forty-eight questionnaires returned, only eight indicated that there was no high school curling program of any sort in their community. Most of the high school curling programs in the selected area began in the late 1950's or early 1960's.
2. The most prevalent practice in financing high school curling was for the sponsoring agent to pay league curling fees, bonspiel entry fees and transportation to and from the curling rink. Students were generally required to purchase their own curling brooms.
3. Students from larger communities with larger schools had a better opportunity to participate in an organized curling program than did those students from smaller towns.
4. The cost of curling has risen slightly but it is still a very inexpensive sport for the participants in relation to hours spent on the ice enjoying the game.
5. More than half the communities in the selected area have artificial curling ice. Several communities have built new curling rinks in the past few years

to replace their old and, in some cases, original buildings.

6. In slightly less than one-half of the communities represented, the school athletic departments sponsored high school curling in 1965. This number represents an increase in school-sponsored programs.
7. In cases in which curling was not school-sponsored, the main reason was that such sponsorship had never been considered. In no cases did the cost of curling prevent a school from sponsoring a curling program for high school students.
8. School-sponsored programs have proved themselves to be more beneficial than other types of sponsorship in more than eighty per cent of the cases. Less than twenty per cent of the administrators of school-sponsored programs found this school sponsorship unchanged from other types of sponsorship in terms of benefits to the participants. In no cases was the school-sponsored program found to be less beneficial.
9. Less than twenty per cent of the schools surveyed offered a unit in curling in their physical education program.
10. Very few communities, in terms of the number of communities with high school curling programs, stated that they sponsored a high school bonspiel.

11. Less than one-half of the schools in the selected area budgeted to help to finance high school curling. In most cases, the curling clubs footed the majority of the expenses.
12. Wisconsin is the only state in the selected area which has curling controlled by the Interscholastic Athletic Association. Officials from Wisconsin feel that this is the best means of governing high school curling. The benefits derived from inter-school competition were found to be about the same as those derived from bonspiel participation alone.
13. Fourteen schools offered athletic letters for curling participation.
14. The most prevalent reason preventing the utilization of curling in physical education classes was the distance of the school from the rink and the problem of transportation between the two. More than one-third of the schools with no physical education curling unit at the present time stated that they planned to begin one in the near future.
15. State Champion curling teams were declared only in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This will more than likely be the trend to be followed in other states.
16. Only twenty-six schools offered curling for girls. The interest in curling among high school girls was increasing in more than three-fourths of the cases

and in only one case was the level of interest among girls decreasing.

17. Only ten schools offered co-recreational curling. Eighty per cent of these respondents felt that co-recreational curling leagues attracted more girls than leagues including only girls. Sixty per cent stated that more boys were attracted to co-recreational leagues than those in which only boys participated.
18. The respondents generally felt that students should begin to curl at an age in the late pre-teens or early teens.
19. The amount of prestige associated with curling ability is undoubtedly on the increase.
20. In almost two-thirds of the cases, students wanted more curling than they were permitted at the time of the survey.
21. The number of high school bonspiels available to high school students ranged from none for 8.53 per cent to more than four for 14.71 per cent. There were many more bonspiels available to high school students in 1965 than there were in 1960.
22. In six schools, curling drew students who would otherwise be participating in other winter sports. In fourteen schools the respondents did not know whether or not curling drew participants from other sports.

23. In no cases has the general interest in curling shown a decrease. In more than twenty-five per cent of the communities a great increase in curling interest has been reported.

Recommendations

The results of this survey allow the author to make the following recommendations concerning high school curling:

1. The curling programs for high school age students in each community should be administered and sponsored by the school. The school is responsible for providing the students with activities which they can use in their leisure time in the future and curling has a great deal of carry-over into later life. A school staff member should supervise the program even if he is not fully qualified as a coach.
2. The schools should budget to pay for league curling fees, bonspiel entry fees as well as transportation to and from the rink or to out-of-town games. Students should buy their own curling brooms.
3. School athletic letters should be given to those participants representing their school in the sport of curling.
4. If at all possible, curling should be incorporated into the physical education program to offer all students at least an introduction to the game.

5. A state high school curling champion should be declared in each state and the most logical method would be to have regional elimination playdowns followed by a bonspiel for the regional qualifiers. Such a championship could serve as a motivational device for all high school curlers.
6. Each community with curling facilities should sponsor a high school bonspiel. Bonspiels are easy to plan as well as inexpensive to administer and they are exciting and competitive for the student curlers. The problem of accommodations for the visiting curlers could be overcome by billeting them with home town students or interested adult curlers.
7. Co-recreational curling should be encouraged. Boys and girls of this age like to compete with each other and co-recreational leagues tend to attract both sexes to the rink.
8. The minimum age for curling participation will vary from student to student. The main criterion should be that the student have sufficient strength to slide the rock from one end of the rink to the other.
9. More emphasis should be placed upon the inclusion of girls in high school curling. This is a sport women can enjoy for many years in later life. Nearly all curling clubs have a women's division and most of the better female curlers are those who began the

game at a reasonably early age.

10. High school curling should be under the auspices of the State High School Activities Association so that all programs are under centralized control. Under the State High School Activities Association, either competition in bonspiels or scheduled interschool games or a combination of the two would be satisfactory.

Several schools did not sponsor curling for the simple reason that it was not a State High School Activities Association sponsored sport. James Sharp, the curling coach at Bemidji, Minnesota, summed up the feelings of this author and of many other enthusiasts of high school curling when he stated on the questionnaire he returned:

Our school board and administration will support curling just as they do any other sport when it becomes a state high school league sponsored sport. It is the belief of our administration that under the state high school league the school would have some control over the students at the various bonspiels around the state. At present, these students are mixing with adults who smoke, drink and swear which is not conducive to a high school sport. It would be very unfair to students participating in basketball, wrestling, etc. for the school to sponsor a sport and allow these things to go on when individuals in basketball or wrestling cannot do these things or he is penalized for it by the state high school league.

It is my belief that the one main recommendation from your paper should be the acceptance of curling by the state school league.

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75 Dartmouth Drive,
Grand Forks, North Dakota,
November 18, 1965.

Dear

I am a graduate student at the University of North Dakota. I have chosen as my Masters Thesis topic "Curling Participation Among High School Age Students in Selected States of the Upper Midwest." The study is being conducted under the direction of Walter C. Koenig, Director of Graduate Study in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Would you please give this letter and questionnaire to the person in your community who is most closely associated with or who is most familiar with high school curling in your area. Possibly you would be the person in your community best qualified to answer the questionnaire. If there is no high school curling at all in your area, please complete part I of the questionnaire and return it.

It seems apparent that very little has been done in most areas of the United States to promote high school curling. One primary purpose of this survey is to establish the current level of interest in high school curling. Another is to use information gained as a basis for recommendations designed to foster the development of high school curling as an integral part of the state high school activities program.

Your help is essential in collecting the data for this survey; please fill out the questionnaire and return it no later than December 10th. I will gladly send you a summary of the results of the survey if you so indicate on the questionnaire.

The questions have been constructed so that the questionnaire may be completed in approximately ten (10) minutes.

Enclosed you will find a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Your help and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Don Pottinger,
Graduate Assistant, U.W.D.

P.S. If you have any information pertaining to high school curling which is not called for by any of the questions, please feel free to add it in any blank space or on the back of the last page of the questionnaire.

A SURVEY OF CURLING PARTICIPATION AMONG HIGH SCHOOL AGE
STUDENTS IN SELECTED STATES OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

I. Information concerning your town and school

Your name _____

Title (concerning high school curling; e.g. curling
coach, curling club secretary, etc.)

Address to which results will be sent _____

1. Name of your town or city _____

Name of school _____

2. Population of your town; please check

- _____ less than 1,000
_____ between 1,000 and 10,000
_____ between 10,000 and 40,000
_____ more than 40,000

3. Enrollment of your school; please check

- _____ less than 200
_____ between 200 and 500
_____ more than 500

4. Grades included in your school; please check

- _____ 10 through 12
_____ 9 through 12
_____ 7 through 12
_____ 1 through 12

II. History of curling in your community

1. Curling in general

- a) Year of origin of curling in your area _____
_____ Original male membership (that is,
number of original members)
_____ Original female membership
b) _____ Present male membership
_____ Present female membership

2. Regardless of sponsorship, in what year was the curling rink first made available for high school students as a group?
- a) _____ Original male student membership
 _____ Original female student membership
- b) _____ Present male student membership
 _____ Present female student membership
3. Improvement of curling facilities since origin; please check
- _____ New rink ----- Year _____
- _____ Artificial ice installation ----- Year _____
- _____ Enlarged original rink ----- Year _____
- _____ Other (please list) ----- Year _____
4. Answer this question only if there is a high school bonspiel in your community. Year of original bonspiel _____
- a) _____ Number of entries in the original bonspiel
 _____ Number of rinks entered in last year's bonspiel

III. Financing high school curling

1. Does your school allot money to help sponsor curling?
- _____ Yes
 _____ No
- If so, how much money per year? _____
2. The importance of expense as a factor limiting the development of high school curling. (Please rank the following in order with 1 meaning greatest importance---omit those which do not pertain to your community.)
- _____ To the curling club
 _____ To the school athletic department
 _____ To the individual students
 _____ To the Recreation or Parks department
 _____ Other (please list)
3. Since its origin, the cost of curling
- a) to the student b) to the sponsoring agent
- _____ has decreased _____ has decreased
 _____ has remained constant _____ has remained constant
 _____ has increased _____ has increased
4. Who pays the following expenses?
- a) League curling fees b) Bonspiel entry fees
- _____ Individual students _____ Individual students
 _____ School _____ School
 _____ Curling Club _____ Curling Club
 _____ Other (please list) _____ Other (please list)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| c) Curling Brooms | d) Transportation to curling rink |
| _____ Individual students | _____ Individual students |
| _____ School | _____ School |
| _____ Curling Club | _____ Curling Club |
| _____ Other (please list) | _____ Other (please list) |

IV. Administration of high school curling program

1. Who sponsors the high school curling program?

- _____ Curling Club
 _____ School Athletic Department
 _____ Students
 _____ Recreation or Park Board
 _____ Other (please list)

2. Answer only if curling is not school-sponsored.

Why does your school not sponsor curling?

- _____ Too expensive
 _____ Lack of qualified personnel to supervise
 _____ Lack of interest among those qualified to supervise
 _____ Never been considered
 _____ Other (please list)

3. Answer only if curling is school-sponsored.

Since the school adopted curling, the program is

- _____ less beneficial to the participants
 _____ unchanged
 _____ more beneficial to the participants

Reason _____

V. Status of high school curling in your community

1. For which of the following is curling used?

- _____ Physical education classes
 _____ Intramural activity
 _____ Interscholastic competition
 _____ Recreational purposes only
 _____ Other (please list)

2. Answer only if curling is an interschool sport.

a) Are you in a league or conference?

- _____ Yes
 _____ No

If your school does compete in a league, how many schools compete in it? _____

- b) Compared to bonspiel participation alone, interschool competition has been found to be
 _____ unsatisfactory
 _____ about the same
 _____ more satisfactory

Reason _____

- c) The league schedule consists of _____ games. (total number of games)

Each team plays _____ games per week.

The curlers practice approximately _____ hours per week. (Number of hours per week spent practicing--- not including league games.)

- d) Do you have a curling coach?

_____ Yes

_____ No

- e) Does your school offer a letter for curling?

_____ Yes

_____ No

If so, in what year did this practice begin? _____

3. Answer only if curling is used for Physical Education classes.

- a) How many weeks in a unit? _____

Days per week? _____

Hours per day? _____

- b) Do many of your students develop interest in curling in Physical Education classes and as a result join other leagues?

_____ Yes

_____ No

4. Answer only if curling is not used for Physical Education classes.

- a) Why is curling not used for Physical Education classes?

_____ Lack of general student interest

_____ Distance from the rink

_____ Lack of qualified instructors

_____ Consider it to be an inappropriate activity

_____ Other (please list)

- b) Do you plan to use curling for classes in the future?

_____ Yes

_____ No

5. Answer only if your state declares a state high school curling champion.

How is the state champion declared?

_____ State Championship bonspiel

_____ State Championship elimination playdown

_____ Other (please explain)

6. Answer only if you have high school curling for girls.
- a) At what level is the competition for girls?
- _____ Physical Education Classes
- _____ Intramural activity
- _____ Interscholastic competition
- _____ Merely for recreational purposes
- _____ Other (please list)
- b) Interest in curling among high school girls is
- _____ decreasing
- _____ remaining constant
- _____ increasing
7. Answer only if you have co-recreational curling for high school students.
- a) Do you feel that co-recreational leagues attract more girls than ones in which only girls participate?
- _____ Yes
- _____ No
- b) Do co-recreational leagues attract more boys than strictly male leagues?
- _____ Yes
- _____ No
8. What age do you feel should be the minimum for curling participation?
- _____ Less than 13 years
- _____ 13
- _____ 14
- _____ 15
- _____ More than 15
9. The amount of prestige associated with being a good curler is
- _____ decreasing
- _____ remaining constant
- _____ increasing
10. Do your students seem to want more curling than they are presently permitted?
- _____ Yes
- _____ No
- _____ Unknown
11. Number of bonspiels available to your high school curlers
- _____ None
- _____ One
- _____ Two
- _____ Three
- _____ Four
- _____ More than four
- Are there now more bonspiels available than there were five years ago?
- _____ Yes
- _____ No

12. Do you feel that the interest in curling is such that it draws participants from other winter sports?

- Yes
 No
 Unknown

13. Interest in curling in general (not merely high school curling) in your area has:

- decreased
 remained constant
 increased
 greatly increased

Would you be interested in a copy of the results of this survey?

- Yes
 No

NORTH DAKOTA

	Return Received	No return
Alsen		X
Bisbee		X
Cavalier		X
Crosby	X	
Drayton		X
Edmore	X	
Fargo	X	
Fortuna		X
Fordville	X	
Grafton	X	
Grand Forks	X	
Langdon	X	
Milton		X
Minot		X
Park River	X	
Pembina		X
Petersburg	X	
Portal		X
Holla		X
Gales	X	
Total	10	10

Per cent return = fifty per cent

MINNESOTA

	Return Received	No return
Bemidji	X	
Buhl	X	
Chisholm	X	
Duluth (Central)	X	
Duluth (Denfield)		X
Duluth (East)	X	
Duluth (West)		X
Eveleth	X	
Gilbert	X	
Grand Marais	X	
Hallock	X	
Hibbing	X	
International Falls		X
Mankato	X	
Mapleton	X	
Roseau	X	
St. Paul	X	
St. Paul	X	
Thief River Falls	X	
Two Harbors		X
Virginia		X
Total	16	5

Per cent return = 76.19 per cent

WISCONSIN

	Return Received	No Return
Appleton	X	
Clintonville		X
Eau Claire	X	
Galesville		X
Janesville		X
La Crosse	X	
Lodi	X	
Madison (Central)		X
Madison (East)	X	
Madison (West)	X	
Medford	X	
Milwaukee	X	
Monroe	X	
Pardeeville		X
Port Edwards	X	
Portage	X	
Poynette	X	
Racine	X	
Stevens Point	X	
Superior	X	
Trempealeau	X	
Two Rivers	X	
Waupaca	X	
Wausau	X	
Wauwatosa	X	
Total	20	5

Per cent return = 80 per cent

MICHIGAN

	Return Received	No Return
Detroit	X	
East Lansing		X
Flint		X
Midland	X	
Total	2	2

Per cent return = fifty per cent