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A History of the Red River Valley High School Conference

Dennis R. Nelson

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A HISTORY OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

by

Dennis R. Nelson

B.S. in Education, Mayville State College 1957

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

Grand Forks, North Dakota

June
1965

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This thesis submitted by Dennis R. Nelson 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.

W.C. Koenig
Chairman

John L. Quaday

Glen D. Eastman

Christopher G. Harms

Dean of the Graduate School

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D. R. K.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to trace the history of the Red River Valley High School Conference. The main areas covered were 1) historical development in regard to the purpose of the original organization, men who worked to get the conference started, and schools in membership, and 2) history of the conference championships in the various conference sports from the beginning to the present time.

Need for the Study

The writing of a history of the Red River Valley High School Conference was felt to be of value because it could serve as a source of informational data for the various conference schools.

It was also felt it could be used as a guide by other schools for organization of similar athletic conferences.

A record of the various conference champions was needed because no composite record of conference information has been kept up to the present time.

Method of Procedure

To obtain this information letters were sent to the seven conference schools. These letters requested information about their membership in the Red River Valley High School Conference. This information was to pertain to early founders and team championships won in any conference sport from 1934 to 1965.

Sources of Data

The informational material sent by the various high schools of the Red River Valley High School Conference and the minutes of the conference meetings were the most helpful. Other aids in writing this paper were newspapers, namely the Hillsboro Banner, Mayville Tribune, Grand Forks Herald, and Fargo Forum.

Limitations

This thesis was limited by the unavailability of complete records kept by individual schools in the conference. It was further limited because some of the information was obtained by checking the data on the trophies at the various schools which made it impossible to footnote. Page numbers for the conference minutes could not be included because pagination in the minutes was not complete.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The Red River Valley High School Conference was organized in November of 1934 with competition beginning in basketball during the 1934-35 season. It was through the efforts of George Newgard, coach and athletic director at Hillsboro High School, that the conference came to be. Mr. Newgard felt that a conference consisting of area schools would stimulate a greater interest in high school athletics.¹

In November, 1934, representatives from Hillsboro, Mayville, Portland, Hatton, Northwood, and Larimore met at Hatton and organized the Red River Valley High School Conference. Officers elected at this organizational meeting were: President, Superintendent J. J. Elster, Hillsboro; Vice President, Superintendent I. O. Brensdal, Portland; and Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent A. E. Hjelle, Northwood.²

From 1934 to 1950 the conference remained as organized. Conference sponsored sports were football, started

¹Hillsboro Banner, September 21, 1934, p. 1.

²Ibid., November 16, 1934, p. 1.

in the fall of 1935, basketball, and track. In 1941, St. James Academy of Grand Forks requested admission to the Red River Valley Conference. The request was denied because it was felt by the members that membership should be held at six. This would leave an ideal set-up for scheduling and playing a ten-game round-robin schedule in basketball.

In 1950, Cooperstown requested admittance to the conference. Because some of the member schools did not have an enrollment large enough to compete in eleven-man football, Cooperstown was granted permission by the member schools to compete in football for the 1950 season only. Cooperstown again applied for membership in 1957. At this time their application was rejected. In 1958 Cooperstown once more made application for conference membership. In March of 1958 their application was acted on, and Cooperstown was admitted to full conference membership; therefore eligible to compete in all conference sports. Finley also was added to the conference in 1958 to bring the conference membership to eight teams. The conference was then composed of the same eight teams which made up district seven in basketball. As a result, the conference standing in basketball was used to seed the teams into the district tournament.³

From 1958 to 1963 the conference remained as an eight team conference sponsoring football, basketball,

³Report of Red River Valley Conference Meeting.
March, 1958.

track, and baseball as conference sports. In 1963, baseball, having been added to the conference sports in 1949, was dropped due to lack of interest, and in its place wrestling was added.⁴ 1963 also brought a change in conference membership. Larimore, which was a charter member, dropped their conference affiliation in basketball during the 1962-63 season. Due to an increased enrollment and new classification of schools on the state level, Larimore was changed from a Class B school to Class A. This meant certain commitments in scheduling, especially for basketball. In October of 1963, Larimore dropped all conference affiliation to begin with the 1964-65 school year.

In October of 1962, Central Valley of Buxton requested membership. Their request was denied at that time.

Oak Grove Lutheran High School of Fargo requested admission to the conference in April, 1964 to compete in football. The request was denied at that time, but Oak Grove was asked to make a formal application to be presented at the annual conference meeting held in the fall of each school year.

At the annual meeting at Northwood in September, 1964 both the schools, Oak Grove Lutheran High School and Central Valley High School, were admitted to the Red River Valley Conference. Competition was to begin in the fall of the 1965-66 school term. This brought the membership

⁴Ibid., October, 1963.

in the Red River Valley Conference to nine schools.⁵

In 1964, the members of the conference voted to have all-conference teams in football, and basketball, and these were to be selected by the coaches. The number of members each school had on the honor team was to be determined by the final standing of each team in the conference in both football and basketball. It was decided there would be no voting on players by position, but each coach would select his best ball player(s).⁶

The basketball all-conference team was to be selected as follows: first place team awarded three players, second place team had two players, and all other place teams got one selection each.

The football honor team was chosen as follows: first place team received five selections; second place team four players; third place had three selections; fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh places had two selections each; and eight and ninth places each had one member on the all-conference team.

Membership Dues

The dues for conference membership were set at five dollars at the organizational meeting in 1934 plus periodic special assessments to meet expenses. Periodic raises in dues have taken place since 1934. In 1958 the

⁵Ibid., September, 1964.

⁶Ibid., October, 1964.

conference dues were increased to twenty dollars plus any special assessments which the conference members deemed necessary to meet current expenses. This rate is still in effect at the present time.

CHAPTER III

THE HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS CONFERENCE SPORTS

Football

The football championship of the Red River Valley High School Conference has been decided on a won and lost record. Each team had to play every other team once with the schedule being rotated every two years.

The Red River Valley High School Conference has been dominated by the Hillsboro Burros since the first championship was awarded in 1935. In the first year of competition, Mayville and Hillsboro tied for the conference leadership; and the next year, 1936, Hillsboro held the conference crown as it did in the ensuing years of 1937, 1938, and 1939. In 1940 Larimore managed to take the conference leadership from the Hillsboro Burros and keep it for one year. In 1941, the championship was again awarded to Hillsboro. During the next two years, 1942 and 1943, Mayville dominated play in the Red River Valley High School Conference by winning the conference championship both years. In 1944 Larimore won back the championship which they had lost in 1941. Larimore returned to its championship status again in 1945 but shared it with Mayville.

In February of 1945, the conference voted to drop spring football practice. After one year spring practice was again renewed. The purpose of the spring practice sessions was to arouse interest on the part of the players and better enable the teams to be ready for the next season. All practice was to be ended by May 1, but after the 1946 season spring football was dropped to comply with the state rules.⁷

When the conference schedule was resumed in the fall of 1946, Mayville became the foremost power and was awarded the championship. Mayville maintained the place of leadership in football for the 1947 and 1948 seasons.

In 1949, Hillsboro, led by Richard Berg, Ronald Nelson, and Art Hovde, defeated Mayville by a score of 37-0 to take undisputed possession of first place and won the conference championship for the seventh time in fifteen years.⁸ Hillsboro again was in the thick of the championship race in 1950 but had to settle for a tie with Cooperstown. This was the only year Cooperstown played in the conference until March, 1958, when they were admitted as full conference members.

When the season began in 1951, Portland and Hatton fielded eleven-man football teams for the first time. These two schools had previously been playing six-man football schedules. With the loss of Cooperstown, the

⁷Ibid., March 1946.

⁸Grand Forks Herald, October 28, 1949.

number of teams playing eleven-man football was seven. Only Northwood did not field an eleven-man team. When the season had been completed, the Hillsboro Burros were again the champions.

In 1952, Larimore ended Hillsboro's three year reign as conference leaders and walked off with the championship. However Larimore's leadership was short-lived. In 1953, first place in the conference ended in a three-way tie among Hillsboro, Portland, and Mayville. This was the first time in nineteen years that the conference football race had ended in a three-way tie.

During the 1954 schedule, Hillsboro dominated the conference and won the championship. Again in 1955 the Burros, led by Doug Falconer, who later played at the Naval Academy, walked off with the number one spot in the conference standings. Larimore regained the lead in 1956 but was unable to hold the championship for more than one year. At the end of the 1957 season the conference race ended with the same results as it had so many years before, the Hillsboro Burros taking the title. In 1958 Mayville, led by their star, Karl Groth, managed a tie with Hillsboro.

In May of 1958, it was decided that Hillsboro, Portland, Mayville, Cooperstown, and Larimore would play an eleven-man schedule. Hatton, Finley and Northwood would field eight-man teams. Two conference champions were to be named, one in eleven-man and one in eight-man football. This arrangement lasted through 1961. At this

time Hatton and Northwood had decided to play eleven-man. As a result, eight-man football was dropped as a conference sport.⁹

In 1959, Hillsboro took over possession of first place and held it for four years. The 1961 race, an exciting one, wasn't decided until the last week of the schedule when Larimore and Hillsboro met at Larimore. Both teams went into this game with a record of 2-0-1. When the dust cleared, Hillsboro had won the game 37-14 and had won another conference title.

In 1962, Hillsboro, led by the brilliant running of quarterback John Hutchinson and halfback Ken Fossus, finished the season undefeated and added another conference trophy to their already bulging collection.

In 1963, Larimore waded through a six-game conference schedule and ended with an undefeated season. They won the conference crown and ended Hillsboro's six year reign as conference champions.

The beginning of the 1964 season found a conference schedule which no longer included Larimore. Since the beginning of the conference in 1935, Larimore had been in the thick of the conference race. They now had become a Class A school and so dropped from the Red River Valley High School Conference. This left the conference at seven teams, each playing six conference games. The 1964

⁹Report of Red River Valley Conference Meeting,
October, 1961.

conference champion was not decided until the final week of play just as it had been in 1961. Portland lead the conference with a 5-0 record, but Cooperstown and Hillsboro were not far behind with 4-1 records. All three teams had one more game each left to play. Cooperstown beat Northwood, and Hillsboro rolled over Portland 33-6 ending the conference in a three-way tie for the second time in the thirty years of its existence.

In the thirty years that the conference has been in existence, Hillsboro has dominated the conference in football by winning fourteen conference titles outright and sharing the title five times. Larimore and Mayville have won five titles each, but Mayville has shared it four times and Larimore only once. Portland and Cooperstown have shared two conference titles, but neither has held it alone. Finley, Northwood and Hatton have not won a conference crown.

In 1964, the conference chose an all-conference team in football. Members of this honor group were: Ken Strand, Sid Demier, Bob Aune, and Larry Neilson of Portland; Larry Tang, Larry Rislov, Dale Svaren, and Keith Monson of Cooperstown; Thomas Brennan, Steve Koering, Stephen Carnal, and Charles Morgan of Hillsboro; Mark Linnell and Steve Gregor of Finley; Steve Holter and Lewy Thompson of Northwood; Rich Burud and Glenn Bye of Hatton; and Tom Scholt and Bruce Mosen of Mayville.

TABLE I
ELEVEN-MAE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion	Year	Conference Champion
1935	Hillsboro Mayville	1951	Hillsboro
1936	Hillsboro	1952	Larimore
1937	Hillsboro	1953	Hillsboro Portland Mayville
1938	Hillsboro	1954	Hillsboro
1939	Hillsboro	1955	Hillsboro
1940	Larimore	1956	Larimore
1941	Hillsboro	1957	Hillsboro
1942	Mayville	1958	Hillsboro Mayville
1943	Mayville	1959	Hillsboro
1944	Larimore	1960	Hillsboro
1945	Larimore Mayville	1961	Hillsboro
1946	Mayville	1962	Hillsboro
1947	Mayville	1963	Larimore
1948	Mayville	1964	Hillsboro Portland Cooperstown
1949	Hillsboro		
1950	Hillsboro Cooperstown		

TABLE II
EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion
1958	Northwood
1959	Northwood
1960	Hatton
1961	Hatton

Basketball

The basketball championship in the Red River Valley High School Conference has been decided by the won and lost record of the teams after playing a double round-robin schedule. Every team played every other team on a home and home schedule.

Larimore was the first school to win the conference championship in 1935. The Polar Bears were unable to repeat in 1936 and lost their conference crown to the Northwood Trojans. Northwood was the winner again in 1937 but was unable to return as the champion in 1938 as Larimore won it that year and again in 1939. In 1940, Hillsboro finished the season as conference champions. This lasted for only one year, and in 1941 the conference championship was returned to Larimore.

In 1942, Portland became the dominant power in basketball in the Red River Valley Conference and walked

off with the conference crown. Their reign as champions was short-lived for the 1943 season ended with Larimore and Hillsboro in a tie for top place. This was the first year that the conference had had co-champions since its beginning in 1935. During the next three years, 1944, 1945, and 1946, the Mayville Lions dominated play in the conference. Led by such stars as "Chub" Halda, LeRoy Melain, and Neal Gulbranson, Mayville won the conference crown for three years. This was the first and only time that a team had won conference championships in three successive years.

There were some changes made by the conference in 1944-45. Previously all-star teams had been selected, and a game was played between these two teams. The site of the game was rotated each year to include all members of the conference. In 1944, this game was dropped and so was the selection of all-star teams.¹⁰

Larimore regained the conference crown in 1947 but lost it to Portland in 1948. Mayville again dominated play in 1949 and came home with the championship. In 1950, Portland won the conference title and held it for the 1951 season as well.

When the season ended in 1952, the conference again had a tie for the title between Larimore and Hatton. This was Hatton's first conference title. Hatton remained

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, October 1944.

co-champs in 1953, but this time with Portland. In 1954, Hatton again was in the thick of the conference race. This time they won the championship outright.

The 1955 season saw the return of the Portland Pirates as conference champions. This reign was short, however, because at the conclusion of the 1956 season, co-champs were named for the fourth time as Hillsboro and Hatton ended the season with identical records.

During the 1957 season, the balance of power returned to Mayville. Led by Karl Groth, the Mayville Lions brought home two consecutive conference titles in 1957 and 1958. In 1959, Northwood was successful in winning the conference crown. This was the third championship won by the Trojans. The last previous one had been in 1937.

With the advent of the 60's, the Hatton Flyers and the Portland Pirates were named co-champs of the conference. 1961 saw Portland again a winner of the conference title. The Pirates also won their district and regional tournaments and placed fifth in the state Class B tourney in Minot that year.

In 1962, Larimore moved to the front in the race for the conference crown and stayed there for two years at which time they withdrew from the conference. In 1964, led by a well-balanced attack, Finley won their first conference crown since entering the conference in 1958. Finley's championship status was to be short-lived because

the following year, 1965, Portland and Hillsboro were crowned co-champions of the Red River Valley Conference.

During the thirty years the conference has been in existence, some changes have taken place. In 1955, the conference went on record favoring the use of a leather ball instead of rubber.¹¹ During the 1956-57 season the twelve-foot free throw lane was adopted for all conference games.¹²

The conference has been fortunate in developing many basketball stars. Those from Mayville High School were Earl Groth, who played at St. Olaf College, Bill Brady, who was on a conference winning team at Mayville State College, and Luther Arnold, who was an outstanding player with the Army Service team in Germany and also at Mayville State College. Portland High School also produced two basketball stars, Doug Eiken, a member of an all-conference team at Mayville State College, and Dan Anderson, who lead Portland to a conference championship in 1961. Later Anderson was voted to the NAIA Little All-American team as a member of the basketball team at Augsburg College in Minneapolis during the 1965 season.

In 1965, an all-conference team was selected by the coaches of the conference. This selection had been an earlier procedure but was dropped in 1944. Members of the 1965 all-conference team were: Ken Strand, Sid Dangler,

¹¹ Ibid., March, 1955.

¹² Ibid., October, 1956.

and Larry Neilson of Portland; Charles Morgan, Stephen Kaldor and Duane Buringrud of Hillsboro; Mark Linnell and Steve Gregor of Finley; Rodney Peterson of Mayville; Gene Bakken of Cooperstown; Lewy Thompson of Northwood; and Glenn Bye of Hatton.

TABLE III
BASKETBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion	Year	Conference Champion
1935	Larimore	1952	Larimore Hatton
1936	Northwood	1953	Portland Hatton
1937	Northwood	1954	Hatton
1938	Larimore	1955	Portland
1939	Larimore	1956	Hillsboro Hatton
1940	Hillsboro	1957	Mayville
1941	Larimore	1958	Mayville
1942	Portland	1959	Northwood
1943	Larimore Hillsboro	1960	Hatton Portland
1944	Mayville	1961	Portland
1945	Mayville	1962	Larimore
1946	Mayville	1963	Larimore
1947	Larimore	1964	Finley
1948	Portland	1965	Hillsboro Portland
1949	Mayville		
1950	Portland		
1951	Portland		

Baseball

Conference baseball came into being in 1949. The first conference schedule was played that year, and each team played four games, meeting each other team once. It had been decided that the ten-run rule would be used for all conference games. Playing the above schedule, Hillsboro was declared the winner that first year. In 1950, the winner was the weatherman because the schedule was cancelled due to wet weather. In 1951 and 1952, Hatton was the dominant baseball power and won the conference championship. Hatton was unable to retain their conference crown for more than two years and had to relinquish it to Hillsboro in 1953.

In 1954 a new power was brought to the baseball world when Mayville won the conference championship and, as a result of this win, advanced to the state regional playoffs. It had been decided by the members of the conference that the winner was to be advanced to the regional playoff. If the conference winner was not in the district, the team with the best won and lost record in the district would go to the playoff. The 1955 season ended in a tie between two former champions, Hillsboro and Hatton. Hillsboro remained as sole conference champ in 1956.

Northwood won their first championship in 1957 and finished the 1958 season with a perfect 6-0 record to win their second title.

The Hatten Flyers returned to championship status in 1959. Hatten won again in 1960 and 1961. Hatten's three year reign of the conference came to an end in 1962 when Hillsboro won the championship. This was also the end of baseball in the Red River Valley High School Conference. It was dropped as a conference sport because many of the schools had no more interest in fielding baseball teams.

The most outstanding baseball player from the Red River Valley High School Conference was Doug Eiken, who played at Portland High School, Mayville State College, and later signed with the Philadelphia Phillies organization.

TABLE IV
BASEBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion
1949	Hillsboro
1950	Schedule cancelled because of weather
1951	Hatton
1952	Hatton
1953	Hillsboro
1954	Mayville
1955	Hillsboro - Hatton
1956	Hillsboro
1957	Northwood
1958	Northwood
1959	Hatton
1960	Hatton
1961	Hatton
1962	Hillsboro

Track

The first annual Red River Valley Conference track meet was held in 1935 with Larimore winning the championship. Larimore was again crowned champion in 1936 and 1937. In 1938 a new champion was crowned as Hillsboro dethroned Larimore and won their first conference crown.

Larimore was again declared the winner at the 1939 track meet, and in 1940 the conference crown went back to Hillsboro. Hatton became the predominant power in 1941 and 1942 winning two successive crowns, but the championship was regained by the Larimore Polar Bears in 1943.

The Red River Valley Conference saw the emergence of a new track power in 1944. The Mayville Lions were successful in 1944, 1945, and 1946. This was the second time a team had won three successive track titles. Larimore had accomplished this in the first three years of the conference organization, 1935, 1936, and 1937. Mayville's hold on the track title was broken in 1947 by Larimore. Led by Dick Gilderhus, who scored three firsts for fifteen points, the Larimore Polar Bears ran away with the conference track meet by scoring 52½ points.

In 1948, Larimore was unable to defend their championship, and Mayville again started a streak that lasted for five years, 1948-1952. Larimore won the title back in 1953.

As the result of a track program built by Coach Don Kavadas, Hillsboro won a conference title in 1954 and successfully defended this title through 1958. Two outstanding sprinters from Hillsboro during this time were Curt Gabrielson, who later starred for Concordia College in Moorhead, and Richard Jahr, who ran for the University of Nebraska. During this span Hillsboro was also successful in winning the State Class B Track Championship in 1955.

In 1959, Cooperstown, who had just entered the conference in 1958, walked off with the championship. Again in 1960, with strength in the sprints and short relays, the Cooperstown Lynx won their second title. Cooperstown successfully defended their championship in 1961.

The next year, 1962, saw a close race between Hillsboro and Cooperstown. When all events had been finished, Hillsboro had scored 60 points to Cooperstown's 48 to win the conference crown. After the 1963 meet, Cooperstown had again won the title over runner-up Larimore. In 1964, Larimore, not being satisfied with the runner-up spot the year before, completely dominated the track meet and walked off with the championship. This was to be the last title for the Larimore Polar Bears who dropped from the conference at the end of the 1963-64 school year.

The conference meet in 1965 was a closely contested one between two schools, Portland and Finley, neither of which had ever won a conference crown. When the final tabulation was in, Finley had a one and one-half point lead over Portland and was declared the winner.

A few changes were made in the conference track program through the years of existence. The sprint medley was dropped in 1943¹³ and the pentathlon was dropped from the conference track meet in April, 1944.¹⁴ In April, 1961, all schools reacted favorably to an invitational

¹³Ibid., April, 1943.

¹⁴Ibid., April, 1944.

junior high track meet to be held each spring. This was for grades seven, eight, and nine.¹⁵

TABLE V
CONFERENCE TRACK CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion	Year	Conference Champion
1935	Larimore	1951	Mayville
1936	Larimore	1952	Mayville
1937	Larimore	1953	Larimore
1938	Hillsboro	1954	Hillsboro
1939	Larimore	1955	Hillsboro
1940	Hillsboro	1956	Hillsboro
1941	Hatton	1957	Hillsboro
1942	Hatton	1958	Hillsboro
1943	Larimore	1959	Cooperstown
1944	Mayville	1960	Cooperstown
1945	Mayville	1961	Cooperstown
1946	Mayville	1962	Hillsboro
1947	Larimore	1963	Cooperstown
1948	Mayville	1964	Larimore
1949	Mayville	1965	Finley
1950	Mayville		

¹⁵ Ibid., April, 1961.

TABLE VI
CONFERENCE JUNIOR HIGH TRACK CHAMPIONS

Year	Conference Champion
1962	Larimore
1963	Larimore
1964	Larimore
1965	Cancelled because of weather

TABLE VII
CONFERENCE TRACK RECORDS

Event	Name	School	Time or Distance	Year
100 yd dash	Curt Gabrielson	Hillsboro	10.1 sec	1954
220 yd dash	Richard Jahr	Hillsboro	22.3 sec	1953
440 yd dash	Roger Offerdahl	Wayville	53.6 sec	1959
880 yd dash	Charles Mueller	Hillsboro	2 min 11 sec	1959
Mile Run	Bick Dekker	Finley	4 min 51.5 sec	1964
High Hurdles	Tom Scholt	Wayville	16.1 sec	1965
Low Hurdles	Dennis Larson	Cooperstown	21.0 sec	1960
440 yd relay	Harold Oettle Dale Baird Dennis Larson Rodney Oakley	Cooperstown	46.5 sec	1960
880 yd relay	Benny Fink Chuck Jewett Larry Tang John Fiebiger	Cooperstown	1 min 39 sec	1964
Shot Put	Dean Lenaburg	Portland	48' 2"	1951
Discus	Harlan Woken	Northwood	140'	1947
Pole Vault	Ken Strand	Portland	11' 5 5/8"	1965
High Jump	Tim Meyer	Hillsboro	5' 9"	1956
Broad Jump	Don Huse	Finley	20' 6 1/2"	1964
Javelin	Tom Balstad	Portland	168' 2 1/2"	1957
Mile Relay	Bonnie Holkevig Richard Strand Gil Rud David Odden	Portland	3 min 46.5 sec	1962

Wrestling

Larimore, Mayville, Portland, Cooperstown, and Northwood had wrestling in their schools and participated in meets during the 1960-61 season. Because so many of the conference schools had wrestling, this was put in as a conference sport for the 1961-62 season.

In February of 1962, the first conference wrestling meet was held in the Lewey Lee Fieldhouse at Mayville State College. Larimore, coached by Jim Haackel, completely dominated the meet by winning nine of the twelve weight divisions and scoring 120 points. Larimore successfully defended its wrestling crown in 1963 and again in 1964. Larimore withdrew from conference competition at the start of the 1964-65 season so did not return to defend its conference crown.

With Larimore out and Cooperstown dropping the sport, the number of schools participating in wrestling was reduced to three. When Oak Grove was admitted to the conference in October 1964, they were to begin participation in the 1965-66 season. But, because so few schools had wrestling, they were granted permission to compete in wrestling for the 1964-65 season thus bringing the number of schools in the wrestling meet to four. On February 3, 1965, the four schools--Mayville, Portland, Northwood, and Oak Grove--met at Mayville State College where the Mayville Lions were declared the

conference champions, having scored 92 points over runner-up Oak Grove's 90 points.

TABLE VIII
CONFERENCE WRESTLING RESULTS FROM 1962-1965

School	1962	1963	1964	1965
Larimore	*120 pts.	*108 pts.	*124 pts.	
Mayville	80 pts.	62 pts.	57 pts.	*92 pts.
Cooperstown	65 pts.	52 pts.		
Portland	53 pts.	55 pts.	69 pts.	66 pts.
Northwood	33 pts.	36 pts.	38 pts.	51 pts.
Oak Grove				90 pts.

(* indicates winner each year)

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The coaches of the present and previous conference schools were sent letters requesting information concerning their membership in the Red River Valley High School Conference. It was requested that they send any information they might have as to conference championships, early founders, and other pertinent information about the conference.

The local and area papers were examined for information which might be of value in writing this paper.

This information was compiled into two categories-- history of the conference and history of the various sports.

Recommendations

1. Due to the change-over in high school athletic staffs each year, a more accurate method of keeping a conference history is necessary.

2. A record of conference winners in various sports, with highlights of the season, should be kept by each individual school.

3. Local papers should carry reports of conference meetings.

4. The conference should have a historian who would record and report the conference activity.

APPENDIX A

THE CONSTITUTION

- Section 1. NAME -- The name of this conference shall be Red River Valley High School Conference.
- Section 2. PURPOSE -- The purpose of this conference shall be to promote wholesome and friendly athletic relations among participating members.
- Section 3. MEMBERSHIP -- (a) Membership as of September 1, 1965, shall consist of Northwood, Hatton, Portland, Mayville, Hillsboro, Cooperstown, Finley, Oak Grove Lutheran, and Central Valley. (b) There shall be no limit to the number of schools admitted to the conference upon the consenting vote of all member schools.
- Section 4. DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP -- (a) The fiscal year of the conference shall begin October 1 of each year. (b) Membership dues shall be twenty dollars a year beginning 1958-59, plus additional fees as deemed necessary by the conference members. (c) Dues shall be collectible October 1 of each year. The secretary shall

send notice to each member school on October 1. Schools who have not paid their dues by October 5 shall be considered as dropped from the conference, if after second notice, they fail to pay within a ten-day period.

Section 5. OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE -- (a) The officers of the conference shall consist of a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. (b) **AMENDMENT**--April 2, 1945. Election of officers shall take place each year at the fall meeting. (c) Each membership school shall have one vote, any type of casting ballots. (d) Each officer shall be chosen for a period of one year. (e) Withdrawal of an officer from a membership school shall constitute a vacancy in that office unless he takes up duties in another membership school of the conference. In case of such vacancy, if in the presidency, the vice-president shall take his office. In case of vacancies in the other two, the president shall make appointments.

Section 6. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS -- (a) The president shall call or cause to have called all meetings of the members. (b) The vice-president shall act in the absence or neglect of the president. (c) The secretary-treasurer

shall: 1. Have charge of the records of the conference, 2. Keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, 3. Keep on file copies of all letters, notices or other materials sent to membership schools, 4. Prepare and distribute necessary forms to members, 5. Collect membership dues, and 6. Expend funds for contracted bills upon the vote of the conference members.

Section 7. SETTLING CHARGES -- (a) When charges are made in writing by a member of the conference against another member for violation of the rules of the conference or protest of games, the president shall call a meeting of the members so the school so charged can be heard. A majority vote of the schools not concerned shall be necessary to suspend the offending school for the season of the particular sport, if found guilty. (b) In case of protest two dollars must be sent with the protest. The protest must be postmarked the day following the game, that is an immediate protest must be sent in to the president.

Section 8. LOCAL MANAGEMENT -- (a) The principal or superintendent, or his authorized representative, shall be manager of the teams and games representing his school. (b) The N.D.H.S.A.A. Rules shall govern the members in all games.

- Section 9. OFFICIALS -- (a) The coach on whose floor the game shall be played shall submit to the visiting coach a list of officials for approval at least seven days before the game. The visiting team may select one official from the list or he may reject all. In case all are rejected, a new list must be submitted.
- Section 10. GAMES AND GAME RULES -- (a) Regulations of the N.D.H.S.A.A. shall govern all games or contests within the conference. (b) Games recognized by the conference shall be basketball, football, track, and wrestling. (c) Other sports may be recognized by the conference by a vote of at least all the member schools.
- Section 11. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- In order to determine the conference championship the percentage system shall be used. Beginning with 1000%, it will decrease as the number of games a team loses.
- Section 12. TROPHIES -- The conference winners shall be presented a trophy.
- Section 13. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS -- The president shall call semi-annual meetings of all members in October and in March.
- Section 14. AMENDMENTS -- All amendments to this constitution shall be made upon two-thirds vote of all schools present at the annual meeting.

APPENDIX B

WRESTLING TABLES

WRESTLING WEIGHT CLASS WINNERS FOR 1962

Class	Name	School
95 pound	Greg Retslaff	Cooperstown
103 pound	Paul May	Larimore
112 pound	Jim Stover	Larimore
120 pound	Gary Pasderic	Larimore
127 pound	Marc Ackelson	Larimore
133 pound	Tom Berneson	Larimore
138 pound	Dan Vigessa	Larimore
145 pound	Buster McPherson	Larimore
154 pound	Sucky Larson	Larimore
165 Pound	John Nielson	Larimore
180 pound	Eugene Solberg	Mayville
Heavyweight	K. Bakke	Northwood

WRESTLING WEIGHT CLASS WINNERS FOR 1963

Class	Name	School
95 pound	Bob Koen	Larimore
103 pound	Greg Ketslaff	Cooperstown
112 pound	Bob May	Larimore
120 pound	Don Hillesland	Northwood
127 pound	Jim Stover	Larimore
133 pound	Frank Guderjahn	Larimore
138 pound	Tom Sorneson	Larimore
145 pound	Ron Holz	Portland
154 Pound	Stewart Koen	Mayville
165 pound	Bob Arnold	Portland
180 pound	Gary Thuen	Portland
Heavyweight	Gary Hefta	Mayville

WRESTLING WEIGHT CLASS WINNERS FOR 1964

Class	Name	School
95 pound	Gerald Brorby	Larimore
103 pound	Dean May	Larimore
112 pound	Wayne Viseth	Wayville
120 pound	Paul May	Larimore
127 pound	Dell Scott	Larimore
133 pound	Don Leland	Portland
138 pound	Frank Guderjahn	Larimore
145 pound	Tom Borneson	Larimore
154 pound	Gale Lilja	Larimore
165 pound	Rick Lupien	Larimore
180 pound	Bob Belser	Larimore
Heavyweight	Gary Hefta	Wayville

WRESTLING WEIGHT CLASS WINNERS FOR 1965

Class	Name	School
95 pound	R. Tunseth	Portland
103 pound	Dan Radtke	Oak Grove
112 pound	James Johnson	Mayville
120 pound	Tim Shreiner	Mayville
127 pound	Tom Balstad	Mayville
133 pound	Bruce Hakanson	Oak Grove
138 pound	Jerrel Rud	Portland
145 pound	Gary Amb	Portland
154 pound	Bruce Moen	Mayville
165 pound	Dwayne Peterson	Oak Grove
180 pound	Don Thuen	Portland
Heavyweight	Glen Jerde	Northwood

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Northwood High School; Al Meyer, Mayville State
College.