

## Spring Plan Change Begins; Votes Given

As plans began to take shape for the first revision of Spring Meet classifications, League officials released the vote returns on the questionnaire which led to recent recommendations on that subject.

Indications are now that the first step will include a breakdown of the Spring Meet Conference B into two sections at district levels. The two would be merged at regional.

At its regular meeting in 1953, the Legislative Advisory Council requested a special committee be appointed to study the problem of

reclassifying schools for Spring Meet. That committee was composed of the following superintendents: E. H. Black, La Marque, chairman; John Culwell, Breckenridge; F. G. Dillard, Overton; E. L. Wildman, Kerrville; Joe C. Barnes, Georgetown.

The principal object of the committee was to try to set up spring meet districts to conform with basketball districts. To secure opinions on the many aspects of this possible revision, a questionnaire was submitted to all member schools, with answers as follows:

### Vote Tabulation

	Yes	No	Total
1. Do you favor revision of the spring meet enrollment classification procedure?	309	246	555
2. Would increasing the amount of travel to spring meets be objectionable to your school?	306	276	582
3. Would the added cost of travel and other expenses be objectionable to your school?	321	258	579
4. Would the loss of school time due to increased travel decrease participation in your school?	289	288	577
5. Would you favor keeping football or basketball districts intact for spring meet contests even though it increased travel expenses?	375	196	571
6. Would the above plan equalize competition and provide more rivalry among the schools in your district?	406	158	564
7. Would the change to basketball and football enrollment figures for spring meet improve educational benefits in your school by creating more interest among the students?	362	172	534
8. Since it would be impractical to have a state meet for each football or basketball conference, would you favor combining the conferences at the Regional Meet into three divisions for qualification to the State Meet?	391	120	511
9. Would you eliminate any event or contest to the State Meet?	24	452	476
10. If schools were assigned to Spring Meet districts conforming to basketball or football districts, would you favor permitting schools to move to a higher or lower conference for spring meet contests?	226	350	576
11. Would you favor a spring meet conference for Junior High Schools qualifying them to the State Meet?	80	482	562
12. Would you favor a separate spring meet conference for Junior High schools not qualifying them to a State Meet?	283	255	538

On the basis of information secured from these answers and from other sources, the committee recommended that, beginning with the 1955-56 school term, basketball Conferences A and B be set up to qualify contestants to the Regional Spring Meet. All schools with an enrollment of 124 or less will be in Conference B and all schools with an enrollment of 125-225 will be in Conference A.

To avoid confusion in nomenclature in designating the respective basketball and spring meet districts, it probably will be necessary to

identify basketball Conference A as Spring Meet Conference B-1 and basketball Conference B as Spring Meet Conference B-2.

### Roach's Article in Outlook

The December issue of *Texas Outlook* has an article by Bruce Roach, Interscholastic League Speech Director, on the current status of the One-Act Play Contest in Texas, and a forecast of trends in drama.

### III. History of the League

## Author Hits "Ax-Grinding" Contests as Propaganda

In chapters 14 and 15, respectively entitled, "Phony Contests," and "Contests with Axes to Grind," the author of the League History condemns with considerable violence propaganda or advertising contests which are frequently forced upon the schools by pressure of a politically powerful individual or organization. The "essay," "oratorical," and "extemporaneous speaking" contests are favorites with those who thus seek to exploit the school for commercial products or for "causes" with an ax to grind.

These propaganda contests are described as not only a general nuisance but in many cases morally reprehensible. Generally, their purpose is indoctrination which is the very reverse of the educational process. The North Central Association of Schools and Colleges has mitigated, but by no means cured, the disease by inaugurating a "contest committee" which examines critically every applicant for contest privileges and issues an "approved list" to its members. Some of the worst ones are thus eliminated.

The evolution of the rules for

essay and extemporaneous speaking contests in the University Interscholastic League from the beginning on down to the present time exhibits the struggle which the organization has made against dishonest practices in this field. The original error lay, it is contended, in attempting to combine two incompatible elements: (1) research and (2) practice in speaking and composition.

For example, the original essay contest in the League required merely that the subject of the essay must concern a personal experience of the writer. This rule stayed in force from 1915 to 1918, with only a few variations. It was what every essay contest should be, that is, an attraction to pupils particularly gifted in written expression and an incentive to study and practice English composition. The fault was that the rules failed to provide for the production of the composition under adequate monitoring.

### "Causes" Begin

It was in 1918, under the stimulus of war, that the "research" feature was added which converted



CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL—Bill Perry of Brazosport Senior High School in Freeport won third place in Division Four Feature Photos in 1954 with this shot of a boy and his dog "waiting up" for Santa. Bill won first place in the feature photos

contest with another picture. He also won second in Spot News Photos, while Bill Davlin of the same school took first place in the Spot News Photo contest.

## Need 100 Schools To Make 16 Districts

By DR. RHEA H. WILLIAMS  
State Athletic Director

"Average membership" in the last four grades of Texas high schools for the 1953-54 school year is the basis used for assigning schools to football conferences for the 1955 football season.

Many inquiries have reached the State office relative to when the League will go to sixteen districts in Conferences AAAA and AAA. It would take a minimum of 80 schools to form sixteen districts in Conference AAAA if they were located perfectly from a geographical viewpoint, which they would not be. In reality, to have a workable sixteen district conference, it would take between 90 and 100 schools. This same situation exists with regard to sixteen districts in Conference AAA.

Let us take an "average membership" of 750, the number often suggested as the lower basis for assigning schools to Conference AAAA. There were 81 high schools last year in Texas which had an "average membership" of 750 or more. Geographically they are located all over the state, with many such schools found in one city, and with this minimum number of 81 schools it is just not feasible to try to set up sixteen districts at the present time.

To secure fifteen more schools for Conference AAAA, an average membership figure of 650 would have to be adopted. Dropping the figure to this level would result in the old "power house" football districts which existed prior to the new classification.

If we adopt, say, a figure of from 400 to 750 for Conference AAA, we have 71 schools—not enough for sixteen districts, but giving nine schools to each district if we use an eight district conference. Some districts object to nine schools, others prefer this number. The travel problem here would be worse than our present situation.

These changes in average membership figures in the two top conferences also affect the four other conferences. No plan could be adopted which would penalize other conferences just to take care of one. It is easy to set up one district or one conference to take care of a particular situation but when you consider the welfare of all schools and all conferences over the entire state, it becomes a very complex problem. The State office shall continue to work on this matter but in a dynamic growing state such as Texas it will never be completely solved to the satisfaction of every school.

### School Newspaper Names Show Student Originality

School newspapers usually have a name which has some connection with the nickname of the school teams, such as "Bulldog Growls."

But some of them are unique, such as the "Pied Piper" published by Hamlin High School and recalling the Pied Piper of Hamelin story.

Others are El Toro (The Bull), Alpine; Turkey Talk, Cuero; Jolly Roger, Pine Tree, Greggton; The Hee Haw, Muleshoe.

### Debate Bulletins Sold Out!

The League has completely sold out of Volume II of the current debate bulletin. Vol. I is still available at 75c per copy. When ordering Debate Packages please send only \$1.25 to cover cost of Vol. I, the brief, other material and postage.

## Girls' Basketball To Have Champs In All 3 Classes

Three girls' basketball teams will win State championships in Interscholastic League play this year, instead of two as in the past.

The State Executive Committee has authorized for the 1954-55 school year that all three conferences in girls' basketball go to a State championship—in Conferences B, A and AA.

Heretofore, Conferences A and AA have merged at the regional level and there has been a joint A-AA conference State girls' basketball championship. Dimmitt was the winner of that title last March.

Details relative to the play-offs beyond the district will be released in the January issue of the *Leagueur*.

There will still be sixteen teams participating in the State Girls' Basketball Tournament, with eight teams in conference B and four teams each in Conferences A and AA.

## Last Activity Meets Set Jan. 8, 15; Feb. 5

The New Year will find only three Student Activities Conferences remaining on the League calendar, with the last scheduled for Feb. 5.

Leading off on Jan. 8 will be the conference at Sam Houston State Teachers College in Huntsville.

The following Saturday, Jan. 15, will find students and sponsors trekking to Southwestern University at Georgetown.

Stephen F. Austin State College at Naacogdoches will wind up the year's series by playing host to schools in that area on Feb. 5.

Two activities conferences were held in December, both on Dec. 11,

## Kidd Helps Select New Debate Topics

Possible topics for the 1955-56 national high school debate question will be selected this month by the National University Extension Assn. debate committee, for later preferential balloting by the various State leagues.

R. J. Kidd, director of the University Interscholastic League, is a member of the NUEA Committee on Debate and Discussion Materials. He will attend the annual

meeting in Chicago on Dec. 28-29. Leading topics suggested by the various State leagues include:

### Suggested Topics

1. Education policies in the U.S. Under that general grouping, the subject of Federal subsidies for additional study to the intellectually superior high school graduate led with 13 suggestions out of 39 in that category.

2. Labor-industry relations. The question "How can labor-management relations best be improved?" was high with five suggestions out of 19.

3. Public power-atomic energy. "Should the Congress promote public power?" got eight suggestions out of 17 total.

4. Agriculture. Ten out of 15 nominations went for "Should there be federal support of farm prices?"

5. U.S. foreign policy. Recognition of Communist China was the suggested topic of five, while five others wanted to debate on admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

6. Adolescent problems and attitudes. Top topic was lowering the voting age, seven suggestions.

7. International political organizations. Eight of 14 suggestions in this group dealt with the U.N. Three suggested "Should the U.S. withdraw from the U.N.?" three "Should the U.N. be revised?" and one each went to "Should the U.N. include all Communist countries" and "Elimination of the veto power."

8. Other areas. Taxation and personal rights and freedoms predominated, with six suggestions each. Other leading ones concerned crime prevention (5), socialized medicine (4) and University Military Training (4).

### Other Topics Possible

It was emphasized that the topics for preferential balloting would not necessarily come from this list.

The topics selected by the committee will be submitted to members of the (Texas) University Interscholastic League next spring for vote. Along with the national subjects will be, as usual, some Texas topics for consideration. For a number of years Texas schools have preferred the national topics, however.

## Forensics Prepare For Leadership

Forensic training helps prepare students for community and governmental leadership, Dr. Bower Aly told the League's semi-annual Meeting of Delegates at a breakfast session in Fort Worth on Nov. 26.

Dr. Aly spoke on administration of high school speech activities, particularly those concerned with discussion and debate. His theme was based on the assumption that the primary business of schools is to help teach young people how to solve two kinds of problems—personal and external.

The speaker is professor of speech at the University of Missouri and editor of the *Discussion and Debate Manual* published annually under sponsorship of the Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials.

Dr. W. T. White, superintendent of Dallas public schools, presided at the breakfast meeting, held each year in connection with the Texas State Teachers Assn. Convention.

Bruce Roach, director of League speech activities, introduced Dr. Aly.

Approximately 75 speech teachers and administrators attended the breakfast, held in the Longhorn room of the Hotel Texas.

### Two Problems

Dr. Aly limited his discussion to the external problems facing youth, subdividing that category into two sorts of problems: (a) those that can be solved and checked against an answer, and (b) those that cannot be solved to a certainty.

As an example of the first type, he suggested the discovery and testing of the relation between mass and energy, exemplified by the work of Einstein and the atomic scientists and technologists. This type is commonly referred to scientists.

The question of whether to drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, exemplified in the problem placed before former Pres. Harry Truman, was suggested as an example of the second type in which the solution can be measured only against judgment and opinion.

The second type of external problems, those involving judgments as to probable courses of action, have characteristically fallen to the rhetorician, the debater and the discussor, Dr. Aly pointed out. In that connection, he developed an extended illustration, from which he drew the following implications:

### Summary

(1) Training in the forensic arts is useful, because important questions, even those of life and death, are determined by debate and discussion.

(2) Some persons, knowing that forensic questions often concern matters in which no demonstrably correct decision can be reached, cynically take advantage of the fact and indulge in any sophistry. Others realize that because many forensic questions rest finally on judgment, judgment must be founded on complete integrity if the life of the nation is to endure.

(3) A good forensic program should provide experience both in cooperation and in competition, because both are present in this stage of civilization and apparently the citizen needs to know how to employ both.

(4) The extra-curricular program in speech is an acceptable way of meeting the educational problem defined in "the enriched curriculum." Speech activities provide a way for young people of unusual gifts, interests or energies.

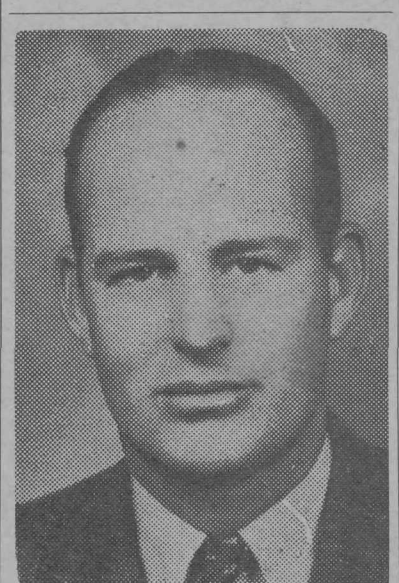
### Leadership Function

(5) The extra-curricular program in speech has a leadership function that must never be forgotten. (Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

## Non-School Athletic Control Disapproved

The following questions and answers represent the League's point of view on high school Athletic Councils. The questions were asked by a school administrator and answered by the League officials:

Question 1: "Shall non-school personnel have the majority on an Athletic Council?" An Athletic Council that is made up of the majority of non-school personnel should not be permitted in the school system. That was one of the major reasons for the suspension of one or two schools several years ago. Rule 25 of the Football Plan and Rule 23 of the Basketball Plan and the opening paragraph of Article VIII of the *Constitution and Rules* place the entire responsibility for enforcement of League rules in the hands of the superintendent of schools.



NEW ADVISOR—N. L. Douglas, Hale Center superintendent of schools, was recently elected to the Legislative Advisory Council from Region I-B. He holds the B.S. degree from Howard Payne College and Master of Education degree from Texas Tech. He began teaching in Hamilton County in 1936, and has been in his present position since 1947. Douglas is a veteran of World War II.

Question 2: "Should such a Council contract bids and pay for them?" No. If evidence were presented to the State Executive Committee that the Athletic Council had authority to contract debts and pay for same, from athletic gate receipts, such condition would be sufficient grounds to suspend the school from League competition.

Question 3: "Is it advisable for a school with a population of less than 200 students to have an Athletic Council, even though such council is appointed by a School Board?" There should be no Athletic Council made up of personnel other than school officials.

Question 4: "Should a council member hold office permanently or should the membership hold office for definite periods of time?" The local boards of education should abolish the Athletic Council and place responsibility of administration of high school athletics with the superintendent and a committee of the board of education.

Question 5: "Does the Interscholastic League have a study containing an Athletic Council Constitution and Rules, etc.?" No, for the reason that the League has never approved formation of an Athletic Council outside the school organization.

The answer to these questions does not mean that a school that has an Athletic Council will be fired out of the League, but it has been observed that sooner or later they get into trouble with the superintendents and coaches. High school athletics is just as much a part of the school program as any other activity and administration of it should be in the hands of the superintendent of schools.

### Clark Story Published

Wanted: One-Act Plays for Schools is the title of a very interesting and provocative article in the November issue of *Writer's Digest* by I. E. Clark, Schulenburg High School, Mr. Clark points out some of the requirements play directors demand of good one-act play scripts.



## City Ordinance Banning Liquor in Stadia Suggested

Member schools write to the League office concerning advice on how to go about formulating a city ordinance making it unlawful to possess or use alcoholic beverages in and around high school stadium and facilities.

Principal O. T. Freeman of Wichita Falls High School has furnished the League office with a copy of the ordinance that was adopted by the city of Wichita Falls.

Every member school of the League which is participating in football and basketball, if it has not already done so, should petition its City Council to incorporate a similar ordinance into its municipal laws. For a copy of the Wichita Falls ordinance, see the pages of the *Leaguer*.

## 'Bona fide Student' Defined

Quite frequently the League office is asked to define a "bona fide student" mentioned in Article VIII, Section 6 of the *Constitution and Rules*.

In reply to this question, the State office has said that a "bona fide student" is one who is a regular student in school, about whose attendance there is no fraud or deceit, and one whose sole motive for attending school is to achieve educational advantages and not to promote himself in the athletic world.

It is the responsibility of the District Executive Committee to determine whether or not the facts surrounding a pupil's attendance at a certain school qualify him as a "bona fide student." This question comes up quite frequently under Rule 6-d of both the Football and Basketball Plans of Competition.

It has been reported that frequently an entire family will move into a district because of a fine football prospect in the family. The District Executive Committee would have the power, under the rule mentioned above, to declare such transfers ineligible and to give as its only reason Article VIII, Section 6 of the *Constitution and Rules*.

## Athletic Councils

Every year the State office receives letters from superintendents who ask specific questions regarding the organization of a local Athletic Council.

In another section of the *Leaguer* will be found a copy of questions from one of these letters and the answers that were given by the League office.

In another section of the *Leaguer* will be found a copy of school administrator should be certain that it meets the qualifications outlined in the letter.

## Enrollment Only Basis For Inter-school Competition

The only sound educational basis upon which to classify high schools for inter-school competition is on high school enrollment. Any other procedure would lend itself to abuse. Every high school league in the nation uses high school enrollment as the "measuring rod" for assigning schools to districts for interschool competition.

There are a few people in Texas who advocate that "athletic strength" should be the criterion for assigning high schools to an athletic conference. Such a plan could encourage recruiting of prospective athletes and overemphasis of athletics, neither of which the public school administrators want.

Each year the question arises as to what enrollment figures shall be used in assigning member schools to conferences. Here is a perennial League question: Can football and basketball districts be arranged so as to reduce travel to a minimum and maintain equitable and fair competition between schools? The answer is no. Texas is a big State and the large schools seem to be getting larger while the small schools are losing enrollment. Travel is a *must* in Texas except in the metropolitan areas.

### U.S. Defense Secretary To Talk at UT Graduation

Robert B. Anderson, U.S. deputy secretary of defense, University of Texas graduate and former faculty member, will return to his alma mater to deliver the commencement address next June 4.

Dr. Logan Wilson, University president, today announced receipt of Secretary Anderson's acceptance of the invitation to address the 1955 graduates.

Secretary Anderson, 44, is a native of Burleson and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Texas in 1932.

### Texas University to Host Southwest Theater Meet

The Southwest Theatre Conference has accepted an invitation to hold its 1956 meeting at the University of Texas, Dr. F. Loren Winship, drama department chairman, announced.

More than 300 participants in educational and community theater projects in five states will attend. A guest speaker from the professional theater will appear.

The Southwest Theater Conference, which met this year in New Orleans, includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.



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# Boy Debaters Choose Law; Various Careers Draw Girls

All four State winners in boys' debate in 1954 are planning to enter the legal profession. Winners in girls' debate were not as uniform in their choice of profession—three listed that they wished to become secretaries, one chose home economics as a major, and two preferred teaching.

Harrison Wagner, AA winner from Lamar High School of Houston, has a high school background filled with varied activities. A member of the National Honorary Society, he was valedictorian of his class, served as president of Arrowhead, senior honor society, chaplain of the Christian Students Union, and president of the Speakers' Forum.

Son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Wagner, Harrison plans to study for ministry or law at Rice Institute.

Other member of the winning Lamar High team was Ewing Werlein, Jr. Ewing was on the Student Council, Senior Cabinet, and an officer in the Christian Student Union, Speakers' Forum, and the Dispatch Publishing Company.

Ewing was elected Superior Delegate of the National Forensic League Student Congress in 1954. He got experience in his chosen field of law by serving as senior class lawyer. He plans to either study law or for the ministry at Southern Methodist University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ewing Werlein.

The Lamar High team was coached by Ray C. Corder.

Jackie Shaw and Sara Alice White, winners in AA State girls' debating competition from Adams High School in Alice, have won many honors in debate. They preceded their win at State with first places in debate meets at the Lamar and Sonora meets in 1954.

Jackie was secretary of the Debate Club, and member of the National Honor Society, F. H. A., choir, and Drama Club.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack O. Shaw, Jackie plans to do clerical work.

Sara Alice was a member of the Debate Club, worked on the school paper, and with Future Teachers, chorus, dramatics, and the annual.

Sara Alice listed her hobbies as dancing and "cooking spaghetti." She plans to study education at The University of Texas. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. White.

Mr. Harold J. Marburger coached the team.

Ernest E. Smith III and Elmo Schwab Jr., winners in Conference A boys' debate, are from Gonzales. They had a year's experience as a team already behind them in 1954, for they won district in debate in 1953.

Ernest won his first League contest in 1949 when he won first



JACKIE SHAW and SARA ALICE WHITE



BETTY GRACE COPELAND

place in district in junior declamation.

Valedictorian of his class and a member of Who's Who, Ernest was president of the Student Council and the Debate Club, editor of the school paper, and band librarian.

Ernest, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Smith, will study law at S.M.U.

Elmo, who is a senior at Gonzales High School this year, plans to study law at Rice Institute when he graduates. He has lettered in debate for three years and in football one year. President of his junior class and vice-president of the Debate Club, Elmo is also a member of the Spotlight Club, Letterman's Association, Sportsman's Club, Commercial Club, and Junior Music Study Club.

Elmo is the son of Mrs. Rufus King. Mr. Walter Alexander coached the team.

Robbie Sue, who made Who's Grace Copeland of Levelland were winners in the Conference A girls' debate competition. The team was coached by Mr. W. D. Hollis. They won first place in the debate tournament at Levelland in 1954, and were both in the one-act play cast



ERNEST E. SMITH III



BETTIE ETHRIDGE

which won first in district, area, and second in regional competition.

Robbie Sue who made Who's Who in Typing and Shorthand, plans to do secretarial work. She also placed second in district short-hand contest. She was president of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Student Christian Association and Dramatics Club.

Robbie Sue is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Johnson.

Besides her work with speech activities, Betty Grace won first in district ready writing contest in 1953. She was first in district junior declamation in 1952.

Making Who's Who in Oratory in 1952 and Who's Who in Speech and Chorus in 1954 were only part of the honors Betty Grace received. She was elected class favorite in 1953, and served as president of the Dramatics Club.

After finishing her work at Texas



ELMO SCHWAB, JR.



SALLIE RHEA CONN

Tech, Betty Grace plans to teach. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Copeland.

Conference B winners in girls' debate were Sallie Rhea Conn and Bettie Ethridge from Fabens High School. Coached by Mr. Otis Hilliard, the girls won district debate for three years straight, and both entered other League contests. Bettie won first in district ready writing in 1949, in district typing in 1953, and shorthand in 1954. Sallie Rhea won first in district number sense in 1951 and 1952, and third in ready writing in 1949.

Both girls are in the Speech Club, Science Club, National Forensic League, and Spanish Club, and both lettered in literary events for four years.

Bettie served her class as secretary for four years. She was president of three organizations, and was elected class favorite.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baker Ethridge, she plans to study home economics at either Texas Tech or The University of Texas.

Sallie Rhea Conn was valedictorian of her class and football homecoming queen. She was president of the senior class and the pep squad.

## "Immoral" Tag Hung On "Phony Contests"

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

composition be written under supervision. Complaints came in stating that the contestant sometimes came to the composition-room with someone else's essay under his shirt and simply substituted it for the one he wrote under supervision.

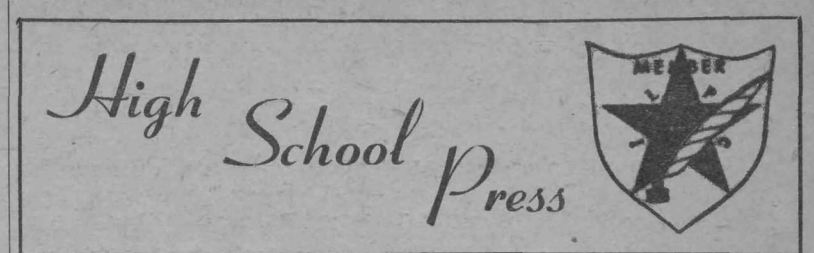
After further ineffectual attempts to frustrate cheating, the "research" feature was abandoned, the name of the contest was changed to "Ready Writing" and subjects were supplied in a sealed envelope to the respective directors. The subjects required no "research" but were within the range of the pupil's "study, observation or experience."

True, the year that these innovations were adopted there was an enormous drop in the quality of the compositions, but the emphasis in training for this contest at once shifted from "research," to practice in English composition.

**Problem Not Solved**

However, the problem of the "essay contest" is by no means solved. Every year there is a horde of promoters hammering at the doors of the public schools, each with a "contest," behind which is an interested motive, usually either straight-out advertising or propaganda.

Of course, there are many respectable organizations with worthy motives presently engaged in this practice; but their school contests must be classed as inde-



**LAST CALL**  
ILPC enrollment fees and membership blanks must be postmarked before Jan. 15. Mail to ILPC, Box 8028, University Station, Austin 12, Texas.

A couple of months ago the director of the University of Iowa school of journalism, speaking to Wisconsin high school editors, said that journalism needs a steady flow of young people with good minds, to insure that the mass media of the United States are staffed with capable people.

He added that more accurate and complete information about journalism is badly needed to combat misunderstanding about careers in the field.

The same idea had been at work already in Texas, and Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, was making a study of salaries and working conditions being offered. Results of the survey were published in the Texas Press Messenger recently (see story on this page), and a reprint of that report has been mailed to ILPC members.

It is encouraging for those who might have thought journalism work was enjoyable, but that they couldn't feed a family on that.

Elsewhere in this issue is a story about a new book by Dr. Norris Davis of the University of Texas school of journalism.

It does a thorough job of covering Texas libel laws in a practical, immediately applicable way. We recommend it to all journalists.

Mrs. Edith King, long-time sponsor of the Technician, school paper for San Antonio Technical High School, is being featured in the January issue of Texas Outlook, the Texas State Teachers Assn. Magazine.

We notice that some high school papers fail to list their staff in each publication. It would be vain and un-newspaperish to list the staff on the first page, as some papers do. But the names should be included prominently, ordinarily on the editorial page.

This is about the only recognition received by many newspaper staffers, although they work many hours, are usually among the sharpest students in school, and get all the "gripes" but little of the praise about the paper.

Recognition of accomplishments, both in the paper and through public awards at the end of the year, would go a long way toward solving the problem of many sponsors who ask how they can get students interested. Sometimes the problem is getting enough students to work on the paper, but if staff positions can be put on an "earned" basis, it should make them something worth striving for. The report on the journalism job future might help, too.

Two new school publications this year are the Edna Lariat and the Elgin El-Hi Echo. Both are mimeographed and are surprisingly good for first-year efforts. Edna published news in the local paper heretofore.

We have been asked several times about the findings of a survey made last year by ILPC to learn the number of high school papers published and the number of schools teaching journalism.

A total of 582 schools said they published a paper, but only 245 of them taught journalism. A number of schools did not answer, however.

Another sponsor is concerned, as no doubt others are, with the high cost of printing a school paper. He asks, "What are other members doing about it?" We'd be glad to have your answers to pass along to other schools.

Do you have any ideas you'd like to pass along to fellow high school journalists? Is there something unique you've done, some project your paper has carried out, some new development you've tried in journalism? If so, call them to our attention and we'll tell other ILPCers about as many of them as possible.

**FIVE WINNERS**—Otis Hilliard, debate coach at Fabens High School, has guided five debate teams to championships in the League's State Meet, including the Class B girls' winners pictured on this page. Twice before he had double winners, both boys' and girls'—in 1931 at Sherman and in 1937 at Denison. In 1949 his extemporaneous speech contestant won the Class B title for Fabens.





One Act Play rules this year (See Constitution and Rules, page 54, Rule 3b) reaffirm in more detail the rule on simple settings, lights and costumes.

The restriction that the set must be kept simple and will be permitted only if it can be carried in an ordinary family automobile will undoubtedly come in for a good deal of discussion this year. In addition, many directors will no doubt be somewhat perturbed by the restriction that, in case of doubt, a picture of the set should be sent to the State office well in advance of the contest for a ruling.

Mr. W. E. Neill, Superintendent of the Tornillo Public Schools, has written several letters concerning the matter of sets and set pieces. Mr. Neill is also the director of the One Act Play for his school, and has an enviable record in the contest for the last several years. We quote some excerpts from his letters which merit careful consideration. Perhaps other directors would like to send us some comments. We will welcome them.

#### \$25 Play Budget

Mr. Neill writes: "Unfortunately there is no way to 'even up' the schools of Texas. For instance, we are in the same district with a school that has more members in each one of its speech classes than we do in our entire high school. Besides being one of the smallest high schools in the state, we are also one of the poorest. But last year we had a set that no longer meets the eligibility rules, and costumes that might be considered elaborate. We also had props and sound effects records made especially for us. All of this plus paying the royalty on our play was done on a budget of twenty-five dollars." (Editor's note: Tornillo has won the District One Act Play Contest five of the last six years.)

"We used a cast of ten last year out of a total high school enrollment of nineteen. . . . Our kids can't act any better than those of any other school and probably not so well, since the other schools have so many more students to choose from. But we hold our own because we use every available means (set, costumes, sound, etc.) to make our production as good as possible. . . ."

"The so-called 'elaborate' sets 'elaborate' costumes can be done on a very small budget. . . . We did Josephina Negli's THIS BULL ATE NUTMEG with an outdoor set that included a house (complete with a window and a door), a fence

and gate, a well, and a tree. House and fence were made of flats that have been in the possession of the school since the dark ages and were painted to resemble adobe. The well was made of scrap lumber covered with some discarded window shades painted to resemble rocks. The tree was left over from a banquet and wasn't particularly necessary but we liked the color so we found a place for it. Paint for the entire set came to less than four dollars. The set, along with the cast and others, was carried to the Regional Meet inside our school bus.

#### Costumes Colorful

"The costumes were colorful as well as 'elaborate.' Don Pancho wore a Charro outfit made of a borrowed western suit decorated with sixty cents worth of gold, red, and green braid. The Matador wore a pair of football pants to which braid had been added, dyed stockings, and a jacket and hat which we had to make. The other boys wore discarded band pants and shirts that were dyed at a cost of about thirty cents. The bull wore a cape of black cotton cloth sewed to a false face. Most of the costumes for the girls were borrowed although some skirts had to be made. The whole bill for material for costumes came to less than eleven dollars.

"The compliments that we received on our set and costumes made up for the time and money we spent on them. And the value the students derived from constructing the set and making the costumes cannot be measured in money. Few people who do not work with dramatics realize just how much work goes into the production of a play. No amount of money spent will overshadow that work.

"We cannot compete in manpower with schools ten or twelve times as big as ours, and it seems to me that the small school will be penalized by the new ruling. Won't you check with other schools and get their opinion?"

This column would very much like to have reactions to the new ruling from directors in all sizes of schools. The re-interpretation of the rule was made in conference with a number of high school directors and administrators, but we would like to have a widespread reaction. If you would like to comment on how the rule will affect your own situation, or how you think it will affect the contest as a whole, write to Bruce Roach, Box 8028, U. T. Station, Austin.

# Speech Question and Answer Series Covers Main Points

By BRUCE ROACH  
Director of Speech Activities

This month the Leaguer continues to discuss and answer some of the major questions arising in connection with the several speech contests sponsored by the Interscholastic League.

## DECLAMATION

### 1. Who is eligible to take part in what declamation contests?

Perhaps the largest number of inquiries we have in declamation concerns eligibility. At the present time there are four divisions in declamation for each of the Spring Meet conferences. These are 1. junior boys; 2. junior girls; 3. senior boys; 4. senior girls.

A good deal of the confusion comes in the definition of "junior" and "senior." Perhaps the best way to start an explanation of the definition is to quote from the Constitution and Rules on the subject:

Article VII, Sec. 7 (page 14): "Junior and Senior Divisions—Pupils under fifteen and over ten years of age on the first day of the preceding September are 'juniors'; pupils fifteen or over and under nineteen the first day of the preceding September are 'seniors.' The terms 'junior' and 'senior' do not apply to contest not so designated.

Due to the tremendous growth of junior high schools in our state, and the demand of those schools to be allowed participation in the various activities, a recent ruling was made to allow juniors in age to enter the senior declamation division. The rules expressly forbid seniors, however, from entering the junior division. Junior high schools have found both the junior and senior declamation contests exceedingly popular. For example, one junior high school had 192 entries in junior and senior declamations last year, and a number of others reported well over 100 entries.

Some educators are agitating that declamation is a highly artificial contest and its day of usefulness has passed. It would seem, however, that the values acquired in mastering the thought of worthwhile selections and in practicing mechanics of delivery, such as bodily activity, voice, and pronunciation, outweigh the liabilities.

2. Where can declaimers find selections?

The junior declamation contest uses selections of good poetry. According to the rules, the poems given in this contest should not be dramatic or humorous readings in which there is definite acting on the part of the participants. No official list of prescribed poems is issued, but sponsors are strongly urged to help students choose works of recognized poets.

The League Office issues a Prose and Poetry Bibliography for 10c, which lists a number of the available prose and poetry books, the publishers, the price, and a short commentary about the contents. In addition to these books, there are a number of other good sources for declamation. Editorials from daily newspapers often make good senior declamations with a little cutting or readjustment. Vital Speeches magazine comes out twice a month with the most recent speeches given by public figures. This magazine is \$5 a year and may be ordered from Vital Speeches, 33 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N.Y. Most of these speeches are too long and will have to be cut to come within the seven minute time limit of senior declamations.

## EXTEMP SPEECH

### 1. What are the best sources for extemp speech material?

There is no arbitrary answer to this question, for the sources depend on the kind of news coverage the student likes to use most. The topics for this contest are chosen from the major current events. Since this is true, current news magazines offer a rich foundation for discussions. Time, Newsweek, Scholastic, Our Times, Vital Speeches, and the like all have merit as sources for current discussion. In addition to these magazines, the student should be familiar with at least one good daily newspaper, and perhaps get the habit of listening to one or two good news commentators.

### 2. How much extra time should the extemp speaker spend in preparing for the contest?

Here again, the answer depends largely on the individual student. In general, however, it is probably better for the beginning student to restrict his reading to two or three publications. It has been found that beginners are inclined to read all

the details of every story and get so bogged down in detail that the essential issues escape them. As students learn to read news articles and evaluate the major points, their scope of reading should be increased. When reading current news becomes a habit with students, the question of how much time is spent in such reading ceases to be a real problem. But students who have not developed such a habit ought to be encouraged to spend at least thirty minutes a day in reading, listening to commentators, and organizing their notes on major developments.

### 3. What kind of topics should speakers practice on?

Often a teacher can get some excellent topics by having each student submit four or five suggestions. The teacher can also make up topics on current events and keep a running list as the year progresses. The Leaguer publishes a few sample topics from time to time which can be used to advantage as guideposts for further topics. Here are some examples which might be used by extemp speakers for practice:

1. Is communism a global menace?
2. How can Germany be unified?
3. Are the satellite Russian states wholly loyal to Russia?
4. What are some of the possibilities emerging from recent elections on the Presidential race in 1956?
5. Is the Eisenhower administration as strong as in 1952?
6. Should income taxes be reduced?
7. How can the United Nations be strengthened?
8. Is there harmony between the Senate and the House?
9. Who are the real leaders of the Democratic party?
10. Has our recent foreign policy been successful?

## POETRY READING

### 1. Who is eligible to participate in poetry reading?

This is a new contest added for the first time this year. Although the League has offered a poetry contest for a long time in the form of the junior declamation contest, this new contest is designed primarily for students over 15 years of age, and is essentially an interpretative reading contest.

There has been some confusion with regard to the eligibility rules in this contest, since, like the senior declamation contest, it carries the stipulation that juniors (students under 15) may also enter the contest. But the rules were specifically set up with the words "senior boys"



Dear Mr. Kidd:

Congratulations on a more successful than ever Student Activities Conference this last week-end in Austin. The League and its many activities should really progress to be fortunate enough to have the leadership that is being furnished by the state directors of the various events. Mr. Matheny and Mr. Hurt are both putting in lots of time and well-thought-out effort on Slide Rule and Number Sense, respectively. That plus a continuation of these conferences should put their events on sounder than ever footing.

Sincerely,  
John Wagner  
Tivy High School  
Kerrville

Dear Sirs:

You have requested in your last issue of the paper some opinions concerning Interscholastic League play for Junior High School and Elementary.

I would like to express an opinion. I feel that the Junior High and Elementary should not be included in Interscholastic League play. I think that these students should be encouraged strongly in an Intramural program and area invitational tournaments. I feel that the honor of Interscholastic competition should be reserved for High School, thus giving the Juniors and Elementaries an objective to reach. I feel that this will encourage athletics through saving the highest honors for the last few years in school.

This is one man's opinion. You can take it for what it is worth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marshall A. Storey  
Superintendent  
Point Isabel ISD

and "senior girls" so as to emphasize the fact that the same general student body eligible for senior declamation was also eligible for this contest. Some of the misunderstanding about this new contest has come from misinterpretation of the words "junior" and "senior." Here again, as in the other contests, the definition of these terms has nothing to do with academic classification (other than the general unit rule that the student must be in a high school unit or a junior high school unit) but is concerned with age. The same general rules hold here as have been given under the declamation discussion. Actually, anybody in high school over ten years of age is eligible for this contest, but it is hoped that the older boys and girls will be the ones encouraged to take part in the contest.

### 2. Can participants memorize selections for poetry reading?

This problem has bothered a number of directors. It is understandable when it is remembered that in junior and senior declamation the selections are memorized and rendered without prompting. This is a different contest and memorization is not one of the major objects. But the problem should not be of too much concern to directors when they realize that part of the rules of the contest provide that the student when he participates must hold a book or manuscript in his hands. It seems fairly obvious that a student who works on a selection over and over will memorize a part, if not all of it. His evaluation, however, will be on how he conducts himself with the book in his hands as he renders the selection. Incidentally, his selection may be read from a book he holds or his selection may be read from a typed or written copy on separate paper.

### 3. What will be the nature of the extemp selections in poetry reading?

This contest provides for an extemp selection as well as a prepared selection. The prepared selection is limited to four minutes. The extemp selection will not run over three minutes. The extemp selections will be mimeographed on separate sheets and sent by the State Office to the district and regional contest directors before these meets. They will consist of two types. One of the extemp poems will be narrative in style and the other will be lyric in style so as to suit individual differences. As provided in the rules, these selections will be made available to the participants thirty minutes before the contest, and a practice room will be provided the contestants so that they can practice on the selection.

### 4. Where can selections for poetry reading be obtained?

As has been given in the declamation discussion, the Prose and

Poetry Bibliography gives a great many excellent poetry books from which good poetry reading selections may be obtained. This bibliography may be ordered from the League office for ten cents. In addition, literature books used in school should prove to be a good source for selections for this contest.

## ONE ACT PLAY

### 1. When should the title of the contest play be sent in to the State office?

The deadline for entering the contest is December 3. However, the title of the play does not have to be in to the State office until just before the district contest in March. Directors should send in the title early enough to be assured of getting the official registration card, which they must have to give to the district director. For the convenience of the State office and those in charge of organizing district meets, directors should try to make up their minds by the middle of February as to the play they plan to do, and send the title in not much later than that time.

### 2. When will the Official Registration Cards be sent to directors?

An acknowledgment and a Prescribed Play List is sent to the director as soon as the check list or entry card is received in the State office. If your school has not received this acknowledgment and the Play List, then the State office does not have your registration for the current year. Check sheets have been sent to every school in the State, plus additional reminders. These should be filled out and returned as soon as they are received. They indicate definitely what contests your school plans to participate in as far as speech activities are concerned. If you have filled out the check list (or the green card) and have indicated that your school plans to take part in the One-Act Play Contest, then your registration is completed so far.

When you decide what play you are going to do, and you send that title to the State office, an acknowledgment will be sent immediately. However, the official card will not be sent until after the middle of February. The State office has learned from bitter experience that directors are both adept at changing their minds and at losing small bits of pasteboard.

If your school plans to enter the One-Act Play Contest, and you have not received an acknowledgment that your entry has been received, it might be a good idea to spend two cents and send a post card to the League office stating that your school wants to participate in One-Act Play. Address is Bruce Roach, Box 8028, U.T. Station, Austin, Texas.

# MUSIC MATTERS

By F. W. SAVAGE  
Director of Music Activities  
Deadline Passed

December 1 was the last day that high schools and junior high schools could register for music competition during the school year, 1954-55. Music Acceptance cards postmarked after midnight on that date were not accepted and the final assignments to regions are being made.

Lists of schools and their classification by regions are being mailed to all regional officials and will be sent to any interested party on request. School units which appear on this list will be eligible for music competition until the next lists are available about December 15, 1955.

## Letter of the Law

Now that all the marching contests for the Fall of 1954 have been completed, we can afford to discuss one of the rules which has given no end of trouble. It seems that no matter how carefully the rules are read and re-read, something always gets by which can cause a misunderstanding. The regulation referred to this time is Rule 41-b, Page 107 of the Constitution.

This rule currently reads, "To be eligible to participate in twirling solo or ensemble competition, students must . . . be a member of a competing band."

It was our firm belief that the advisory committee of the TMEA which discussed this rule intended that it should read, "To be eligible to participate in twirling solo or ensemble competition, students must . . . be a member of a competing marching band." This is the way we have repeatedly interpreted the rule and have endeavored to "hold the line" according to what we believed to be the intent.

A clarification must be made before next year, so if you have an

opinion you should let it be known. It is my opinion that twirling is a part of marching and only marching. The regulations, Rule 19 and Rule 28, were conceived to prevent concentration on solo and ensemble competition at the expense of the organization, band, orchestra and choir. If this is a good rule for instrumental and vocal soloists, it is hard to state that it is not good for twirlers.

## Duets

Another of the regulations which has come in for much discussion as it pertains to twirling is the oversight in the regulations which did not define a twirling ensemble. Rule 26, Page 100 defines an instrumental ensemble as a small group consisting of "from three to eight performers" and a vocal ensemble as a small choral group composed of "from three to sixteen performers." The last paragraph of Rule 29 states that twirling ensembles "may not include more than six performers." Rule 41-a also states that twirling ensembles shall consist of no more than six students.

It was my belief that the intent was that twirling ensembles should conform with the regulations affecting both instrumental and vocal ensembles, so we interpreted the regulation accordingly and refused to certify twirling duets. We got by with this except in one region, where they called my hand on the "letter of the law" and I had to admit that the rule did not specifically prohibit twirling duets.

This regulation will also be clarified for the year 1955-56, but in the meantime we shall refuse to certify any and all duets whether they be instrumental, vocal or twirling.

## Elementary Music

Elementary school competition, music and other, has continued to be a step-child of the Interscholastic League. In almost every area a plan of competition has been constructed and has been offered to the schools provided "sufficient schools in the area are interested and wish to organize for competition."

The current plan of organization for music area meets calls for the circulation of an interest inquiry in December and the assignment of interested schools to an area for competition. This has not proved too successful, since any plan requires some pushing and promotion.

It seems that we should decide once and for all whether or not music competition should be used as a motivating device for elementary school students. If it is decided to continue, more time and effort should be expended on planning and promotion. If motivation through competition is suited only to junior high and high school students, all pretense at organizing elementary schools should cease.

This column makes a good clearing house for opinion on this subject. Write down your ideas and send them in.

# Aly Calls Forensics Leadership Training

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 7)

gotten. The arts and skills involved are those most often demanded of community leaders, not only in formal governmental but also in other socially valued pursuits. Training in discussion and debate is training in democratic leadership.

After his speech, Dr. Aly responded to questions from those present. Answering a question concerning the relative standing of speech activities in various States, he declared that of the 40 States maintaining relations with the National University Extension Assn. Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials, Texas was generally conceded to be outstanding in the organization and management of its Statewide program of school speech activities.

## Those Present

The following registered at the breakfast:

Supt. A. A. Erickson, Aransas Pass; W. C. Smith, Asherton; Dr. Rhea Williams, Bruce Roach and R. J. Kidd, Interscholastic League, Austin; W. L. Goff, Balmorhea; Stan Lambert, Lamar College, Beaumont; Mrs. A. N. Saenz, Bena-vides; Edwin Bowen, Boyd; R. E. Mattingly, Bowie; Supt. John Culwell, Tom Moulton and Joe Kerbel, Breckenridge; Nina Annice Verser, Brownwood.

Supt. Murry R. Garner, Carrizo Springs; Newell H. Odell, Childress; Brady Nix, Crane; J. Watson, Dallas; Joe A. Stalcup, Adamson High, Dallas; E. A. Wooten, Dumas; Arthur R. Hayes, Pan American College, Edinburg; L. W. McConachie, Edna; Jack Harley, Polytechnic, Johnny Nobles, Bird-

ville; N. J. Hogan, Arlington Heights, and Herman Clark, Fort Worth; Fred M. Thompson, Fredericksburg; Harold Barnett, Friendswood.

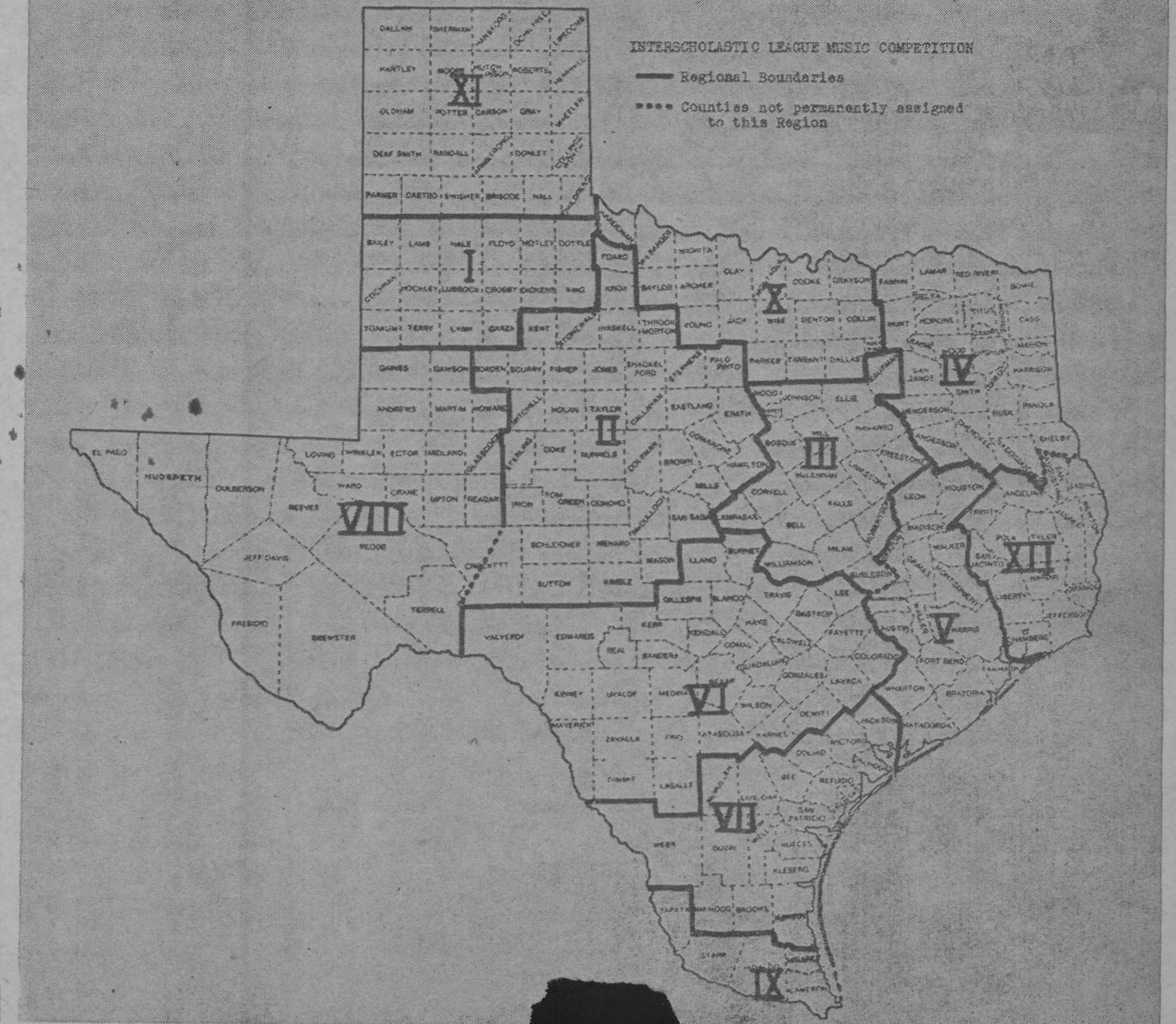
J. C. Smith, East Mountain School, Gilmer; Jack L. Ballard, Pine Tree School, Greggton; C. E. Burnett and J. Gordon Nix, Jr., Harlingen; W. S. Brandenburger, Houston; Jno. A. Long, Junction; Irvin Clayton, Kermit Jr. High, Kermit; James Maddux, Kyle.

Vehna Harris, Midland; Lawrence Franks, S. F. Austin College, Nacogdoches; Bonner Frizzell, Palestine; Knox Kinard, Pampa; James G. Barton, Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos; V. N. Keyes, Seminole; Elmer Moore, Shamrock; R. W. Standefer, Jr., Stratford; C. D. "Cap" Landolt, Clear Creek School, Webster; H. Laycock, White Deer; Paul E. Pettigrew and A. D. Neal, Wichita Falls.

## More Extemp Topics Suggested for Practice

Here are some additional Extemp Speech topics which students might use for practice:

1. Is World Government the answer to World Peace?
2. What are the results of the McCarthy hearings on the Republican Party?
3. Should Senators be restricted in their investigating committees?
4. Should taxes be increased?
5. Who are the real leaders of the Democratic Party?
6. Are English-American Relations better than ever?





## Postscripts on Athletics

By RHEA H. WILLIAMS  
State Athletic Director

As the end of the football season approaches, there is one group of individuals that we seldom hear about that should be signally honored. That group consists of the wives of the football coaches. No single group contributes as much to our athletic program as the "little woman" who sits quietly behind the scenes. She deserves a special tribute for her many services "beyond the call of duty."

### Listening Post

The coach's wife is a mother "confessor." After each game she listens to her husband pour out words of glee or sorrow, depending upon whether his team won or lost. She is the one who keeps the proper balance by encouraging words and smiles. Many a coach has been consoled by the words of a loving wife to the effect, "So What! We lost to-night, but it's only a ball game and we still have each other."

The wife must endure the stony silence, the moody and pessimistic periods, and yea, the optimistic, boisterous, and happy moments of the coach. She must be similar to a chameleon and change her conduct to fit the situation; encouraging and sympathetic when the coach loses; calm and happy when the coach wins. She must be patient, understanding, cooperative and long-suffering.

### Golden Rule

The coach's wife is the pretty woman who sits in the stands and bites her lips to keep control of herself when the person behind her says "How dumb can a coach be to do such a thing." She has to listen to abuse in many ways from spectators about her husband coach and, God bless her, she conducts herself in such a way that it reminds us of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Her tears are concealed, her feelings suppressed, as she listens to a few loud-mouthed morons assail her husband's abilities as a coach. In many ways, the wife hears more and bears more than the husband as he is usually too far removed from the stands to hear the derogatory remarks.

### Assistant Coach

The assistant coach, without pay from the school, is the coach's wife.

## City Ordinance Would Curtail Stadia Tippling

The following ordinance was adopted by the city of Wichita Falls to control the use of alcoholic beverages in high school stadia there. It is printed in the *Leaguer* as a guide for other school systems which might need such an ordinance:

"An ordinance making it unlawful to possess, transport or consume any alcoholic beverage at or in the Wichita Falls High School Stadium, at or in the Booker T. Washington School Stadium in the city of Wichita Falls, Texas; providing for the confiscation by police officers of such alcoholic beverages; declaring such possession, transportation or consumption to be a misdemeanor; providing a penalty and declaring an emergency.

"Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the city of Wichita Falls, Texas:

"Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, transport, or consume any alcoholic beverages, as defined by the Texas Liquor Control Act, at or in the Wichita Falls High School football stadium and at or in the Booker T. Washington School stadium, within the City of Wichita Falls. Any police officer is authorized to seize and confiscate such beverages found in the said stadium. Violation of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor. Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.

"Section 2. Due to the fact that alcoholic beverages have been brought to and consumed in and at the Wichita Falls High School stadium and the Booker T. Washington School Stadium in the City of Wichita Falls, and that there now exists no ordinance regulating the same, creates an urgency and an emergency for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety and general welfare of the public, necessitating that this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage."

She answers the coach's mail, the telephone at all hours of the night, prepares meals for the extra people who are always "dropping in," and serves as a special consultant in psychological and sociological problems for her husband, members of the teams, and her family. After the game she always has coffee and sandwiches available for the "drop ins." If the team wins, many come, and she has to prepare more food; if they lose, very few come, and the coach's family has to eat sandwiches for a week.

As assistant coach she listens to her husband go over all his plays, both defensively and offensively; and after the game when the lights are out at home, the game is replayed by the coach to an attentive listener—his wife.

### Household Duties

Besides these many duties as the coach's "right hand man," she is the mother of his family and must "run" the household duties, look after the health and welfare of the children, serve as P.T.A. "home room mother," teach a Sunday School class, and perform numerous other duties at home and in the community.

She is the one who gives the coach his poise, confidence, hope, balance, and her love is an inspiration that overcomes all obstacles. The coach guides boys into correct ways of thinking, living, and doing in athletic events largely through the influence of two women—his mother and his wife.

### Hate Off

My hat is off to the wife of the coach. Her many contributions to the athletic program have in general been overlooked by all, with the exception of her husband, the coach. This writer knows from personal experience how much a coach's wife means to her husband during the strains, tensions, and irritations of a strenuous football season. We men usually take those things for granted on the part of our wives, but let's all make a point to let her know how much we appreciate her contributions.

Regardless of whether or not you coaches tell her how much you appreciate her, she will continue to do the same things for you in the years to come because she is a woman and she loves you. Thank God for women who become coaches' wives—without their coaching would often be a dreary and forlorn adventure.



**Question:** Can a girl play on a B team and then play on an A team the same night without the six hour rest between games as prescribed under the Girls' Basketball Plan, Rule 11?

**Answer:** No. A girl may not play in more than one game during a period of six hours regardless of whether it is on the A or B team.

**Question:** Does participation by a B squad in a basketball tournament count as one of the three tournaments a high school team is allowed to enter?

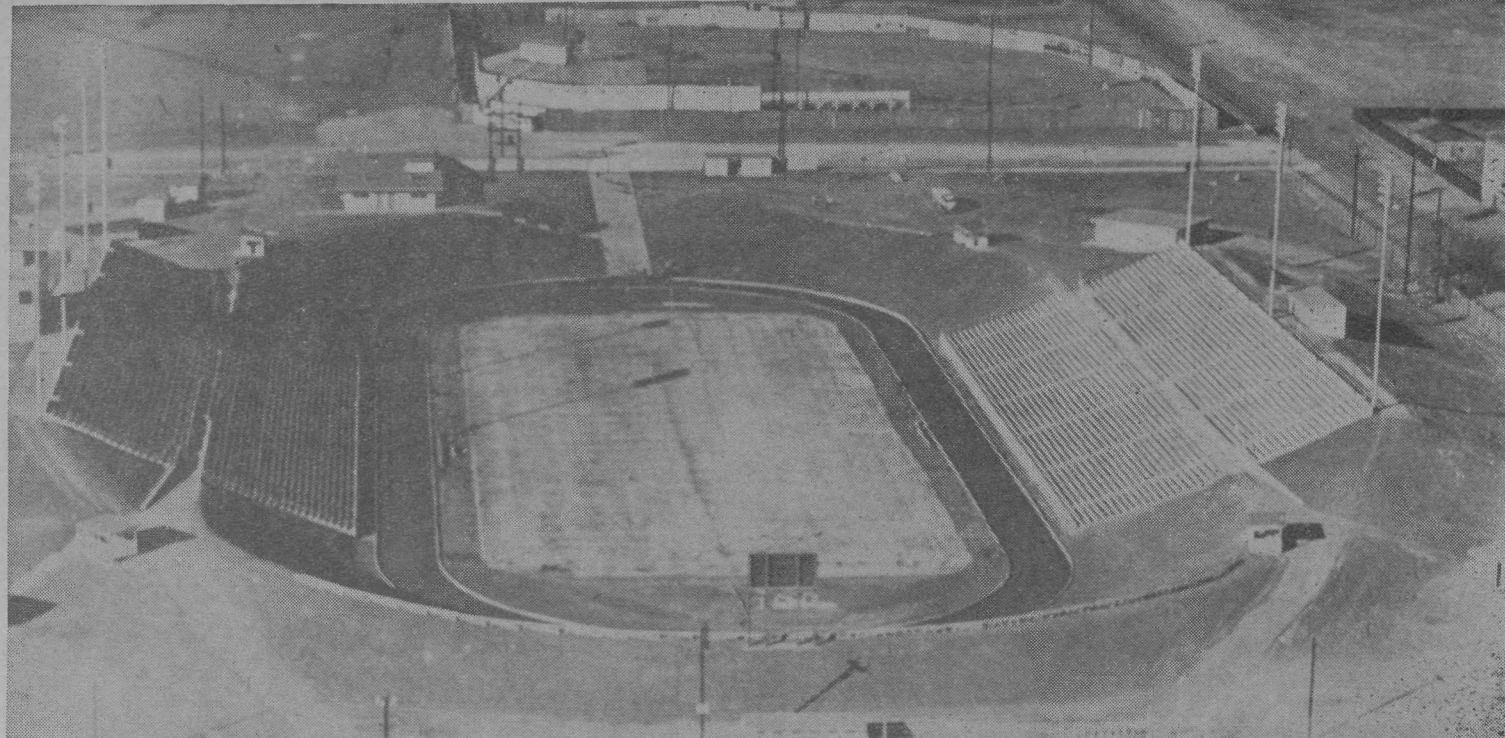
**Answer:** This interpretation involves Rule 11 of the Basketball Plan, and the team-rule definition, Article VII, Section 23. Schools may enter an A squad which is competing for League honors, and a B squad which is not competing for League honors. Each of these squads may enter three tournaments but they must be kept separate and distinct from each other, and no boy may play in more than three tournaments per season. Any team which uses a boy who has played in more than three tournaments has violated the tournament rule.

### Film on Texas University Available for Bookings

A 28-minute documentary motion picture depicting the University of Texas and its teaching, research and service programs is available for showing before groups in Texas.

Bookings for showing before alumni, public school, parent-teacher, church, civic and other groups may be arranged through the Ex-Students' Association. A service fee of \$1 plus two-way postage is charged for use of the film.

Titled "This Is Your University," the color and sound picture takes the viewer on a visit to University units in Austin, Galveston, Houston, Dallas, El Paso, Port Aransas, Fort Davis and illustrates the functions of these units.



EARLY GREEK STYLE—The earthen embankment type stadium shown above is at Amarillo High School. This sunken bowl type

## Earth Embankment Stadia Offer Low Cost, Simplicity

By GRAYSON GILL  
Architect and Engineer  
Dallas, Texas

Since World War II, two earth embankment type football stadia have been constructed in the Southwest, one for Tyler Public Schools, Tyler, Texas and one for Amarillo Public Schools, Amarillo, Texas. The method of construction, materials and equipment used, and the low cost and advantages of this type of stadium are worth noting during these times of high construction costs.

The earth embankment stadium has the appearance of an elongated bowl with closed curved ends. The bowl effect is achieved through moving considerable amounts of earth, i.e., hollowing out the site where the playing field is to be located and piling the excavated earth around the perimeter of the field to form an embankment. Two straight seating sections are located on each side of and are approximate in length to the playing field, the two curved end portions providing space for additional future seating.

### Stadium Sites Vary

The stadium site at Amarillo was comparatively flat, there being a fall of only fifteen feet in 1,185 feet, or a 0.012% grade. The major part of the earth material was found to be clay.

At Tyler, however, the site was of irregular elevation, the high point being as much as 48 feet above the low point. Here the earth material was predominantly of a sandy clay nature. Although the stadium at Tyler was located in a natural valley which lent itself readily to a bowl type formation and that at Amarillo located on a flat plain, in each case relatively the same cubage of earth was moved, seventy-five thousand cubic yards at Tyler and eighty-five thousand cubic yards at Amarillo.

In laying out the plan of the stadium, the amounts of excavation and fill were balanced, allowing about 10% excess excavation material due to the reduced volume of earth when compacted. This eliminated the necessity of either hauling in or carting out excess material.

### Speed and Economy

Speed in construction and economy, both in construction and maintenance, are achieved in the earth embankment type of construction. Practically all the structural supporting system for the seats is earthwork shaped by modern earth moving and compacting machinery, developed to a high degree of efficiency within the last two decades. Maintenance cost is reduced to a minimum and consists essentially of maintaining sodded embankments which increase in stability with corresponding reduction in maintenance cost as the years pass. This is in contrast to the expensive paint-

### Central America Volcano May Affect Coffee Flavor

Increasing activity of Central American volcanoes may affect the flavor of your coffee, Dr. Fred M. Bullard, University of Texas vulcanologist, reports.

Santiago volcano in Nicaragua is pouring fumes over surrounding land which produces famed "mountain grown" coffee, a richly-flavored bean used in several more expensive blends, Dr. Bullard said.

So far, farmers have not been able to grow the famed beans anywhere except on mountain sides in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Since 1947, thousands of acres in the mountain-side plantations of Nicaragua have been devastated by volcanic activity.

ing and occasional replacements required for other types of structures.

High construction costs since the beginning of World War II have revived interest in this type of construction, which is as old as civilization itself and which is exemplified by some structures over two thousand years old still in existence, the early Greek theatres being possibly the best examples. More recently, thirty-two years ago in fact, a large stadium of this type was built at the University of Washington and has given excellent service. This stadium, seating 28,000 persons, was completed within seven months of the start of construction. The Washington stadium was built during a similar period of high construction costs and material scarcity after the first World War. The Hollywood Bowl is another example of seating on an earth embankment, but in this case, as in a number of the stadia in the arid section of the West, no protective concrete slab was placed over the embankment.

### Versatility

The versatility of the earth em-

bankment type construction is further exemplified by the W. B. Munson Memorial Baseball Grandstand completed recently at Denison, Texas. This plant, although small (seating capacity 2,000) as compared to the football stadia previously mentioned, proved to be most economical in construction costs.

It has been shown in this report that the earth embankment type of construction is a relatively simple one, involving essentially the excavation and compaction of earth and, upon a portion of the resulting embankment, the placing of a stepped concrete slab to receive the seating arrangement and to act as a protection in keeping the embankment free from the possibility of erosion. The materials and equipment used in the construction are not only efficient but are economical as well. Not less important is the speed with which such a structure may be built.

Lastly are maintenance and upkeep, no small items, while even at a minimum in the beginning, which will yet decrease through the years.

### Remember When . . .

## "Pinky" Higgins Was 3-Sport Star at Old Oak Cliff High

The name of Frank "Pinky" Higgins was splashed across sports headlines this year when the Texan was named manager of the 1955 Boston Red Sox entry in the American League pennant chase, and it brought back memories to baseball fans in a number of American cities where the organized sport is played.

But in Dallas, the folks in the Adamson High School neighborhood didn't have to go scurrying to the record books.

They remembered "Pinky" when he starred in football, basketball and baseball for four consecutive

years at old Oak Cliff High, now Adamson High.

That record in Dallas was the beginning of what has now stretched into a 30-year baseball career, with more to come.

### Pennant Winner

Sizing up their new Red Sox manager, Boston fans remembered Higgins as the third baseman on that team's 1946 American League championship nine. That ended a tenure begun in 1940 when Detroit Tigers sold Higgins to Boston.

Fans of the sport in Roanoke, Va., Birmingham, Ala., and Louisville, Ky. recalled him as the man-

ager of Red Sox farm teams in those ball parks. The knotholders at Louisville put him in their "I knew him when" list after watching Higgins lead that team to victory in the Little World Series last season. Higgins spent two years each at Roanoke and Birmingham, four at Louisville.

Texas League and Pacific Coast League batting averages listed the Higgins name before that, when the infielder was eating up ground balls at Dallas, San Antonio and Portland. Higgins apparently found the weather and the pitching to his liking in Portland, for it was there that he hit 33 home runs in 1939, his best year for round-trippers.

Sports page readers in Austin and other Texas towns remembered "Pinky" Higgins before that as the outstanding third baseman with the University of Texas Longhorns, where he lettered in 1928-29-30 and made all-Southwest Conference teams. He lettered one year in football before concentrating on baseball.

But the beginning was at old Oak Cliff High. That is, except for the few years between then and his birth in 1909.

### Back To Beginning

Higgins went back to the beginning to pick his wife, the former Hazen French of Dallas. They have two daughters, Elizabeth, 11, and Diane, 13. Their father comments, "The Higgins family has turned from athletics to music." They make their home in Dallas at 4004 Southwestern.

Higgins is brother of the late "Ox" Higgins, and of Jimmy Higgins, a salesman with C&S Sporting Goods.

Four-year periods seem to work well for Higgins. His four years of high school athletics paved the way for his entry into college baseball, and from there to his profession. It was in his fourth year at Portland that he hit his home-run peak, leading to his advance to the big leagues the next year.

And it was in his fourth year as manager at Louisville that his team captured the Little World Series crown and vaulted him into the biggest prize of all—leadership of the Boston Red Sox.

## News and Views of the Coaches

By STAN LAMBERT  
Director of Public Relations  
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Association

### SELECT DISTRICT CHAMPIONS ON THE FIELD

We have always thought that the proper place to win and lose games and championships was on the field. We do not believe that our thinking on that subject is much different from that of most high school coaches. From a professional standpoint a championship that is won in the committee room by the toss of a coin or as a result of a popularity poll of the other members of the district committee just can't carry as much prestige as one that is won on the football field.

The UIL does not dictate how ties for district championships shall be broken and the champion selected. It leaves that entirely up to the district committee. Evidently the schoolmen who compose the district committees have not thought the matter of sufficient importance to provide for such an occurrence. In view of those facts, it seems to us that the coach might supply some leadership by calling it to the attention of his principal in order to get something done before another football season rolls around.

### Two-way Ties Simple

The two-way tie—when the two top teams have lost the same number of games—is not too tough. A simple regulation stating that the team that won the game between the two tied teams in regular district play shall be the champion will suffice in that instance. When the two top teams also tied in the game between themselves, the tie can be broken simply and easily by application of the same method of breaking ties in the playoff—penetrations, first downs and yardage.

We do believe that some districts, however, are employing the penetrations-first downs method erroneously. In at least one district that we are familiar with, the above rule is applied immediately to every tie game. Such is not the original intent of that system, which came about as a result of a search for a scoring system that breaks ties when everything else has failed. Therefore, this method should not even come into the picture unless that tie game (or games) figures in the final selection of the team to represent the district in the playoff.

It is plainly obvious that a team that has lost only one game has a better won-lost record than one that has lost one and tied another. After all, football scores are made by the accumulation of touchdowns, extra points, field goals and safeties. The penetrations-first downs method is at best only a substitute for rule-book scoring and should be utilized only when two teams are hopelessly deadlocked and a championship is hanging in the balance. When two teams lock horns for 48 minutes and neither can beat the other, we firmly believe that by the four methods of scoring each should be credited with a half game won and a half game lost unless that tie contest becomes involved in selecting the one champion for playoff purposes. By the simple expedient of inserting in the minutes of the next district meeting that tie games shall count as a half game won and a half game lost unless the tie game also creates a tie for the district championship, in which event the penetrations-first downs-total yardage rule shall decide the winner, would eliminate much wrangling, arguing and suspense.

### Three-way Tie

The three-way tie also has a solution, but it is more complicated. Merely take the scores of the games between the teams involved in the tie, find the net score for each team on each game and award the championship on that basis. For example:

Team A beats Team B 19 to 12

Team B wins from Team C 12-7

Team C wins over Team A 7-6

For the first game, Team A receives plus 7 and B a minus 7; in the B vs. C game, B gets plus five and C a minus five; and in the last game C gets a plus one and A a minus one. Adding the pluses and minuses algebraically we find that A has a plus seven and a minus one for a net of plus six; B has a minus 7 and a plus five for a net of minus 2; while C has a minus five and a plus one for a net of minus 4. By this method Team A is the champion—no flipping, no high dice, no popularity contest, but a clean-cut championship won on the field of combat because its offense and defense got better results compar-

tively than the others who were fortunate enough to tie them percentage-wise.

When teams are that evenly matched, it is possible that all three, or even two, of the three could still be tied in pluses and minuses. In such event the penetrations-first downs-total yardage would appear on the picture. If all three are still tied, settle it on the basis of net penetrations in the same games; if they are still tied go to net first downs.

### Before the Tie

In the event that the net scores eliminate one team and leave the two others tied, you could either let the winner of the game between the two teams that are still knotted be declared the champion, or leave the third team in and apply penetrations and then first downs. The important factor is to have everything specified before the tie happens and then the selection of a champion is made by mathematical formula—and that is all that percentage is anyway.

On first reading, it would appear that such a system would encourage running up high scores "just in case." However, on second thought you can see the validity of the answer to that objection. Since the only scores involved are the ones between the three teams involved ties, there will not be high scoring because if one team were strong enough to run up a high score, it would be strong enough to be the untied champion. If one team were weak enough to have a high score run up against it, this team will not likely be strong enough to become involved in a tie.

### Keeping Records

"How would we keep these records?" you might ask. Merely have one official designated to keep them in every district game. Then make it the responsibility of the referee to mail them to the district committee chairman that same day.

Because of the trouble involved in keeping total yardage and the very high probability that this will not be needed anyway, we recommend that this be dispensed with. Then one official can keep penetrations and first downs easily. After all, if two teams are so evenly matched that the winner cannot be determined by scores, by penetrations or by first downs, a flip of the coin is about as good any way.

We are not necessarily trying to sell our formula. We don't make much money out of it. We have seen this one work, though, and we think it is far superior to coin flipping for championships.

## 1955 Conference Limits Explained

For the 1955 tentative football assignments the following membership limits have been set for the six conferences competing in League football: Conference AAAA, 1200 and up; Conference AAA, 550 to 1200; Conference AA, 225 to 550; Conference A, 125 to 225; Conference B, 125 or under. High schools with less than 100 enrollment may enter six-man football, as was the case this year.

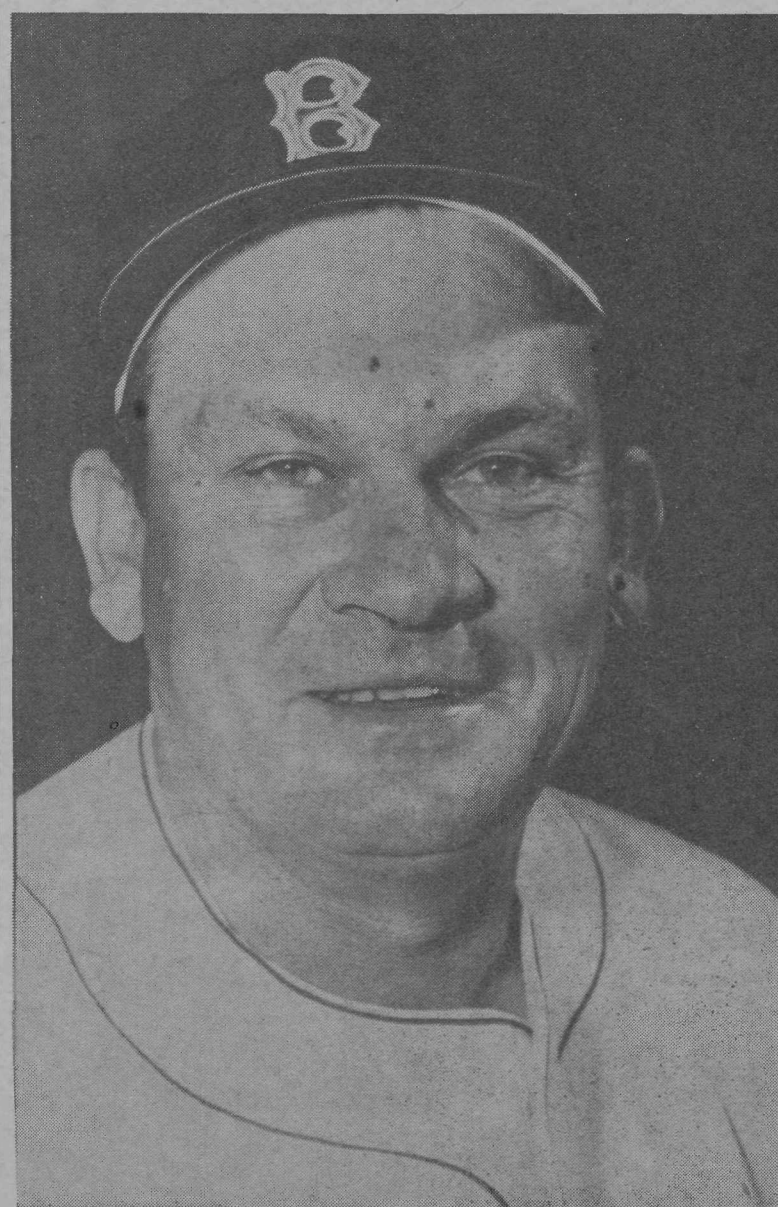
Voting-in privileges are not being changed for next year. The lower limit for voting schools into Conference AAAA is still 750, and for Conference AAA, 375. Conference AA voting-in will still extend down to 175, and Conference A may vote in schools with as many as 100. In all cases a unanimous vote of the district is required to admit a school below the automatic enrollment conference classification.

### Enrollment Basis

Enrollment, based on average membership for the last four grades for the 1953-54 school year as found in the Superintendent's Annual Report, is the basis used for classifying schools for the 1955 football season.

The respective football districts in each conference are now in the hands of member schools and districts are being organized at this time for next fall. In keeping with the State Executive Committee's new policy of using a sliding scale of enrollment, the automatic membership level for several conferences has been adjusted for the 1955 season as listed above.

The sliding schedule has been authorized to prevent districts from becoming over-crowded and to maintain an orderly state play-off for each conference. It is believed that this system will make unnecessary any major reclassifications such as occurred the past year.



FRANK "PINKY" HIGGINS