

## Math Teachers Now Eligible For New Cash Awards Plan

Good news for Texas high school math teachers!

The Actuaries Club of the Southwest has made available \$2700 for scholarships and awards for Texas teachers who are judged to be most successful in promoting student interest and participation in the Interscholastic League number sense competitions.

Final details of the awards program are still being worked out, but present planning calls for a \$300 award to be given the outstanding teacher in each of the eight League regions of Texas. It is felt this fine method of recognizing teachers who are pre-eminent in arousing interest in mathematics should do much to increase student participation in the number sense contest.

### Stimulate Interest

The Actuaries Club of the Southwest, made up of members of the actuarial staffs of many Texas life insurance companies and a few out-

of-state firms, has inaugurated the program to stimulate interest in the actuarial profession. Too few qualified high school graduates are entering this field, while engineering, science and other professional fields attract most of the small number of high school students showing promise in mathematics.

Instead of presenting awards to the outstanding graduates, the Club plans to recognize the teachers who have been, and will remain, instrumental in finding students gifted in mathematics and in developing their ability.

### Teachers' Vision

Since the teachers are so im-

portant in discovering talent among students, it seems fitting that they receive this recognition for a job well done. The classroom teacher with vision will assist the student to develop when he shows signs of being capable and desirous of achieving something over and beyond the regular routine of class-work.

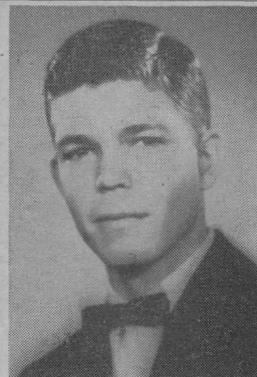
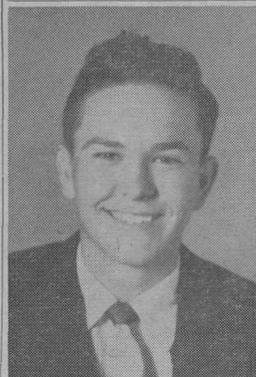
The criteria for becoming eligible for one of the Actuaries Club awards will be published in the February issue of the Leaguer. It is hoped that Texas math teachers will be interested in qualifying for one of these scholarship awards.

## Few Debate Kits Left; No C&R's

A few packages of debate material on the Agricultural Policies of the United States are still available from the League Office for \$2 each. If your debaters have not yet received this package, or if you desire additional packages for your second semester students, order at once so you will not be disappointed in getting the material. Send your order to Debate, Box 8028, U. T. Station, Austin, Texas.

Teachers and administrators are asked not to order the 1956-57 Constitution and Rules, however, for the publication is out of print. The original supply has been exhausted and time does not permit reprinting before the end of the current school year.

# Debate Ideas Include Labor, Water, Policy



ALL-STAR CAST—White Deer High School not only won the conference B title in one-act play at State Meet last spring, but three members of the cast were named to the All-Star Cast. Left to right, they are James E. Smith, Lyda Jane Spears, and

Dean Foose, James is a senior at White Deer this year, while the other two were 1956 graduates. They were coached by Director Hobart McDonald and all three have a long list of scholastic and extracurricular honors to their credit.

## School Ballot To Name One For 1957-58

The Committee on Debate and Discussion of the National University Extension Association met during the Christmas holidays at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, to discuss the selection of the three problem areas from which next year's national debate proposition will be chosen.

Delegates chose these areas: 1) Labor-management Relations; 2) Natural Resource Development; 3) United States Foreign Policy.

The total statement of the area problem in labor-management is: What labor-management policy will best serve the interests of the United States? Tentative debate questions for this area are:

- Resolved, that the Federal Government should enact right to work legislation.
- Resolved, that the Taft-Hartley act should be amended to make union shop mandatory.
- Resolved, that the open shop assures the best labor-management relations.

### Discussion Questions

Tentative discussion questions for the labor-management area include:

- What should be the responsibility of the government in maintaining harmony in labor-management relations?
- What should be the responsibility of the labor unions in maintaining harmony in labor-management relations?
- What should be the responsibility of management in maintaining harmony in labor-management relations?

### Conservation Area

The problem statement for the conservation area is: How can the American people best utilize their natural water resources?

Stemming from this problem area, these debate propositions were suggested:

- Resolved, that the Federal Government should regulate the utilization of all water resources in the U.S.
- Resolved, that all future hydro-electric power plants should be owned and operated by the government.
- Resolved, that future hydro-electric plants should be privately owned and operated.

Discussion questions having to do with conservation were suggested as follows:

- How should the natural water resources of the U.S. be utilized by agriculture?
- How should the natural water resources of the U.S. be utilized by industry?
- How should the natural water resources of the U.S. be utilized for public health?

### Foreign Policy

In the realm of U.S. Foreign Policy, this general statement was selected: What should be the nature of the U.S. Foreign Aid Program? Debate propositions evolving from this area were:

- Resolved, that all U.S. foreign aid should be administered through the United Nations.
- Resolved, that the direct U.S. economic aid to individual countries should be limited to technical assistance and disaster relief.
- Resolved, that U.S. aid to foreign countries should be substantially increased.

Foreign aid discussion questions include:

- What should be the nature of the U.S. foreign aid program to the free world allies?
- What should be the nature of U.S. foreign aid to the neutral countries?
- What should be the nature of U.S. foreign aid to communist countries?

### Vote Soon

Schools will shortly be asked to vote on the three area questions and to pick one which will represent the Texas vote in the national election. As soon as this national area is (Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

## Constitutional Amendment Vote Set in April for Member Schools

In April, member schools of the League will be called upon to adopt several amendments to the Constitution, recommended by the Legislative Council. Several of the amendments will involve major changes in existing rules.

One section to be amended will specify in detail the duties of the Legislative Council and the State Executive Committee and will more clearly define the responsibilities of each body.

### League Machinery

The amendment to Article XV must be approved by the member schools in order to make the Constitution conform to the recommended legislative procedure recently proposed by the Advisory Council and the State Executive Committee. The present rule states:

"All amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the League shall be made by the State Executive Committee, provided, that all material changes in the eligibility and other rules which do not involve a question of University policy shall first be submitted to the members of the League at the annual meeting and/or to the advisory council for an advisory vote (See Art. IV, Sec. 2, last paragraph). In a case considered an emergency, the State Executive Committee may submit a proposed change for a referendum vote to the member-schools. All changes in eligibility rules shall require one year's notice."

The new rule will read: "Amendments to the Constitution of the Interscholastic League may be initiated either by the Legislative Council or by the State Executive Committee. Amendments shall be made by majority vote of the Legislative Council, provided that all major amend-

ments shall then be submitted for ratification to a vote of the member schools. The Legislative Council shall not act upon any matters involving University policy. All changes in eligibility rules shall be submitted to member schools and shall require one year's notice. It is the responsibility of the Legislative Council to determine when an amendment is a major or minor change in League policy."

### Changing Contest Plans

The amendment of Article IV, Section 3, provides the procedure by which the Council and the State Executive Committee may amend the various contest rules of the League. The present rule provides: "The duties of the Council shall be to consider and study all proposed legislation and recommendations submitted at the May meeting of the member schools and to recommend to the State Executive Committee legislation that it considers vital to the best interests of the League."

The proposed amendment will read: "It shall be the duty of this Council to determine policies to guide the State Executive Committee in making the rules governing the organization and control of contests; to adopt material changes in contest rules; to refer such material changes in contest rules to the member schools when, in its judgment, this is advisable. The Legislative Council shall not act on matters involving University policy. The Legislative Council shall select one of its own members to serve on an annual basis as chairman of the Council. In case of vacancy on the Council, the State Executive Committee shall proceed to fill the vacancy in the manner prescribed above."

Under the revision of Article IV, Section 3, the Legislative Council is to determine the policies to guide the State Executive Committee in submitting proposed contest rule changes to the member schools. The Council is to determine whether a policy change is a major or a minor one. All major questions will be submitted to the member schools for a final decision.

Heretofore, the chairman of the State Executive Committee has been serving as chairman of the Legislative Council, but under the revised rule, the Council will elect its own chairman from the membership of the Council.

As a further result of these changes, the State Executive Committee will perform the judicial and executive functions of the League, leaving all legislative matters and rule making responsibilities with the member schools.

### Awards Rule

In addition to voting on amendments relating to changes in the legislative procedure of the League, the member schools will vote on a proposed amendment to the Awards Rule. This amendment will "spell out" the inter-school contests covered by the Awards Rule. The section of the Awards Rule to be amended now reads:

"This rule shall apply to all inter-school contests in which a pupil or school may participate, including non-League sponsored events scheduled on an inter-school basis." If amended, the Awards Rule will apply only to the following contests: "Baseball, basketball, volleyball, boxing, football, golf, rodeo events, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, weight lifting, wrestling, essay writing, speaking contests and music events."

## Air Force Has Teaching Posts

U. S. Air Force Headquarters has announced a need for school teachers to staff overseas schools for dependent children for the 1957-58 school year.

Positions will be available in the Azores, England, France, French Morocco, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Newfoundland, Philippine Islands, Spain and Tripoli.

To get top instructors, the Air Force sets minimum education and experience requirements that compare with the soundest public school systems. They include a bachelor's degree with 18 hours in education courses for elementary grades and 16 hours for secondary teachers, and a minimum of two years public school experience. All candidates must be currently teaching, or not have been out of the profession for more than one year.

Monthly salaries are \$370, with appointees eligible to receive foreign post differentials in some areas. Transportation to and from the post is furnished, plus free living quarters or housing allowance. The age requirement is 23-40 for females and 23-50 for males and dependents may not accompany the teacher.

Additional information may be obtained from an Air Force representative, scheduled to visit the University campus in February. On February 1 and 2 he will be at Sutton Hall, room 809, and, for the University of Houston, he will be at the Student Placement Office on February 8 and 9.

## Two UT Regents Say Interscholastic League Debate 'Invaluable' in Present Professions

Two members of the University of Texas Board of Regents—both highly successful professional men in their chosen fields—today recall as an "invaluable experience" the occasions they stood on narrow school stages years ago and heatedly defended their sides of a resolution in Interscholastic League debate competition.

Dr. Merton Minter, San Antonio physician, and Leroy Jeffers, Houston attorney, verbally fought their way through preliminary meets to reach the State Meet debate finals some 30-odd years ago.

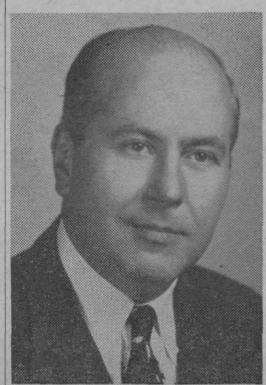
Dr. Minter and his teammate, Ray E. Lee, now vice-president of the Austin Life Insurance Company in Austin, represented Corsicana High School in 1918-19-20. "If I recall correctly," Dr. Minter reported, "we reached the state level each of the three years. We never did win a championship but had a lot of fun and received valuable experience."

### Got By Temple

Jeffers teamed with William H. Hamblen, now county judge of Jackson County, to represent Holland High School in debate. It took three years for the team to finally get by Temple High School at County Meet, in 1926, and go on to win the State championship. The following year, when both debaters were seniors, they returned to State Meet where Hamblen won the championship in extemporaneous speak-

ing and Jeffers took the title in boys' declamation.

Jeffers, whose memory serves him well, was coached in debate by his high school superintendent, R. S. Covey, who later was superintendent at Bartlett and Sweetwater. The year Jeffers and Hamblen won the State title the question was "Resolved: That the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution Should be Adopted." In winning the title, the Holland team defeated Hubbard City, Fort Stockton, and Brownsville in preliminary competitions, and beat Winters in the finals.



Leroy Jeffers

### Still Profiting

Dr. Minter finds he is still profiting from his high school debating activities of nearly 40 years ago. "I received invaluable experience in the debating contests," he said recently, "and find now that the assurance gained thereby has been a great help even today in speeches which I am called upon to make."

Research for one of Dr. Minter's debate topics proved to be an interesting experience in itself. Preparing for the 1919 question on "Government Ownership of Railroads," he wrote the Guaranty Trust Com-



Dr. Merton Minter

pany of New York for information, failing to mention his age or the reason for his request.

"I had been carrying on a considerable correspondence," Dr. Minter recalls, "on the deficits or profits under government control, railroad profits, and other facts needed for debate material. After a period of time, I received a letter from the president of the company.

### Services Offered

"He noted that I had written many inquiries regarding railroads and railroad finances, and stated that if I had no other New York banking connection, the Guaranty Trust Company would be most pleased to become my New York banking correspondent.

"I wrote to the president of the bank, explaining why they had received so many inquiries from me, but, nevertheless, expressing my appreciation for their services. I had a very wonderful reply from him, offering me all the facilities of their research department which I might need and expressing a wish that I let him know how each debate came out. I carried on a delightful correspondence with him until the debating season ended."

Another year Dr. Minter and his partner were confronted with the subject "Should Girls Participate in Interscholastic League Debates."

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

### Both Boys and Girls

## Basketball Teams Starting Long Grind Toward Tourney

Plans for determining State champions in Interscholastic League boys' and girls' basketball for 1956-57 have been announced by Dr. Rhea Williams, League Athletic Director.

In the boys' basketball tournament, there will be State championships decided in five conferences. This year girls will play to State titles in three conferences—Conferences B, A, and AA. There will be 16 teams coming to the girls' State tournament with eight girls' teams in conference B and four each in conferences A and AA.

### 24 Teams

In boys' basketball, 24 teams will be brought to the State tournament as in the past, with four teams each coming from conferences AAAAA, AAA, AA, and A, and eight teams from Conference B.

In boys' competition, Conferences AAAAA and AAA will play through regional eliminations to determine representatives to the State tourney. From the 32 district champions in Conferences AA and A there will come four regional champions in each conference to the State tournament.

Conference B will have eight regions, and each regional tournament will certify a champion to take part in the eight-team State tournament play-off for this conference.

### Tourney Dates

March 7, 8, and 9 are the dates for the State tournament for boys. The girls' tournament will be March 14, 15, and 16. Both will be in Gregory Gym, the University of Texas, in Austin.

District championships must be decided two weeks earlier in each case, the boys' deadline date in all conferences being February 23, and the girls' March 2. Regional champions for the boys must be decided by March 2, and for girls, March 9.

### AAA and AAAAA Schedules

For the 1956-57 school year, there will be regional championships determined in Conferences AAA and AAAAA boys' basketball. Each region has a regional chairman appointed to serve, along with the four district winning schools, in determining which of the two following methods they will use in selecting a regional champion.

The regional committee may elect to play a tournament at a site and time to be agreed upon by the regional committee, or they may elect to have a regional play-off series. The regional play-off series must be paired and played off under the following schedule: In Region IAAAA, as an illustration, the winner of IAAAA plays the winner of 2AAAA and the winner of 3AAAA plays the winner of 4AAAA in a one game play-off to be played either on February 25 or 26, at sites to be selected by the participating teams. The winners in each case would then play a one game series, March 1 or 2, at a site to be determined by the two participating schools.

In case there is a tie-vote as to what procedure shall be used in determining the regional championship, the chairman will break the tie by casting his vote. Conference AAAAA and AAA regions and regional chairmen are listed below:

### Conference AAAAA

Region I—Districts 1-4, Minton White, principal, San Angelo.

Region II—Districts 5-8, Walter J. E. Schiebel, principal, Crozier Technical, Dallas.

Region III—Districts 9-12, T. B. White, principal, Pasadena.

Region IV—Districts 13-16, Virgil Curran, principal, Alamo Heights, San Antonio.

### Conference AAA

Region I—Districts 1-4, Omer Douglas, superintendent, Brownfield.

Region II—Districts 5-8, Thomas Justiss, superintendent, Paris.

Region III—Districts 9-12, William Carmichael, superintendent, Bryan.

Region IV—Districts 13-16, Archie Roberts, superintendent, Beeville.

### B, A and AA Schedules

The following schedule for selecting regional champions in conferences B, A, and AA for both boys and girls has been authorized by the State Executive Committee for the 1956-57 season: There will be a one-game play-off for the boys on Monday or Tuesday, February 25 or 26, to determine which teams will qualify for the regional tournament to be held the following Saturday, March 2.

For the girls there will be a one-game play-off on Monday or Tuesday, March 4 or 5, to determine which teams qualify for the regional tournament to be held the following Saturday, March 9. This will mean that only four teams will be represented at the regional tournament in Conferences A and AA for boys and girls.

In Conference B, there will be eight teams in the regional meet in Regions I, II, III, and IV, six teams

at the regional meet in Region V, and four teams at the regional meet in Regions VI, VII, and VIII. In Region VIII there will be no first-round regional games as there are only four districts in the region. Therefore, each district champion will certify directly to the Region VIII tournament.

This plan will allow teams to eliminate some loss of school time and travel involved in determining the regional champion, and at the same time increase interest in the playoffs by having the games played near the homes of the competing schools.

As an illustration, in Region I, Conference B boys' basketball, the winner of District 1 will play the winner of District 2, 3 vs. 4, 5 vs. 6, 7 vs. 8, etc., with the respective winners going to the regional tournament. This same pattern is followed in each region in each conference for both boys and girls. Sites of playoffs are listed below for boys' basketball.

### Conference B

Region I—Districts 1-16, West Texas State College, Canyon; W. A. Miller, regional chairman.

Region II—Districts 17-32, Howard Payne College, Brownwood; Dr. Z. T. Huff, regional chairman.

Region III—Districts 33-48, Southern Methodist University, Dallas; Madison Bell, regional chairman.

Region IV—Districts 49-64, Kilgore College, Kilgore; James Monroe Parks, regional chairman.

Region V—Districts 65-76, Blinn College, Brenham; Dean James H. Atkinson, regional chairman.

Region VI—Districts 77-84, Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos; O. W. Strahan, regional chairman.

Region VII—Districts 85-92, Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville; Stewart Cooper, regional chairman.

Region VIII—Districts 93-96, Odessa College, Odessa; Billy Boyles, regional chairman.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

## CORRECTION

### Music Directors:

Column headings were transposed on the schedule chart published in the December issue of the Leaguer and most of the dates are wrong.

Correct this chart by re-heading the columns from left to right:

BAND SOLOS and SMALL ENSEMBLES; BAND CONCERT; ORCHESTRA SOLOS and SMALL ENSEMBLES; ORCHESTRA CONCERT; VOCAL SOLOS and SMALL ENSEMBLES; VOCAL CONCERT.

Corrected charts have been mailed to all schools which are eligible to participate in music competition.

# Junior High Interest

The state office published 200 copies of a specially prepared debate brief for junior high schools on the question: "Resolved, that there should be federal annual grants to the states to equalize educational opportunities in the public schools."

To date, all copies of the debate brief have been sold and the junior high schools are sending in additional orders for the material.

It was definitely a surprise to find this much interest in the junior high schools in debate and also in the dramatics and literary contests in general. A special set of spring meet contest rules for junior high schools has been prepared by a committee of junior high school administrators for the guidance of the directors in conducting the dramatic and literary contests. A copy of these rules may be secured by writing the state office.

# Withdraw Golf?

Recently, the League office received the following note from a district chairman:

"Perhaps you will be interested in the unanimous action of this group concerning golf. A resolution was adopted recommending that the League consider withdrawing sponsorship of high school golf, due to our inability to maintain the amateur status and the problem of enforcing the faculty status of the coach. Those present expressed the feeling that the very nature of golf competition involves prizes that violate the rules of the League and in most instances the golf pro is the teacher."

This note from a conference AA district chairman expresses a point of view that is growing in Texas. Unless something is done to keep golf on an amateur basis, there is a strong possibility that schoolmen will vote to drop golf as a League sponsored sport. Golf is a very fine activity and is worthy of a place in the League program, provided it can be surrounded by the controls now existing for football, basketball, baseball and other League activities.

# District Meet Time

Notice of assignment to spring meet districts has been mailed to all member schools. Schools are arranged on the spring meet list by region, conference and district.

Schools first compete in the district meet. In some instances, they will next compete in an area meet, but in the great majority of cases district winners will qualify directly to the regional meet.

District chairmen are listed on pages 9 through 13 of this spring meet list. Regional centers and directors are given on pages 14 and 15. Through the chairmen named in the spring meet list, the districts will be organized for the various conferences. There will be no qualification to any higher meet except through the initial district meet. The last day for organizing spring meet districts is February 1.

# The University Interscholastic League Directory

Organization Agency: Extension Division, The University of Texas Bureau of Public School Service.

State Executive Committee: James R. D. Eddy and T. H. Shelby, co-chairmen; Rhea H. Williams, R. J. Kidd, Emmette S. Redford, B. C. Tharp (Emeritus), J. S. Williams, Thomas A. Rousseau, Howard A. Calkins, I. I. Nelson, Charles Heimisch.

Legislative Council: Chester Strickland, chairman; Nat Williams, I. T. Graves, Bert Ezell, H. A. Hefner, W. T. Graves, O. B. Chambers, J. J. Pearce, S. H. Fletcher, E. D. Cleveland, Fred Covin, Frank L. Singletary, R. B. Sparks, L. S. Richardson, Bill Bitner, Virgil Currin, J. L. Buckley, P. J. Dodson, John S. Gillett, E. M. Smith, G. M. Blackman, Frank Pollitt, Wright Chrane.

Director: Rodney J. Kidd.  
Director of Athletics: Rhea H. Williams.  
Tennis: Dr. D. A. Penick.

Director of Speech and Drama Activities: Bruce Roach.  
Director of Music Activities: F. W. Savage.  
Director of Journalism Activities: J. Roy Moses, Jr.

### Regional Directors

- Region I: Dr. P. Merville Larson, Texas Technological College, Lubbock.
- Region II: W. P. Showalter, Tarleton State College, Stephenville.  
Dr. Z. T. Huff, Howard Payne College, Brownwood.
- Region III: Barry Holton, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.  
Dr. Harold Farmer, North Texas State College, Denton.
- Region IV: Randolph C. Watson, Kilgore College, Kilgore.
- Region V: Walter Williams, University of Houston, Houston.
- Region VI: Dale M. Morrison, Trinity University, San Antonio.  
Dr. Pat H. Norwood, Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos.
- Region VII: Dr. Eldon D. Brinley, Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville.
- Region VIII: W. F. Webb, Texas Western College, El Paso.  
Jack Rodgers, Odessa College, Odessa.



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R. J. KIDD Editor  
ROY MOSES, JR. Assistant Editor

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### EUSTACE

Eustace High School suspended in football for the 1957 season and placed on probation for the 1958 and 1959 seasons for failure to submit correct and complete information on football eligibility reports and game reports.

### DATE CHANGE

April 5-6 is the last weekend for holding District Meets instead of April 13 as given in the Interscholastic League Calendar in the April issue of the Leaguer.

### WHARTON

Wharton High School suspended in girls' basketball for the 1956-57 season for violation of Rule 27 of the Girls' Basketball Plan.

### ONE-ACT PLAY

One-Act Play Rule No. Seven—ENTRY AND SELECTIONS OF PLAY. Failure to participate in the district meet after signing this acceptance card shall be grounds for suspension in One-Act Play for the following year. Acknowledgment of entry is mailed immediately by the State Office. Title must be sent before district contest.

### SIERRA BLANCA

Sierra Blanca placed on probation for the 1957 and 1958 football seasons for playing two boys in inter-school football games after they were declared ineligible by the district executive committee.

### HASKELL

Haskell placed on probation for the 1957 football season because of an attack by a spectator on a football official, and because of verbal abuse of officials by fans.

### BASKETBALL

For the 1956-57 school year the narrow free throw lanes will be used in all high school basketball games. The wide lanes will become effective for the 1957-58 school year.

### VAN HORN

Van Horn placed on probation in boys basketball for the 1956-57 season for playing an ineligible player.

### AMENDMENT

The Amendment to the Constitution and Rules, Articles VIII, Section 2, shall become effective for the 1957-58 school year. It states: "A contestant shall not be barred by this rule until he has completed six semesters of eligibility in a three-year high school or eight semesters of eligibility in a four-year high school, provided he has not received a diploma or participated in graduation exercises."

This amendment applies only to the Graduation Rule and not to the Ten-Semester Rule. The purpose of this amendment was to allow pupils to take summer school work or extra courses during the long term, without impairing their eligibility under the Graduate Rule because of qualifying for a high school diploma before the end of the normal high school attendance period, which is considered eight semesters beyond the eighth grade.

### FOOTBALL DATES

The earliest starting date for commencing fall football practice for the season of 1957 in conferences 4A and 3A is August 30; in conference 2A, 1A, B and 6-man, August 26.

The earliest date for playing a football game in conferences 4A and 3A for the 1957 football season is September 13; in conferences 2A and 1A, B and 6-man, September 6.

### BASKETBALL AMENDMENT

Rule 27 (Breach of Contract) in both the boys' and girls' basketball plans has been amended to make the last sentence read: "Schools violating the provisions of this rule shall lose all rebate privileges from basketball play-offs and shall forfeit the game."

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Girls' Basketball Rules, League Supplement, Rule 6: In the last sentence of the last paragraph in Rule 6, "technical foul" should be deleted and this sentence should read: "On free throws following a double foul or a false double foul, players shall not take positions along the free throw lane."

### BASEBALL DATES

The last date for determining bi-district champions in Conferences AAAA and AAA is May 25. The last date for determining regional baseball champions in Conferences AAAA and AAA is June 3. The State Baseball Tournament for Conferences AAAA and AAA will be held on June 6 and 7.

### APPLE SPRINGS

Apple Springs placed on probation in boys basketball for the 1956-57 season for violation of Rule 34, Boys' Basketball Plan.

### For Effective Local Action

# Science Fair Interest Shows Rapid Upswing

By WAYNE TAYLOR

Director, Texas Science Teaching Improvement Program  
The University of Texas  
Practically unknown a decade ago, the science fair has jumped into headline significance in many community science programs.

As schools take on an ever-widening responsibility for developing an appreciation and understanding of scientific knowledge in today's age of nuclear power, teachers, administrators, and lay groups have found the science fair to be a versatile and useful activity for effective local action.

What is this mushrooming development? The science fair is, briefly, an opportunity for children to exhibit their individual and collective creative efforts in science for other interested people to see. It gives opportunity for schools to show patrons worthwhile educational activities—and is thus a powerful public relations tool.

### Builds Interest

It focuses attention on the variety and fun in science—and builds interest on the part of the students. It provides for every child who wants to participate an opportunity to show to others the fruits of his progress in science. The science fair is broad-based, embracing exhibition of student projects from the least complicated to the extremely complex.

The Texas Academy of Science has long been interested in student activities in science as evidenced by its sponsorship of the Junior Academy since 1936, and its sponsorship of a State Science Talent Search since 1948. Its recently formed Science Education Board has also taken on the responsibility for statewide coordination of science fair activities, and this year twelve regional science fairs led by hundreds of local science fairs will be in operation.

These regional fairs will be under their own regional direction and sponsorship. The number twelve is interesting when compared with two regional fairs for 1955 and eight for 1956.

### National Fair

Plans are being made in most of these regions to send two winners to the National Science Fair to be held in Los Angeles, May 9-11. National regulations provide only that entries to the National Science Fair be winners of affiliated regional science fairs, and that they be enrolled in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grades.

There are no age limits, and no restriction is made as to the type of school in which they are enrolled. Since science fairs are not athletic events, and the Interscholastic League does not sponsor a contest in this area, the awards rule and the amateur rule do not apply to prizes for science fair participation (see the December issue of the Interscholastic Leaguer for discussion of these rules).

### Regional Plans

Regional fairs at the present time are set to follow TSTA district lines. In some of the larger districts two fairs have been organized, and further plans are being made for such distribution next year. Further information may be obtained from the regional fair directors listed below:

- District I. Beaumont  
Director: Dr. Edwin S. Hayes, Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Texas
- District II. San Antonio  
Director: Sister Joseph Marie Armer, Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas
- District III. Corpus Christi  
Director: Dr. P. E. Smith, Del

# E. Merle Smith Buried in Sinton

Funeral services for School Supt. E. Merle Smith, 48, were conducted Dec. 23 at Sinton's First Baptist Church.

Smith, who had been in the Sinton school system 25 years and superintendent since 1947, died suddenly of a heart ailment at his home on Dec. 22. He had only recently been re-elected for another four-year term to the League's Legislative Council. During his career at Sinton Smith had served as teacher in both the elementary and high schools, high school coach, high school principal, and, finally, school superintendent. He was also very active in church and civic affairs in the South Texas community.

In Smith's memory the people of Sinton have started a scholarship fund and the board of trustees have named Sinton's new junior high school, which was opened last September, the Merle Smith Junior High School.

Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas  
District IV. Lubbock  
Director: Jim Mallard, Slaton High School, Slaton, Texas

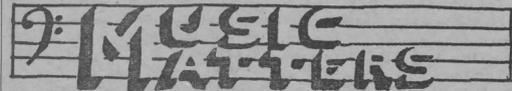
District V. Dallas  
Director: Tom D. Taylor, Highland Park High School, Dallas, Texas  
(Any school in District V except entries in Ft. Worth Science Fair.)  
Ft. Worth  
Director: Dr. Willis Hewatt, Heads Biology-Geology Department, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, Texas.

(Restricted to the following counties: Tarrant, Wise, Parker, Johnson, Hood, Palo Pinto.)  
District VI. El Paso  
Director: Dr. A. H. Berkman, Texas Western College, El Paso, Texas

District VII. Vernon  
Director: Mrs. Jean Munroe, Vernon High School, Vernon, Texas  
District VIII. Commerce  
Director: Dr. Arthur Pullen, Department of Biology, East Texas State Teachers College, Commerce, Texas

District IX. Tentative Plans not complete  
Write: Wayne Taylor, Director, Texas Science Teaching Improvement Program, 308 Extension Building, The University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas  
District X. Waco  
Director: Dr. Bryce Brown, Strecker Museum, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

(Following Counties: Bosque, McLennan, Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Falls, Bell, Coryell, Lampasas.)  
Austin  
Director: Miss Gladys Henninger, Secondary Supervisor, Austin Public Schools, Austin, Texas  
District XI. Brownwood  
Director: Dr. R. A. Eads, Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Texas



By F. W. SAVAGE

### Director of Music Activities

The error was small. It consisted of switching three column heads on the chart which listed contest dates and entry deadlines in the December issue of the Leaguer.

The results obtained, however, were disconcerting—but at the same time rather satisfying! Phone calls and letters began arriving the day following and have continued to date. While the error is regrettable, it does prove that the Leaguer is receiving some attention from music directors and administrators. Since this is the case, may we wish each of you a most satisfying and constructive New Year.

Corrected charts were printed immediately and you should have already received a letter calling your attention to the error and inclosing a corrected re-print. If you have received neither, refer to the correction notice on the front page of this issue and if you desire a corrected re-print, please request one from the State Office.

### Award Rule Applicable

It appears that some music directors harbor an aversion for rules and regulations and as a result ignore them completely or cast them aside on the presumption that they could not possibly apply to music activities. An attempt is made to prevent undue embarrassment for the detached director by calling specific attention in Rule 7, Page 96, of the Constitution to the eligibility rules which apply only to the contests named in the regulation.

For example: Article VIII, Section 8 states that, "no one shall take part in any athletic contest... who has received money... for teaching, officiating or participating in any athletic sport..."  
Since the adjective "athletic" is used twice in this sentence, the regulation obviously does not apply to music contests and music students may teach, officiate or receive wages for performing music without endangering their eligibility for competition.

Article XVI is not listed in Rule 7, Page 96, however, and its wording does not exempt music activities from consideration. Consequently, all the provisions of this "award rule" apply to music students participating in competition. It does not matter who sponsors the contest, whether or not the contest is local, statewide or national or whether the award is presented by the school, the sponsoring agency or a private individual.

### \$15 Limit

If a school presents, or if the winning student accepts, a prize in recognition of his success in interschool competition accumulating during the year to an amount in ex-

# BASKETBALL

(Continued from Page 1)

### Conference A

Region I—Districts 1-8, Texas Technological College, Lubbock; Gene Gibson, regional chairman.

Region II—Districts 9-16, North Texas State College, Denton; Pete Shands, regional chairman.

Region III—Districts 17-24, Texas A & M College, College Station; Barlow Irvin, regional chairman.

Region IV—Districts 25-32, Victoria College, Victoria; Hester Evans, regional chairman.

### Conference AA

Region I—Districts 1-8, Texas Technological College, Lubbock; Gene Gibson, regional chairman.

Region II—Districts 9-16, North Texas State College, Denton; Pete Shands, regional chairman.

Region III—Districts 17-24, Texas A & M College, College Station; Barlow Irvin, regional chairman.

Region IV—Districts 25-32, Victoria College, Victoria; Hester Evans, regional chairman.

### Girls' Regional Sites

Sites for regional playoffs and the sites in girls' districts will be announced in the February Leaguer.

### NEW EXERCISES SLATED

Dr. Addison E. Lee of The University of Texas is one of 10 college biologists in the nation selected to help prepare a set of new laboratory exercises for high school biology classes. The group of 10 college professors and 20 high school biology teachers will attend an eight-week conference at Michigan State University next summer to prepare the special work.

### UT RECEIVES GRANT

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has made a \$2,300 grant to help support University of Texas research in genetics. The research, being performed by Zoology Professors Robert P. Wagner and C. P. Oliver, involves a study of inherited biochemical differences in humans.

The key phrase in this regulation is "inter-school." If the contest is not limited to students in schools or if the contest is purely intra-mural, the rule is not applicable.

Educational trips, provided they are financed and sponsored solely by the local school board, are not interpreted as being violations of this rule.

Directors and administrators are encouraged to read all entrance requirements for all contests in which students are invited to compete and determine whether or not these contests are "inter-school" and if so, whether or not acceptance of a prize would jeopardize the eligibility of the competing student.

### Music Requirements

Band directors put aside their marches about this time of year and turn their attention to the "long music." We will begin receiving letters soon which, to say the least, are scarcely complimentary characterizations for the bureaucrat who prescribed such an impossible and unsuitable array of notes and dynamic markings. Accusations will fly thick and fast that not only did we compose the music but that we also own a controlling interest in the publishing house. Needless to say, we only wish we could and did.

Before the storm begins, may we repeat that the prescribed music list is constructed by active music directors who are currently struggling with the numbers prescribed for their own organizations. These committees are presided over by the chairmen of the respective divisions of the Texas Music Educators Association whom you elected. The committee members are nominated by this chairman from directors who participate both in competition and in the activities of the TMEA.

### Suggestions Wanted

A more involved and extensive system for selecting the music for prescribed lists is due to be put in effect very soon so if you have any suggestions, may we encourage you to write to your chairman. You will find their names and addresses in the upper left-hand corner of Page 1 of your professional publication, The Southwestern Musician and The Texas Music Educator. If you do not receive this publication regularly, may we suggest that you join the TMEA and receive a free copy each month!



One of the big jobs a director in the one-act play contest has is finding a script to suit his cast and facilities. Generally speaking, royalty plays are better than non-royalty. However, if a school cannot afford to pay a royalty, plays that are in the public domain (old plays on which the copyright has run out) are often good choices.

Plays by Chekhov, Shakespeare, Moliere, Rostand, and other such playwrights are in this category. Listed below are some of the more outstanding one-act plays that have served as good vehicles for the one-act play contest. The terms "comedy," "fantasy," and "drama" are used in their broadest sense in describing the plays. The Interscholastic League Drama Service has copies of these plays for reading purposes, unless otherwise noted in the description of the play, itself.

If the service does not have copies directors are instructed as to the procedure for finding the scripts. Some of the plays appear only in anthologies which can be secured directly from the publishers. In all instances, of course, if a play is chosen for production, cast copies must be ordered from the publisher and all royalty arrangements made with them. On royalty plays, schools must pay the required royalty on each contest appearance, and this arrangement should be made before the contest.

In the Suggested List of Plays for Contest issued for this year, some of these plays are listed in the "Old Plays" section. Should such scripts be new to the director, he should not let the term "old" deter him from doing the play if it suits his situation. Many of the old plays are better written and offer more possibilities than some of the new ones.

No attempt has been made to list cuttings or excerpts from long plays; these often give the best challenge to a group, so the long plays should not be overlooked when a director is searching for a script. Publishers are very fair about royalty arrangements for sections of long plays if directors write them in time to make such arrangements.

ARIA DA CAPO—Edna St. Vincent Millay. 4m1w, fantasy, Baker, \$15. This is a play within a play. A Pierrot comedy is a part of the story showing the futility of war.

THE BATHROOM DOOR—Gertrude Jennings. 3m3w, comedy, French, \$5. A central bathroom in a crowded hotel is the focus of this amusing comedy.

BEAUTY AND THE JACOBIN—Booth Tarkington. 3m2w, drama, French, \$5. French aristocrats try to escape death during the French Revolution. Unusual opportunities for a balanced cast, and in particular, a mature boy and polished girl. This play does not appear in the latest French catalog, though French still holds the acting rights. The Interscholastic League Drama Service has only one copy of the play in a collection which is not sent out. However, directors can find the play in ONE ACT PLAYS BY MODERN AUTHORS, by Helen Louise Choen, published by Harcourt, Brace and Company. In addition to this play, directors will find this volume contains 21 of the best one-act plays available under one cover. The volume is available from Texas Book Store, University Station, Austin, for \$3.75.

THE BISHOP'S CANDLESTICKS—Norman McKinnel. 3m2w, drama, French, \$5. The Bishop gives Jean Valjean his beloved candlesticks after the convict tries to steal them.

THE BLUE TEAPOT—Jean Lee Latham. 2m2w, comedy, Dramatic, \$5. A young wife learns how to handle her husband from a story about the blue teapot.

THE BOOR—Anton Chekhov. 2m1w, comedy, French, non-royalty. A man attempts to collect money owed him by the dead husband of a beautiful woman. He ends up with the woman instead of the money.

THE BOY COMES HOME—A. A. Milne. 2m3w, comedy, French, \$10. An uncle's dream changes his attitude toward a boy just home from the war.

BOX AND COX—John M. Morton. 2m1w, comedy, French, non-royalty. An excellent farce about the solving of the housing shortage—Victorian style.

whom he is engaged.  
THE DEAR DEPARTED—Stanley Houghton. 3m3w, comedy, French, \$5. An English family is dividing the estate of the dead father when he suddenly turns up alive.

DEATH OF THE HIRED MAN—adapted by Jay Reid Gould. 2m2w, drama, Dramatic, \$10-\$5. Robert Frost's dramatic poem made into a play. The old hired man comes home to die—but not in peace. This is an excellent adaptation of the poem and offers some finely etched character sketches. The play is new this year.

THE FLATTERING WORD—George Kelly. 2m3w, comedy, French, \$10. Flattery overcomes a minister's objections to the theatre.

THE FLORIST SHOP—Winifred Hawkrige. 3m2w, comedy, Baker, \$10. A clerk gives away flowers to encourage a couple to marry; this turns out to be good business, since she sells even more flowers. Splendid play not very often done because the set calls for a florist shop. Directors with a little imagination can use a suggested set, however, and greatly simplify this problem. If the girl in the play can use a Brooklyn accent, much of the local humor of the play will come through better. A phony accent, however, will destroy the delicate, heart-warming atmosphere on which the play depends.

GRAND CHAM'S DIAMOND—Allan Monkhouse. 3m2w, comedy, Baker, \$5. A family suddenly acquires a diamond, but gives it up after overcoming the temptation to keep it.

THE HAPPY JOURNEY—Thornton Wilder. 3m3w, comedy, French, \$5. A simple but moving play about a journey in the family auto when cars were not the streamlined creations they are now. A very hard play to do convincingly, but a beautiful play if done with honesty and sincerity. Since the play is done in pantomime, experienced actors and extra rehearsals are called for.

ILE—Eugene O'Neill. 5m1w, drama, Dramatic, \$5. Stubborn pride forces a captain to stay at sea for whale oil while his wife goes insane. Calls for a portable organ which may cause some difficulty in staging. Intense characters are usually hard for high school students to sustain. If the director is not experienced in teaching students to underplay, this play should not be attempted.

I'M A FOOL—Christopher Sergel (from Sherwood Anderson's story). 4m4w, comedy, Dramatic, \$5-\$10. A stable boy falls in love and impersonates a wealthy man to impress his sweetheart. Excellent opportunities for characterization. Also good flexibility in the way of a set so that the director can use his imagination in creating the mood of the play.

JAZZ AND MINUET—Ruth Giorloff. 2m3w, fantasy, Longmans, \$5-\$10. A love story involving a contrast between minuets and jazz music.

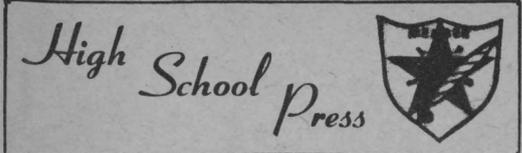
JOINT OWNERS IN SPAIN—Alice Brown. 4w, comedy, Baker, \$5. The old ladies live in the same room. They quarrel, but resolve their difficulties by use of an imaginary wall. Excellent play for girls who can portray older characters.

JUDGE LYNCH—J. W. Rogers. 2m2w, drama, French, \$10. Tragic story of lynching in the South.

LAST OF THE LOWRIES—Paul Green. 1m3w, drama, French, \$5. A mother loses her outlaw husband and four of her sons to the law in this folk drama.

LONESOME-LIKE—Harold Brighouse. 2m2w, comedy, French, \$5. An old lady is rescued from the poor house by a lonesome young man.

THE LONG CHRISTMAS DINNER—Thornton Wilder. 5m7w, comedy, French, \$10. The story of ninety Christmas dinners and the changes that take place during those years. Staging is simple, but the acting must be superb in order to tell the tale properly. Characters must be able to alter from youth to old age without benefit of much makeup. Excellent play to test the real acting ability of players.



By ROY MOSES, JR. Director of Journalism

Sympathy Department: I guess things are tough all over—trying to "get back into harness" after the Christmas holidays, and with a deadline staring you in the face, too. However, things have started rolling again now at ILPC headquarters, and before you know it State Meet time will be here. And, speaking of State Meet, coming your way soon will be some sample contest material to help prepare students for regional competitions and a set of contest rules for the Individual Achievement Awards contest.

**Award Categories**  
So, I remind you again, start clipping those outstanding exhibits now for the Individual Achievement Awards. Remember, the contest categories are: news writing, editorial writing, sports writing, feature writing, featurette writing, spot news photographs, feature photos, and illustrations. All other details will be mailed direct to ILPC members.

Speaking of membership, the deadline will have passed by the time this reaches the readers, so let's hope nobody gets left out. Numerous reminders are sent out each year, but invariably someone forgets until it is too late. So I'll take this opportunity to say—in advance—that I am truly sorry, but rules are rules and no exceptions can be made for latecomers. Make a note now, for next year, to join early.

Back on the subject of things to come, let me repeat some earlier remarks concerning the individual criticisms. Response to this particular service of ILPC has been exceptionally good this year, causing a deluge of work. Some of them have been completed and mailed back to the newspaper staffs, others are in the works now, and still others are on the "things to do" list.

**Be Patient**  
It is a slow process, and qualified and competent critics are hard to find in any great numbers, so I urge you to be patient if you have not received your criticism yet. We are plugging away at them, and hope to have the bulk of them out of the way by the end of February, so bear with us a while longer, please.

There is no late report available on the two upcoming new pamphlets mentioned in the High School Press column of the December Leaguer. Here again, like with the criticisms, time is a factor, and progress is sometimes slow. However, these, too, should be ready for mailing by late February, so be looking for them. Also scheduled for mailing soon—in pamphlet form—is a membership roster of all ILPC members for the 1956-57 school year. This, of course, cannot be started until after the January 15 membership deadline, but we'll get it out just as soon as possible.

**Advertising News**

Note to advertising managers: last month we mentioned an inquiry into the possibility of securing national advertising for high school newspapers. A letter to V. Edward Canale, National Advertising Service, Inc., New York, brought one possibility that we'll pass on to high school advisers and advertising managers in case they want to make an attempt to secure some of the national accounts.

Canale wrote: "National advertising does appear in high school newspapers. Advertising for it is cleared by: Richmond Advertising Service 26 Court Street Brooklyn, New York

"It is the only organization with which I am familiar that does this on a national plane. There are, of course, supplements, such as Scholastic Roto, which carry national advertising and which are provided to high school papers. This, of course, is not exactly what you had in mind, as the advertising appears in the supplement.

"If you are interested, information on the Scholastic Roto can be secured from:

Scholastic Press Association 18 Journalism Building University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minn."

**Thumbing Thru 'Em**

The HILLCREST HURRICANE, Hillcrest High School, Dallas, came up with two eye-catchers in the December 7 issue. First of all, the entire edition was patterned after the conservative style of the New York Times, with small cuts, mostly one column heads, and many decks to the heads. It was unusual, to say the least, and a small box on the front page explained the different appearance to the readers and asked them to compare that issue with others and give their opinions.

In the same issue of the HURRICANE was a literary supplement of

a really first-class nature. The supplement, called NEW VOICES, printed the winning entries in a schoolwide contest for original prose, poetry, photography and art work. The make-up was nice and the reproduction of the pictures and drawings was good on enamel paper, and it could well serve as an idea for others to try.

The recent holidays—both Thanksgiving and Christmas—presented all sorts of angles for special editions and themes. Space doesn't permit mentioning more than a couple, but to all who did accomplish something special I say "keep up the good work."

The GOSLIN PRESS, Baytown Junior High School, printed their entire Christmas edition in red and green ink, alternating the colors between pages. The cover was an original art piece by James Campbell that was quite effective with a blue background and the name plate, a church, and the strains of "Silent Night" done in reverse in white.

One of the fanciest Christmas editions was mailed in by Electra Junior High School. The CUB CHATTER cover pictured Santa, with traditional red coat, trimming a Christmas tree. The tree was done in green and, of all things, had sequins glued directly on the paper for tree ornaments. To carry out the effect inside, each page had a border of green holly leaves and/or red holly berries printed at the top or bottom of the page.

**CORRECTION**

Last month's attempted clarification of the Amateur and Awards Rules (page 1, column 2, December Leaguer) resulted in some additional perplexity because two lines of type got transposed in the middle of the story.

To straighten the matter out, the proper wording of paragraph nine and the first part of paragraph ten (bottom of column 3 and top of column 4) should be:

"Also, the Amateur Rule does not apply to student-supervised contests of the vocational agriculture program, unless the contest is an athletic event named under the Rule, such as "rodeo events." However, the Amateur Rule does not apply to a "calf scramble" contest, provided such a contest is conducted under the vocational division of the Texas Education Agency.

**Travel Expenses**  
"It is not considered a violation of the Amateur Rule for a contestant to participate on or travel with a non-school team..."

**Grid Clashes Start in Grades For Dallas Boys**

Dallas sixth and seventh grade boys are learning the arts of passing, punting, and blocking early in their school careers under a new athletic program in 52 elementary schools that sponsors tackle football competition between 102 pint-size teams.

The Dallas Independent School District originated the program last fall with 2,000 boys participating. The 10-district competition is directed from the Physical Education Department of the school district. The schools leave it up to the boys to get their own equipment. Many buy their own, and in some instances, equipment is bought by a Dads' Club, P.T.A., or some other local source. All players have to wear helmet, shoulder pads, padded pants, and tennis shoes.

"From interest and demand shown the first year in operation, we should have 175 teams next year," A. A. Buschman, co-ordinator of physical education, health instruction, and recreation in the Dallas schools, says.

Age, grade, and weight determine eligibility, but no boy may play on the school team and on an outside team. Awards are limited to a school letter.

**REGENTS REMARK...**

(Continued from Page 1)

**Girls Won**

"That was the year we went to the semi-finals," he says, "and we lost, taking the negative side, to some girls. After that I was totally convinced that they should not take part in such debates."

Dr. Minter's debating activities stopped after he completed high school and began concentrating on his professional studies. He attended The University of Texas and received a bachelor of science degree; he later received a doctor of medicine degree from the Medical Branch

**DEBATE...**

(Continued from Page 1)

selected by all the states, Texas will send out another ballot with the three debate propositions under this area for our schools to pick one statement. In this way, Texas arrives at its debate proposition for the 1957-58 season.

If you have any particular comment to make on any of the above statements of problem areas, debate propositions, or discussion questions, the State office would be pleased to hear from you. Write, Debate, Box 8028, U. T. Station, Austin, Texas.

in Galveston, and, after his internship, he began practice of internal medicine in San Antonio, where today he is extremely active in civic and professional organizations.

**Continued Debating**

Jeffers continued his debate work during his undergraduate years at The University of Texas. He was a member of the University Intercollegiate Debate Team each year and participated in numerous meets, including contests with Cambridge University, Roberts College of Turkey, the University of Kansas, Colorado University, the University of California, and many others.

He graduated from the University Law School in 1932 and began applying his debating skill to professional practice. For ten years he practiced law in San Antonio, serving as Bexar County assistant criminal district attorney from 1935 until 1939, and, in 1942, he joined the firm of Vinson, Elkins, Weems & Sears in Houston, where he is today.

**BELL GIVES SCHOLARSHIP**

The Bell Foundation, Inc., of Fort Worth, a subsidiary of the Bell Aircraft Corporation, has established a \$1,000 scholarship for University of Texas freshmen. The scholarship, named for the Bell Corporation founder, Lawrence D. Bell, will go to male students majoring in engineering, chemistry, physics or mathematics.

**840 Officials Get Certified**

A total of 840 girls' basketball officials have qualified to be placed on the certified list issued this year by the League.

This is the third list of certified girls' basketball officials compiled in the history of the girls' basketball in Texas, and those connected with this activity feel that it should be a great step forward in the promotion of a safe and sound girls' basketball program.

Each official on the list has taken a test on the official girls' rules and has made a satisfactory score. League officials strongly recommend that only officials on the certified list be used by member schools, as in this manner employment can be given to those officials who have studied and worked so that they may become better basketball officials.

**SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED**

A new geology scholarship at The University of Texas has been established by Roland K. Blumberg of Seguin. The scholarship, named in honor of a former University regent and Blumberg's father-in-law, H. H. Weinert, will be awarded to a student doing graduate work on South Texas tertiary rocks. That specific field was selected by the geology faculty as one in which research is needed.

**OFF THE CUFF**

By ROY BEDICHEK Director Emeritus University Interscholastic League

We note with regret the probable discontinuance of *Texas Game and Fish*, a monthly magazine issued for the past twelve years by the Texas Game and Fish Commission.

While devoted primarily to hunting and fishing interests, it has, under recent editorship, become a force in the conservation of natural resources in Texas. It has been used effectively in the public schools by Everett T. Dawson, director of the Division of Conservation Education and Publications. Issues of this journal have contained articles and illustrations of great interest to pupils interested in nature and it has been of substantial aid to teachers concerned with inculcating in the youth of Texas the principles of conservation.

Whatever economy-minded official in the hierarchy of state officialdom is responsible for the economy (?) of killing this valuable journal should be compelled to take a new look; and, if necessary, a new look under competent supervision.

A valuable competition in the care and feeding of domestic animals has been under way in this country for many years under various sponsorships. It is one of those contests very difficult to supervise since the care and feeding of the animal to be placed in competition cannot be under the eye of unbiased judges. There is no way of telling just how much the pupil has put into the project.

However, the contest has done much to center interest in the subject-matter and is surely one of the more popular contests of the kind. Often the child makes a pet of the animal, and two violently contradictory emotions are set going: (1) love of the animal; (2) knowledge that he is raising the animal to be sold and probably slaughtered.

A dramatic case of this inevitable and very harmful frustration is recorded by Frank X. Tolbert's column, *Dallas News*, Oct. 18, 1956:

"Tom Parker is showing lambs at the State Fair this week and he is well remembered at the exposition because of an episode two years ago when his pet lamb, Southdown, was sold and was destined to be made into lamb chops. Tom, then twelve years old, cried such big tears over parting with Southdown that the buyer, John W. Carpenter, of Dallas, gave the lamb back to the boy."

Is it not unfair to force a child of twelve into the position of selling a pet he loves for any amount of money, especially when he knows that the animal is to be slaughtered? Pets have an educational value, and certainly the care and feeding of domestic animals has educational value, but the two do not mix. One is love and the other is business.

It would be well for supervisors to see to it that the pet-relationship does not develop between the boy and the animal he is rearing for the market. One great advantage of making pets of dogs and cats is that we don't eat them.

Those who condemn using competitions in the schools because it aids and abets the war-psychology, should consider Goethe's larger view: "War is in truth a disease in which the juices that ordinarily serve for the preservation of health are diverted to nourish an excrescence that is foreign to nature."

L. V. Phillips, director of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, transmits to the editor of this column an editorial clipped from *The Indianapolis Star*, (June 6, 1956) entitled "Bred in the Bone." The editorial commends the American Academy of Pediatrics for its resolution condemning "bruising sports on an organized highly competitive level for youngsters not yet in their teens."

"The doctors were still on firm ground," the editorial continues, "in condemning overpowering adult pressure on young children to win whatever contest they might engage in."

But the editor parts company with the doctors when they condemn the desire to win in athletics on any age level. Arguing against this view, the editor continues:

"The implication seemed to be that athletics, like a ride on a merry-go-round, should end at the beginning. A human being's life pattern just isn't laid out that way, whether it is in athletics or business, courtship or hobbies. The person who does not desire to excel in something isn't worth a bent penny."

"There has been a noticeable inclination among many social theorists in the last few years to preach the evils of competition. They argue that utopia is a state in which no person tries to be better than another. Since athletics provides the most primitive, clear-cut kind of competition, athletics naturally comes in for a great deal of attention by this group.

"The desire to win, or to excel, is not evil, either on the playing fields or in the laboratories and business offices. It is the thing which has pushed civilization forward step by step since the earliest ages. It is as natural as hunger, and shows up almost as soon in a child. As a national asset, it is vital. As an individual attribute, it is unavoidable.

"The thing a wise parent teaches is not to avoid defeat by avoiding competition, but to accept defeat gracefully when it comes and regard it as simply another lesson on the road to victory. Competition can be fun for its own sake, but it is silly to pretend that winning isn't fun, too.

"Children should by all means be free from undue pressure by parents, teachers or others to win at all costs, by fair means or foul. Athletic exploitation of youngsters makes no more sense than their exploitation by sweatshops. But to refuse to share a child's inborn natural jubilation over his small victories, out of some mistaken idea that it is a shame to want to win, makes less sense yet.

"America as a nation would be in a sorry state indeed if the next generation grew up with the idea that it is sinful to try to be better than anyone else."

**Hamilton Books Available Now**

National headquarters of the Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Commission has just sent two outstanding volumes which will be of great assistance to all declaimers and extemp speakers in preparing for the Alexander Hamilton scholarship contests.

These contests, as has previously been stated, will be conducted as part of the regular senior declamation and extemp speech contests in Texas. Schools may have free the books by T. J. Norton, "The Constitution of the United States, Its Sources and Its Application," and the book by R. B. Morris, "The Basic Ideas of Alexander Hamilton" merely for the postage on the books. This amounts to 5 cents per book. These will be sent to schools on a first come, first served basis. Since the supply of these free books is limited, we suggest schools send 10 cents at once in order to get a copy of each book. Send for your copies to Speech Office, Box 8028, U. T. Station, Austin, Texas.

**THE UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC ANNUAL FINANCIAL RECAPITULATION**

September 1, 1955 through August 31, 1956  
GENERAL STATEMENT

Table with columns for BALANCES, Re-appropriated Balances Brought Forward, Encumbered Balances Brought Forward, RECEIPTS, and DISBURSEMENTS. Includes sub-sections for GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT and BASEBALL TOURNAMENT.

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**Texas Observer Views Bedi's Book**

EDITOR'S NOTE: This penetrating review of Roy Bedichek's book was written by Ronnie Dugger and appeared in *The Texas Observer*.

Dugger, editor of the *Observer*, "an independent liberal weekly newspaper," is recognized in Austin as one of its outstanding young journalists and writers. He returned to Texas several years ago after a year's study at Oxford University and holds an impressive list of honors that began when he was a student at Brackenridge High School in San Antonio.

He won third place in the Declaration Contest at the UIL State Meet in 1947, was editor of the *Brackenridge Times*, honorary member of *Quill and Scroll*, and Texas champion in the National Brotherhood scholastic writing contest.

At the University he was active in journalism and dramatic activities and served as *Daily Texan* editor before graduating.

Copies of Bedichek's book are still available to schools, through the League Office, at a special price of \$5.

raise its youth in its own image; the tendencies in American society against intellect and the "bookish"; the attacks on competition in the schools, which he dismisses; the attacks on mass public education itself, which he in turn attacks, almost savagely; the development of "easiness," a weakening of the sense of achievement and the saturation of curricula with "softer" courses, in the public schools; and such issues as the equality of man and the meaning of an elite in a democracy.

Herein he takes up the history of rivalry as a means of inducing effort—in China, Egypt, Greece; the purpose of education, which he takes to be the intent of the community to

ings—and who can avoid them?—Bedichek has evolved the conviction that the "extra-curriculum," as refined and elaborated in the Interscholastic League, affords young people with talent and ambition a better chance to find (in Bedichek's reference) Tenyson's "self-knowledge, self-reverence, self-control." Hold before the young "the same great theme of superior performance and the vision of greatness it inspires." In the well-matched contest, let the winner win, the loser lose; this "purges the emotions like a drama," prepares the youth for resilience and progress in the world's most competitive society, and yet gives him the experience, as a representative of his school, of group competition, which is also group cooperation.

Admit that the Declaration of Independence is wrong, that men are created unequal; admit that even in democracy, an elite is created by natural variations in physical and mental capacity. Then, Bedichek says, the schools must find a way "to discover and train these individuals who have in them the possibilities of leadership." Competition, well devised and carefully controlled, is the means to the service of both the Jeffersonian ideal, "giving scope to ability," and the Jacksonian, "the raising of the average."

Through most of his book, Bedichek calls on the ancients, Xenophon, Plutarch, Plato, Hesiod, Aristophanes, on Milton, Carlyle, Schopenhauer, Emerson, Thoreau, Kipling, Dewey, Conant, Einstein. At any juncture he may erupt with indictments of commercial propagandists trying to peddle school essay contests, or big business "ruling the country," or a playwrighting contest that excludes anyone involved in any kind of public controversy. ("Non-conformists—the type of human being responsible for nine-tenths of genuine progress in human affairs from Prometheus on down—cannot enter the Samuel French contest.")

OUT OF THESE conflicting feelings—and of course there is the

history of the League, which Bedichek piloted to its present massive influence in the schools of the state. How many thousands of young Texans have risen before the judges to debate, declaim, or extemporize—have vied in music, choral singing, one-act plays, journalism, spelling, ready writing, typing, shorthand, number sense—have fought for the match in football, basketball, track and field, baseball, tennis, volleyball, golf. Texas has more schools competing in interschool basketball, football, and track and field than any other state in the union.

And consider what Texas youth has had to mull over, see both sides of, and argue, because of the League: Statewide prohibition (1910), equal rights of suffrage (1912), compulsory education (1913), universal military training (1918), government ownership of the railroads (1919), an open shop (1920), the League of Nations (1923), child labor (1925), lobbying (1931), the British system of radio control (1933), government ownership of light and power utilities (1934), a government monopoly of munitions manufacture (1936), a retail sales tax (1938), complete medical service at public expense (1939 and 1946), increased Texas natural resources taxes (1940 and 1948), a federal world government (1942), extended welfare benefits (1950), free trade (1954), federally guaranteed higher education to all qualified high school graduates (1955).

Year in, year out, the League has challenged the students of the state, held before them a standard of achievement and a "habitual vision of greatness."

As the schools must bend their standards to save the slow from humiliation, so the League has held forth an unyielding spirit of competition and the integrity of conflict. Though he will deny his credit, it was Roy Bedichek's second work, and we are all richer that he has done it, and now that he has written about it.



**GARLAND, AAA CHAMPIONS**—Front row (left to right): Ronnie Rogers, Don Stepp, Jimmy Glidewell, Dennis Lafferty, Jerry Scogins, Dale Garrett, Don Isett, Lynn Skelton. Second row: Charles Bailey, Joe Bob Johnson, Wayne Mullins, Bobby Norvell, Floyd Blackwell, Co-Captain; Bobby Richardson, Captain; Tommy Turner, Co-Captain; Billy Weaver, Co-Captain; Mike Gieb, David Scott,

Jan Overstreet. Third row: Raymond Elliott, Jimmy Brooks, Byron Willis, Charles Davis, David Johnson, Ronnie Van Gilder, Jerry Wolfe, Pat Sznajder, Rex Coldwell, Joe Cornett. Top row: Jerry Plumlee, Harold Arnold, Jon Overstreet, Line Coach Berry Hudson, Head Coach Bill Ellington, Backfield Coach Homer Johnson, Charles McKinney, Ted Landgraf.



**ABILENE, AAAA CHAMPIONS**—Bottom row (left to right): Charles Bottoms, Reyes Diaz, James Brooks, Chuck Colvin, Gervis Galbraith, Eddie Woods, Truman Bridges, Bill Sides, Jimmy Roberts, and Charles Steinman, manager. Second row: Charles Williams, manager; Stuart Peake, Kenny Schmidt, Hubert Jordan, Jimmy Carpenter, Harold Stephens, Butch Adams, Charles Bradshaw, Erwin Bishop, Guy Wells.

Third row: Jimmy Johns, manager; Mike Pelfry, Bufford Carr, Clint Murphy, Jim Rose, Glynn Gregory, Kim Winston, Ralph Bruton, Boyd King, Rufus King. Top row: Joe Ward, Gerald Galbraith, Jimmy Perry, Mike Bryant, Mike McKinnis, Bob Swafford, Alan Peake, John Young, Frank Aycock.



**STAMFORD, AA CHAMPIONS**—Front row (left to right): Arche Pardue, Wilbur Cox, Darryl Schoonmaker, Nicky Jackson, Donald Davis, Kenneth Ivy, T. C. Rice, Romeo Garcia, Jimmy Payne. Middle row: Larry Ivy, Walter Hood, Stanley Hill, Doug Monzingo, Delton

Ake, Robert Hardin, Jack Magness, J. B. Tabor, Coach O. M. Isbell, Coach Larry Wartes. Back row: Coach Gordon Wood, Charles Stenholm, Gayle Ward, Royce West, Dallas Christian, Dale Robinson, Rufino Escobedo, Andy Swenson, Mike McClellan, Bobby Nelson.



**STINNETT, A CHAMPIONS**—Front row (left to right): Billy Tosh, Larry Dawson, Ralph Hicks, Dale Keadle, Sammy Roberts, Leslie Barrett, John Carter, Alvin Robertson. Second row: Dee Yates, Sammy Lilly, Johnny Reynolds, John Young, Bobby Karr, Boyd Patterson, Assistant Coach Don Light. Third row: Fred Hedgecoke, Mar-

shall Thompson, Roy Reger, Jimmy Uptergrove, Jackie Thompson, Larry Wilson, Assistant Coach Don McDonald. Top row: Emmett Sparks, John Neilson, G. L. Gibson, Jerry Wilson, Roger McFarren, and Coach Don Seymour. Not pictured are Jim Anderson, Jay Hicks, and Bill Wallace.

# Abilene, Stamford Repeaters In Final 1956 Grid Playoffs

The excitement of the Texas high school football championship battles has subsided and four schools are admiring their new State football championship trophies—one of them for the third consecutive year and another for the second year in succession.

From the State playoffs, completed late in December, emerged Abilene, Garland, Stamford and Stinnett as champions in conference AAAA, AAA, AA, and A, respectively.

For the Abilene Eagles it was a third consecutive championship as they beat W. B. Ray (Corpus Christi) 14-0 to retain the title they won in 1954 and 1955. Stamford made it two in a row by beating Brady 26-13 to retain their 1955 championship spot.

Other playoff results were: Garland 3, Nederland 0 in AAA competition and Stinnett 35, Hondo 13 in the conference A championship battle.

In conference B and six-man football the playoffs go only as far as the regional championship.

The complete summary by conferences is:

### Conference AAAA

District winners were: Ysleta, Abilene, Amarillo, Paschal (Fort Worth), Highland Park (Dallas), Crozier Technical (Dallas), Wichita Falls, Tyler, Sam Houston (Houston), Lamar (Houston), Beaumont, Robert E. Lee (Baytown), Waco, Ray (Corpus Christi), Jefferson (San Antonio), and Alice.

Bi-district results were: Abilene 42, Ysleta 6; Paschal (Fort Worth) 13, Amarillo 7; Highland Park (Dallas) 21, Crozier Technical (Dallas) 6; Wichita Falls 28, Tyler 7; Lamar (Houston) 33, Sam Houston (Houston) 0; Baytown 41, Beaumont 13; Ray (Corpus Christi) 33, Waco 6; Alice 26, Jefferson (San Antonio) 24.

Quarter-final winners were: Abilene 14, Paschal (Fort Worth) 0; Wichita Falls 19, Highland Park (Dallas) 7; Baytown 28, Lamar

(Houston) 20; Ray (Corpus Christi) 33, Alice 13.

Semi-final results were: Abilene 20, Wichita Falls 6; Ray (Corpus Christi) 13, Baytown 6.

In the State championship game, played at Austin on December 22, Abilene beat Ray (Corpus Christi) 14-0.

### Conference AAA

District winners: Littlefield, Andrews, Snyder, Graham, Garland, Gainesville, Kilgore, Cleburne, University (Waco), Bryan, Nederland, La Marque, Edison (San Antonio), Uvalde, Robstown and Mission.

Bi-district results: Littlefield 20, Andrews 13; Graham 7, Snyder 6; Garland 39, Gainesville 0; Cleburne 20, Kilgore 0; Bryan 12, University (Waco) 0; Nederland 42, La Marque 6; Edison (San Antonio) 45, Uvalde 0; Robstown 7, Mission 0.

Quarter-final winners were: Littlefield 19, Graham 7; Garland 20, Cleburne 6; Nederland 35, Bryan 13; Edison (San Antonio) 20, Robstown 0.

Semi-final results: Garland 28, Littlefield 2; Nederland 7, Edison (San Antonio) 0.

In the championship game, played at Nederland on December 22, Garland won over Nederland 3-0 on a 17-yard field goal.

### Conference AA

District winners: Canyon, Spur, Perryton, Stamford, Crane, Coleman, Hamilton, Burk Burnett, Lewisville, Seagoville, Terrell, Bonham, DeKalb, Gilmer, Hillsboro, Crockett, Brady, Belton, Giddings, Lockhart, Navasota, Liberty, Deer Park, West Columbia, Floresville, Devine, Sinton, Hebronville, Mercedes.

Bi-district results: Canyon 28, Spur 13; Stamford 27, Perryton 0; Crane, Bye; Coleman 31, Hamilton 7; Burk Burnett 28, Lewisville 19; Terrell 35, Seagoville 0; Bonham 34, DeKalb 0; Gilmer, Bye; Hillsboro 27, Crockett 0; Brady 24, Belton 7; Giddings 20, Lockhart 19; Navasota 6, Liberty 0; Deer Park 34, West Columbia 13; Devine 34, Floresville 20; Sinton, Bye; Hebronville 26, Mercedes 20.

Regional playoffs: Stamford 48, Canyon 12; Crane 21, Coleman 7; Terrell 28, Burk Burnett 12; Gilmer 19, Bonham 14; Brady 14, Hillsboro 7; Giddings 19, Navasota 13; Deer Park 46, Devine 14; Sinton 46, Hebronville 19.

Quarter-final winners: Stamford 39, Crane 6; Terrell 55, Gilmer 6; Brady 33, Giddings 0; Sinton 13, Deer Park 13 (penetrations, first downs tied, Sinton won on total yardage 173-105).

Semi-final games: Stamford 39, Terrell 7; Brady 20, Sinton 7.

In the title game, played December 21 at Abilene, Stamford beat Brady 26-13.

### Conference A

District winners: Stinnett, Clarendon, Farwell, Hale Center and Ralls — co-champions, Sundown, Merkel, Big Lake, Sonora, Cross Plains, Eastland, Holliday and Iowa Park — co-champions, Henrietta, Wilmer-Hutchins (Hutchins), Rockwall, Linden, White Oak, Gaston (Joinerville), Kerens, McGregor, Mart, Groveton, Corrigan and Timpon — co-champions, Warren, Humble, East Bernard, Bastrop, Blanco, Hondo, George West, Hallettsville, Bishop and Los Fresnos.

Bi-district results: Stinnett 33, Clarendon 6; Farwell 27, Hale Center 14; Merkel 60, Sundown 20; Sonora 23, Big Lake 13; Eastland 26,

Cross Plains 7; Henrietta 19, Holliday 14; Wilmer-Hutchins (Hutchins) 34, Rockwall 12; Linden 26, White Oak 13; Gaston (Joinerville) 20, Kerens 13; Mart 19, McGregor 13; Groveton 20, Corrigan 6; Humble 20, Warren 14; Bastrop 14, East Bernard 6; Hondo 34, Blanco 19; Hallettsville 27, George West 14; Bishop 7, Los Fresnos 7 (Bishop won on penetrations 2-1).

Regional playoffs: Stinnett 32, Farwell 0; Merkel 51, Sonora 13; Eastland 27, Henrietta 20; Linden 25, Wilmer-Hutchins (Hutchins) 0; Mart 20, Gaston (Joinerville) 7; Humble 34, Groveton 12; Hondo 34, Bastrop 14; Hallettsville 28, Bishop 20.

Quarter-final games: Stinnett 27, Merkel 0; Eastland 34, Linden 14; Humble 32, Mart 7; Hondo 21, Hallettsville 6.

Semi-final results: Stinnett 55, Eastland 20; Hondo 20, Humble 13. In the championship game, played December 22 at Sweetwater, Stinnett beat Hondo 35-13.

### Conference B

District winners: Groom, Wheeler, Happy, Van Horn, Hermleigh, Rochester, Gorman, Lockett (Ver-non), Alvord, Ladonia, Roysse City, Ferris, Union Grove (Gladewater), McLeod, Shelbyville and Tatum — co-champions, Keller, Godley and Joshua — co-champions, Blooming Grove and Frost — co-champions, Hubbard, Early (Brownwood), Marble Falls, Meridian, Crawford, Chilton, Buffalo, Magnolia, Shepherd and Tarkington (Cleveland) — co-champions, Barbers Hill (Mont Belvieu), Sugar Land, Orchard, Holland, Florence, Flatonia, Calallen, Bracketville, Bandera, Agua Dulce and Sharyland (Mission).

Bi-district results: Groom 7, Wheeler 7 (Wheeler won on penetrations 3-2); Happy, Whiteface (Happy won by forfeit; Whiteface disqualified); Hermleigh 12, Van Horn 7; Rochester 51, Gorman 7; Lockett (Ver-non) 20, Alvord 6; Roysse City 33, Ladonia 6; Union Grove (Gladewater) 20, Ferris 14; McLeod 27, Shelbyville 0; Keller 44, Godley 7; Hubbard 14, Frost 0; Marble Falls 46, Early (Brownwood) 12; Crawford 13, Meridian 0; Chilton 13, Buffalo 6; Magnolia 54, Tarkington (Cleveland) 25; Sugar Land 53, Orchard 13; Holland 39, Florence 14; Flatonia 42, Calallen 13; Bandera 31, Bracketville 0; Aguilar Dulce 40, Sharyland (Mission) 7.

Regional winners: Region I: Wheeler over Happy 33-21; Region II: Rochester over Hermleigh 14-7; Region III: Roysse City over Lockett (Ver-non) 33-6; Region IV: Union Grove (Gladewater) over McLeod 12-0; Region V: Hubbard over Keller 20-20 (first downs 24-8); Region VI: Marble Falls over Crawford 26-6; Region VII: Magnolia over Chilton 19-14; Region VIII: Sugar Land over Barbers Hill (Mont Belvieu) 46-13; Region IX: Flatonia over Holland 25-0; Region X: Agua Dulce over Bandera 20-12.

### Six-Man Football

District winners: Mobeetie, Bula (Enochs), Jayton, Paint Creek (Haskell), Dell City, Pyote, Loop, Sterling City, Hobbs (Rotan), Norton, Brookesmith, Sidney, Northside (Ver-non), Turnersville, Allen, Community (Nevada), Karnack, Coolidge, Mount Calm, China, Buckholts, Hutto, Nueces Canyon (Barksdale) and Harper.

Bi-district results: Bula (Enochs)

76, Mobeetie 32; Paint Creek (Haskell) 52, Jayton 26; Pyote 40, Dell City 26; Sterling City 57, Loop 12; Norton 61, Hobbs (Rotan) 22; Sidney 22, Brookesmith 14; Northside (Ver-non) 20, Turnersville 19; Community (Nevada) 30, Allen 16; Coolidge 38, Karnack 30; China 56, Mount Calm 38; Hutto 71, Buckholts 57; Nueces Canyon (Barksdale) 46, Harper 0.

Regional winners: Region I: co-champions — Bula (Enochs) and Paint Creek (Haskell) 26-26; Region II: Sterling City over Pyote 55-50; Region III: Norton over Sidney 35-28; Region IV: Northside (Ver-non) over Community (Nevada) 45-30; Region V: China over Coolidge 68-28; Region VI: Nueces Canyon (Barksdale) over Hutto 60-47.

## Valley Awards Break No Rule

This office has had many inquiries relative to the presentation of trophies at an all-Rio Grande Valley football banquet which were reproduced in part on the television show Texas In Review.

All trophies presented were given to the school to be placed in the permanent possession of that school in their trophy case, with the name of the boy engraved thereon.

This is not in violation of the Award Rule, as the trophies were given to the school; it would be in violation if the trophies had been accepted by the boys after they had already received one major award for \$15 for football participation.



**Q.** Under the Ten-Semester Rule can a student in the eighth grade play on the high school team?

**A.** No, as to do so is a violation of Article VII, Section 8, the Composite Rule. A student under Article VIII, Section 19, still has only eight semesters of participation in a 4-year high school, and six semesters of participation in a 3-year high school.

**Q.** Under Article VIII, Section 19, the Semester Rule, how are semesters counted?

**A.** Semesters are counted consecutively (whether or not the student is in school) from the time of first enrollment in the eighth grade. At the conclusion of the tenth semester from his first enrollment in the eighth grade the student becomes ineligible for further League participation.

**Q.** Can a school be given a trophy by an outside organization for athletic achievements of either a school team or individual accomplishments of high school students without violating the Awards Rule?

**A.** Yes, provided the trophy is a permanent addition to the school's trophy collection. The school cannot hold it for the boy and give it to him after graduation, but if it is a permanent trophy given to the school, it is not a violation of the Awards Rule, Article XVI.

### Postscripts on Athletics

## 'Athletic Heart' Belief Disproven by Research

By DR. RHEA H. WILLIAMS  
State Athletic Director

Perhaps the most erroneous viewpoint held by laymen and many school people relative to competitive sports is the belief that strenuous exercise results in damage to the heart and creates what is commonly called "an athletic heart." Scientific research on this subject has proven conclusively that strenuous exercise is not harmful to a sound heart. In reality, there is no such thing as "an athletic heart"; if an athlete does have an enlarged heart, it is secondary to a previous existing infection or valvular liaison.

### Needs Exercise

As a matter of fact, the heart is a muscle which grows larger, stronger and more efficient when it is taxed by strenuous muscular activity. Steinhaus has found that exercise of long duration accounts for superior hearts found in long distant runners and swimmers and in cross-country skiers. Efforts of short duration such as weight-lifting do not sufficiently "overload the heart" to stimulate its development.

It is a misnomer also that strenu-

ous participation in athletics predisposes one to early development of cardiovascular diseases. Dr. H. L. Smith, Head of the Cardiology Division of the Mayo Clinic, writes: "Probably the main reason why the term 'athletic heart' originally was thought of, and gained such a fast hold, is the fact that when individuals exercise exceedingly strenuously, varying degrees of shortness of breath, or dyspnea develop, and this phenomenon very often is present and is a very important symptom in cardiac failure."

### Longevity of Athletes

Another very common misnomer is that athletes do not live as long as non-athletes. This is a fallacious viewpoint and insurance records and all research done in this field indicate that the participants in strenuous competitive sports present a favorable mortality rate when compared with other populations.

It is apparent from all research that participation in strenuous sports by normal individuals does not predispose them to early death. On the contrary, evidence indicates that athletes live slightly longer than non-athletes. Perhaps one of the reasons for this misnomer being present is that when a prominent athlete dies the news is flashed to all parts of the country via radio, television and newspapers, while when the normal individual dies there is very little general publicity.

### Examination Important

"The point I want to emphasize is that strenuous physical exercise, and hard manual work do not cause, or predispose to, heart disease, that such activities do not cause abnormal cardiac hypertrophy and that athletes do not develop early disability and die, because of the exercise in which they indulged while in school. The normal heart, and I would emphasize the word 'normal,' is no more likely to be injured by strenuous exercise than is any other organ or muscle of the body, and participating in athletic sports will not produce an athletic heart, for

such an entity does not exist. Of course, it is very important for every individual who participates in athletics to undergo a thorough physical examination. Anyone who has organic heart disease certainly should not participate in prolonged strenuous exercise."

### Regular Examinations

Even though it is now a proven fact through all available research that athletics do not create "athletic hearts" or shorten their life expectancy it is imperative that athletes be given a thorough medical examination so that only those students with sound hearts are certified as physically fit for athletic participation.

It goes without saying that if a student does have a defect of the heart that he should not be allowed to participate in athletics, as certainly the damage could then be increased through strenuous exercise. It is also extremely important that medical examinations be given at regular intervals as an examination given only once during a boys' high school career would not be

Even though all research indicates that athletes do live slightly beyond the average in terms of years, most people think that they die earlier than non-athletes. The only way to remove this misconception is to continue to present scientific research to the contrary so that this argument cannot be used to curb our competitive athletic program.

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It goes without saying that if a student does have a defect of the heart that he should not be allowed to participate in athletics, as certainly the damage could then be increased through strenuous exercise. It is also extremely important that medical examinations be given at regular intervals as an examination given only once during a boys' high school career would not be

sufficient to safeguard him.

Coaches and school administrators have a responsibility to see that adequate medical examinations are given to all athletes and have the further responsibility to see that only physically qualified boys are certified as eligible for participation in athletics. If this precaution is taken then, we can be assured that no boy is participating in competitive athletics who has a physical weakness which might result in injury to his physical being in the years to come.

### TEXAS POLITICS STUDIED

"A Political History of the Texas Republic," new University of Texas Press publication, examines the origins of many thorny issues that were to plague Texas for generations. The author, Dr. Stanley Siegel of Houston, drew upon manuscripts, public documents, books, articles and newspapers to explore "the intricacies of the political conflict that was the Republic's heritage."