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THE HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE
ATHLETIC CONFERENCE 1920-1970

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in Physical Education

By

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* * * * *

The Ohio State University
1971

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
VITA.	iii
 Chapter	
I INTRODUCTION	1
II HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS 1882-1920	9
Earliest Beginnings	
Student Activism	
Influence of the Church	
Women's Athletics	
Facilities	
Conference Origins	
Early Leaders	
Faculty Control	
The Black Athlete	
III GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 1920-1930	28
Women's Athletics	
Chronology	
Presidents' Meeting	
Finances	
Rule Changes	
Conference Championships	
Facilities	
Outstanding Individuals	
IV THE DEPRESSION 1930-1940	48
Austerity Measures	
Chronology	
Finances	
Rule Changes	
Conference Championships	
Facilities	
Outstanding Individuals	

V	THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH 1940-1950.	63
	Chronology	
	Finances	
	Rule Changes	
	Conference Championships	
	Facilities	
	Outstanding Individuals	
VI	THE SETTLING PERIOD 1950-1960.	86
	Chronology	
	Finances	
	Rule Changes	
	Conference Championships	
	Facilities	
	Outstanding Individuals	
VII	MATURITY AND STABILIZATION 1960-1970	98
	Chronology	
	Finances	
	Rule Changes	
	Conference Championships	
	Facilities	
	Outstanding Individuals	
VIII	SUMMATION.	113
APPENDIX		
A.	MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHRONOLOGY.	119
B.	RULES OF THE MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	121
C.	SECRETARY-TREASURERS.	123
D.	PRESIDENTS.	125
E.	CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS.	128
F.	YEARLY BALANCES OF THE MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	135
	BIBLIOGRAPHY.	137

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in March of 1970 completed the first fifty years of its existence. In marking this occasion it seems appropriate at this time to review the growth of this conference over the past half century.

Understanding the growth and development of this conference takes on added significance in light of current severe problems associated with the rising cost of intercollegiate athletics and the potential danger that these problems pose for the entire system of intercollegiate athletics as we know it. In many ways this conference is an outstanding example of the "ideal" in intercollegiate athletic administration. At a time when the rising cost of intercollegiate athletics can be traced in a large part to subsidization of athletes through athletic scholarships and grants-in-aid, the M.I.A.C. stands out as an example of a highly successful and respected athletic conference in which there is no athletic aid given to prospective students. In their book Administrative Policies for Intercollegiate Athletics Shea and Wieman delimit a basic policy of financial aid and subsidization in these words:

Financial assistance in the form of loan funds, scholarships, grants-in-aid, and remunerative employment should be directly administered by the institution and independent of any of its departments not specifically

organized for that purpose. All financial assistance should be administered on a common basis in which demonstrated academic ability and economic need should be the primary requisites. All students, including those of special abilities, should be given equal consideration commensurate with their qualifications and the published requirements and amounts for each type of financial assistance available.¹

This policy is a fact of life in the M.I.A.C.

What factors helped to shape the M.I.A.C? There have been, of course, many factors that have helped to shape the present conference. The M.I.A.C. developed in much the same way as did other athletic conferences.² Smaller schools with strong religious affiliations, similar in size, financial backing, and academic requirements in the same geographical area were bound to come together for the control of intercollegiate athletics. Certainly throughout the fifty year history of the Conference events and people have left their mark on the Conference. But even before the formal organization of a Conference in March of 1920, forces were at work which helped to create a Conference stable enough to endure fifty turbulent years of intercollegiate athletics. Previous leagues and conferences in a steady succession since 1891 helped to mold the rules that would guide the young Conference. The schools themselves being small liberal arts institutions with strong religious foundations brought to the Conference a somewhat different view of the role of athletics in

¹Edward J. Shea and Elton E. Wieman, Administrative Policies For Intercollegiate Athletics, p. 122.

²Harry Alexander Scott, Competitive Sports in Schools and Colleges, p. 35.

higher education than state supported or larger institutions. Even other conferences, particularly the Big Ten, had important influences on the Conference. The Big Ten was used in particular as a guide in forming Conference policy in matters such as faculty control.

The schools which have been members of the M.I.A.C. since 1920 are located throughout the state of Minnesota. Figure 1 gives the locations of these schools: 1. St. Olaf College, Northfield (2500)³, 2. Carleton College, Northfield (1350), 3. College of St. Thomas, St. Paul (1900), 4. Macalester College, St. Paul (1800), 5. Hamline University, St. Paul (1200), 6. Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter (1800), 7. St. John's University, Collegeville (1500), 8. Concordia College, Moorhead (2300), 9. Augsburg College, Minneapolis (1500), 10. St. Mary's College, Winona (1100), 11. University of Minnesota at Duluth, Duluth (5200). (A chronology of the Conference is given in Appendix A.)

Upon formation of the Conference in 1920, numerous factors played a part in its development. One factor that has made this Conference unique among conferences which survived this period is the number of schools which have severed relations with the Conference at one time or another yet returned to Conference membership. During the entire history of the Conference only eleven schools have been members and today (and for the last eighteen years) there are still nine schools as members. This ability to endure one internal crisis after another and yet remain cohesive is a very interesting aspect of the

³Approximate current enrollments in parentheses

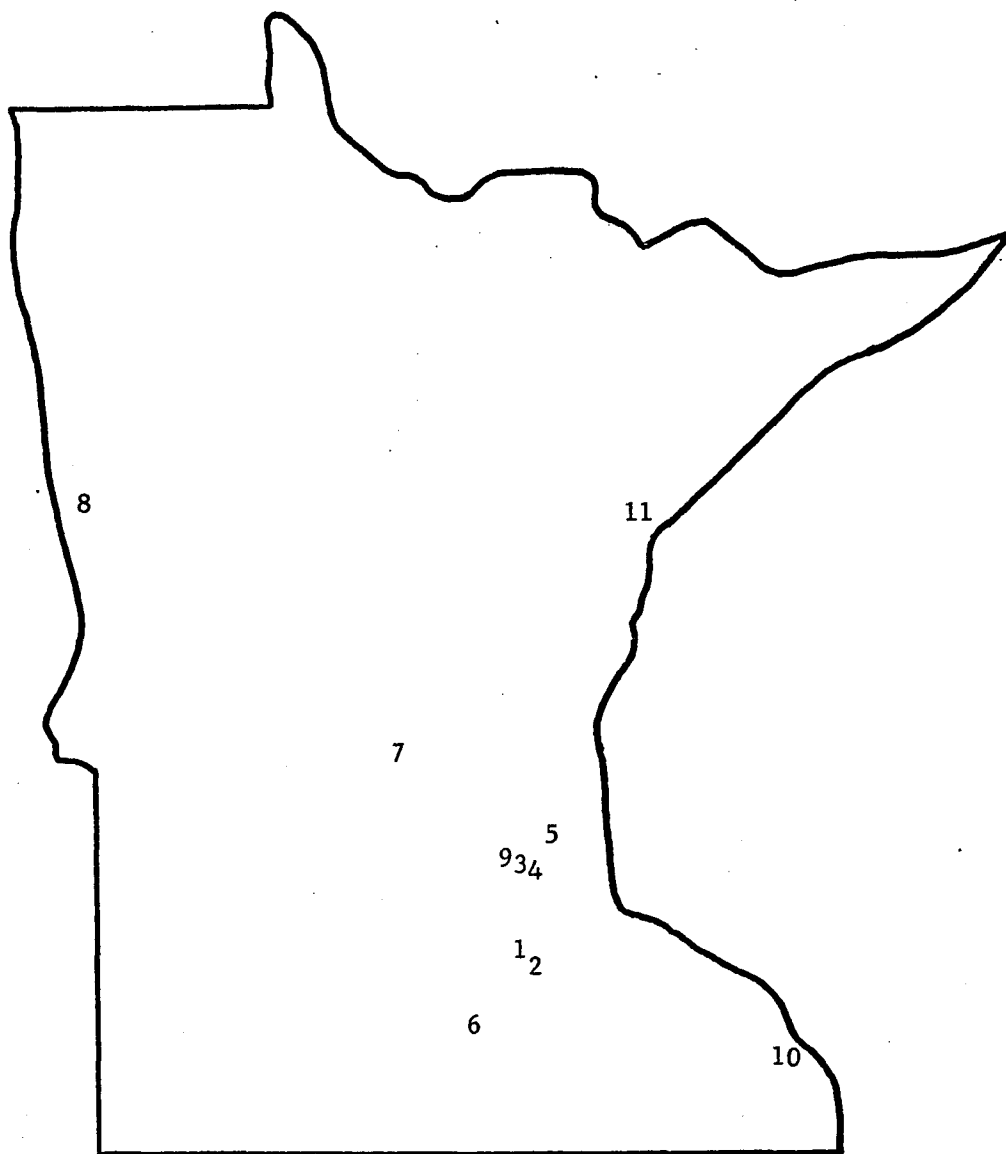


FIGURE 1

history of this Conference. It is especially so when one considers that for at least the first four decades after the formation of the Conference perilous national and international situations placed the Conference under considerable stress.

In the twenties and again in the fifties college athletics came under fire from without and within. Demands for sweeping changes and revelations of misdeeds shook the academic community. During the Depression a young athletic conference could easily have collapsed, and indeed it is easy to see how great were the pressures brought upon the Conference by this situation. When Depression faded in the wake of war, new problems arose with the majority of Conference athletes leaving to serve their country. For several years Conference championship play was suspended, but somehow teams were maintained and the Conference held together. After the war returning veterans swelled the college campuses and athletic programs expanded to meet the needs of their new student population.

Besides the factors already mentioned there are others that help make the story of the M.I.A.C. interesting if not unique. The number of championship sports competed in compares favorably with conferences composed of much larger institutions. No fewer than twelve sports have been contested on a Conference championship basis.

The role of women is interesting in that this Conference seems to reflect a nation-wide pattern. Women's intercollegiate athletics were quite popular during the formative years of the Conference and up until the Depression years when athletic budgets were

cut to the bone. Now again in more affluent times competitive inter-collegiate athletic programs for women are expanding at each institution. The very fact, however, that these programs are not sponsored on a Conference basis and that financial support and administrative organization varies greatly from institution to institution may suggest that the Conference has not yet grasped the significance of this movement.

Due to the rather loose organization of the Conference there is no central source of information or records. The primary source of information about the Conference is the complete set of minutes of the faculty representative meetings from March, 1920 through March, 1970. One set of these minutes is kept by the Conference secretary-treasurer and the only other complete set of minutes is kept by Mr. George Durenberger the athletic director at St. John's University. Because the faculty representatives are the legislative body of the Conference these minutes are obviously the key factor in reconstructing the history of the Conference.

Another important source of information about the Conference is public and student newspapers. Since very few of the schools have athletic records as such, much of the history of the Conference was gathered from these newspapers. Hamline University, the College of St. Thomas, and St. John's University did have athletic records and these original records added a great deal to this study. A similar, yet somewhat unreliable source of information, is student yearbooks and alumni bulletins. These sources must be used with great caution, but in certain instances they provide valuable informa-

tion not available elsewhere.

Yet another source are the various institutional histories. These also must be used with great care and cross referenced because they contain many errors. But again, they can provide information simply unattainable elsewhere. The histories of St. Olaf College, The College of St. Thomas, Carleton College, and Concordia College were of particular value in their extensive coverage of the athletic events on each campus.

Finally, personal interviews provide the depth and insight sometimes missing from the printed page. Another outstanding feature of this Conference is the number of people who have given long periods of service to the Conference. These people, who through their dedication, have given so much to the Conference deserve a great deal of the credit for the stability and maturity the Conference has exhibited through the years. These people include faculty representatives, coaches, administrators, and athletic directors. Interviews with these people helped to pull together the various information and make sense out of some rather confusing issues.

Particularly helpful were Father B. J. Coughlin, Mr. George Durenberger, Mr. Bill Haman, Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth, and Mr. Joe Hutton. Father Coughlin of the College of St. Thomas served from 1944 until 1967 as secretary-treasurer of the Conference. Mr. Durenberger began as an undergraduate student at St. John's University in 1924 and has continued at that institution as player, coach, and athletic director to the present. Mr. Haman became the Conference Coordinator in 1946 and has served in that post continuously to the

present time. Dr. Hollingsworth became athletic director of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1942 and he still continues in that position today. Mr. Hutton came to Hamline University in 1930 and began an outstanding career as basketball coach and athletic director which ended with his retirement in 1965.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS 1882-1920

The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has just completed the first fifty years of its existence. During those fifty years the Conference struggled through initial growth pains complicated by a depression, a world war, and constant other internal and external stresses. One very important factor in the success of the Conference, in spite of its perilous journey through the years, was its strong ancestral heritage. To appreciate the history of the M.I.A.C., therefore, it is essential to know the history of athletic competition among the colleges of Minnesota during those pioneering days of higher education in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

EARLIEST BEGINNINGS

The Conference was formally organized on March 15, 1920. The history of the Conference, however, actually begins more than three decades before this date. On September 30, 1882, Hamline University was defeated in football by the University of Minnesota "by two goals."¹ This marked the first intercollegiate athletic meeting for both schools. Hamline University, by making this initial step, became

¹E. Bird Johnson ed., Forty Years of the University of Minnesota, p. 208.

the first Conference school to compete in intercollegiate athletics. Hamline University also holds the distinction of gaining the first athletic victory by defeating the University of Minnesota in football later that same year.

Strange as it may sound today, however, intercollegiate athletics was not the first type of intercollegiate competition engaged in by schools of the "Great Northwest." Intercollegiate debate actually preceded athletics as the earliest form of competition between schools. In 1881, for example, Carleton College competed in the seventh annual Inter-State Oratorical Contest held among colleges of the midwest.² This form of competition was, at the time of that initial football game in 1882 and for some years thereafter, even more popular than athletics.

Smith,³ in writing the history of the Wisconsin State University Conference, hypothesizes that it was actually the coming together for the purpose of debate that spawned intercollegiate athletics. He cites instances where this was true in the early Inner-Normal Athletic Conference of Wisconsin.⁴ Also in Illinois "The forerunner of intercollegiate athletics was the intercollegiate

²Carletonia, June 1881, p. 12.

³Ronald A. Smith, From Normal School to State University: A History of the Wisconsin State University Conference, pp. 43-44.

⁴Ibid.

oratorical contests."⁵ Rivalries initiated through debate soon spread to include intercollegiate athletics in Minnesota as in other states.

Once the spark of intercollegiate athletic competition was lit, the flame spread rapidly. It is really quite ironic that the first intercollegiate athletic competition by Hamline University would have been football. Baseball was, after all, the "National Pastime" and there is evidence that intramural baseball games were held much earlier than football.⁶ At Carleton College, for example, baseball was played intramurally in the early 1870's while football was not played until 1880.⁷ Baseball was also the most popular game in Wisconsin during this period.⁸ Hamline University again seems to be the first school to participate in intercollegiate baseball with their opponent in that first game in 1886 - Macalester College.

Some other early "firsts" include Carleton College which was first to field an intercollegiate track team in 1892. Track was also a popular early sport due, in part, to its simplicity and inexpensiveness. As baseball, (and indeed most of the other sports) track competition was held on an intramural basis long before it was held on an

⁵Brief History of Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference 1908-1970, Pamphlet distributed by the Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, 1970.

⁶Leal A. Headley and Merrill E. Jarchow, Carleton The First Century, p. 403.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Smith, op. cit., p. 17.

intercollegiate basis. At most schools field days were among the most popular early forms of diversion. These field days were looked forward to throughout the school year and enough events were scheduled so that almost the entire student body took part.^{9,10}

Hamline University also had the distinction of a national first in basketball. Hamline University was involved in the first basketball game between two colleges when on February 9, 1895 they were defeated by the Minnesota State Agricultural School 9-3.¹¹

STUDENT ACTIVISM

One very significant and interesting facet of the beginning of intercollegiate athletics on Minnesota college campuses is that of the role of students in support of athletics. In today's troubled times we tend to think that student dissent is a product of the times, and we wish we could return to the more innocent earlier days when a college campus was free of dissent. Dissent and student activism in support of a cause is not new, however. Early reports of student activism in support of intercollegiate athletics, and in support of facilities for athletics, sound remarkably like a page out of today's newspaper. This is best exemplified by the following explosive situation which developed at Augsburg College:

⁹The Mac 1887.

¹⁰Algo1 1890, p. 100.

¹¹Zander Hollander ed., The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball, pp. 6-7.

The place of athletics in student life also was becoming an issue. Early in 1906 a controversy concerning availability of the gymnasium in New Main for student use precipitated a minor rebellion on campus. . . . On January 16 a group of thirty-four students presented to the board of trustees a communication demanding an open-door policy. . . . The petition closed with an ominous threat: Should the board fail to act, 'we, the undersigned students, realizing the futility of any further attempts, will refuse to enter our respective classes.'¹²

And at Gustavus Adolphus College church officials complained of:

this liberal spirit in the students, (and) the faculty. . . (regarding the school decision to ban intercollegiate athletics) the students continued to agitate, the faculty gave encouragement.¹³

These are but two examples of early student activism in support of intercollegiate athletics. One very natural by-product of student interest in intercollegiate athletics was the formation of student athletic associations. These associations were formed by students to guide the various sports clubs on campus. Because of the apparent lack of interest on the part of the college or inability to support intercollegiate athletics, it was essential that some sort of organization be formed to perpetuate athletics on campus.

Due to the transient nature of college students, these early student athletic associations played a very important role in maintaining interest and promoting the continuation of athletics from one class to another. This was, of course, not the only function of these associations. They were responsible for organizing teams,

¹²Carl H. Chrislock, From Fjord to Freeway, pp. 117-118.

¹³Doniver Lund, Gustavus Adolphus College: A Centennial History 1862-1962. p. 92.

financing each sport, scheduling games, formulating rules of play, and establishing and maintaining fields on which to play. Through the early years these associations encountered many difficulties, but they did manage to keep interest alive during a crucial time.

INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

The development of intercollegiate athletic programs at many of these small liberal arts colleges in Minnesota seems to have lagged behind the development of similar programs at other colleges around the country. One reason for this concerns the basic religious beliefs upon which these schools were founded. All of these schools at this time were strongly church related. Most college presidents were ministers and boards of trustees were almost totally composed of clergymen. In most schools there was a healthy attitude concerning participation even though actual support was lacking.

In other schools, however, athletics were regarded with suspicion or outright hostility by the administration and trustees. The degree of opposition ranged from that at St. Olaf College:

The attention given to baseball was thought by critics of the college to be out of harmony with education in a Christian school.¹⁴

to that at Gustavus Adolphus College:

In the summer of 1905 the Augustana Synod in its yearly meeting took up the question of sports and stated that 'Athletics, as it is carried on at the present time is a real evil. . . and since this evil has entered our own schools, and there exerts a bad

¹⁴William C. Benson, High On Manitou, p. 88.

influence in our congregation, be it therefore resolved: (1) That the synod hereby expresses its opposition to all sports between the different schools, and (2) Gives our school boards in charge to make such arrangements at our institutions that so called Intercollegiate contests in Base Ball, Foot Ball and Basket Ball shall be prohibited.¹⁵

President Mattson decided to follow the edict to the letter but:

The Gustavus faculty protested that the edict was 'too sweeping and apt to be detrimental to the institution if carried out.'¹⁶

This type of opposition certainly impeded the growth of intercollegiate athletics at these schools, but through student persistence eventually each school did develop a strong intercollegiate athletic program. In certain cases, however, battles won by students were just as quickly lost. At Augsburg College the beginning of one sport meant the temporary loss of another:

In 1907-08 the athletic association placed Augsburg's first official baseball team on the field. . . . However, basketball reverted to intramural status during the next two years. Although the reason for this step is not clear, perhaps a concession was being made to those Augsburg supporters who believed that competitive sports, particularly basketball, were incompatible with divinity school ideals. . . . In any case, outside competition was resumed in 1910-11.¹⁷

The primary source of opposition at most schools concerned intercollegiate football. The case against intercollegiate football and the brutality associated with that sport around the turn of the

¹⁵Lund, op. cit., p. 90.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 91.

¹⁷Chrislock, op. cit., p. 120.

century is well documented.¹⁸ Frequent serious injuries were common and even deaths occurred at an alarming rate. Because of this fact many schools banned football for a time, while others refused their students permission to play at all. At St. Olaf College the student body yearly petitioned the faculty for permission to play intercollegiate football, but they had always been turned down until the fall of 1918. Gustavus Adolphus College students suffered a similar fate and "it was not until 1917 that Gustavus fielded an intercollegiate football team."¹⁹ By 1920, however, football was "king," basketball was extremely popular, and baseball, tennis, and track were widely participated in by most schools.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

During this period it is interesting to note the general acceptance of women's intercollegiate athletics on Minnesota college campuses. Carleton College pioneered in this area when their women's basketball team was defeated by the University of Minnesota's women's team in April of 1901. Although this first effort ended in a loss by the score of 10 to 2, that game proved to be an important first step in a movement that continued in popularity for two decades.

¹⁸Edward J. Shea and Elton E. Wieman, Administrative Policies For Intercollegiate Athletics, p. 12.

¹⁹Lund, op. cit., p. 94.

FACILITIES

Another factor affecting the slow start most schools had in developing a program of intercollegiate athletics (especially basketball) was the lack of adequate facilities. The general pattern followed by most of these schools was to build everything into the initial building on campus, usually called the main building (and more commonly in later times "Old Main"). When the need for physical activity became apparent either a room or the basement of "Old Main" was converted into a "gymnasium." The best of these, of course, by today's standards were totally inadequate. With the coming of basketball in the mid-nineties, the various student bodies were lamenting the need for more modern facilities.

For some, years passed before they had a gymnasium. Five of the seven Conference charter members, however, did have a gymnasium before 1920. Of these St. John's University led the way with a completely self-contained gymnasium building in 1901. (It is somewhat ironic, therefore, that St. John's University is only now planning a new gymnasium long after all the other Conference schools have updated their facilities.) After St. John's gymnasium there was not another gymnasium built until 1909 when both Hamline University and Carleton College completed gyms. It is obvious to see how not only basketball but other intercollegiate sports as well were handicapped by this situation.

One sport that was handicapped a great deal was baseball. As mentioned earlier baseball was, in the beginning, the most popular

collegiate sport. By the turn of the century, however, baseball had lost a great deal of its popularity. There were two primary reasons for this. The number one reason was football. Football, in Minnesota, as in the rest of the country, had (and certainly still has today) a compelling, magnetic attraction for players and spectators alike. By the turn of the century thousands of spectators around the country were watching their favorite college teams in action.²⁰

This shift in interest by a great many people just naturally led to a lessening of interest in college baseball. The second, and possibly more important, reason for baseball losing its popularity concerned the inadequate indoor practice facilities. Baseball in Minnesota is at best a "sometime thing." Minnesota springs are characteristically cold, short, and wet. Without a suitable place to practice baseball in the early spring teams were severely hampered.

There were many years when teams began their game schedule with little or no practice at all. The quality of baseball obviously suffered resulting in frustrations for players, coaches, and spectators. As the situation worsened, college students and faculty members interested in uplifting the caliber of Minnesota College baseball added their voices to the mounting protest for better gym-

²⁰Foster Rhea Dulles, A History of Recreation America
Learns to Play, p. 198.

nasium facilities.^{21,22,23} Until these facilities were available, however, general interest in baseball dwindled to an all-time low after the turn of the century.

CONFERENCE ORIGINS

Although interest in baseball declined sharply in later years, it was the initial popularity of baseball that led to the first intercollegiate athletic organization between the Minnesota colleges. This organization was the first in a succession of leagues and conferences among the colleges of Minnesota that eventually culminated in the formation of the M.I.A.C. In 1891 three Minnesota colleges joined together "For the purpose of securing greater interest in the national game and a clear fellowship between the schools herein named."²⁴ This league, officially known as the Southern Minnesota Inter-Collegiate Base Ball League, had as charter members Pillsbury Academy and two schools that would eventually be charter members of the M.I.A.C., Carleton College and St. Olaf College.

Two years later the scope, if not the size, of the league was expanded when a new baseball league was formed. The new league was called the Minnesota Intercollegiate Baseball League.²⁵ Besides

²¹The Liner, 1907, p. 119.

²²The Mac, 1910, p. 140.

²³Viking Victory, 1921.

²⁴The Carletonia, February, 1891, p. 18.

²⁵The Oracle, April 15, 1893, p. 10.

Carleton College its membership included two Twin Cities schools, Hamline University and Macalester College. The following year two more schools, St. Olaf College and the College of St. Thomas were admitted to membership.

In these early days it is interesting to note that the idea of a complete athletic conference encompassing all sports had not yet crystallized in Minnesota colleges. Therefore, when the same schools (Hamline University, Macalester College, and Carleton College) that formed the Minnesota Inter-collegiate Baseball League decided that intercollegiate competition in track and field should also be organized, they formed a separate organization for that purpose. This organization, formed on February 25, 1893, was called the Minnesota Inter-collegiate Field and Track Athletic Association.²⁶

In 1898 the first comprehensive Minnesota college athletic conference was formed. The conference was named the Minnesota School Athletic Conference. Carleton College was again a charter member of this conference along with Shattuck and Pillsbury Academies. The original rules covered eligibility, scheduling, and details of financial management.²⁷

In September of 1901 those schools holding membership in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Baseball League sought to form an athletic organization to guide intercollegiate competition in all sports. This

²⁶The Algol, 1893.

²⁷Headley and Jarchow, op. cit., p. 407.

conference was called the Minnesota Athletic Conference²⁸ and can be considered the real "granddaddy" of the M.I.A.C. Championships in the new conference were offered in football, baseball, track, and tennis. Later in that same year Hamline University and Carleton College also joined another athletic conference. This conference was the first in a number of attempts to bring together colleges of Minnesota and North and South Dakota in athletic competition. It was called the North Western Athletic Conference. Optimistic prophets felt that Macalester College, St. Olaf College, Gustavus Adolphus College, and the College of St. Thomas would probably join the conference. These schools did indeed join together with the members of the North Western Athletic Conference, but not for eight years and then under the auspices of a new conference.

During the first decade after the turn of the century several other athletic leagues involving these Minnesota colleges sprang up. Most of them were very short lived and usually were concerned with one specific sport. In 1905, for example, the College of St. Thomas and Macalester College together with several other Twin City teams (college, Y.M.C.A., and private) formed the City Basketball League.²⁹ In 1906 a two-divisioned tennis league was formed in the state. "The Minnesota Intercollegiate Tennis League divided the colleges into two sections: the Northern, including Macalester, Hamline, and St. Thomas, and the Southern, including Carleton, Shattuck, and St.

²⁸Faculty Minutes Carleton College, September 30, 1901, p. 7.

²⁹The St. Thomas Collegian, April, 1905, p. 71.

Olaf."³⁰

In 1906 an event occurred that led to confusion and bad feelings among the colleges of Minnesota for many years. At a meeting of the Minnesota Athletic Conference in June of 1906,³¹ a question of eligibility ultimately related to the conference championship in baseball became the center of a heated debate. Due to the conference turning down two protests entered by Hamline University, that school withdrew its membership from the conference. This move by one of the more influential and active members of the conference led to the dissolving of the conference and to the cessation of formal championship competition between Minnesota colleges for several years. Several attempts were made between this time and 1920 to form another Minnesota college athletic conference, but they all failed. Immediately in 1907, for example, newspaper journalists were optimistically predicting a new conference to replace the old one,³² but this as all other attempts apparently never progressed beyond the planning stages.

In December of 1909 schools of Minnesota and North and South Dakota met to explore the possibility of establishing a new conference. The Hamline Oracle reported that:

The meeting was merely an outgrowth from the obvious fact that it was to the mutual benefit and advantage of the small colleges of this section to 'get together.' The desire to preserve healthy and clean athletic relationships among our colleges, led to the adopting of

³⁰The St. Thomas Collegian, July, 1906, p. 52.

³¹Hamline University Alumni Quarterly, July, 1906.

³²Minneapolis Journal, April 23, 1907, p. 11.

a minimum code of rules for the eligibility to teams.³³ Hamline University, Macalester College, St. Olaf College, Carleton College, and the College of St. Thomas were again charter members of this new conference. This conference proved to be the most successful and durable of any attempted up to this time. The Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, as the new organization was named, expanded to include most of the small colleges in the three states and one school in Iowa. In 1919, however, after a dispute over eligibility rules, the Minnesota delegation "pulled out" and formed a separate organization. This new organization was called the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

EARLY LEADERS

During these early years there were a number of people who were instrumental in organizing and coaching the athletic teams at the various Minnesota colleges. After control of the intercollegiate athletic program passed from the hands of the students to the faculty during the first decade of the twentieth century, each school sought to employ a competent "physical director" to teach physical education and coach the varsity sports teams. Many of these men held their positions for long periods of outstanding service.

Typical of these dedicated early leaders was Maurice Kent of Carleton College. Mr. Kent was Carleton's first athletic director in 1909 and combined his duties as athletic director with an outstanding

³³The Oracle, January 19, 1910, p. 11.

career as football coach. He was succeeded in 1913 by Claude J. Hunt who also combined these duties. Mr. Hunt was even more successful than Mr. Kent as a football coach winning five state championships in six years.

At Hamline University Raymond Kaighn became the first physical director in 1892 and in 1910 William (Will) Baird began a storied career as both athletic director and coach of the varsity sports. No other coach in this early period of Minnesota college athletic history was as successful in such a wide range of sports. The 1913 Hamline University yearbook, The Liner, gave this summation of Baird's career to that point:

No coach Hamline has ever had has been able to turn out so many championship teams as Baird in as many lines of sport. He has been directing every branch of athletics at Hamline since the spring of 1910, and in that time has turned out one champion baseball team, one champion football team, two champion basketball teams, and three champion track teams.³⁴

At Macalester College John Porter Hall began as chaperon of the baseball team in 1907 and for the next two years coached that team. In 1909 Franklin W. Plummer became the school's first athletic director and coach of the varsity sports. Mr. Plummer, with the assistance of Mr. Hall guided Macalester College to baseball championships in 1909 and 1910.

At the College of St. Thomas Father John Dunphy became the first athletic director in 1909. Even before the College of St. Thomas had an athletic director, however, they had fielded strong

³⁴The Liner, 1914.

teams in football and baseball with coach Edward Rodgers guiding the St. Thomas football team and coach Father James Doyle guiding the St. Thomas baseball team to several state championships. This tradition was upheld by Jack Ryan who continued to bring home state championships to the "Purple and Grey" for the next several years in both football and baseball.

FACULTY CONTROL

The principle of faculty control of intercollegiate athletics was well established during this period of athletic development in Minnesota colleges. Much of what transpired in intercollegiate athletics in the Middle West after the turn of the century was influenced by the Big Ten athletic conference. When the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives was organized in 1896³⁵ they indicated, even in their choice of a name for their organization, that definite faculty control of intercollegiate athletics was an absolute necessity.³⁶ This principle was soon incorporated in Minnesota college athletic conferences. In 1901 when the Minnesota Athletic Conference was chartered, one of the first of the "Agreements and Rules" decided upon was that "There shall be a conference committee consisting of one member from the faculty of each institution,"³⁷ This principle continued to be an integral part of the

³⁵The Big Ten Record Book 1969-1970, p. 170.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Faculty Minutes Carleton College, op. cit.

rules of each Minnesota college athletic conference to follow this one.

Within the schools themselves complete faculty control of athletics was generally established sometime during the decade immediately following the turn of the century. Student athletic associations had been established as early as the 1880's and although athletic matters were occasionally brought to the attention of the college president it was not until 1900 that an Athletic Union was established at St. Olaf College. This "St. Olaf Athletic Union" was basically a student association but for the first time a faculty committee was part of the association. In 1902 Carleton College followed suit as did Hamline University in 1907, Macalester College in 1909, the College of St. Thomas in 1910, and Gustavus Adolphus College in 1911.

THE BLACK ATHLETE

It is interesting to note here that near the beginning of this century black athletes appeared as members of Minnesota college athletic (football) teams at the College of St. Thomas³⁸ and Macalester College.³⁹ Although no special mention is made of this fact early pictures indicate this to be the case. This seems to reflect the historical relationship of the black athlete to Minnesota Colleges. This early acceptance of black athletes in Minnesota was not, however, typical of the national scene. There were relatively

³⁸The Nineteen-Eighteen Kaydet, p. 9.

³⁹The Mac, 1913.

few black athletes in northern colleges at this time.⁴⁰

⁴⁰Deobold B. Van Dalen and Bruce L. Bennett, A World History of Physical Education (2nd Ed.), p. 455.

CHAPTER III

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 1920-1930

At the November 29, 1919 meeting of the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference "the delegates from this state's (Minnesota) colleges voted to make changes for improvement in the Conference Code. (These changes were intended to stiffen eligibility rules.)"¹ The delegates from North and South Dakota schools without a single Minnesota vote, however, defeated the motion, and matters were left as they then stood."² The Minnesota delegates then met after the regular conference meeting and decided to consider forming a new conference. A meeting to discuss this proposal in more depth was called for December 22nd. At that meeting a chairman and a secretary pro tempore were elected and it was unanimously decided to form a new conference.

On March 15, 1920 representatives from eight Minnesota colleges met at Sayles-Hill Gymnasium, on the campus of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. "This meeting was called for the purpose of organizing an intercollegiate athletic conference."³ The

¹St. Paul Daily News, December 23, 1919, p. 14.

²Minutes of the Meeting held on December 22, 1919.

³Minutes of the initial meeting of the M.I.A.C. March 15, 1920.

proposed constitution was unanimously approved and Carleton College, Hamline University, St. John's University, Macalester College, St. Olaf College, the College of St. Thomas, and Gustavus Adolphus College left the Minnesota-Dakota Conference and became charter members of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Concordia College attended this meeting but did not join the Conference at this time. Luther College of Decorah, Iowa also asked to join the Conference, but the delegates firmly established that this would be strictly a Minnesota athletic conference and voted not to accept membership applications from outside the state.

One of the original rules of the Conference concerned the voting membership of each school. (Appendix B contains the original Conference rules.) It was decided that each school would have two votes, one by the faculty representative and one by the athletic director. This rule differed markedly from that adopted by the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives (the Big Ten) in 1912.⁴ By 1912 the Big Ten had made the decision to separate members of the athletic department from conference decision-making positions. This policy soon became universally accepted and indeed in 1924 the M.I.A.C. moved to eliminate athletic directors from the Conference legislative body also.

One of the original eligibility rules concerned student residence requirements. It was agreed that a student should be in residence one month before he could participate on any Conference

⁴The Big Ten Record Book, p. 171.

team. This rule appeared to be an attempt to follow the precedent set by the Big Ten when in 1904 that conference pioneered with a one-semester resident rule.⁵ The Big Ten expanded the waiting period in 1906 to one full year, but the M.I.A.C., while apparently agreeing with the intent of the rule, felt that a very minimal period of adjustment would suffice.

Championship competition began in the M.I.A.C. immediately in the spring of 1920. Conference schools competed in baseball, track and field, and tennis. In the fall of 1920 football was contested as a Conference sport and during the winter of 1921 basketball was added as the fifth Conference sport. These five sports were the only sports competed in on a championship basis during the first three years of the Conference.

In December of 1920 Concordia College, which had sent representatives to the initial meeting in March but had not joined at that time, submitted a formal application for membership which was accepted unanimously. This brought the Conference membership to eight, a figure that remained unchanged for the next four years.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

During these early years intercollegiate athletics flourished for women as well as men. Although never officially sponsored by the Conference, women's intercollegiate athletic teams were sponsored by most schools. In 1919, for example, Hamline University fielded its

⁵Ibid.

first intercollegiate coed basketball team. Concordia College followed suit in 1921 and in 1923 St. Olaf College had its first ladies intercollegiate tennis team. These two sports, basketball and tennis, were the only two participated in by Minnesota college women on an intercollegiate basis at this time. Basketball and tennis also appeared to be the two most popular women's intercollegiate sports nationally during this period.⁶ Macalester College seems to have pioneered with a Girls' Athletic Association in 1909. Carleton College established their Women's Athletic Association in 1917 and all other schools (with the exception of the College of St. Thomas and St. John's University which were all-male schools) established some form of athletic association to guide intra and inter school competition for women during the 1920's. These associations put intercollegiate athletics for women on a solid foundation and for at least this one decade they flourished. The M.I.A.C., however, took little or no notice of this growing trend. The matter was not brought up either officially or unofficially and women's athletics were never considered as part of the scope of the Conference.⁷

CHRONOLOGY

In 1922 the Conference indicated its growing stability and confidence when for the first time it authorized the printing of the

⁶C. W. Hackensmith, History of Physical Education, p. 429.

⁷Statement by Father B. J. Coughlin, personal interview, January 22, 1971.

Conference rules in book form. Many of the Conference rules at this time dealt with professional baseball and the eligibility status of college men who played baseball for pay during the summer.

During the winter of 1923 the Conference initiated championship play in ice hockey. Three of the five schools fielding teams, Macalester College, Hamline University, and the College of St. Thomas, shared that first title, but interest waned and hockey was suspended as a Conference championship event for the next five years.

The year 1923 marked an important first step in the M.I.A.C. establishing relationships with other conferences. The M.I.A.C. like other Midwestern athletic conferences⁸ had, to some extent, patterned itself after the Big Ten Athletic Conference. The reverence for this institution did not, however, deter the M.I.A.C. from drafting a strong "letter of protest against soliciting of, or tampering with, athletes of this conference by schools of the North Central and Big Ten Conferences. . ."⁹ This firm action seems to have been effective as a deterrent to this type of interference from other conferences. Never again did another conference interfere with M.I.A.C. players in the fifty year history of the Conference.¹⁰

In two cases gentlemen who had represented their schools as athletic directors later also represented their school as faculty

⁸Ronald A. Smith, From Normal School to State University: A History of the Wisconsin State University Conference, p. 116.

⁹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 22, 1923.

¹⁰Coughlin, loc. cit.

representatives. Ed Flynn served as athletic director and coach at St. John's University in 1924 and from 1927 to 1929 he also represented St. John's as that school's faculty representative. J. S. "Si" Melby was athletic director at Augsburg College from 1925 to 1927 and later served as faculty representative from 1933 to 1944. In both of these cases these men were originally members of the academic faculty who acted as part-time coaches and athletic directors. Later when control of the athletic department passed into the hands of full-time athletic personnel, these men returned to their academic posts. When called upon to again serve their schools as faculty representatives to the Conference, these men utilized their first-hand knowledge of the athletic situation to do an outstanding job as representatives. These two men are but examples of many able men who served their respective institutions tirelessly in many varied positions.

In December of 1924 the Conference again expanded with the addition of Augsburg College. This expansion was short-lived, however, when in March of 1925 the College of St. Thomas withdrew its membership. The circumstances surrounding this withdrawal concerned certain grievances that the other Conference schools had against the St. Thomas football team. Evidently these grievances were not made public, but Conference football coaches felt strongly enough about the issue to not schedule the St. Thomas football team. Because of this the St. Thomas team did not have enough Conference games scheduled to be eligible for the Conference championship. Consequently at the December, 1924 meeting:

Mr. J. P. Foley, reporting for St. Thomas College, demanded that the schools of the conference schedule sufficient games with St. Thomas to permit them to qualify for conference honors in the future. In case this demand for consideration was not granted St. Thomas would withdraw from the conference.¹¹

An investigating committee was chosen and the College of St. Thomas agreed to withhold its resignation until a proper investigation could be conducted. When by the 14th of January the College of St. Thomas officials had not been notified of the results of the investigation, the Athletic Board of that institution instructed athletic director Foley to submit the College of St. Thomas's formal resignation from the M.I.A.C.¹²

At the regular Conference meeting in March of 1925 the special investigating committee submitted their report. They cited a large body of evidence, supported by affidavits and general statements from students to the effect that the College of St. Thomas football team "handled (opposing players) in an unnecessarily rough manner, deliberately slugged, and during the whole game. . . (used) coarse and vile language unbecoming Christian college students."¹³ The St. Thomas coach was also cited with several breaches of good conduct by running onto the field and harrassing game officials. After the committee report was presented and discussed, St. Thomas's resignation was unanimously accepted.

¹¹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting December 6, 1924.

¹²Letter from John P. Foley to Endre B. Anderson Secretary of the M.I.A.C., January 14, 1925.

¹³Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 1, 1925.

In September of this same year (1925) the Conference was dealt a blow when Carleton College withdrew to devote full-time to membership in another conference. In just a matter of months two Conference charter members had resigned and an all too familiar pattern of conference dissolution seemed to be appearing. Although Carleton's withdrawal was amicable, it still left the Conference in a somewhat unstable position.

It was not uncommon at this time for schools to hold memberships in more than one conference. Both Hamline University and Carleton College, charter members of the M.I.A.C. in 1920, became charter members of the Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference in 1921,¹⁴ and the College of St. Thomas, another M.I.A.C. charter member, became a charter member of the North-Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 1922.

The Midwest Conference (as it is commonly known) is of special interest in the study of the M.I.A.C. due to the many similarities between the two organizations. Both conferences ascribe to high ideals for their athletic programs, include small liberal arts colleges, and were formed at approximately the same time. The Midwest Conference started as a rather loose-knit organization but as it developed through the years it became known as not only a good athletic conference, but also as a conference with high educational ideals for its athletic program. The prestige of belonging to a more education-

¹⁴Ralph L. Henry, The Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference, p. 8.

ally oriented athletic conference, plus the unhappiness with a conference over-emphasis on athletics seems to have led Carleton College to withdraw from the M.I.A.C.

In December of that year (1925) the Conference, due at least partially to the College of St. Thomas and Carleton College withdrawing, sought to upgrade its public image by directing the Conference secretary "to study and develop Conference publicity."¹⁵ This was the first official attempt to publicize the Conference.

In December of 1926 Conference membership again reached eight when St. Mary's College of Winona, Minnesota joined the Conference. This addition bolstered the sagging morale of the Conference and the following December "Mr. A. P. Hodapp presented St. Thomas's request for admittance to the Conference stating that he believed St. Thomas had made a mistake in leaving the Conference and that they desired to join the other members in carrying out the purposes of the association."¹⁶ St. Thomas's request for readmittance was then unanimously approved.¹⁷ The following year the College of St. Thomas withdrew its membership in the North-Central Conference indicating its confidence in the M.I.A.C. and leaving only Hamline University with dual conference affiliation.

During the years 1927-1928 the increased confidence and stability of the Conference was reflected in the addition of two new champion-

¹⁵Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting December 5, 1925.

¹⁶Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting December 3, 1927.

¹⁷Ibid.

ship sports and the return of a former championship sport. During the winter of 1927 swimming made its appearance as a Conference sport and the following winter hockey returned and gymnastics was added to bring the number of Conference championships to eight. For a Conference composed of smaller schools eight championship sports indicated a very well-balanced athletic program. The Midwest Conference (composed of eight small colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) for example only sponsored three championship sports until 1929.¹⁸

PRESIDENTS' MEETING

During the decade of the twenties many discernible trends became evident in the M.I.A.C. In 1928 four college presidents attended a faculty representative meeting to urge association of the Conference with the North Central Association. This meeting set the precedent for several later meetings between faculty representatives and college presidents. Unlike the Wisconsin State University Conference, however, which was dominated by the college presidents,¹⁹ the presidents of M.I.A.C. colleges never assumed control of the Conference.

FINANCES

A comparison of the Conference treasurer's report of

¹⁸Henry, op. cit., p. 24.

¹⁹Smith, op. cit., p. 154.

September, 1927 with that of May, 1929 gives an indication of the growing stability of the Conference during this period. In 1927 the Conference showed a balance of only \$15.09. In 1929, however, the Conference treasury contained a "whopping" \$323.25. (Appendix F gives the yearly Conference balance.) This was accomplished, by the way, with no increase in dues during this period. Originally in 1920 Conference dues were set at \$10 per year per school. It soon became evident, however, that this would not be sufficient and in 1923 dues were raised to \$15 per year. Within a matter of months it again became evident that the increase was insufficient and dues were raised to \$30 per year. This figure remained unchanged for nine years until the Depression necessitated a change.

RULE CHANGES

In the twenties another matter appeared that became a source of controversy throughout the history of the M.I.A.C. In June of 1923 a one-semester freshman rule (a rule designed to give freshmen a one-semester waiting period before competing) was proposed but the matter was tabled at that time. Feelings on both sides of this issue were strong. A similar rule had been incorporated in the original constitution of the Midwest Conference.²⁰ Finally, in December of 1923 a one-semester freshman rule was adopted in colleges with a minimum male enrollment of 125 in the upper three grades. Therefore if a Conference school did not have at least 125 men in its upper three

²⁰Henry, op. cit., p. 48.

grades, it was permitted to play its freshmen. In 1926 the first of many attempts to establish a freshman year rule failed. Again in 1928 proponents of the freshman year rule tried to muster support for their proposal but again it met with defeat. Opposition seemed so strong in fact that a vote of confidence was taken on the one-semester freshman rule and the Conference position on that rule was reaffirmed. In 1929, however, the one-semester rule was partially set aside in the case of schools which did not have enough players to fill out an entire freshmen team. Freshmen at these schools were allowed to play in three non-Conference games. The entire matter was then laid to rest for the next decade, but it came back to be a major center of controversy later on.

Another issue in the Conference during these early years concerned the "round robin" method of scheduling games in the various sports. It would seem in a conference of this size that a single round robin would provide the easiest method of determining Conference championships in each sport. This method was not even considered, however, until 1925 and not adopted until 1929. In December of 1929 it was voted to suspend operation of the round robin until September of the following year.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

During this decade Conference championships were won by all schools, but in certain sports some schools seemed to excel.

(Appendix E gives the Conference champions through the years.) In

baseball, for example, St. Olaf College won or shared the Conference championship in six of the ten years. Carleton College completely dominated track and field, an area that they had long been a powerhouse in, until they left the Conference in 1925. After Carleton's record of six consecutive championships in track and field, it appeared that Hamline University might match that as the Hamline trackmen reeled off three consecutive championships to close out the decade. Tennis was a more evenly contested sport at this time with six Conference schools winning or sharing the title at one time or another.

Football, too, seemed to be more evenly matched as no school could win more than two championships in the decade and every Conference school but Concordia College won or shared at least one championship. Basketball was another sport in which two schools seemed to dominate. Carleton College began by winning the first three championships and before the decade was over, Gustavus Adolphus College had captured three championships to give these two schools six of the first nine championships contended for in the M.I.A.C.

Hockey, the on-again-off-again sport, produced one of the most interesting sports stories of the decade. In 1928 five Hansen brothers, Oscar, Joe, Emil, Louis, and Julius formed the nucleus of the Augsburg College hockey team that won every game it played including the Conference tournament. This was the second year in a row Augsburg's hockey team had won every game, but this was their first official Conference championship. This team then went on to win the

A.A.U. championship and was so powerful that it was officially chosen to represent the United States in the Olympics. Due to some unexplained last-minute situation, however, plans to send a hockey team to the Olympics were dropped by the United States and the final chapter of this unbelievable sports story was left unwritten.

In both swimming and gymnastics, championship sports for the first time at the end of this decade, St. Olaf College dominated by winning two out of three swimming championships and both gymnastics championships.

FACILITIES

The decade of the twenties produced four new athletic facilities in Conference schools. In 1921 Hamline University completed construction of Norton Stadium and that same year Gustavus Adolphus College built a new gymnasium complete with an indoor track and a pool. In 1923 St. Mary's College built a new gymnasium and in 1925 Macalester College built the school's first gymnasium also complete with an indoor running track and a pool. By the end of the decade only Augsburg College lacked a suitable gymnasium.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

During the decade of the twenties several individuals made distinguished contributions to the M.I.A.C. Carleton College, for example, produced another outstanding coach to follow in the illustrious footsteps of Maurice Kent and Claude Hunt. Everett Dean won basketball championships in not only the M.I.A.C. from 1921 to 1924,

but in the Midwest Conference as well. After leaving Carleton College in 1924 he went on to national prominence as the head coach of Indiana University and Stanford University. In 1966 he was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.²¹

In 1926 Macalester College obtained the services of David C. Primrose. Mr. Primrose thus began an outstanding tenure as coach and athletic director that spanned almost three decades at Macalester. It was primarily in track and swimming that his teams particularly distinguished themselves. Coach Primrose is given a great deal of credit for developing track and field into a major Conference sport through his tireless efforts to promote the sport.

The athletic director of St. Olaf College in 1920 was Endre B. Anderson who served ably in this capacity until 1929. It is more for his contribution to the Conference, however, that Mr. Anderson should receive recognition here. At the initial meeting of the M.I.A.C. in March, 1920 Endre B. Anderson was elected as secretary-treasurer of the Conference. (Appendix C lists the Conference secretary-treasurers.) This office, as it evolved through the years, came to be the primary administrative office for the Conference.

Initially it was decided that the office of secretary-treasurer would be a rotating position like that of the Conference president. (Appendix D lists the Conference presidents.) Time would dictate, however, that a long term office would be essential to conduct

²¹Zander Hollander, The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball, p. 429.

the on-going business of handling Conference affairs. This responsibility was delegated to the office of secretary-treasurer. Mr. Anderson, therefore, became a principal architect in building the Conference on a solid foundation during these crucial pioneering days. Although relinquishing his duties periodically from 1920 to 1931 he was the Conference secretary-treasurer for the majority of that period and from 1931 to 1944 he served continuously in that post. The Conference, indeed, owes a deep debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of this outstanding leader.

The year 1925 marked the beginning of an outstanding coaching career for George B. Myrum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Coach Myrum compiled one of the most outstanding records in football, winning or sharing the Conference championship six times between 1925 and 1938 and compiling one of the best all-time won-lost records in Conference history. In 1938 while returning from a game, a tragic bus accident took the life of this outstanding coach.

Three names stand out during this period from Concordia College. The first, Rudolph Lavik, was a fine football coach and athletic director during the first few years of Conference membership. The second was Frank Cleve. Mr. Cleve served in the capacity of athletic director from 1926 to 1936, but is more well known as an outstanding basketball coach. His basketball team of 1931 captured the Conference championship. In 1922 a gentleman who had coached Concordia's first football team and who had a lifetime passion for sports, Professor Alfred Sattre, became Concordia's faculty representative. From that time until his death in 1950 he was Concordia's only faculty

representative. No other faculty representative in the history of the Conference served as long or as diligently as did Professor Alfred M. Sattre.

The twenties was a period marked by the presence of truly great athletes at St. John's University. Three of these stand out for not only their college exploits, but for the remarkable careers they enjoyed after college. Johnny "Blood" McNally began his fabulous career as a football and track star at St. John's in 1921. This was the period when pro football was struggling in its infancy, and although it hardly seems possible today, the best pro football could do was to ask top college players to play for their teams on Sunday under an assumed name. They also drew an under-the-table salary so that they would still be eligible to play for their respective colleges the following Saturday.

One of these players was John McNally who chose the name "Johnny Blood" from a theater marquee on the way to a forbidden pro game. "Johnny Blood" rambled through fifteen pro seasons and when his playing days were over he turned to coaching. He coached pro-football and ultimately returned to coach his alma mater, St. John's University. Between playing and coaching football John McNally neglected to collect the bachelor's degree he began working toward in 1921 until 1949, possibly setting yet another record of sorts.²²

Following in the footsteps of John McNally at St. John's

²²Statement by George Durenberger, personal interview, May 26, 1970.

University was yet another all-Conference athlete, George Durenberger. Mr. Durenberger began his playing career in 1924 and after graduation he was asked to stay on and help coach the varsity teams. He "stayed on" for the next forty-two years and is still, in fact, the athletic director of St. John's University. During his long and very successful tenure Mr. Durenberger has served as athletic director and coach of various varsity teams.

Yet another outstanding St. John's athlete was Joe Tucker. William Joseph Tucker came to St. John's University in 1919 and after starring on the varsity baseball team he graduated in 1924. When he returned to St. John's several years later as Father Dunstan Tucker, he still carried a deep love for the game of baseball. In 1933 he was asked to "fill in" temporarily as baseball coach and he "filled in" for the next twenty years. During his tenure as head baseball coach his teams compiled an outstanding over-all won-lost record and three Conference championships. He retired from baseball coaching in 1952, but in 1968 he again answered the call and coached the 1968 baseball team to the Conference championship on his 71st birthday.

John Sigurd "Si" Melby joined the faculty of Augsburg College in 1920. He had a keen interest in athletics and eventually his "informal supervision of basketball (evolved) into a role as director of the athletic program."²³ This remarkable man also served as Dean of Men, chairman of the department of Christianity, and for eleven years as faculty representative to the M.I.A.C. Augsburg College en-

²³Carl H. Chrislock, From Fjord to Freeway, p. 152.

countered even more opposition to its athletic program than did other Conference schools (note the late admission to the Conference in 1924), and "Undoubtedly the phenomenon of a religious teacher thoroughly identified with Lutheran Free Church pietism doubling as a successful coach raised the prestige of sports at Augsburg. It also weakened, but by no means eliminated, opposition to an intercollegiate athletic program."²⁴

At St. Mary's College the name of Tom Skemp stands out as an outstanding coach, athletic director, and promoter of intercollegiate athletics during this period. Mr. Skemp came to St. Mary's College in 1919 and immediately began the building program necessary to develop one of the most outstanding football teams in the state. By the time St. Mary's College had joined the M.I.A.C. in 1927 that objective had been reached and Mr. Skemp continued to coach winning football teams at St. Mary's College until he retired to the law profession in 1932. His contribution to not only the football teams but to the entire athletic program at St. Mary's College cannot be measured. He can, however, rightly be credited with laying the corner stone for the strong athletic program developed at that institution.

In the final year of this decade the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching released its epochal study American College Athletics.²⁵ This study produced a profound impact on the administration of intercollegiate athletic programs throughout the

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Howard J. Savage, American College Athletics.

country in the succeeding years. The M.I.A.C., however, did not introduce sweeping new measures in the following decade indicating confidence that its programs were being conducted under the highest standards.

In March of 1929 "The Treasurer reported that there were three colleges who had not paid their dues and that the check for dues from Concordia had been returned because the bank had been closed."²⁶ This event foretold of impending disaster and served to usher in a new and troubled era for the M.I.A.C.

²⁶Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 23, 1929.

CHAPTER IV

THE DEPRESSION 1930-1940

The onset of the Depression inaugurated dark days for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Only in the last few years of the decade of the twenties did the Conference begin to show some signs of stability and prosperity. To say in 1930, however, that the Conference was operating on a firm enough basis to overcome the problems posed by a depression would have been an optimistic viewpoint to say the least. The effects of the Depression on certain individual schools were devastating.

AUSTERITY MEASURES

Augsburg College, for example, found itself in desperate straights. "The financial statements disclose a cut in the athletic expense from \$1,333.20 in 1930-31 to \$259.93 a year later, a saving made possible by transferring to the athletic director full responsibility for coaching football and basketball."¹

Augsburg College may have been one of the hardest hit but its situation is at least fairly representative of the situation at all Conference schools. For the most part athletic schedules were

¹Carl H. Chrislock, From Fjord to Freeway, p. 172.

maintained, but in 1935 Augsburg withdrew from Conference participation in football and launched an intramural program instead.

Another effect of the Depression was the ending of the last dual conference affiliation. Carleton College, which had been a member of both the Midwest Conference and the M.I.A.C., resigned from the M.I.A.C. to devote full time to the former. The College of St. Thomas, which had had conference affiliations with both the M.I.A.C. and the North Central Conference dropped from the latter in 1928 leaving only Hamline University holding membership in two athletic conferences.

Immediately in 1930 the effects of the Depression forced Hamline University to withdraw from the Midwest Conference. Midwest Conference schools were spread throughout the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, and travel expenses involved made participation in that conference out of the question for Hamline University. Conversely, by Hamline leaving the Midwest Conference, an added strain was put on other Midwest Conference members because they now had to travel all the way to Minnesota to play only one school (Carleton).²

Concordia College also felt the pinch on travel expenses. Being the school furthest removed from the Twin Cities, its entire association with the Conference was based on lengthy travel. Concordia College tried valiantly to maintain a full Conference schedule,

²Ralph L. Henry, The Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference, p. 10.

but finally dropped out of competition in baseball for the duration of the Depression.

Construction projects for athletic facilities were also drastically curtailed at many Conference schools including Concordia College. In 1930 the Concordia board of directors decided to go ahead with plans for a new gymnasium. "Optimistic campus prophets expressed the belief that the gym would be under construction by Commencement of 1931."³ Plans for the gym did not see fulfillment, however, until 1952 when the fieldhouse was completed. Such prolonged delay in plans was not uncommon in Conference schools during the Depression.

Gustavus Adolphus College also made austerity moves similar to those of Augsburg College. Two men, George Myrum and Roy Lindenberg, had shared the coaching duties of the various sports with Mr. Myrum the athletic director and Mr. Lindenberg serving as his assistant. With the onset of the Depression Coach Lindenberg was let go and all the coaching duties fell to athletic director Myrum and student assistants. During these years all Conference schools worked very hard to maintain full sports schedules and most were successful in maintaining programs similar to that of Gustavus Adolphus College in which the athletic staff consisted of the athletic director and student assistants.⁴

These years, although bleak at the time, proved to be spawning grounds for future outstanding Conference leaders as many of these

³Erling Rolfsrud, Cobber Chronicle, p. 99.

⁴Information from Ernie Anderson, personal interview, August 12, 1970.

student assistants later became successful coaches and athletic directors at their respective schools. Many of these student assistants achieved long periods of tenure and a number of them are still at Conference schools today. These men have long held positions of prominence within the Conference, but during the Depression many of them were paid with promisory notes for their work as athletic coaches.⁵

The Conference itself had to take several austerity measures to survive the crisis. In May of 1932 the Conference "moved that the fees for officials in all athletic contests be reduced \$5.00 for each engagement."⁶ In December of that same year the Conference took into consideration a proposal to sponsor the printing of a Conference athletic manual. These Minnesota College Athletic Manuals⁷ had been printed periodically since 1926 by a private firm and had highlighted the activities of the M.I.A.C. The manuals were well done and represented an outstanding public relations publication, but private backing was dwindling and to continue publication the editor sought the help of the M.I.A.C. After careful consideration of all the factors "It was moved that the faculty representatives advise their college presidents that this Conference does not sponsor the printing of any manual."⁸ After The Minnesota College Athletic Manual was printed

⁵Statement by Lloyd Hollingsworth, personal interview, August 13, 1970.

⁶Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 28, 1932.

⁷The Minnesota College Athletic Manual, Volumes 1-5, 1926-1933.

⁸Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting December 3, 1932.

privately in 1933, publication of these manuals seems to have ceased and no further evidence can be found of them.

CHRONOLOGY

In March of 1930 St. Mary's College, which had only been a member of the Conference since 1926 withdrew. The reasons given for the withdrawal concerned an alleged meeting held prior to the regular Conference meeting which St. Mary's College was not invited to attend. Proposed Conference policies were allegedly discussed at this meeting and St. Mary's officials felt "that this action has cast a slur upon the institution. . . and questions her position of good standing in that body (M.I.A.C.)."⁹ The representatives of St. Mary's College further asserted:

St. Mary's further participation in athletics as a member of the conference would be tantamount to an acknowledgment of a loss of right of representation, the silencing of her voice in the shaping of conference policies, a lowering of her self-esteem, and a spineless acquiescence to a virtual condemnation of her athletic policies without a hearing.¹⁰

The St. Mary's representatives thereupon presented their resignation and withdrew from the meeting. The resignation of St. Mary's College was unanimously accepted by all schools present.

It was later disclosed that St. Mary's resignation arose due to a misunderstanding concerning the loss of a football championship

⁹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 29, 1930.

¹⁰Ibid.

(St. Mary's first in Conference play).¹¹

The May meeting of the Conference in 1930 also produced a significant change in the Conference. Up to this time the Conference officers were nominated by a committee and then elected by the assembled representatives. At this meeting it was agreed upon that henceforth "Officers of the Conference, except the secretary, be rotated alphabetically as colleges, to hold office not more than 1 year."¹² This move not only set up an easier and more equitable system of choosing the Conference president, but it also indicated the growing awareness of the importance of the office of secretary-treasurer and the need to maintain a competent person in that position for longer periods of service than one year.

Actually there was growing sentiment to obtain a Conference commissioner as other athletic conferences such as the Big Ten¹³ and Iowa¹⁴ Conferences had done much earlier to guide Conference policy. Had this move been initiated as much as one year earlier, the M.I.A.C. probably would have had a commissioner, but under the current circumstances a permanent office of commissioner was out of the question. It was therefore agreed upon "That the office of secretary shall to some degree exercise the functions of an athletic commissioner at least until such a time as the Conference is in position to employ such an

¹¹The Nexus, December 21, 1932, p. 1.

¹²Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 24, 1930.

¹³The Big Ten Records Book, p. 172.

¹⁴J. E. Turnbull, The Iowa Conference Story, p. 171.

office."¹⁵ During this period the secretary was also delegated the responsibility of Conference mediator of disputes between schools. With the responsibility of administering all these various duties, the role of secretary-treasurer during the 1930's took on an even greater importance and evolved into the most powerful office in the Conference.

It was during this same period that the M.I.A.C. gained approval of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. By gaining approval of this body the Conference agreed to abide by the standards set by that organization for the proper administration of a college athletic program.

In December of 1932, after an absence of two years, St. Mary's College applied for readmission to the Conference. The application was accepted unanimously and the St. Mary's representative "assured the group that St. Mary's accepted all the obligations of membership according to the spirit and letter of (the Conference) code."¹⁶

In October of 1933 following a football game between St. John's University and Concordia College athletic relations between the two schools were severed. The move was initiated by St. John's due to alleged officiating discrepancies in favor of Concordia. St. John's claimed that similar situations had occurred in the past and that it was not a single occurrence that prompted the drastic action. The

¹⁵Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 29, 1931.

¹⁶Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting December 3, 1932.

dispute was resolved the following year and normal relations once again resumed.

At approximately this same time Hamline University was found to be in violation of the North Central Association's standards concerning aid to athletes. Hamline University in its zeal to develop a basketball "powerhouse" had given more financial aid to an outstanding basketball prospect than he was rightly entitled to.¹⁷ At the March, 1934 meeting of the Conference it was voted that "in accordance with the ruling of the North Central Association of Colleges, the suspension of Hamline University from the M.I.A.C. be declared fully effective, as of this date."¹⁸ Hamline apologized and at a special meeting of Conference representatives on April 28, 1934 Hamline University was reinstated.

In the spring of 1935 the Conference added its ninth championship sport, golf. Many Conference schools had been participating in golf for a number of years, but not until 1935 were enough schools participating for golf to qualify as a championship sport. The addition of golf in 1935 is significant in that this was the first positive action taken by the Conference since the onset of the Depression. Until this time one gloomy event after another had plagued the Conference, but from this point forward there would be increasing signs that the Conference would weather the storm.

At the Conference meeting in March of 1938:

¹⁷Statement by Joe Hutton, personal interview, June 7, 1970.

¹⁸Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 24, 1934.

It was decided that the Secretary of the Conference be instructed to advise Augsburg that through **non-attendance** at two successive regular conference meetings, the College has automatically suspended **itself** from membership in the Conference . . .¹⁹

Although there is no evidence of Augsburg College ever being formally readmitted to the Conference, representatives of that institution attended the next and each succeeding meeting and it is assumed that the suspension was given more in the manner of a warning and never taken seriously by the Conference.

During the spring of 1939 Augsburg College created another Conference first. Attempting to revive tennis as a varsity sport, a new coach was hired. On the surface this move seems far from unique until the discovery is made that the coach was a woman! Augsburg College announced that "Miss Allys Collings, women's tennis champion at the University of Minnesota last year, has begun her duties as coach and instructor of the tennis team . . ."²⁰ This was the first, but not the last, time that a woman was hired to coach a men's athletic team at a Conference school.

FINANCES

Treasurer's reports during this period indicated that the Conference maintained its stability until the latter part of the decade. From a high of \$323.35 in 1929 the Conference treasury dropped only to \$280.73 in 1933. From that point it dropped gradually to

¹⁹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 26, 1938.

²⁰The Augsburg Echo, March 23, 1939, p. 4.

\$241.68 in 1934 and to \$226.50 in 1935. At this point, however, Conference finances took a sharp nosedive until in 1938 the Conference treasury showed a balance of only \$61.63.

RULE CHANGES

During this decade the freshman rule continued to be an issue. In 1932 the Conference agreed that freshmen could play in any non-Conference basketball game. It was not until 1938, however, that the freshman year rule was proposed again and as previous efforts failed, so did this one, meaning that the M.I.A.C. continued to be guided by a one-semester freshman rule throughout this decade.

The round robin method of scheduling contests also continued to be an issue during this period. In March of 1930 the Conference abolished round robin scheduling of football and basketball games. The idea lay dormant until 1932 when a motion to adopt round robin scheduling received no second. Proponents of round robin scheduling claimed that this was the simplest yet most equitable method of scheduling games, that schedules could be set up years in advance, and that the yearly headaches associated with scheduling could be avoided. The opponents on the other hand wanted to be able to set up their own schedule so that they could avoid the more powerful teams.²¹

By 1935 alternative measures proved unacceptable and the Conference again approved round robin scheduling for football. Upon

²¹Statement by Father B. J. Coughlin, personal interview, January 22, 1971.

completion of the 1935 football season enough opposition to round robin scheduling had been raised that at the December Conference meeting the matter was again brought to a vote and round robin scheduling for football was rescinded. Much discussion followed within each school and the following spring the Conference again reversed itself and approved round robin scheduling for football. By 1938 round robin scheduling had been accepted in football and was then approved for baseball.

One austerity measure adopted by the Conference during the Depression concerned the assessment of dues. Since 1923 the annual assessment per college had been \$30 per year. At the September meeting of 1932 the faculty representatives agreed that \$10 would be due at that time and the rest would be due later if necessary. Evidently it did not become necessary as there is no further word on the subject in the ensuing Conference minutes. By the following September matters had become worse for Conference schools and it was agreed that only five dollars would be due at that time. Matters began to stabilize somewhat in September of 1934 when it was agreed to assess each school \$10 per year. The annual dues remained at that figure until September of 1937 when they were again raised to the pre-Depression level of \$30 per school per year.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Except in rare instances each school maintained varsity teams in all the sports that they had had varsity teams in before the onset of the Depression. The various Conference championships were as hotly

contested during the Depression as in any other period of Conference history. In baseball the decade of the thirties was a period of domination by Gustavus Adolphus College. During that ten year span Gustavus annexed six outright Conference championships in baseball and shared another with St. John's University. Track and field was another sport dominated by (in this case) two schools. During the thirties Macalester College won five championships, four in succession at one point, and St. Olaf College won three more. In tennis the College of St. Thomas took or shared championship honors six times.

Football again seemed to be the Conference sport in which no team could dominate the others. Five different teams either won outright or shared Conference championships during this period. Both Gustavus Adolphus College and St. John's University were credited with four Conference championships in the thirties. In basketball a trend emerged in the thirties that would continue for many years. In 1932 Hamline University won its first Conference basketball championship. Hamline went on to win five consecutive basketball championships and shared two others to dominate that sport as no other school had done before.

In hockey Macalester College seemed to be the school to beat each year for the Conference championship. During the thirties Macalester won five outright titles and shared two others. In swimming Macalester College and Gustavus Adolphus College dominated the competition. Macalester won four and Gustavus won five outright Conference championships. Gymnastics competition was terminated after the 1937 season, but Gustavus Adolphus College closed out the Con-

ference competition with six consecutive titles to that point. Golf was only a Conference championship sport during the last five years of this decade but St. Olaf College captured the first four golf titles competed for.

FACILITIES

Reflecting the renewed vigor and strength of the Conference toward the end of this decade was the minor building boom of new athletic facilities. Hamline University led the way in 1937 when Norton Field House was built.²² By this time basketball was becoming synonymous with Hamline University and the spirit and enthusiasm of Hamline supporters helped assure a new facility in which could be showcased the Hamline University basketball powerhouse.

The College of St. Thomas followed suit with O'Shaughnessy Hall built in 1939.²³ This outstanding athletic facility included a pool and from this point forward the St. Thomas tankers would be a Conference swimming power to be reckoned with.

Gustavus Adolphus College also completed a much needed field-house in 1939. This facility served multiple uses including an indoor natural ice arena for hockey in the winter.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

In 1930 a young man assumed the coaching reigns of the

²²Charles Nelson Pace, Hamline University, p. 104.

²³The Aquin, January 12, 1940, p. 1.

Hamline University basketball team and began one of the most fabulous coaching careers in the history of the Conference. Joe W. Hutton coached Hamline to its first Conference basketball championship in 1932 and before his retirement, his teams won nineteen Conference championships in twenty-eight years. Coach Hutton's teams entered the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics basketball tournament twelve times and won that tournament three times. Coach Hutton was also a president of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIA) in 1949 as well as the long-time athletic director of Hamline University.

At the beginning of this decade Adrian L. (Ade) Christenson was the athletic director of St. Olaf College. Mr. Christenson was an outstanding contributor to the Conference as an athletic director, football coach, and innovative intramural director up to and beyond St. Olaf's withdrawal from the Conference in 1952. He is also nationally known for his probing and thought-provoking study of the values and practices associated with college athletics in his book The Verdict of the Scoreboard.²⁴

At St. John's University the Reverend Walter H. Reger became faculty representative in 1931. It had been the policy of St. John's to rotate the faculty representative position almost yearly up to this point. The 23-year tenure of Reverend Reger speaks quite eloquently of the faith St. John's had in the outstanding abilities of this man

²⁴Ade Christenson, The Verdict of the Scoreboard.

and of the tireless efforts put forth by him in the service of his
.school and the Conference.

CHAPTER V

THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH 1940-1950

The decade of the forties began on a very optimistic note for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Not only had the Conference survived the perilous thirties, but it had actually shown signs of revitalization and growth (addition of new sports, raising dues to the pre-Depression level, and the building of new facilities) toward the end of that period. There were now nine Conference schools generally competing in eight championship sports.

To properly begin the new decade it was suggested that an "all-sports" championship be awarded by the Conference. Proponents of this proposal suggested that this idea would eliminate the distinction between "major" and "minor" sports and that teams eliminated from championship contention would still have incentive to finish as high in the standings as possible so as to contribute to the school's overall standing in the all-sports championship. This idea certainly had merit, and later the M.I.A.C. and other conferences¹ adopted "all-sports championships," but for the time being the proposal was rejected.

¹Ralph L. Henry, The Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference, p. 25.

CHRONOLOGY

At a special meeting of the Conference held on April 5, 1941 Gustavus Adolphus College was suspended from the Conference for the academic year of 1941-1942. This suspension was the result of a situation that had been brewing in the M.I.A.C. since the late thirties.

During the decade of the thirties Gustavus Adolphus College became a true athletic powerhouse in the M.I.A.C. "Gustie" teams were repeatedly at the top of the heap in various Conference sports and as Gustavus prospered, athletic directors and coaches at other Conference schools began to suspect that the athletic program at Gustavus was being over-emphasized. The situation gradually became more volatile and at a special meeting of the Conference in April of 1939 charges were brought against Gustavus Adolphus by other Conference schools.

The charges leveled against Gustavus included: (1) choosing of coaches by alumni and businessmen, (2) pressure on coaches to produce winning teams, (3) inducements of financial aid to entice prospective athletes, (4) athletes being given jobs at the state mental institution (which included room and board) at the exclusion of other non-athlete students at Gustavus, and (6) personal recruiting by Gustavus coaches. All charges were vigorously denied by the Gustavus representative and it was decided that a committee of three would be selected by the Conference president to investigate athletic conditions at Gustavus. The committee visited Gustavus on May 19, 1939 and presented its report to the Conference at the May meeting. The findings of the committee were (1) that athletes had received

favoritism in consideration of jobs at the state hospital in St. Peter and in assignment of jobs and rooms in the stadium, (2) that tuition and room rent payments by athletes were not strictly enforced, (3) that athletes had been paid for coaching, and (4) that methods to determine scholastic eligibility should conform to the Conference code. At the Conference meeting in September of 1939:

The report of the committee that visited Gustavus Adolphus was reviewed by Dr. Carlton (Gustavus Adolphus faculty representative) and members of the committee. It was moved that the report of the committee that visited Gustavus Adolphus be accepted and that the Conference express its confidence that Gustavus Adolphus is acting in good faith upon the recommendations contained in the committee report. Seconded and carried.²

In March of 1941 coach John Roning of Gustavus Adolphus College reported that he was having difficulty scheduling enough games to qualify for the Conference championship because coaches were refusing to schedule Gustavus. Roning and faculty representative Ernest Carlton thereupon presented a complete outline of the athletic program at Gustavus including facts and figures on student employees, hospital employees, student coaches, stadium occupants, and scholastic records of athletes. This report was accepted by the Conference in March of 1941. A special Conference meeting was called for the following Saturday. The Conference representatives expressed the opinion that Gustavus had failed to make the proper corrections suggested in the committee report of 1939 and suspended Gustavus for the academic year 1941-1942. Gustavus thereupon demanded that the

²Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 16, 1939.

Conference list the charges made against the institution.

The Conference in its reply to Gustavus listed two basic charges.³ The first charge was that administrative authorities at Gustavus had lost control of the athletic program at that institution and the second charge was that sufficient progress had not been made to correct the faults referred to in the committee report of 1939. Gustavus protested that the charges were largely unfounded but the Conference refused to lift the suspension. From that point Gustavus worked long and hard to bring its athletic program into line with the Conference standards. When the matter of reinstatement of Gustavus Adolphus was taken up at the May meeting of 1942, the Conference was satisfied that sufficient adjustments had been made to unanimously terminate the suspension.

In December of 1941 the entire country was suddenly thrust into a world-wide conflict. Adjustments had to be made to convert from a peace-time to a war-time economy and important adjustments had to be made in athletics also. No official action was taken by the M.I.A.C. immediately in the spring of 1942 although it was suggested that every effort be made to curtail expenses and automobile travel.

The first official Conference action came at the November 1942 Conference meeting when "It was moved that for the duration of the war, this Conference is opposed to intersectional or non-conference games that require long distance travel."⁴ By 1943 many Minnesota colleges

³Special Conference Report, June, 1941.

⁴Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting November 28, 1942.

were involved with Army and Navy training programs on campus and "It was moved that the Conference accept full co-operation of Army and Navy units in the intercollegiate athletic program which it sponsors. Trainees are automatically eligible for competition beginning with the football season of 1943."⁵ Finally, in the fall of 1943 "It was moved that in view of the war situation official Conference football schedules be cancelled for the school year 1943-44. It is understood, however, that individual schools might feel free to schedule football games if they desire."⁶ During the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 no official Conference championships were awarded but for the most part the Conference maintained regular competitive schedules. Most teams carried on as best they could, with Concordia College probably being the hardest hit because of travel restrictions making it almost impossible to compete with other Conference schools. Concordia did, however, maintain practically a full schedule of games with other college teams in the Moorhead, Minnesota area. Although the Conference made it through the war-time crisis in reasonably good shape, there were certain problems that caused deep concern.

Shortly after Gustavus Adolphus College was reinstated in the Conference in 1942 it was again involved in another explosive issue, unrelated to the previous problems. This time the situation evolved around the decision "of the Board (of Trustees) to abolish intercollegiate athletics for the duration (of the war) . . . The Board

⁵Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 15, 1943.

⁶Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 18, 1943.

adopted President Lunden's recommendation 'because of the (war) emergency' and then the fun began."⁷

"The students did not actually rebel but there was substantial unrest."⁸ In view of this the Board reversed its earlier decision at which point Dr. Lunden presented his resignation. Dr. Lunden's resignation was not accepted at this time, but shortly thereafter he again resigned and this time the resignation was accepted. Although athletics was not the only issue involved, it was one of the primary considerations in the changing of the administration of Gustavus Adolphus College. Here again as in the early days of college athletics in Minnesota student activism in support of the inter-collegiate athletic program proved to be a powerful factor.

At the May meeting of 1944 Hamline University suggested that all eligibility rules except those pertaining to scholastic requirements be waived for the duration. This motion was defeated and another motion that Hamline be allowed to free-lance for one year was also defeated. Hamline intended to use two basketball players who were ineligible by Conference standards but they argued that these were extraordinary times and that other Conference schools actually had a decided advantage due to their campus military programs. All the arguments, however, fell on deaf ears and in May of 1944 Hamline University withdrew from membership in the M.I.A.C.

⁷Doniver A. Lund, Gustavus Adolphus College A Centennial History 1862-1962, p. 156.

⁸Ibid.

Hamline's resignation was tabled at the September meeting and the President, faculty representative, and athletic director of that institution were invited to attend the November meeting. At this time the athletic directors were called in to joint session with the faculty representatives to discuss the Hamline situation. They suggested that the Conference had "made a mistake by not liberalizing our code last year. However, they agreed with the above resolution (to invite the Hamline officials to discuss the matter)."⁹ The Hamline University officials declined the invitation to attend the November meeting, however, and the Conference promptly accepted their resignation.

In March of 1946 Hamline made application for readmission to the M.I.A.C. The faculty representatives, after lengthy discussion, decided to postpone action on the request until the May meeting. During that discussion it became clear that a major stumbling block to the readmission of Hamline concerned the manner in which officials of that institution had refused to further discuss the matter of withdrawal on the invitation of the Conference.

Hamline officials explained that they were indeed in accord with the Conference code, that they genuinely wanted to be a member of the Conference, and that their refusal to attend the meeting was a misunderstanding and not intended to be rude. They apologized for their actions and again requested readmittance to the Conference. The matter was taken up again at the May meeting in 1946 and a motion was

⁹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 16, 1944.

passed to readmit Hamline University to full Conference membership on January 1, 1947.

When the war came to a close in 1945 a new problem presented itself to M.I.A.C. schools. The problem of the returning veterans going to school under the "GI Bill" was not, of course, a problem peculiar to the M.I.A.C.

All across the country college campuses were filled to overflowing with veterans eager to get a college education and restless for activity. For some, intercollegiate athletics held the key, but for the vast majority, a more relaxed type of activity seemed appropriate. This was truly the "golden age" for the collegiate intramural program and the M.I.A.C. was no exception. All M.I.A.C. schools had, of course, had intramural programs long before the war, but during the period immediately following the war these programs were greatly expanded.

One significant outgrowth of the expansion of intramural programs in the M.I.A.C. was the Conference extramural tournament. This program, one of the first of its kind in the country, pits the intramural champions from each school against each other. The program began in the spring of 1947 and through the years has become accepted as an official Conference event. Initially in 1947 competition was held in basketball, bowling, handball, table tennis, shuffleboard, badminton, and volleyball. In 1960 lack of interest led to the dropping of shuffleboard. In 1962 (basketball) spot shooting, and free throw shooting were added, and in 1963 physical fitness (including 50-yard dash, situps, pullups, standing long jump, and 600-yard run) was

added.¹⁰ By sponsoring this type of competition the M.I.A.C. has established itself as a Conference which is interested in more than just the "major sports" and the super athlete. The annual extramural tournament is one of the most popular and most successful events sponsored each year by the M.I.A.C.¹¹

In September of 1946 the Conference made another move toward stabilizing the administrative functions of the Conference. Although still not quite ready to name a full-time commissioner, the Conference named Mr. William Haman as coordinator of the M.I.A.C. Mr. Haman had been a sports writer for the St. Paul Daily News and had developed a keen interest in the Conference. His duties with the Conference, although extensive, began as a part-time service to the Conference for which he received no salary. Actually the Conference voted to reimburse Mr. Haman for his expenses for the first time in 1948.¹² This position was initially intended to relieve some of the burdens from the load of the secretary-treasurer and through the years has grown to be one of the most important and integral phases of the administrative functions of the Conference. Mr. Haman has served as the Conference's only coordinator from 1946 to the present and the scope and importance of this position is largely a reflection of the

¹⁰Information provided by Clarence Nelson, personal interview, August 31, 1970.

¹¹Statement by Bill Haman, personal interview, August 12, 1970.

¹²Statement by Father B. J. Coughlin, personal interview, January 22, 1971.

time and energies he has expanded in the service of the Conference. When Mr. Haman was initially appointed in 1946 he was assigned eleven duties as Conference coordinator:

1. Coordinator between faculty representatives and coaches
2. Keep records of all sports
3. Agenda for ensuing meetings
4. Chairman of coaches' meetings
5. General publicity - newspaper and radio
6. Set up schedules in three sports; namely football, basketball, and baseball
7. Organization of meetings
8. Promotion of good-will for Conference
9. Revision of Code of Rules
10. Coordinator at no time has a vote on any decisions by faculty representatives or coaches
11. It is to be understood the position held as Coordinator is not to be used to further any personal or commercial interests¹³

It was stipulated at that time that he was to discharge these duties and "serve without salary . . ."14

One of Mr. Haman's initial contributions to the Conference was his introduction of the extramural tournament. Mr. Haman was responsible for conceiving this idea and promoting it into one of the most successful Conference events. By 1948 the Conference came to

¹³Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 14, 1946.

¹⁴Ibid.

realize the time and effort that went into the position of coordinator and agreed to give the coordinator \$100 a year for expenses. Along with this, however, went the added responsibility of coordinating the assigning of officials for Conference games.

In 1947 the Conference added another sport to the championship list. Wrestling not only became the newest sport, but also reflected again the influence of veterans on campus. Wrestling was becoming a popular sport before World War II and had reached varsity status at St. Olaf College¹⁵ and Macalester College.¹⁶ The onset of the war only increased the interest of American young men in this type of activity due to the stress on combative activities by the military services.¹⁷ In 1948 the Conference added its tenth championship sport, cross-country.

At the November 1948 meeting the Conference heard the representatives of the Duluth Branch, University of Minnesota apply for admission into the Conference. The application for membership into the M.I.A.C. was the culmination of a chain of events that had changed the course of that institution radically.

Until 1947 this institution was known as the Duluth State Teachers College. In 1947 it became part of the expanding program of the University of Minnesota and therefore became the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota. This change not only brought about a

¹⁵The Viking. 1941.

¹⁶The 1942 Mac.

¹⁷C. W. Hackensmith, History of Physical Education, p. 477.

change in educational emphasis for the institution but also an expanded student enrollment. Once the initial problems associated with such a transition were overcome the institution found itself in an athletic state of flux.

The athletic program during this period had been more or less "left by the wayside" and now action had to be taken one way or another. It is significant here that the school's administration and faculty at this time were strongly pro athletics and were interested in the Duluth Branch developing an outstanding athletic program. This feeling, combined with the growing student enrollment, made continued membership in the Minnesota State Teachers College Conference untenable. The enthusiastic and able administrative staff of the Duluth Branch, led by the school's provost, Dr. Raymond C. Gibson, therefore launched a dedicated effort to gain admission to the M.I.A.C.

No decision was made at this time and the matter was referred to the individual schools for consideration and made a matter of business for the next Conference meeting. The Duluth application was quite unique and therefore required quite a bit of study by Conference schools.

The initial reaction of many people associated with the M.I.A.C. was that the Duluth Branch had absolutely nothing in common with the other M.I.A.C. schools and that membership was out of the question. The opponents to this proposal had many arguments: (1) Low tuition costs would give Duluth a decided advantage, (2) All other M.I.A.C. schools were church related, small, liberal arts colleges, (3) Possible expansion could make the school an athletic powerhouse

that would dominate the Conference, and (4) The added distance of travel to Duluth would put a burden on athletic budgets.

Proponents of the plan offered counter arguments to support their application for admission: (1) Tuition would not be a factor because of the large number of students who simply want the type of educational experience offered by a church-related institution regardless of cost, (2) The M.I.A.C. should have a representative in the state's third largest city, (3) Adding another team would make the Conference a better balanced ten-team league, (4) Many alumni of M.I.A.C. schools lived in the Duluth area, and (5) If Duluth became too powerful it would withdraw and transfer to another conference.¹⁸ These arguments combined with the persistent hard work of Dr. Gibson and his associates paid off when after much debate the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota was granted a three-year provisional membership in the M.I.A.C. in March of 1949.

FINANCES

During the period of the forties Conference finances made a steady healthy climb. From a low of \$86.48 in 1940 to a high of \$651.92 in 1949 the Conference treasury gradually increased to its most stable position in Conference history to that point.

¹⁸Position paper prepared by University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch Administration, U.M.D. Archives.

RULE CHANGES

The war years caused many changes to take place in the Conference. One of the first adjustments made by the Conference was to declare all freshmen eligible for varsity competition in the spring of 1942. This move was an absolute necessity due to the large numbers of young men who left campus to enlist in the armed services. The same situation occurred in other athletic conferences and even the largest of these eventually voted to allow freshmen participation. The Big Ten, for example, passed a rule permitting inter-freshmen competition in 1942 but by 1943 they too were forced to allow freshmen to participate on varsity teams.¹⁹ The passing of the rule allowing freshmen to participate must have seemed a momentary victory for those advocates of unlimited freshmen competition in the M.I.A.C. It was not until May of 1947 that the Conference voted to return to the pre-war one-semester freshmen rule and by September of that same year sentiment had again mellowed and the Conference voted to allow freshmen to play in four non-Conference or freshmen games.

The round robin method of scheduling Conference games finally became accepted in the Conference during this decade, but not before another epic struggle was waged. This battle began in 1923 when round robin was first considered and had been brought before the Conference almost yearly, first approved, then voted out. In September of 1940 a motion to abolish the round robin method of scheduling games was

¹⁹The Big Ten Records Book 1969-1970, p. 173.

defeated. This situation arose due to the refusal of several Conference schools to schedule athletic events with Gustavus Adolphus College. Finally, at the November 1940 Conference meeting the round robin was suspended for two years. This suspension would have terminated during the war years, but due to the war the Conference did not act again on round robin scheduling until 1947. At the November 1947 Conference meeting round robin schedules were approved in both football and basketball. At the March, 1948 Conference meeting round robin schedules were approved for baseball competition and some form of round robin scheduling seems to have been in effect from that point forward bringing to an end one of the harder fought issues in Conference history.

The only mention of dues in Conference minutes during the decade of the forties occurred at the November, 1943 meeting at which time the Conference voted "that in view of the present surplus in the Conference treasury the yearly membership fee of \$30.00 be waived for the school year 1943-1944."²⁰ The indication here would be that whatever problems the Conference encountered during the war, finances were not one of them.

In 1942 for the first time the Conference gave the duty of assigning and supervising officials to someone outside of the faculty representatives. Jerry Flatham was placed in charge of Conference officials at a salary of \$50 per year plus expenses. Mr. Flatham was the secretary of the St. Paul Officials Association and he coordinated

²⁰Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting November 20, 1943.

the assigning of officials for Conference events. Until this time the assignment of officials had been handled first by a committee of three representatives and then by the Conference secretary. In 1946 the Conference appointed Mr. William Haman as coordinator and in 1948 the responsibility for coordinating the assigning of officials became one of his duties. Mr. Flatham was retained with Mr. Haman as his supervisor.

The decade of the forties saw the spawning of the first national organization concerned primarily with small colleges, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.²¹ This association was officially formed in 1940 but grew out of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament first held in 1937. The association was concerned only with basketball until 1952 but since that time has gone on to sponsor a wide range of championship events. Although the M.I.A.C. is not a conference affiliate of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, most Conference schools are institutional members. Mr. A. O. Duer, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics had indicated the close working relationship between the M.I.A.C. and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics through the years:

Generally I would say that the MIAC has been closely associated with NAIA since the beginnings of our organization and have worked very closely with us in the growth and development of the program. They have been with us so closely and continuously that I would say they have been a major factor in the development of our program.

²¹Mike Kleinman ed. Official Records Book of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, p. 141.

This is true of both individuals and institutions. Of course, Ernie Anderson of Augsburg is now President and Joe Hutton is a Past President of the organization.²²

In the fall of 1947 the Conference for the first time voted to abolish spring football. Before the action of the Conference could actually be put into practice, however, the ruling abolishing spring football was rescinded. The matter was to remain dormant for another decade, but in time became one of the most hotly contested issues in Conference history.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The decade of the forties saw the cessation of championship competition in the Conference from 1943 until 1946. In the years in which Conference championships were contested, however, there seemed to be a pattern of one-school dominance in most sports not apparent up to this time. In hockey, for example, the College of St. Thomas captured five of six championships during the decade. St. Thomas also captured five of seven swimming championships in their new pool, and won the only two cross-country championships held in the forties.

Golf seemed to be one of the most evenly contested Conference sports during this period with five different schools winning championships in eight years. Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Olaf College, and Macalester College each won two consecutive golf crowns. Macalester College also won the only two wrestling crowns contested for in the decade.

²²Letter from Mr. A. O. Duer August 19, 1970.

Baseball, like golf, was fairly evenly contested with six different schools winning championships in eight years. Only Augsburg College could annex more than one baseball crown and they took three. In track and field Macalester College set the trend in the forties by capturing five of eight championships. St. Olaf College was even more dominant in tennis winning six of eight championships. Football seemed to be more of a two team race between the College of St. Thomas winning or tying for five championships and Gustavus Adolphus College winning three championships out of the eight contested for. Although Augsburg College did not capture any championship during this period, that school did resume competition in football in 1940 for the first time since 1935. Hamline University continued its mastery over Conference foes in basketball by winning or tying for six of eight Conference championships.

FACILITIES

The decade of the forties, due to the war, was not an outstanding one for the construction of new athletic facilities at Conference schools. In 1949 the College of St. Thomas followed the construction of their gymnasium (O'Shaughnessy Hall, 1939) with the completion of a new football stadium. The only other addition during this period was an Army surplus building acquired by Augsburg College to serve the expanded needs of that institution for more gymnasium space after the war.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

Again during the forties outstanding individuals contributed greatly to the M.I.A.C. In 1942 Hamline University was represented for the first time by Mr. Perry Moore. Mr. Moore thereafter served continuously (except for Hamline's two-year exodus from the Conference) until 1966 as faculty representative for Hamline. It was during this period of service that the Conference matured and grew in strength and stature and Mr. Moore played an important role in Conference policy making in this period. Mr. Moore's long period of service included twice being chosen to fill in as secretary-treasurer while Father Coughlin served as Conference president. His experience in Conference policy matters proved to be an invaluable asset to the Conference.²³ Also during this period Mr. Clarence Nelson came to Hamline University. Mr. Nelson has served ably as teacher, athletic director, and intramural director at Hamline from 1945 to the present. His considerable efforts with the extramural tournament have been one of the primary reasons for the success of this program.

At Gustavus Adolphus College a young man joined the faculty during this period who had a tremendous impact on Gustavus Adolphus athletics for almost three decades. Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth became athletic director in 1942. During his long and distinguished tenure at Gustavus Adolphus College he coached several sports in addition to his duties as athletic director. It was in football, however, where he

²³Coughlin, loc. cit.

particularly distinguished himself.

Before Dr. Hollingsworth relinquished the reins as head football coach at Gustavus he had surpassed the all-time winning percentage of the late George Myrum. This was an incredible achievement, in light of the phenomenal records achieved by Mr. Myrum, and established Dr. Hollingsworth as one of the all-time great coaches in M.I.A.C. history. Not only did Dr. Hollingsworth influence football at Gustavus, but as athletic director at that institution he was responsible for developing Gustavus Adolphus College into one of the foremost athletic powers in all sports. That Dr. Hollingsworth was chosen by the college to lead its athletic fortunes after its reinstatement in the Conference in 1942 is in itself a fitting tribute to this outstanding leader. Dr. Hollingsworth not only revived the athletic program at Gustavus Adolphus, but he brought that program into a place of prominence and respect that few schools have enjoyed in the history of the Conference.

During this decade Concordia College also produced an outstanding football coach. Mr. J. M. Christiansen came to Concordia in 1941 as football coach and athletic director and became the most successful football coach in the history of Concordia College. In his second year at the helm of Concordia's football team he led the "Cobbers" to their first undefeated season in history and the Conference co-championship with the College of St. Thomas. "Jake" Christiansen went on to coach a total of four M.I.A.C. championship football teams, led the "Cobbers" to a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championship tie in 1964, and was named M.I.A.C. and National

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Coach of the Year in that same year. "Jake" Christiansen has set the standard of excellence which still guides the Concordia College athletic program after his retirement.

Augsburg College made two outstanding additions to its athletic department in 1946. Ernest Anderson was named basketball coach and athletic director and Edor C. Nelson was named football coach. These two men were still serving in these positions in 1970 and have given Augsburg College the type of stable leadership which has allowed that institution to compete athletically in the M.I.A.C. despite numerous handicaps. Mr. Anderson led Augsburg to three consecutive basketball titles from 1963 to 1965 and Mr. Nelson's baseball teams have captured or shared M.I.A.C. titles five different times. Also beginning a long period of tenure in service of the athletic program at Augsburg College and of the M.I.A.C. was Mr. George Soberg. Mr. Soberg was appointed faculty representative for Augsburg in 1944 and except for a one-year leave of absence served continuously in that capacity until 1965. His period of service and contributions to the Conference closely parallel those of Mr. Perry Moore at Hamline University.

In 1941 St. Mary's College appointed Max Molock as its new baseball coach. Mr. Molock was by no means "new" to St. Mary's, however, as he had been one of the school's most outstanding all-around athletes during the thirties. During his long tenure at St. Mary's Mr. Molock coached several sports and directed a fine intramural program, but it was as a baseball coach that he received prominence.

Mr. Molock was one of the most successful coaches in M.I.A.C. history with his baseball teams winning or sharing ten championships in twenty-six years.

When the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, entered the M.I.A.C. in 1949 there were two men associated with the athletic program who would have long careers directing sports at Duluth. Mr. Lloyd Peterson who had for several years been one of the most successful football coaches in the Minnesota State Teachers College Conference, and Dr. Lewis Rickert who was just beginning his long tenure at Duluth both went on to direct the athletic program at Duluth.

At the College of St. Thomas the Reverend B. J. Coughlin was named faculty representative in 1941. Reverend Coughlin became one of the most outstanding leaders in the history of the Conference. He not only served quite ably in his capacity as faculty representative for St. Thomas from 1941 to 1967, but in 1944 he succeeded Endre B. Anderson as secretary-treasurer of the Conference. Reverend Coughlin discharged the duties of his important position with the same skill and efficiency that his predecessor had. The outstanding manner in which Reverend Coughlin handled the administrative duties of his office are directly responsible for the success enjoyed by the Conference during this period. The period of his service was one in which the Conference matured and grew perceptibly in stature as an athletic conference and a great deal of the credit for this can be attributed to him. If the Conference owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Anderson for his outstanding service in guiding the Conference through a very critical period, it most definitely owes an equal debt of gratitude to Reverend Coughlin.

Also beginning a period of outstanding service at this time was Mr. Frank Deig. Coach Deig came to the College of St. Thomas in 1946 and assumed the duties of head football coach. He became one of the most successful coaches in Conference history winning four championships in football before he stepped down in 1958. During his tenure at St. Thomas Mr. Deig also served as athletic director.

CHAPTER VI

THE SETTLING PERIOD 1950-1960

The atmosphere in college athletics during the decade of the fifties was far from settling. During this period several scandals rocked the intercollegiate sports world, and national attention was frequently focused on institutions guilty of rule violations. In 1953 this latter situation was at least partially influenced by the National Collegiate Athletic Association developing policies and principles which were known as the "Sanity Code."¹ Although the Code itself was never enforced later on several institutions were placed on probation, and other institutions were censured in violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules.

In each case attention was focused on the laxity of enforcement of rules and on the sad state of intercollegiate athletics in general. This national situation does not, however, seem to have affected or included the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The M.I.A.C. during this decade remained free of this type of situation which had characterized the Conference throughout its existence. The Conference, after weathering three rocky decades, seemed to settle down during the fifties. Although one school withdrew from the Conference,

¹Edward J. Shea and Elton E. Wieman, Administrative Policies For Intercollegiate Athletics, pp. 16-17.

for the first time since its formation in 1920 an entire decade passed without one school being suspended or one school leaving the Conference in angry protest over a Conference policy.

CHRONOLOGY

In May of 1951 a merger between the M.I.A.C. and the Minnesota State Teachers College Conference was proposed by the latter. The proposed merger held little interest for the M.I.A.C. colleges. Opposition to the proposed merger included the feeling that the M.I.A.C. itself was too large (At that time the Conference included 10 schools.), that tradition would be broken, travel expenses would be prohibitive, and that relative tuition costs would soon make the state schools much more powerful.² The idea was unanimously rejected by the Conference and has never formally been suggested again.

In May of the following year two significant events occurred that would ultimately affect the composition of the Conference. The first of these was quite positive in that the membership of the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota in the M.I.A.C. was continued for three more years, subject to review at the end of that time. The second event came as a blow to the Conference structure. St. Olaf College, which had been an original charter member and one of the most respected members of the Conference, withdrew from the M.I.A.C. The resignation occurred under the most amiable relations and the Con-

²Correspondence from St. John's University to the Conference concerning entry of teachers colleges into the M.I.A.C., May, 1951.

ference accepted with regret:

Mr. Anderson (Conference President George W. Anderson of Gustavus Adolphus College) then expressed the feeling of the Conference towards Mr. Swanson (faculty representative from St. Olaf) and St. Olaf, stating that the association had always been pleasant and enjoyable, the competition provided in the sports was very good, and the hope that they would again be members of the Conference.³

St. Olaf, upon leaving the M.I.A.C., became a member of the Midwest Conference joining cross-town rival Carleton College in that Conference. St. Olaf indicated its interest in not only the athletic program of the Midwest Conference, but also the deep involvement of the conference in inter-institutional academic programs as well. This factor was of primary importance in making the switch since the impetus for the move came from the faculty and not the athletic department.⁴ Some Conference members expressed the view that the St. Olaf move reflected that school's interest in belonging to what they considered to be a more academically prestigious conference as well as a dissatisfaction with what they considered to be over-emphasis of athletics in the M.I.A.C. Whatever the reasons, the parting was made entirely without bitterness and the M.I.A.C. was truly sorry for the loss of this fine institution. Several Conference institutions expressed deep regret over the decision and expressed the hope that long-standing athletic rivalries could continue to be carried on even though St. Olaf was no longer a M.I.A.C. institution. Hamline University, for example, con-

³Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 21, 1952.

⁴Statement by Cully Swanson, personal interview, August 5, 1970.

tinued to compete extramurally with St. Olaf long after St. Olaf had withdrawn from the Conference.

During this same period Macalester College tried to gain admittance to the Midwest Conference. Macalester felt that the Midwest Conference had higher eligibility standards, more in line with those at Macalester, and they favored the one-year freshman rule of the Midwest Conference as opposed to the one-semester freshman rule in effect in the M.I.A.C. The Midwest Conference did not accept Macalester and the only reason given for this was that the Midwest Conference only wanted to include colleges situated in small towns and Macalester, located in St. Paul, did not meet this criterion.⁵

In 1953 for the first time arrangements were approved to televise M.I.A.C. football games. A new era was dawning on the televising of sporting events and area sponsors felt that the M.I.A.C. would be a top attraction. This indication of the popularity and enthusiasm surrounding M.I.A.C. athletics characterizes the stabilizing state of the Conference at this time. Although the money received from this source did increase the Conference treasury somewhat, television revenue was never considered as an important financial source. Actually outside of this and the State (Conference) Track Meet dues were the only source of revenue for the Conference. On the surface that seems amazing in light of the fact that with so little coming in, the Conference could remain solvent throughout its history. The

⁵Statement by Russell B. Hastings, personal interview, August 14, 1970.

secret lies in the philosophy behind the Conference. The Conference is intended to serve the individual schools as a regulatory body and does so at minimum expense.⁶

In May of the following year the Conference voted unanimously to admit the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota to membership in the M.I.A.C. in May of 1955. During Duluth's years of trial membership in the Conference the fears of the opponents to their admittance proved unfounded. The primary fear that they would grow strong athletically and dominate the Conference proved untrue. During that probationary period Duluth only won five Conference championships, three in golf and two in hockey. This, of course, was far from dominance and helped to allay many of the reservations about full membership.

In 1955 St. Mary's College, which had been beset with problems trying to field a football team, decided to drop football. This action was taken due to the lack of finances and the lack of personnel making it almost impossible to compete with other Conference schools.⁷ St. Mary's football fortunes had declined since the heyday of Tom Skemp and in thirty years of trying, the best St. Mary's could show for her efforts in football was one tie for the Conference championship in 1928. The dropping of football raised two important questions within the Conference. First, when the announcement was made, Conference

⁶Statement by Father B. J. Coughlin, personal interview, January 22, 1971.

⁷Statement by Max Molock, personal interview, August 11, 1970.

football schedules had already been made for that year and the decision necessitated a complete rescheduling. The Conference thereafter voted that a member college must give written notice before withdrawing from Conference competition in a sport two years in advance. A two thirds vote of the Conference would be necessary upon shorter notice.

Secondly, the matter of whether a school could remain a member of the Conference and not compete in all Conference sports arose again. Precedent had been set much earlier for Conference schools not meeting a complete sports schedule, but the current situation caused the subject to become the center of heated debate again. No formal action was taken by the Conference on this point and matters remained as they then stood.

In 1957, for the first time since the war, championship competition was terminated in a Conference sport, cross-country. In order to be an officially recognized Conference championship sport at least half of the Conference schools must field teams in that sport and beginning in 1957 this situation did not exist in cross-country. Cross-country remained an unofficial Conference sport until renewed interest in it brought the number of schools participating up to the acceptable level again in 1966.

During the decade of the fifties a new trend emerged in the M.I.A.C. In 1928 a precedent was set when four college presidents attended the M.I.A.C. meeting to urge the Conference to affiliate with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Since that time presidents of Conference institutions had not formally taken part in Conference matters. During the decade of the fifties,

however, this changed. . . Three times during this decade presidents met with the faculty representatives in an effort to influence Conference policy.

In March of 1952 a special meeting was called with the presidents, athletic directors, coaches, and the faculty representatives in attendance. At this meeting the "Report of the Special Committee on Athletic Policy of the American Council on Education" was discussed and those present at the special meeting expressed support of the principles outlined in that document. The freshman year rule was also discussed and it was agreed that in light of the near-war situation of the Korean conflict a one-year freshman rule could not be enforced at that time.

Three years later in September of 1955 President Charles J. Turck of Macalester College attended the regular Conference meeting and presented his views on several topics pertinent to the Conference. Among those items discussed by President Turck was the freshman rule which he felt should not be adopted by the Conference. He argued that "Freshmen should take part in athletics on the same basis as other students . . . (and) that freshmen were not set apart from other students in other areas of student activity."⁸ He also argued that "Conference championships should be played down, . . . (and) all post-season games should be banned. They lead to over emphasis."⁹ President Turck's recommendations were carefully considered, but only his

⁸Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting September 24, 1955.

⁹Ibid.

recommendation concerning the freshman rule was accepted by the Conference.

In March of 1958 the presidents again attended a Conference meeting to encourage action on their proposal that all post-season games in football and basketball be banned. At a meeting of college presidents prior to the Conference meeting it was decided that all post-season games should be banned by the Conference. It was agreed that each president should convey this wish to their respective athletic committees and the presidents were quite confident that the March meeting would see this change approved in Conference rules. To assure this, however, the presidents themselves attended the March meeting to press their point. At that meeting the faculty representatives demonstrated that they would not be intimidated or swayed by even the presence of the presidents and voted to reject the president's proposal.

FINANCES

During this period Conference finances were extremely unstable. After beginning the decade with a balance of \$542.13 and remaining approximately at that level for five years, the treasury dipped to a sixteen year low of \$174.64 in 1957. On the heels of this low followed an upsurge that closed out the decade at an all-time (to that point) high of \$823.83. This late surge can be attributed to the raising of Conference dues to \$75 per year in 1957.

RULE CHANGES

One very fiery issue that had been passed on from the previous decade, the freshman rule, continued to plague the Conference during the fifties. In March of 1951 the freshman rule was abolished for 1951-1952. The country was again involved in an international conflict which put a drain on college-aged men. It therefore became important that all college men be eligible for varsity sports or some Conference schools would not have been able to compete. The following year the freshman rule was suspended beyond September of 1952 and suspended again each year until in March of 1958 the Conference suspended the freshman rule indefinitely. This was not to be the last attempt to establish a full-year freshman rule for the Conference but for at least the remainder of this decade the matter was laid to rest.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Conference championships seemed to follow the same pattern during the fifties as during the forties. In almost every sport one or two teams seemed to dominate during the decade. In hockey, for example, the College of St. Thomas either won or tied for four of the first six Conference championships. The University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, however, emerged as the real Conference powerhouse in hockey by winning six championships, the last four in a row.

In swimming much the same pattern emerged. St. Thomas again won four of the first five championships, but it was Gustavus Adolphus College which emerged as the powerhouse winning six championships, the

last five in a row. In golf three schools split the Conference championships for the decade with the College of St. Thomas winning three, Macalester College winning three, and the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, winning four.

In wrestling St. John's University captured seven straight undisputed titles and tied for another. The College of St. Thomas captured four of the seven cross-country championships offered in the fifties. In baseball St. Mary's College and St. John's University dominated play during this period by winning or sharing five titles each.

Track and field seemed to be the most evenly contested Conference sport with four different schools winning championships. The College of St. Thomas led with four titles, and Macalester College, St. John's University, and Concordia College each captured two. In tennis Macalester College and the College of St. Thomas took all but one championship. Macalester won three titles in a row followed by St. Thomas winning the last seven of the decade.

In football Gustavus Adolphus College won or shared a phenomenal eight championships to almost completely dominate that sport. Hamline University continued its winning ways in basketball by opening the decade with four successive titles, but had to wait three years to capture their fifth as Gustavus Adolphus College won three in a row. The University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, closed the decade by winning the last two basketball championships.

FACILITIES

The decade of the fifties, although prosperous in other ways, was not an outstanding decade for the building of new athletic facilities at Conference schools. Only three new facilities were completed during this period. In 1952 Concordia College completed building the Memorial Auditorium-Fieldhouse. This structure may have been the most prolonged and troubled building project in Conference history. Plans were drawn up for the project in the early twenties and fund-raising efforts were started about that same time. "Optimistic campus prophets expressed the belief that the gym would be under construction by commencement of 1931."¹⁰ These plans were, of course, delayed first by the Depression and then by World War II. It was 1950 before ground was broken for construction and in 1951 disaster struck as the unfinished superstructure collapsed in a storm. Finally, however, the problems were overcome and the structure was completed in 1952.

In 1954 the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota completed a much needed gymnasium and pool. Macalester College also added to its athletic facilities in 1957 by completing a dirt floor fieldhouse attached to the existing gymnasium. Although these new facilities could not be considered a "building-boom," in each case they were sorely needed by the respective institutions.

¹⁰Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud, Cobber Chronicle, p. 99.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

The period of the fifties was dominated by the same outstanding individuals who had so successfully guided the Conference the previous decade. The depth of experience provided by these individuals was a crucial factor in the growing stability exhibited by the Conference during this period. Although no new leaders emerged at this time the Conference was indeed in good hands.

CHAPTER VII

MATURITY AND STABILIZATION 1960-1970

The decade of the sixties can rightly be called the period of maturity and stabilization for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. For the first time since its inception in 1920 the Conference enjoyed a decade almost completely free of internal strife and the external pressures of explosive world events. The Conference had the opportunity to stabilize and grow and it took advantage of it.

CHRONOLOGY

In May of 1960 it was recommended by the Awards Committee "that a uniform system of awards be set up for the Conference."¹ The significance of this move is apparent. From the early days of the Conference a great deal of emphasis had been placed on the so-called "minor sports." The M.I.A.C. has never been a one-or-two-sport conference and it has been the desire of the faculty representatives that the Conference present a full program of athletic competition, each as significant and important as the other. One way in which certain sports are emphasized over others is to present the "major sports" with championship trophies larger than those for the "minor sports." Until

¹Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 20, 1960.

this time the purchasing of championship trophies had been left to each individual school and often times individual schools would give more recognition to the "major sports" contrary to Conference policy.² To eliminate even this distinction and to emphasize the Conference policy that all sports are equally important the Conference adopted this new uniform system of awards. This idea appealed to other conferences interested in emphasizing the importance of the over-all program and in 1962 the Midwest Conference voted to award uniform championship trophies in all of their nine recognized sports.

At the close of the decade of the fifties the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota had developed into a hockey powerhouse. They closed out that decade with four consecutive championships and began the new decade with two more titles. The Duluth teams had so dominated and overpowered the opposition that the only real Conference race was for second place. The entire city of Duluth had been taken with hockey fever in the fifties and the demand for an outstanding team in that sport had been met by the Duluth Branch.³

One very important reason for the success of the Duluth teams was their use of indoor ice facilities. This, obviously, gave Duluth quite an advantage over schools which practiced and played almost exclusively on natural ice. Officials at Duluth urged other schools to shift to indoor ice and also urged the Conference to pick up the tab

²Statement by Father B. J. Coughlin, personal interview, January 22, 1971.

³Statement by Lewis Rickert, personal interview, August 6, 1970.

for indoor ice for games. Expenses would not allow most teams to shift to the expensive indoor ice and it appeared that the situation would not change.

Finally, in May of 1961 Duluth requested that they be allowed to play as an independent in hockey. This request was rather unique in the history of the Conference, but after careful consideration it was voted "that Duluth be allowed to play as an independent in hockey and not become a member of another conference. This action to begin with the 1961-62 season and continue until other member colleges feel that they have proper facilities."⁴ This action, although disputed by some, did not appear to put Duluth's position in the Conference in jeopardy.

This arrangement with Duluth in hockey was maintained until 1965. By that time other Conference schools had not made sufficient strides to bring themselves even with Duluth in hockey and Duluth was eager to gain another conference affiliation. At the March 1965 Conference meeting "It was moved to permit Duluth to become a member of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association with the understanding that this membership does not change Duluth's responsibility to its membership in the M.I.A.C."⁵ The Western Collegiate Hockey Association is tantamount to the "big leagues" of college hockey and Duluth was quite happy to be a member of that organization. The Association is made up of schools from various intercollegiate athletic conferences, but

⁴Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 20, 1961.

⁵Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting March 27, 1965.

Duluth is the only member from a conference in which hockey is a championship sport. Duluth is still, at the end of this decade, a member of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association and the M.I.A.C.

By the end of this decade the Conference was holding championship competition in eleven different sports. Throughout its long history the Conference has maintained a large number of championship sports and entering the new decade of the seventies with eleven is a fine tribute to the wide range of athletic interests recognized by the Conference. In the fall of 1966 cross-country returned as a championship event with the addition of enough schools to qualify it for that status.

Finally, in the fall of 1968 the sport of soccer was added as the eleventh championship sport sponsored by the Conference. The introduction of soccer as a Conference sport was not, however, an overnight accomplishment. In the fall of 1959 Macalester College pioneered with the introduction of soccer as a varsity sport. Largely through the efforts of Yahya Armajani, the founder of soccer at Macalester, soccer gradually spread throughout the Conference.⁶ Augsburg College and Hamline University added soccer in 1963 followed by Gustavus Adolphus College in 1965, and St. Mary's College in 1966. St. John's University added soccer in 1968 and the College of St. Thomas added soccer in 1969.

In 1968 the Conference had its second woman coach of a men's

⁶Statement by Ralph Lundeen, personal interview, August 19, 1970.

sport. Miss Eleanor Rynda was named that year as cross-country coach and in 1969 as track coach at Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota. Although Miss Rynda did not compete in track herself, her great interest and love for the sport have enabled her to become a very capable coach. She developed her knowledge of track through attendance at track clinics in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. She began coaching at the high school level in Stillwater, Minnesota. In 1965 she accepted the position of women's track coach at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, and when an opening occurred for the men's cross-country and track coaching positions she applied for and was accepted for both posts.⁷ Twenty-nine years earlier Augsburg College had hired a woman tennis coach to lead their men's team.

In May of 1968, after holding four meetings per year since the inception of the Conference, it was voted to add an additional meeting of the Faculty Representatives in January. The extent of official Conference business seems to more than justify the extra meeting each year.

Toward the end of this decade the presidents again became involved in Conference matters. There had been increasing concern by this group that the M.I.A.C. was over-emphasizing athletics and that certain measures would have to be taken to ameliorate this situation. The presidents therefore requested that the faculty representatives

⁷Statement by Eleanor Rynda, personal interview, January 31, 1971.

study the situation on their respective campuses and submit a report concerning the desirability of implementing certain corrective measures suggested by the presidents. The faculty representatives carefully investigated the charges made by the presidents and at the May, 1970 meeting submitted the following reply:

In reply to the request made by the Presidents for a study and report on the desirability of setting a ceiling in all varsity sports on (a) full-time equivalent coaches, (b) participating players, (c) recruiting activities off-campus. It is the considered judgement of the Faculty Athletic Representatives of the MIAC that, having made the requested study, no limiting action is appropriate at this time. The data we have gathered does not seem to indicate any inordinate emphasis on athletics. As a Conference there is need for the publication of a brochure surveying the athletic activities of the Conference. This brochure should accent the fact that the member schools place the main emphasis on the academe, and varsity sports are to supplement this emphasis. Such a brochure could then be supplied to prospective students.⁸

This statement, after careful consideration by the Conference legislative body, seemed to give the Conference a "clean bill of health" as it enters its second half century.

The decade of the sixties may also be characterized by the reawakening of interest in women's athletics. Although women's athletics were not officially sponsored by the Conference during this time, women's intercollegiate athletic teams sprang up in most Conference schools much the same as they had in the twenties. (These programs had met their demise through the combined efforts of the Committee on Women's Athletics of the APEA, the National Athletic Con-

⁸Minutes of M.I.A.C. meeting May 9, 1970.

ference of American College Women, and the National Association of Physical Education for College Women which were convinced that intercollegiate athletic competition was harmful to women.⁹⁾ M.I.A.C. schools have not, however, kept pace with state institutions in this respect. Lack of money has been the primary reason for this. Consequently the growth of women's athletic teams has been sporadic and no recognized leaders have as yet emerged.¹⁰ This situation is indicative of a national trend and seems destined to have an impact on Conference policy in the near future.

Women's intercollegiate athletic teams are at the moment operating under different administrative setups at almost every school and are not particularly well financed. The leaders of these programs, however, have initiated competition between schools in swimming, tennis, golf, and other sports. This type of competition has been much easier to arrange between Twin Cities schools where expenses can be held to a minimum, but the other Conference schools are making strides in this area also.

At some Conference schools financial support comes directly from the intercollegiate athletic budget, while at most others support comes through physical education and intramurals. Most Conference athletic directors recognize that the women's athletic program is becoming a popular student activity and are willing to support these

⁹C. W. Hackensmith, History of Physical Education, p. 429.

¹⁰Statement by Patricia Wiesner, personal interview, March 25, 1971.

programs if proper financing can be obtained. They are, however, already hard-pressed to balance existing athletic budgets.

One Conference school may be considered to be at the forefront of the women's intercollegiate sports movement. Concordia College has become a charter member of the Minn-Kota Women's Intercollegiate Sports Conference. This conference, centered around the Red River Valley which separates the Dakotas and Minnesota, appears to be one of the first of its kind in the country.¹¹ The development of antecedent conferences of the M.I.A.C. was similar to this and indeed this conference may evolve into a similar association.

FINANCES

The decade of the sixties was one in which the Conference reached a level of financial stability also. The first treasurer's report in May of 1960 indicated that the Conference was beginning the new decade on the firmest financial footing since its inception. The \$1127.28 balance in the Conference treasury at that time was a good omen of financial well-being throughout the decade. Actually, by the end of the decade the Conference treasury showed an unusually high balance of \$2553.23. This balance was more than double the previous year and came about when revenue from televising Conference football games and fees charged individual schools for the purchase of championship trophies swelled the treasury.

¹¹Statement by Irv Christianson, personal interview, August 18, 1970.

RULE CHANGES

Again during this period the presidents of the Conference schools met in joint session with the faculty representatives to discuss Conference policy. In May of 1960 a joint session was called to discuss what the presidents saw as problems in the Conference and suggestions for correcting these problems. Items discussed included scheduling of contests, the freshman rule, aid to athletes, eligibility standards, and noise-making at basketball games. Another meeting was called for November and at that meeting financial aid to athletes was discussed.

In November of 1961 another joint meeting was held and the question of hiring a Conference commissioner was again brought up. The commissioner idea was tabled at this meeting and apparently not brought up again. The general feeling of the Conference was that hiring a full-time commissioner was not necessary in such a small conference to justify the expense, and that the coordinator was able to discharge those duties which would be assigned to a commissioner.¹² The following March another joint session was held and the majority of this meeting was spent discussing the full-year freshman rule.

The full-year freshman rule that became the topic of debate between the presidents and faculty representatives was the continuation of a debate which had raged in the Conference since the early twenties. The Conference through the years had moved back and forth between a

¹²Coughlin, loc. cit.

one-semester freshman rule and no freshman rule and although the subject of imposing a full-year ban on freshman competition had come up time and again, this plan had never been in force in the history of the Conference.

Since the war the freshman one-semester rule had been in force for only a short while and for the most part freshmen had competed throughout this period. In November of 1960, however, the Conference voted for the first time to adopt a full-year freshman rule for September 1962. In March of 1962, the year this rule was to go into effect, the Conference suspended the new freshman rule and the subject has not received serious consideration since.

Conference dues during this decade did not become inflated as they had in the previous decade even though the treasury showed a healthy balance. As a matter of fact in May of 1960 Conference dues were lowered from \$75 per year per school to \$50, and in 1961 the Conference was in such fine financial health that dues were suspended for the year. By the following May, however, the annual assessment was raised again to \$75 but it was to remain at this level for the remainder of the decade.

Even though dues did not increase during this period, remuneration for Conference officials did. The Conference secretary-treasurer who, for example, had received \$50 to cover expenses in 1949 was raised to \$150 in 1962 and to \$250 in 1968. The Conference coordinator also received a well-deserved raise during this period. In 1954 he was paid \$150 and by 1969 that had increased to \$600. This long-overdue financial recognition of two extremely important Con-

ference positions was yet another healthy sign of the growing maturity of the M.I.A.C.

Again in the sixties the practice of spring football came under Conference scrutiny. In November of 1961 a motion to eliminate spring football failed by a tie vote. A similar fate befell another effort to end spring football in 1963, but there was growing sentiment to eliminate this practice.

By May of 1966 this sentiment was quite widespread and at the request of the Presidents the Conference abolished spring football practice beginning with the 1966-1967 school year. The determining factor in the abolition of spring football was its interference with spring sports. In schools of this size it becomes imperative to share both athletes and facilities. Most athletes at small schools play more than one sport and by requiring attendance at spring football practice many athletes are taken away from the spring sports. Also in many of these schools athletic facilities are shared and in the spring this becomes a great problem due to the weather.¹³ The Conference continued to enforce its policy of no spring football practice the remainder of the decade.

In May of 1967 the Conference again showed signs of healthy maturity when it hired a Conference statistician. Mr. Bob Schabert (sportswriter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press) was hired as statistician at an annual salary of \$1800. The following year the salary for this position was reduced to \$900 and Mr. Schabert was retained as

¹³Ibid.

statistician and continues to serve in that capacity.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The pattern of sport championship domination continued in this period with but few exceptions.¹⁴ In hockey, after the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota left the Conference, Macalester College won successive titles, followed by St. Mary's College with two championships. For the remainder of the period, however, it was all Gustavus Adolphus College as that school garnered five successive titles.

In swimming Macalester College established a record that has only been surpassed once in Conference history by sweeping ten consecutive Conference titles. In golf Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota and Macalester College dominated the scene as Duluth captured four championships and Macalester six. In wrestling three schools divided up the honors during this period with Augsburg College capturing four championships, Gustavus Adolphus College three, and St. John's University two. Of the four cross-country championships decided in this period Macalester College took two and St. John's University took two.

In baseball six different schools won or shared Conference titles led by the College of St. Thomas and St. Mary's College with

¹⁴In the consideration of championships for this decade those championships won in the winter and spring of 1970 will be included because that period of Conference history is covered in this paper. This will, in certain instances, bring the total number of championships for the period under consideration up to 11.

four each. In track Macalester College tacked on a championship from the last year of the previous decade to their ten consecutive championships during this period to record the longest succession of Conference championships (11) in the history of the Conference.

In tennis Macalester College won or tied for six championships and Hamline University took three. In football five different schools captured titles. St. John's University led the way with three followed by the Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota, Concordia College, and Gustavus Adolphus College with two each. In basketball six different schools won Conference championships. In 1960 an era came to an end when Hamline University won its last basketball championship under Joe Hutton. Augsburg College and the College of St. Thomas became the basketball powerhouses of this period winning three titles each, followed by Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota with two.

FACILITIES

One last indication of the prosperity and maturity of the Conference was the unparalleled building boom during this decade. Never before in the history of the Conference were so many new athletic facilities built or so many improvements made to existing facilities. Augsburg College initiated the boom in 1961 when that institution completed its first gymnasium. This building was, appropriately enough, named in honor of the founder of Augsburg athletics, Si Melby.

In 1963 Hamline University added a new pool to their fieldhouse. In that same year Macalester College installed the first all-weather Tartan Track in the world. This type of surface is now in

use all over the world and increasing in numbers each year. In 1966 a variation of this surface was installed in both Macalester's and Hamline's fieldhouses and has proved to be one of the most versatile indoor floor surfaces known anywhere. Macalester College also completed construction of a new football stadium in 1964.¹⁵ In 1965 St. Mary's College completed building a spacious new gymnasium and in 1966 Concordia College completed a new football stadium.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

The decade of the sixties will prove to be a very crucial transitional period in terms of leadership for the Conference. From 1959 through 1967 five long-time leaders retired from Conference service. In 1959 Russell B. Hastings retired as Macalester College faculty representative after having served continuously in that capacity since 1937. In 1965 George Soberg stepped down as faculty representative from Augsburg College, a post he had held since 1944. In 1966 Perry Moore also retired as faculty representative from Hamline University which he had represented since 1942. In 1967 George W. Anderson retired after having represented Gustavus Adolphus College since 1950. Also in 1967 Reverend Bernard J. Coughlin of the College of St. Thomas stepped down as faculty representative and secretary-treasurer of the Conference. Through the efforts of these outstanding individuals and others like them through the years the M.I.A.C. has grown to be a very successful athletic conference. Only

¹⁵Lundeen, loc. cit.

with continued leadership of this high caliber will the Conference
continue to be successful in the future.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMATION

During the long history of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference there have been many factors which have contributed to the growth and development of the Conference. As far back as the 1880's Minnesota Colleges engaged in intercollegiate competition, first in debate and then in athletic contests. The first attempts at intercollegiate athletic organizations were short-lived sport leagues in the 1890's. These leagues, however, provided valuable organizational experience and in 1901 the "grand-daddy" of the M.I.A.C., the Minnesota Athletic Conference was formed. This organization was also short-lived, but in 1909 another athletic conference, the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, was formed. It was from this conference that the M.I.A.C. drew its membership in 1920.

During this period four factors played an important part in the development of intercollegiate athletics. It was student activism that initially brought athletics onto college campuses and it was also student activism that assured the place of sports in college life. The role of the church during this period was a factor in the relative late start that many of these schools received in intercollegiate athletics. Another factor in the slow start of sports such as basketball was the lack of proper facilities until well into the twentieth

century. Finally, following the lead of other athletic conferences the principle of faculty control of intercollegiate athletics was firmly established at this time.

The Conference was officially formed on March 15, 1920. The decade of the twenties was, therefore, a period of growth and development. The young Conference traveled a very rocky road during the twenties and it appeared several times as if it would meet the same fate as its predecessors. During this decade internal stresses of schools withdrawing were counterbalanced by new schools joining the Conference. By the end of the decade the Conference was sponsoring eight championship sports which reflected favorably on the positive aspects of Conference growth during this period.

The decade of the thirties was characterized by the strain put on the Conference by the Depression and the way in which the Conference responded to that situation. On the whole the Conference met the challenge in fine style and although programs were not carried on in quite the same manner as the previous decade, they were carried on nonetheless. During this period the stress of internal friction added to the burden, but with the help and leadership of gifted and capable individuals the Conference survived the potential disaster.

The decade of the forties was again characterized by the response of the Conference to a stressful external situation. The Second World War caused major adjustments in Conference policy and eventually (in 1943) caused the cessation of Conference championship play. Individual schools, however, carried on as nearly a normal program as possible and Conference business was carried on uninterrupted

throughout the conflict. The Conference could not again escape the internal conflict which had plagued it from its inception, but a very positive sign was the fact that by the end of the period, most differences had been resolved and a new school was even added to the Conference.

The period of the fifties saw the Conference under somewhat less strain than in the two previous decades. Whether as a reaction to this or simply as a sign of the general mellowing of the Conference, the period was also relatively free from internal strife.

In the sixties genuine signs of maturity and stabilization were quite evident. Again a period of relative freedom from internal and external stresses and strains helped the Conference to concentrate on the business of developing a strong athletic conference. The financial stability of the Conference combined with the addition of new sports, and the building boom in athletic facilities indicated a definite growth trend for the Conference.

Throughout the history of the M.I.A.C. the black athlete has played an important role in the development of the over-all athletic excellence of the Conference. The recent disclosure of black athletes suffering under harsh discrimination, exploitation, and degradation at certain institutions¹ has not been the case in the M.I.A.C.

Earl Bowman, former outstanding performer in football and track for Macalester College (in the late 40's and early 50's), found early acceptance from his teammates. The good relationships developed

¹Jack Olson, The Black Athlete, p. 109.

at this time with teammates, coaches, and officials helped to offset some name calling which he experienced from other teams and opposing spectators.²

In 1963 Al Frost began a fabulous career in basketball at Hamline University that eventually led him to three All-Conference selections, Little All-American honors, the Hamline University all-time scoring record, and the M.I.A.C. season scoring average record. In his four years of varsity competition he did not experience the name calling which Earl Bowman had experienced a decade earlier from opposing players. He formed lasting relationships with teammates and other students and summed up his association with the Conference as "good experiences."³

This Conference has maintained an unwritten policy of equality and fair treatment for all athletes. Blacks have participated on Conference school athletic teams since the turn of the century and have always been accepted as "just another member of the team." Due to the Conference emphasis on the educational aspects of the athletic program and due to the high educational standards of the Conference, blacks who have played on varsity teams have not been exploited for their athletic talents but have always been a student first and an athlete second as per all other athletes.

In summarizing the history of the Conference it can safely

²Statement by Earl Bowman, personal interview, August 21, 1970.

³Statement by Al Frost, personal interview, March 24, 1971.

be said that this has been a successful athletic conference. It has been highly successful through the years in athletic competition with outside schools in local and national competition. It has also been a success in terms of achieving the objectives which its founders set for it in 1920.

The founders of the M.I.A.C. envisioned a conference which would serve the individual schools and in which the schools would retain their autonomy and importance. They envisioned a loose-knit organization which would avoid centralized administrative control and depend on the contributions of many outstanding and dedicated individuals. And finally, they envisioned a conference which could be run at the most minimal expense to the individual schools and yet maintain an athletic and educational relationship of the highest caliber.

In all respects this Conference has survived and flourished for the past half-century in the manner in which its founders had hoped that it would. This is summarized quite well by Dr. Louis Keller, retired professor of physical education at the University of Minnesota who through the years observed that the M.I.A.C. was a good conference. He based this evaluation on "good principles, good teams, well conducted, good rules, and (the fact that the Conference had) lived up to the standards they had set."⁴

What does the future hold for the Conference as it enters its second fifty years? There is a potentially bright outlook for this

⁴Statement by Louis Keller, personal interview, March 22, 1971.

Conference. Having survived the "Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune"⁵ and, having entered upon a period of comparative peace and tranquility, the Conference can continue to grow strong. To do this, however, there must be the continued leadership of outstanding individuals that characterized the Conference during its first fifty years.

There will have to be a strengthening of the central administrative core of the Conference. This does not mean that a full-time commissioner will have to be hired, but a central office with the appropriate records and archives will become a necessity.

The Conference through its first fifty years, realized a degree of success with a minimum of effort and expense. To realize similar or greater success during the coming era the Conference will have to call upon the energies of a great many people and Conference schools will have to support an expanded Conference program. If these criteria are met the M.I.A.C. will continue to be one of the most successful and respected athletic conferences in the country.

⁵William Shakespeare, Hamlet, Act III, Scene I in Oscar James Campbell ed., The Living Shakespeare, p. 777.

APPENDIX A

MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHRONOLOGY

March 15, 1920: Charter members - Carleton College, Hamline University, St. John's University, Macalester College, St. Olaf College, College of St. Thomas, and Gustavus Adolphus College

Dec. 13, 1920: Concordia College admitted

Dec. 6, 1924: Augsburg College admitted

March 21, 1925: College of St. Thomas withdraws

Sept. 19, 1925: Carleton College withdraws

Dec. 4, 1926: St. Mary's College admitted

Dec. 3, 1927: College of St. Thomas readmitted

March 29, 1930: St. Mary's College withdraws

Dec. 3, 1932: St. Mary's College readmitted

March 24, 1934: Hamline University suspended

April 28, 1934: Hamline University reinstated

March 26, 1938: Augsburg College suspended

April 5, 1941: Gustavus Adolphus College suspended

May 23, 1942: Gustavus suspension terminated

Nov. 11, 1944: Hamline University resigns

May 25, 1946: Hamline University readmitted

March 25, 1949: Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota admitted

May 21, 1952: St. Olaf College withdraws

APPENDIX B

RULES OF THE MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

MARCH 15, 1920

1. Each school shall have two voting representatives, the faculty representative and the athletic director of each institution.
2. There shall be three meetings annually. These meetings shall be held at the commencement of each athletic season.
3. Representatives of at least five colleges must be present at each meeting for business transacted to be official.
4. To hold voting membership in the Conference each school must yearly compete with other Conference schools in every intercollegiate sport in which it engages.
5. To be eligible for the state championship a team must have played six games with four colleges in baseball, at least four schools in football, and eight games with five schools in basketball, half of which must be played off the home floor.
6. All schedules are to be made at the Conference. Place of meeting will be held in the following rotation: Carleton, Hamline, St. John's, Macalester, St. Olaf, St. Thomas, and Gustavus Adolphus.
7. The Conference council shall be charged with the responsibility for naming officials for the games, drawing up schedules, and arbitrating any misunderstanding which may arise during a playing season.
8. All games of basketball shall be governed by collegiate rules according to the Western Interpretation.
9. A man must be in school one month before participating on any Conference teams.
10. Eligibility lists are to be sent to each team time enough before a game in order that a question of eligibility can be thoroughly investigated.
11. A man may not play upon an organized team and a Conference team at the same time.
12. Any student under the "National Agreement" will be disqualified from intercollegiate contests in all branches of athletics.
13. The solicitation of athletes for athletic teams by the usual tuition method is to be discouraged.
14. Any athlete who works his way through college must also make out a written statement concerning his earnings and the manner in which they were obtained.

APPENDIX C
SECRETARY- TREASURERS

1920	E. B. Anderson (Sec. Pro Tem.)	St. Olaf College
1920	E. B. Anderson	St. Olaf College
1920	J. T. McCallum	Macalester College
1921	Harvey Beseler (Sec. Pro Tem.)	Gustavus Adolphus
1921-22	B. H. Beck	Hamline University
1922-23	C. J. Hunt	Carleton College
1923-29	E. B. Anderson	St. Olaf College
1929-30	D. C. Mitchell	Hamline University
1930	M. Skurdalsvold	Augsburg College
1931-44	E. B. Anderson	St. Olaf College
1944-48	B. J. Coughlin	College of St. Thomas
1948-49	Perry A. Moore	Hamline University
1949-56	B. J. Coughlin	College of St. Thomas
1956-57	Perry A. Moore	Hamline University
1957-67	B. J. Coughlin	College of St. Thomas
1967-	Erwin D. Mickelberg	Augsburg College

APPENDIX D

PRESIDENTS

1920	J. T. McCallum (elected chairman at 1st meeting)	Macalester College
1920	Henry D. Funk	Macalester College
1921	Thomas P. Beyer	Hamline University
1921	Father Dunphy	College of St. Thomas
1921	J. J. Thompson	St. Olaf College
1922	H. D. Ryder	Hamline University
1923	Fr. Lambert Weckworth	St. John's University
1924	P. M. Skartvedt	Gustavus Adolphus
1925	A. M. Sattre	Concordia College
1926	J. J. Thompson	St. Olaf College
1927	C. E. Ficken	Macalester College
1928	A. Nash	Augsburg College
1929	L. J. McHugh	St. Mary's College
1930	A. M. Sattre	Concordia College
1930	J. J. Thompson	St. Olaf College
1931	A. L. Pierce	College of St. Thomas
1932	Arthur Nash	Augsburg College
1933	A. M. Sattre	Concordia College
1934	E. C. Carlton	Gustavus Adolphus
1935	A. S. Williamson	Hamline University
1936	O. T. Walter	Macalester College
1937	Rev. W. H. Reger	St. John's University
1938	Bro. Elzear	St. Mary's College
1939	J. J. Thompson	St. Olaf College
1940	John Madigan	College of St. Thomas
1941	J. S. Melby	Augsburg College
1942	A. M. Sattre	Concordia College
1943	Perry Moore	Hamline University
1944	Russell B. Hastings	Macalester College
1945	Fr. Walter H. Reger	St. John's University
1946	Br. J. Patrick	St. Mary's College
1947	C. R. Swanson	St. Olaf College
1948	B. J. Coughlin	College of St. Thomas
1949	George Soberg	Augsburg College
1950	Chester Wood	U.M.D.
1951	George W. Anderson	Gustavus Adolphus
1952	Perry Moore	Hamline University
1953	Russell B. Hastings	Macalester College
1954	Rev. Dunstan Tucker	St. John's University
1955	Bro. Gerard	St. Mary's College
1956	Rev. B. J. Coughlin	College of St. Thomas
1957	George Soberg	Augsburg College
1958	I. R. Larson	Concordia College
1959	Emmett Davidson	U.M.D.
1960	George W. Anderson	Gustavus Adolphus
1961	Perry Moore	Hamline University
1962	James A. Jones	Macalester College

1963 Brother L. George
1964 Rev. Conrad Diekmann
1965 I. R. Larson
1966 Erwin D. Mickelberg
1967 Emmett Davidson
1968 Fred Brown
1969 Wesley A. St. John

St. Mary's College
St. John's University
Concordia College
Augsburg College
U.M.D.
Gustavus Adolphus
Hamline University

APPENDIX E
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BASEBALL</u>
1919-20	St. Thomas
1920-21	St. Olaf
1921-22	St. Olaf
1922-23	St. Thomas
1923-24	St. Thomas
1924-25	St. Olaf
1925-26	St. Olaf
1926-27	Gustavus
1927-28	G.A.-St.O.
1928-29	St. Olaf
1929-30	Gustavus
1930-31	Augsburg
1931-32	Gustavus
1932-33	Gustavus
1933-34	St. Thomas
1934-35	Gustavus
1935-36	St. John's
1936-37	G.A.-St.J.
1937-38	Gustavus
1938-39	Gustavus
1939-40	Gustavus
1940-41	St. Mary's
1941-42	St. John's
1942-43	Augsburg
1943-45	No Championships
1945-46	St. Thomas
1946-47	Augsburg
1947-48	Augsburg
1948-49	St. Olaf
1949-50	Macalester
1950-51	St. Thomas
1951-52	St. John's
1952-53	St. Mary's
1953-54	St. J.-St.M.
1954-55	St. John's
1955-56	St. Thomas
1956-57	St.J.-St.M.
1957-58	St.J.-St.M.
1958-59	Aug-St.M.-St.T.
1959-60	St. Thomas
1960-61	Augsburg
1961-62	Con-Ham-St.T.
1962-63	Augsburg
1963-64	St. Mary's
1964-65	St. Thomas
1965-66	St. Mary's
1966-67	St. Thomas
1967-68	St. Mary's
1968-69	St. John's
1969-70	St. Mary's

<u>TENNIS</u>
St. Olaf
Hamline
St. Olaf
Ham(D)-St.T. (S)
St.T. (D)-St.T. (S)
Carl(D)-Carl(S)
St.O. (D)-St.O. (S)
Mac(D)-St.J. (S)
Ham(D)-St.J. (S)
St.O. (D)-Mac(S)
St. Thomas
St.J. (D)-St.T. (S)
St. Thomas
St.T. (D)-St.O. (S)
Mac(D)-St.O. (S)
Mac(D)-G.A. (S)
St. Olaf
St. Olaf
St. Thomas
St.T. (D)-G.A. (S)
St.O. (D)-St.O. (S)
St.O. (D)-St.O. (S)
St. Olaf
St. Olaf
Gustavus
St.O. (D)-St.T. (S)
St.O.; Aug(D)-St.T. (S)
St.T. (D)-G.A. (S)
St. Olaf
Mac; Aug(D)-St.O. (S)
Mac(D)-Mac(S)
Mac; Mac(D)-St.J. (S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-St.J. (S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-St.J. (S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-Mac(S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-St.T. (S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-St.T. (S)
St.T.; St.T. (D)-G.A. (S)
UMD-Mac; Mac(D)-UMD(S)
G.A.-Mac; Mac(D)-Ham(S)
Ham; St.T. (D)-Ham(S)
Mac; Mac(D)-Ham(S)
Ham; Ham(D)-Ham(S)
Ham; UMD(D)-Mac(S)
Mac; Mac(D)-Mac(S)
Mac; Ham(S)
Mac; Aug(D)-Ham(S)
Gustavus
Gustavus

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TRACK-FIELD</u>	<u>FOOTBALL</u>
1919-20	Carleton	
1920-21	Carleton	Hamline
1921-22	Carleton	Hamline
1922-23	Carleton	St.T.-St.O.
1923-24	Carleton	St. Olaf
1924-25	Carleton	Carleton
1925-26	Gustavus	Macalester
1926-27	Hamline	Gustavus
1927-28	Hamline	Gustavus
1928-29	Hamline	St.M.-Aug
1929-30	Macalester	St. Thomas
1930-31	St. Olaf	St.O.-St.T.
1931-32	Macalester	Concordia
1932-33	Macalester	St. John's
1933-34	Macalester	Gustavus
1934-35	Macalester	Concordia
1935-36	St. Olaf	G.A.-St.J.-St.O.
1936-37	St. Olaf	G.A.-St.J.
1937-38	Hamline	Gustavus
1938-39	St. John's	St. John's
1939-40	St. Olaf	St. Thomas
1940-41	Hamline	Gustavus
1941-42	Macalester	St. Thomas
1942-43	Macalester	Con-St.T.
1943-45	No Championships	
1945-46	Macalester	Gustavus
1946-47	Macalester	Gustavus
1947-48	Macalester	Mac-St.T.
1948-49	St. Thomas	St. Thomas
1949-50	St. Thomas	St. Thomas
1950-51	St. Thomas	Gustavus
1951-52	St. Thomas	Gustavus
1952-53	Macalester	Con-G.A.
1953-54	St. Thomas	G.A.-St.J.
1954-55	Concordia	Gustavus
1955-56	Concordia	Gustavus
1956-57	St. John's	St. Thomas
1957-58	St. John's	Concordia
1958-59	Macalester	Gustavus
1959-60	Macalester	Gustavus
1960-61	Macalester	UMD
1961-62	Macalester	UMD
1962-63	Macalester	St. John's
1963-64	Macalester	St. John's
1964-65	Macalester	Concordia
1965-66	Macalester	St. John's
1966-67	Macalester	Hamline
1967-68	Macalester	Gustavus
1968-69	Macalester	Gustavus
1969-70	St. John's	Concordia

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BASKETBALL</u>	<u>HOCKEY</u>
1920-21	Carleton	
1921-22	Carleton	
1922-23	Carleton	Ham-Mac-St. T.
1923-24	St. Thomas	
1924-25	Gustavus	
1925-26	Gustavus	
1926-27	Augsburg	
1927-28	Gustavus	Augsburg
1928-29	St. Olaf	St. Mary's
1929-30	St. Olaf	Macalester
1930-31	Concordia	Macalester
1931-32	Hamline	Ham-Mac
1932-33	Hamline	Macalester
1933-34	Hamline	St. Thomas
1934-35	Hamline	St. John's
1935-36	Hamline	Macalester
1936-37	Macalester	Macalester
1937-38	G.A.-Ham	St.O.-St.T.
1938-39	Ham-St.M.	Mac-St.O.
1939-40	St. Mary's	St. Thomas
1940-41	Hamline	St. Thomas
1941-42	Hamline	St. Thomas
1942-43	Hamline	
1943-45	No Championships	
1945-46	Aug-St.T.	
1946-47	Hamline	St. Thomas
1947-48	Hamline	Hamline
1948-49	Ham-St.T.	St. Thomas
1949-50	Hamline	Mac-St.J.
1950-51	Hamline	Mac-St.T.
1951-52	Hamline	St. Thomas
1952-53	Hamline	St.T.-UMD
1953-54	Gustavus	UMD
1954-55	Gustavus	St. Thomas
1955-56	Gustavus	UMD
1956-57	Hamline	UMD
1957-58	UMD	UMD
1958-59	UMD	UMD
1959-60	Hamline	UMD
1960-61	UMD	UMD
1961-62	UMD	Macalester
1962-63	Augsburg	Macalester
1963-64	Augsburg	St. Mary's
1964-65	Augsburg	St. Mary's
1965-66	St. Thomas	Gustavus
1966-67	St. Thomas	Gustavus
1967-68	Gustavus	Gustavus
1968-69	St. John's	Gustavus
1969-70	St. Thomas	Gustavus

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SWIMMING</u>	<u>GYMNASTICS</u>
1920-21		
1921-22		
1922-23		
1923-24		
1924-25		
1925-26		
1926-27	St. Olaf	
1927-28	St. Olaf	St. Olaf
1928-29	Macalester	St. Olaf
1929-30	Macalester	St. Olaf
1930-31	Macalester	St. Olaf
1931-32	Macalester	Gustavus
1932-33	Gustavus	Gustavus
1933-34	Gustavus	Gustavus
1934-35	Gustavus	Gustavus
1935-36	Macalester	Gustavus
1936-37	Gustavus	Gustavus
1937-38	Gustavus	
1938-39	Hamline	
1939-40	Gustavus	
1940-41	St. Thomas	
1941-42	St. Thomas	
1942-43	Hamline	
1943-45	No Championships	
1945-46		
1946-47	St. Thomas	
1947-48	St. Thomas	
1948-49	G.A.-St.T.	
1949-50	St. Thomas	
1950-51	St. Thomas	
1951-52	Gustavus	
1952-53	St. Thomas	
1953-54	St. Thomas	
1954-55	Gustavus	
1955-56	Gustavus	
1956-57	Gustavus	
1957-58	Gustavus	
1958-59	Gustavus	
1959-60	Gustavus	
1960-61	Macalester	
1961-62	Macalester	
1962-63	Macalester	
1963-64	Macalester	
1964-65	Macalester	
1965-66	Macalester	
1966-67	Macalester	
1967-68	Macalester	
1968-69	Macalester	
1969-70	Macalester	

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GOLF</u>	<u>WRESTLING</u>
1920-21		
1921-22		
1922-23		
1923-24		
1924-25		
1925-26		
1926-27		
1927-28		
1928-29		
1929-30		
1930-31		
1931-32		
1932-33		
1933-34		
1934-35	St. Olaf	
1935-36	St. Olaf	
1936-37	St. Olaf	
1937-38	St. Olaf	
1938-39	Hamline	
1939-40	Gustavus	
1940-41	Gustavus	
1941-42	St. Olaf	
1942-43	St. Olaf	
1943-45	No Championships	
1945-46	Macalester	
1946-47	Macalester	
1947-48	Hamline	Macalester
1948-49	St. Thomas	Macalester
1949-50	St. Thomas	Macalester
1950-51	UMD	St. Olaf
1951-52	St. Thomas	St. John's
1952-53	UMD	St. John's
1953-54	St. Thomas	St. John's
1954-55	UMD	St. John's
1955-56	UMD	St. John's
1956-57	Macalester	St. John's
1957-58	Macalester	St. John's
1958-59	Macalester	Mac-St. J.
1959-60	UMD	Macalester
1960-61	UMD	Augsburg
1961-62	UMD	St. John's
1962-63	UMD	St. John's
1963-64	Macalester	Concordia
1964-65	Macalester	Gustavus
1965-66	Macalester	Gustavus
1966-67	Macalester	Gustavus
1967-68	Macalester	Augsburg
1968-69	St. John's	Augsburg
1969-70	Macalester	Augsburg

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CROSS-COUNTRY</u>	<u>SOCCER</u>
1920-21		
1921-22		
1922-23		
1923-24		
1924-25		
1925-26		
1926-27		
1927-28		
1928-29		
1929-30		
1930-31		
1931-32		
1932-33		
1933-34		
1934-35		
1935-36		
1936-37		
1937-38		
1938-39		
1939-40		
1940-41		
1941-42		
1942-43		
1943-44		
1944-45		
1945-46		
1946-47		
1947-48		
1948-49	St. Thomas	
1949-50	St. Thomas	
1950-51	St. Thomas	
1951-52	St. Thomas	
1952-53	St. Thomas	
1953-54	St. Thomas	
1954-55	St. John's	
1955-56	UMD	
1956-57	Macalester	
1957-58		
1958-59		
1959-60		
1960-61		
1961-62		
1962-63		
1963-64		
1964-65		
1965-66		
1966-67	Macalester	
1967-68	Macalester	
1968-69	St. John's	
1969-70	St. John's	Gustavus

APPENDIX F

YEARLY BALANCES OF THE MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

1920	\$ 18.82
1921	--
1922	17.81
1923	82.56 (deficit)
1924	.09
1925	77.51
1926	25.84
1927	15.09
1928	137.60
1929	323.25
1930	--
1931	433.22
1932	--
1933	280.73
1934	241.68
1935	226.50
1936	215.99
1937	99.86
1938	61.63
1939	100.98
1940	86.48
1941	147.19
1942	242.89
1943	378.96
1944	284.14
1945	407.79
1946	351.02
1947	479.62
1948	598.25
1949	651.92
1950	542.13
1951	573.62
1952	617.32
1953	599.87
1954	545.69
1955	375.47
1956	401.58
1957	174.64
1958	479.85
1959	823.83
1960	1127.28
1961	1117.16
1962	666.75
1963	704.39
1964	650.74
1965	601.25
1966	699.87
1967	913.88
1968	1888.51
1969	1151.46
1970	2553.23

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