Chapter Ten -- Athletics and the Hands -- "To Play Manfully and Courageously"

To play manfully and courageously to the last, no matter what the odds—to play fairly within the spirit and the letter of the rules—to win without boasting and lose without excuses.—Inscription on one of the pylons of the stadium.

The early students at Illinois studied their lessons, went to classes, labored on the University farm, carried up their own coal, and sometimes even did their own cooking. It could be said that they would have had little time for organized sports, even if any had existed. "The spirit of work was intense. What was there to do but work? The athletics consisted of labor on the farm and in the shops... After study hours the literary societies and the Student's Government took all the spare minutes." Baseball and football had been played after a fashion in the east for some time before Illinois opened, but the Illini of May, 1875, in commenting on this had little good to say about students who seem to have but little work to do, and finding themselves left behind in the race for oratory and literary honors, have thought to become famous by forming intercollegiate chess, baseball, and billiard associations.... The oratory, literary, and scientific contests are valuable, because they react upon each student in the direct line of his studies.... Already can we perceive among our students the good effects of this additional stimulus to literary effort... Students should have a higher aim in life than to emulate the travelling ball-players of the country.

However, in the early 1870's some makeshift baseball was being played around the campus by teams representing "the college," and later "the freshmen," "the old students," "Tilden & Hendricks," and "Wayles & Wheeler," the latter two echoing the national politics of the times.

2. *Illini*, 6 (October, 1876), 85.
A "University Baseball Association" soon followed, and the Illini, beginning to admit that there was something to sports after all, pointed to the games between the colleges of northern Illinois and Wisconsin, suggested that the University of Illinois might do likewise, and added that "our city has a good fair ground near here that could be used."

It was thought that admissions would pay expenses of the team on its trips.

The students interested in oratory—and there were many of them—were already busy. They were soon to be having their annual meets with other members of the "Illinois Intercollegiate Oratorical Association," sometimes at the University, sometimes at Knox, Northwestern, Illinois Wesleyan, Illinois College, Monmouth, or Chicago. Illinois was sometimes listed on the programs as "Champaign University." Great interest was taken; winning orations were sometimes printed in full in the Illini or in pamphlet form. In the late 1870's the custom was begun of including a baseball game as part of the meets, and to this were presently added track and field events, football and tennis. Some of the excursions to Bloomington, Jacksonville, and other neighboring battle grounds had much of the color and spirit of the later football trips to Chicago, Purdue, and Indiana. Soon the growth of athletics was so rapid that there seemed to be no need to go longer under the wing of oratory.

In 1882 joined the "State Baseball Association," the other members of which were Monmouth, Knox, Illinois Wesleyan, and Illinois College of Jacksonville. Then came the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

In 1883 the football and baseball associations were merged into one, the Athletic Association, with a beginning membership of about sixty, and one of the first things it did was to promote a new annual affair, "Field Day," the first one of which took place May 19, 1883, at the Cham...
3. Ibid., 7 (March, 1878), 269.


Fair Grounds. The program was largely that of a modern intramural track meet plus such items of the county fair type as the bicycle race, tag of war, three-legged race, sack race, egg race, and pie race. Field Day was a great annual event in the 1880's and early 1890's, covering a period of thirteen years. Space in the programs was given to the prizes, furnished by local merchants, including tickets for baths, shaves, and street car rides; cigars, silk suspenders, umbrellas, "corn beef," "supper for four," razors, group photos of faculty, Macaulay's History, silk hats, mustache cups and shaving mugs, buggy whips. Even the winner of the baseball game in 1886 was not forgotten, Monmouth getting a box of candy. Such prizes, however, not being suitable for pinning on proud chests, were succeeded by the "Zi Riley Medal," the "Class of '91 Medal," and other such jewelry given mostly by local business men. On May 15, 1892, came "The Western Intercollegiate Field Day," with eight institutions competing besides Illinois. The delegates were asked to meet in the evening to organize a "Western Intercollegiate Athletic Association." An "interscholastic athletic meet for the high school championship in Illinois" followed in 1893 in which 104 candidates were entered from eighteen high schools. This meet has continued, though with less interest, down to the present as "Interscholastic," and western intercollegiate field day has been partly absorbed by the annual indoor and outdoor conference track meets.

Though the students had not yet completely "fallen in with the athletic craze which seems to have struck so many of the institutions throughout the land" there was no doubt but that interest was growing. Regent Peabody had noticed that students who had been excused from military for physical defects threw themselves with gusto into the sports programs. Further incentive was seen in the growing rivalries with Illinois Wesleyan, Monmouth, Knox, and Illinois College. The Athletic Association, develop-
7. Inter-Scholastic Athletic Meet for the High School Championship of Illinois, under the direction of the University of Illinois Athletic Association... (Champaign, 1925).

8. Illini, 17 (Feb. 6, 1888), 5.
ing rapidly into the strongest of the student organizations, got permission
from the trustees to make an "athletic park" out of the north part of the future Illinois Field. The trustees paid for filling up the hole left by the old first building and for other grading, the athletic association raised enough money through subscriptions and entertainments to build a seven-foot board fence, a small grandstand seating 300 was put up, and the park was triumphantly
inaugurated at the ninth annual field day meet, May 15, 1891. The pole vault record of eight feet was bettered by seven inches, and the half-mile run in two minutes, sixteen seconds, was a second faster than the record. The standing broad jump record "without weights," nine feet, ten inches, fell before a new jump of three inches more.

One of the first intercollegiate games (baseball) played by Illinois was with Illinois College, October 3, 1879, at Urbana, which Illinois won. Comma N. Boyd, '79, the captain and manager, as well as the coach, has been called "the father of Illinois baseball." In the early 1880's several students including Henry Benson, later the designer of the famous Lincoln memorial in Washington, practiced many hours trying to throw curved balls. Benson at the age of sixteen had a fast drop ball. "then he had that morning it was almost an impossibility for a batter to touch it," M. C. Schrader, a player in 1880-
1887, told Prof. J. C. Baker of his skill in throwing curves. "Impossible, impossible," retorted the professor. "But when Schrader set three surveyors' rods in the ground about forty feet apart and then threw a "roundhouse curve" around the middle one," Baker was convinced.

Football emerged only a few months after baseball but at first did not have so steady a growth. Ethan GilbricK, '31, says that when he came in 1878 he and the shop superintendent secured lumber for goal posts, set them up on a gridiron they laid out across the street from
10. One of these was an exhibition, including horizontal and parallel bars, spring board, vaulting horse, Indian clubs and dumb bells. Receipts $33. Athletic Association, Miscellaneous Working Record (March 12, 1888), 128.


12. Today a pole vault of fourteen feet is not uncommon.


14. Among the early baseball games outside the University grounds in which Illinois competed was the one played over a year before at Evanston, where "our boys lost the game (10 to 13) through a grievous error made in the last inning." (Working record, Athletic Association, 2.)

the Scroggins boarding house, "and then, with other students, we played the first football game ever played at the University of Illinois." Dr. J. C. Stanton, '79, brought over a football from England in 1878 and began teaching the game to his classmates but was stopped abruptly by the faculty because it was "too brutal."

The men who played in the line were called rushers, said an early observer, but the center rush was the only one who had a fixed position; the others lined up where they pleased. In one play a man would be left guard and in the next he might be right end. Sometimes four men would be on the center's left and two on his right, while the next play would find them just changed about. The center rush snapped the ball back with his foot, and if the quarter was lucky he got it...If he did get it he passed to one of the halfbacks who ran in any direction he pleased. The line men neither knew nor cared where the ball was going. Ordinary street clothes were worn, even a few derby hats. Good tail tackling was much favored, as was a hearty dinner, with pie and ice cream, eaten just before the game. Injuries were frequent. When the list of substitutes was exhausted the spectators were drafted. "So many men were hurt last week that Wednesday was the only day the team lined up."

The main thing certain about the athletics of these early days was that nobody on the faculty was definitely in charge. The students themselves initiated the Athletic Association, baseball, football, and other sports, as well as Field Day, and the "athletic park," the future Illinois field. There was some mild faculty interest, but more among the students, many of whom made contributions for prizes, and acted as timers and judges. About half of the programs was usually advertising, sold to the merchants. Ottenheimer's, the clothiers, sometimes took all of it.

Scott Williams, in 1890, was said to be one of only a few of the
16. IAE, 8 (October, 1929), 17.

17. Ibid., 20 (January, 1942), 6.

18. ILLIO, 1897, 248.

19. ILLini, 23 (Nov. 15, 1893) 2.
students here at the time who had ever played football. He and some others organized a team, uniformed by a harness-maker, which journeyed to Purdue and was soundly beaten. Captain Williams was so impressed that he asked the Purdue coach, E. A. Lackey, who was also a student there, to come to Illinois, which he did in the fall of 1891. Wishing to preserve his "amateur standing" (he had not finished as a student at Purdue) he indicated that he should receive no pay except board and room at the Carter House. He enrolled in two courses at Illinois, French and "mine attack," and thereby gained the privilege of playing on the team if necessary, as was the custom in early football. Lackey thought that Illinois should no longer play "easy" teams like Monmouth, Knox, and Eureka ("I never did know where Eureka was.") The Illini took on Lake Forest, but were beaten, 10-6. The rest of the games were won that year, however, and Lackey returned to Purdue.

While Lackey was showing the boys what could be done with expert coaching from the outside, baseball was without any such help. Played both in the fall and spring it had no professional coaching direction until the fall of 1892 when Edward K., "Boss" Hall, just out of Dartmouth, came west to work as instructor in athletics and director of the gymnasium. As Illinois' first director of athletics he reorganized and coached football, baseball, and track, and established the intercollegiate meet. He did more for Illinois in track than in any other sport. But his heart was in the law he studied in a local law office part of the time while here, and in 1894 returned to the east. Before Hall came, "physical culture" had been in the hands of the military department.

Hall while here had been attracted to a student named George Huff, captain and manager of the championship baseball nine in 1890, and center on the noted football team of 1891 which on a trip played six games in eight days. Hall advised him to make a career of athletics, letting
21. Mr. Hall in his twenty-seven years on the National Football Rules Committee was known as the "savior of football." Except for his short term at Illinois he did no coaching but made the game a persistent hobby which lasted all his life. He did more for the game in his odd minutes than some others who gave all their time to it. JAN., 11 (December, 1932), 86.

23. Faculty Record, Jan. 22, 1880, 2, not pagged.
it be known meanwhile that he was going back east eventually, and
would leave a desirable vacancy. Also Hall, like any good graduate of
any good college, was in no doubt whatever as to where the young Huff
should continue his studies, and so to the Dartmouth School of Medicine
he went in 1893. He had no trouble there in adding to his athletic
career, and came back to Illinois in 1895 as coach of athletics, es-
pecially baseball, and assistant director of the gymnasium, half of his
salary to come from the athletic teams. Over Huff for six years were
F. H. Dodge to 1896, then R. E. Sworott until 1898, and J. K. Shell, 1898
24 until 1901. In the latter year Huff became head coach and continued until his
death, thirty-five years later.

George Huff during almost all of his career was head of physical
training as well as of athletics. When he began as an assistant in
1896 the gymnasium (also used as a military drill hall) was in the old
mechanical building. Its destruction by fire five years later, along
with all the records of the Athletic Association, hastened the construc-
tion of the new gymnasium in 1901, the year Huff became head. This
was to be the headquarters for twenty-three years, part of the time in
connection with the adjacent old armory. The place resounded with in-
creasingly large classes of men who more or less passively went through
setting-up exercises under the heavy-handed leadership of Leo S. Hanu,
then a law student, accompanied by a banging piano. Huff seems to have
looked upon this with mild approval at the time as something that had
to be done and that in the "battle of systems" was being done at the
other universities, but as the years went by he and other physical dir-
cators liked to say that students got doubtful benefits from rigid
drill-master exercises and that more informal "for fun" types in larger
varieties were better. Some system of intramural sports was seen as part
of the solution. With the coming of all-year coaches, their names were

25. Ibid., p. 82.

26. Called "physical culture" or "calisthenics" in the early days, then "physical training," and finally "physical education."
added to the faculty, along with the deans of men and women, to teach
gymnasiums. The Summer Session work, which was eventually added, bulked
larger than that of the rest of the year when the summer courses in
coaching were begun in 1914, and to this was added a regular four-
year coaching course five years later in the School of Education. A
few years after the war the Department of Physical Welfare for both
men and women was formed, with Huff as director, but in 1932 the name
became School of Physical Education.

Huff's great reputation through the years as a man of absolute
honesty was due not only to his own sincere feelings but also to Presi-
dent Draper, a man of deep moral convictions who also was greatly in-
terested in athletics, and would have no bypassing of the rules. Viola-
tions at competing universities especially irritated him. He had his
doubts at one time about one of the neighboring coaches. "His teams
have always had professionals and he has worked every possible way to
keep them as long as he could." He pointed out that "three expert
players" were not allowed to play at Illinois in 1896 because of the
freshman six-months rule, and that "our best player" met the same fate
because he coached the Eureka College team for two weeks, receiving
therefor. Quarrels between teams were frequent. At one time Illinois
kept all the gate receipts of a game played with Wisconsin because the
latter had forfeited it, but later generously agreed to turn over half
of them to the Purdue memorial gymnasium fund.

Huff's first and greatest love was baseball. His teams won eleven
conference championships and tied for two in the twenty-four years he
coached. His famous team of 1902, with Carl Lundgren as captain and
pitcher, not only won the western conference championship, but went on
an eastern trip, winning from Princeton, Army, Yale and Pennsylvania,
losing only to Harvard. Rain prevented the scheduled game with Brown,

28. Draper to President Smart (Purdue), October 22, 1899, ibid., 8/.


30. IAH, 15 (November, 1936), 5.
Bank at Illinois the students were celebrating as they never had before. President Draper, happy as any of them, had worked long and hard in arranging the trip, and had gone along on part of it.

Although Huff never encouraged his players to go on into professional baseball, several of them did. Among the most widely known of these were two from the 1902 team, Carl Lundgren, '02, for seven years a pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, and Jake Stahl, '05, manager and first baseman of the world champions, the Boston Americans, in 1912. Five years earlier Huff himself had been manager of the Americans—but only for a week. He hurried back home, more convinced than ever that Illinois was the place for him. The father of Illini baseball, he raised it to a high level before turning it over to one of his most brilliant pupils, Carl Lundgren, who after his sudden death in 1934 was succeeded by his pupil, W. H. Roettger, '24. The coaching has thus been in the hands of graduates almost from the beginning.

Only a few years before his death, Mr. Huff named first and second "all-time" Illini teams. On the first he placed Harry McCurdy, '23, first base; W. J. Fulton, '26, second base; Carl Steinwedell, '03, third base; E. J. Koepf, '13-17, shortstop; James F. Cook, '03, Otto Vegel, '23, and Ray Thomas, '12, outfielders; Garland ("Jake") Stahl, '05, catcher; Carl Lundgren, '02, and Frank Pfeffer, '02-05, pitchers. On the second team were J. M. Ashmore, '01-05, first base; E. B. Righter, '10, second base; James Lynn ("Lymperoupeles"), and Paul Stewart, '24, third base; Eddie Tryben, '32, shortstop; W. H. Roettger, '24, Don Peden, '23, and A. A. Langerlee, '03, outfielders; Jack Bradley, '16, catcher; Harvey McCullum, '01, and John Busiek, '10, pitchers. For the period since 1932 the following have been named: Lou Bondre, '40, third base; Boyd Bartley, '43, shortstop; Murray Franklin, '37, third base; and Walter Erens, '38-40, outfielders; John Tomaoff, '36, Paul Gervinks, '33, catchers;
31. A title sometimes attached also to the name of Comma N. Boyd, '79.
Football has been more irregular. Huff coached it in his first four years on the athletic staff (1895-1899) but his percentage was lower than that of any of his three predecessors (R. A. Lackey, E. L. Hall, and Louis D. Vail). Here is at least one instance in G. Huff's career, the very beginning of it, in fact, where success failed to come from his efforts. Since easterners were believed to know more about football, the coaching for 1900 was turned over to F. L. Smith, of Princeton, but there was a controversy over the appointment and he was succeeded in 1901 by E. G. Holt, also of Princeton. He produced some good teams, was "the best professional coach that we ever had," said Huff, who might have added that with one exception Holt had a higher percentage than any of the five other football coaches or assistants who had come and gone in the last ten years. But the trend toward the graduate coaching system was on; the local followers wanted no more "outsiders." Next year, after George Woodruff, another easterner, could point to only one out of six games won, the clamor for a change was no longer disregarded, and the graduate system was adopted. A "graduate staff" was appointed, made up of Huff, J. E. Lindgren, '02, Fred Lowenthal, '01, Clyde Mathews, '05, and A. R. Hall, '01. They did much better, performing the unheard-of feat of playing Chicago to a tie. Everybody praised the new graduate system at the time, but in the following year, 1906, under the same coaches, not even one conference game was won, and 1906 was not much better. A. R. Hall, '01, in his years as head coach (1907-1912) brought up the average again, so that in general the showing for the graduate system, 1904-1912, was excellent, especially in view of the number of famous players developed. The "Hall men" named in the "all-time Illini" selections published in 1927 were Fred L. Wham, P. C. Van Hook, and P. H. Simmock, all of 1909; John F. Twist and T. E. Lyons,

33. Alumni Quarterly, 1 (January, 1907), 12.

34. Besides those mentioned there were Randall, Fee, Mattie, and Fairchild. All had played or coached in the east. The Illinois, 5 (January, 1908), 4.

35. Athletic Association, Board of Directors, Minutes, Feb. 4, 1904.
of 1912; and G. D. Rutzer, '15. Some of these were on the memorable team of 1910, undefeated and unscored upon. Otto Seiler, '12, whose drop-kicking startled the midwest, also should be mentioned.

Before Hall the "all-time" players had been James Needham, '93; Don Sweany, '96; A. H. Tinley, '96-'97; H. J. Seence, '98; A. R. Johnston, '00; Fred Lewenthal, '01; C. A. Fairweather, '01-'02; Justin Lindgren, '02; James F. Cook, '03; C. J. Rothgeb, '03-'05.

Hall was easily the best of the part-time football coaches in the first two decades of the history of Illini football, and he stayed at it longer than did any of his predecessors, but, like the other Hall of the early 1890's, his real vocation was law, and in 1912 he returned to his practice in Danville which he had long neglected.

Instead of settling on a time-tried university man, the Athletic Association surprised almost everybody by naming a high school coach, Robert C. Zuppke of Oak Park. In the three years he had been there his teams had met the best high schools in the middle west, as well as in the east and far west, and had lost only one game. There was no man more popular in Oak Park than Mr. Zuppke. A Wisconsin graduate (1905) he was too light for football in the days of brawn, but he did play basketball and was on the championship team in 1905. Studying art a year in the east he then came back to begin coaching at the Muskegon, Michigan, high school and after shaking up north central Michigan with a new championship, he moved on to Oak Park.

Zuppke's first season at Illinois, 1913, was a fair one, with victories over Northwestern and Indiana, and a tie with Purdue. But the 1914 team swept aside all contenders, even Chicago, and won the conference championship. This was followed by another in 1915, and others
There were two sets of "All-time Illini" football selections, one made by George Trevor of the New York Sun and the other by three Illinois authorities. The lineups of all eight "teams" (first, second, third and fourth in each instance) were published in the Alumni News for April, 1927. Mr. Trevor's had previously appeared in the New York Sun, March 1.


38. "Zupke put mud cleats on his players' shoes in order that the mighty Oliphant and other Boilermakers could be held to a tie. "Ferry Graves looked like a drowned rat." *I.A.H.* 16 (December, 1913), 14.

in 1916, 1919, 1923, 1927 (also national championship then according to Dickinson rating system) and 1928. While they were about it the teams delighted the crowds with startling upsets. It was in the pre-war period that Ralph "Sloopy" Chapman, '16, Illinois' first all-American, emerged; also "Potsy" Clark, '10, Jack Watson, '15, B. C. Halstrom, 1914-1916, Bart Macomber, 1915-1917, Harold Pogue, '16, Lennox Armstrong, '15, John R. Herriman, '16, Perry Graves, '16, and G. K. Squier, '17.

Zuppke in his first decade here rekindled remarkable interest in football, not only by the whimsical contradictions and wit in his speeches, but by his fertility in devising picturesque new techniques such as the screen pass and the huddle, and new plays to which he gave such names as "flying trapeze," "wheelback," "razzle-dazzle," "blue eagle," "corkscrew," "flea flicker," etc. He was fiercely loyal to his players. At one time on the way home on the train from a disastrous game he was in the midst of a shouting session of upbraiding when he was interrupted by an alumnus who happened in: "Well, Zupp, they surely were rotten today, weren't they?" Whereupon Zuppke turned savagely on him and gave him a blistering lecture on presuming to criticize the team. After the surprised alumnus had backed out of the car door, Zuppke resumed where he had left off.

Zuppke always gave credit to his assistants, especially Justa Lindgren, '02, who was line coach almost forty years, and to Matt Bullock, trainer. He also owed a great deal to L. M. ("Mick") Tobin, director of athletic publicity, 1920-1944. He built up a "good press" for Zuppke, as he did for the other athletic interests, all of which were usually good for stories almost any time; but Tobin saw to it that they were put into the proper form and reached the right papers at the right times. This skill was particularly seen in his guiding of the "Orange" publicity.
40. These men were also on the "All-time Illini" teams just mentioned.
41. Harold E. "Red" Grange, Wupke of Illinois (Chicago, 1937), 149.
42. Detroit Free Press, November 4, 1936.
Not much direction of track and field athletics was evident until the coming of Director "Boss" Hall, who coached the squads of 1892-1894. After he left, four different men looked after the sport from time to time until the coming of Harry Gill in 1904, who for twenty-nine years was to turn out winning track teams in almost unbelievable succession. His record of eleven outdoor and eight indoor championships led Director Huff to call him at the time of his retirement the greatest coach in history.

Gill's health broke in the early 1930's and after a leave of absence he finally retired in 1933. He was succeeded by one of his pupils, Don Seaton, '25, who in his first year turned out a championship team. He remained until 1937 when Leo Johnson, director of athletics at James Millikin University, took charge. During his comparatively short stay here he has developed five conference championships.

Most attempts to single out the best men developed by Gill and his successors would carry the usual dangers of mistaken judgments. Perhaps as good a procedure as any is to mention the more prominent winners in the annual conference meets throughout the years and supplement these with the opinions of Mr. Gill and of other coaches.

The dashes: W. W. May, '09 (also 100-meter dash in 1908 Olympics), a great runner, as was J. R. Case, '13 (also 110-meter high hurdles, 1912 Olympics); Fred Henderson, '14, one of the best of the half-milers; R. L. Sanders, '14, E. F. Hohman, '16; P. C. Sweet, '23, a great quarter-miler, and H. T. Evans, '25, the best in Illinois history; Robert Grieve, '37, best in the 60-yard dash, along with Claude Young, 1944-1946, who also led in the 100-yard, the 220, and the broad jump.

Distance events:—E. F. J. Lindberg, '09 (member of 1912 Olympic 1600-meter relay team which won the event); A. H., "Mike" Mason, '16,
43. It is not the intention in these pages to put excessive emphasis on the winning or losing of games as the measure of any coach. But almost without exception the high-percentage Illinois coaches have been of high character, and inspiring leaders of young men.

44. *IJE*, 12 (June, 1934), 324.

great miler and two-miler, R. S. Mooney, '20, fine performer in quarter mile (also in 400-meter relays, 1920 Olympics); E. F. Wharton, '22, C. F. McDermid, '22, E. H. Patterson, '22, and N. N. Yates, '22, the quarter who set a new American college record in 1922 for the four-mile relay; N. M. Fitch, '23, new world's record in the 400-meter run at the 1924 Olympics; M. S. Hall, '24, R. H. Nisler, '24; J. F. Sittig, '27, one of best half milers of all time; N. R. White, '29, Robert N. Orlovich, '29; D. A. Abbott, '30, Illinois record in the two-mile; R. D. Woolsey, '33, record in the mile; Robert Seib, 1939-1940, Robert Redberg, 1940-1942, and conference champion in exceptional records in quarter and half; W. M. McGinn, '41, quarter mile; Clarence Dunn, '42, new record in mile; Robert Kelley, '44, marvelous performer in several events, and holder of Illinois records in 440 and 880.

Hurdles—J. L. McKeen, '15, Waldo Ames, '17, Franklin F. "Pitch" Johnson, '24 (Johnson in high hurdles, 1924 Olympics); D. C. Kinsey, '26 (won 110-meter high hurdles, 1924 Olympics); C. D. Werner, '27, Lee Sentsen, '31, record in 70-yard, 120-yard and 220-yard high hurdles—one of greatest of Illinois hurdlers; Don Olson, '41, record in 70-yard low hurdles.

Field events: Ames C. Clark, '94, "a one-man team" W. G. Burroughs, 1904-1909 (in 1908 Olympics); Avery Brandage, '09 (all-around in 1912 Olympics, and also American all-around); L. J. Washburn, '10; F. D. Murphy, '12 (pole vault, 1912 Olympics); Eugene Schoebling, '15; J. D. Culp, '15; F. F. Webster, '17, N. R. Husted, 1914-1917; K. L. "Tug" Wilson, '20 (discus in 1920 Olympics); H. M. Osborn, '22, greatest all-around athlete, high jump and decathlon in 1924 Olympics in which he set new world's records, and also in 1928 Olympics; Basil Bennett, '20, hammer throw, 1920 Olympics; D. V. Alberts, '22; M. S. Angier, '24, former Olympics, and best javelin thrower in Illinois history; D. C.
Brownell, '26; H. R. Lyon, '26; J. V. Simon, '28; R. J. Carr, '30;
Verne McFerment, '31; Gill's best pole vaulter, and Frank Purma, '32;
best in discus; E. E. Lennington, '33; Irving Sealey, '35, excellent
in pole vault; Robert Diefenbaker, '39, new records in high jump;
William Haviland, '39; Maurice Gould, 1940-1942; Lawrence Stout, '41;
T. M. Lewis, '43, all good broad jumpers, Lewis especially; Herbert
Matter, 1941-1943, great all-around performer; Dwight Erickson, '42,
high jump, Robert Phelps, 1943-1944, one of the best pole vaulters in
Illinois history.

Basketball, a much newer game, not invented until the early 1890's
was played at Illinois at first only by the coeds as an intramural sport—
though the records show a game with Wesleyan coeds in December, 1896,
with "almost a thousand people in attendance," won by the Illini, 29-12.
In all-enveloping bloomer suits and high pompadours they scampered up
and down the "new quarters in the Hydraulics laboratory," and by 1905
had five teams representing the classes, besides the "varsity." The
sport was a novelty, an outlet for "class spirit." The men talked vaguely
of doing something, but not until late 1905 was a real beginning
made when Lee G. Hanen, the new gymnasium director with the huge biceps,
issued a call for basketball candidates. The hundred or so who responded
were gradually reduced to a payable squad and the first game was on Jan-
uary 20, 1906, Illinois winning from Indiana, 27-24. Elwood Brown, of
Richmond, listed as a "professional coach," then took charge, his pay to
be $200 for the season. Sometimes in these days the part-time coaches
also received bonuses if their teams did well, or if the athletic asso-
ciation got out of debt—which was seldom—but at least nothing of this
46. The Illinois, 1 (January, 1903), 5.

47. Athletic Association, Board of Directors, Minutes, Jan. 16, 1906.
road trip, losing four games on four successive nights, and the rest of the season was none too promising. The coach for 1907, F. L. Pindzney, lost most of his team through ineligibilities, and also all the conference games. The record was much better in 1908 under Fletcher Lane, good in 1909 and 1910 under H. V. Juul, and again in 1911 and 1912 under T. F. Thompson. Both Juul and Thompson were also players of note. But it was not until 1913 that a full-time coach was secured. He was Ralph Jones, who in his seven years brought up Illinois basketball to a consistently higher ranking than ever before. He was the first coach to produce a basketball championship (1915). (Also a tie for it, 1917.)

Frank J. Winters coached the 1921-1922 teams, and was followed by J. Craig Ruby in 1923, whose thirteen years stand as the longest term of service of anyone, before or since. He came from the University of Missouri. His Illinois teams tied for championships in 1924 and 1936. When Ruby left in 1936 to go into business in Kansas City he was succeeded by Douglas H. Mills, '30, who in his first season, 1937, delighted the fans with a tie with Minnesota for the championship. He followed up in 1942 and 1943 with clean-cut championships. His "Whiz Kids" probably were better known than than any athletic team in the country.

Coach Mills, who now is also director of athletics, was only twenty-eight years old when he returned to Illinois after four years of coaching at Joliet high school.

Only a few "all-time" basketball players could be said to have emerged before World War I. In addition to Thompson and Juul, mention should be made of H. W. Dahringer, Sven Dumer, C. G. Alwood, and the Woods brothers, Half and Ray. In the first decade after the war were Charles
48. Illio, 1907, 166.
49. Ibid., 1908, 219.
50. Ibid., 1913 to 1921, incl.

51. This list, which of course is not a final one, was picked by the present coach, Douglas Mills, with the cooperation of others who remember the early days.

A swimming and water polo team was organized in 1906, the same year as basketball, by H. W. Hachmeister, '06, a student who remained three years as coach. The teams were unsuccessful at first in the swimming events but did better in water polo. Under George B. Norris, who followed Hachmeister, the team won all games in water polo, and half of the swimming meets. Aquatic sports really became established, however, with the coming in 1912 of E. J. Manley, who had been for seven years with the Missouri Athletic Club. No other Illinois coach in any sport has had here as long a period of service (thirty-four years.) He was especially successful in water polo up to 1941, when it was discontinued because of the lack of competition. General swimming meets have been continued.

One of the first Illini swimmers to come into prominence, and one of the greatest, was W. R. Vosburg, '13, who won three events at the first conference swimming meet in 1911, five the next year, and three in 1913. He was also on the Olympic team. J. P. Lichter, '15, in the plunge, and J. M. Griffin, '15, sprints, also were highly recorded in
52. *Ibide*, 1909, 220.

Another plunger, A. P. MacDonal, '16, was the champion in 1914 and 1915, and Don Johns, '17, won in diving in 1916. After the war Kenneth Dennett, '22, was the back-stroke winner in 1920 and 1921. W. C. O'Brien, '26, was national champion in diving, and L. E. Eldredge, '28, the last of the plungers, won his specialty in 1924. H. B. Groh, '29, was diving champion in 1927 and 1929, and Norman Lewis, '28, in the 220 in 1928.

The best of the last decade include Joseph Broek, '33, in the 440; Charles R. Flashman, '35, probably Illinois' greatest swimmer, national champion for three years in the 50-year swim, and two years in the 100; Harry F. Hansen, '36, relays; W. C. Overman, '37, 100-yard swim; J. R. Erwin, '38, 50-yard; George Lowe, '39, 440; Peter Kurlack, '41, back stroke, Alfred Kirkland, '43 breast stroke, and W. W. Brekke, '43 54 (distance.)

Another sport taking root in the middle 1900's was tennis--though it had been played for a decade previously. Members of the faculty coached it from time to time but in more recent years it has been in the hands of members of the athletic staff. New attention to wrestling (Allie Morrison, '30, Olympic featherweight championship in 1928), fencing, and gymnastics was seen in 1910 and 1911. Most of the development of wrestling did not come until after the first World War and the same could be said about gymnastics, fencing, and golf. Though a faculty golf club had been organized and a course laid out in 1898, only a few joined, and there was no competition with other universities until the early 1920's.

Gymnastic teams in 1910 were coached by Leo G. Hana, who was also
54. Since Coach Manley has been in charge for almost the entire period of the sport at Illinois, he was asked to select these names.

55. The Illinois, 3 (May, 1905), 120. The first tea was just south of the late building, whence the play led past the Observatory, through two corn fields to the cemetery, and back to a point near University Hall. (The present course south of the cemetery is much too small for safety, but efforts to enlarge it are opposed by the College of Agriculture because of its adjacent fields.)
director of the men's gymnastics. He was followed by R. N. Fargo, who was in charge in 1914-1917, and various others for short periods up to 1930 when E. D. Price took charge. His teams won six championships in ten years, and he also originated the "Gymkana," an annual indoor exhibition using both men and women acrobats and other specialists—something like the less professional but more original old outdoor interscholastic circus, but on a much smaller scale. In 1939, the gymkana presentation was "Smoke Rings," a three-hour, three-ring vaudeville and gymnastics show.

The gay trappings and trumpetings of athletic teams were robustly evident as far back as 1886 when one of the first distinctive Illinois cheers was originated by C. P. Van Gundy and J. V. Schaefer, to be used at the first annual field day meet:

Rah-hoo-rah
Zip-bow-bah
Rip-see-rah-see
Jimmy blow your banjo
Up-sid-1-yi-bi, U. of I.
CHAMPAIGN! BY

This yell is still remembered only by some old settlers, but "Okee-wow-wow" holds its own as the standard Illinois shout of defiance:

Okee-wow-wow
Skinny-wow-wow
Illinois
Illinois
Y-S-A-A! 58

There were several individual cheer leaders in the 1880's and 1890's but none so well known as R. G. "Red" Matthews, '08, who is generally called Illinois' first.

The present Illinois colors, orange and navy blue, date back to the
56. AQwW, 1 (May 15, 1916), 355. The spellings vary in different versions. "Jimmy" refers to Professor J. B. Crayford, the librarian at the time.

57. U. of I. Song Book, 1912, 118. With one slight change the same yell was being used in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, which three years later was affiliated with the University, and by Butler College at Indianapolis.

middle 1890's, when a committee labored to pick out some combination not then already in use by other universities. The final selection was orange and navy blue. Previously the colors had been at various times cardinal and silver, blue and white, green (perhaps as a courtesy to Director H. A. Hall, who came from Dartmouth), and orange and black, apparently carried over from the Class of 1884.

Rules and regulations for athletics were early adopted. When the Athletic Association was given permission to lay out and use the Athletic Park the University barred betting, and insisted that "no more than two professionals could play on each side in a game." Some three years later the faculty passed an eligibility rule specifying that grades be kept above 75. Little more was said in the early programs about rules further than that "All races start by report of pistol," "A bugle will be sounded before each contest," etc. "All sports are subject to Spalding's rules," said the program of the first field day in 1888.

In 1861 football players were asked to refrain from liquor and tobacco and to keep early hours. None but strictly "amateur" athletes could represent the University in any public contest, according to the faculty rules of 1896, adopted partly from those of the first conference meetings, just drawn up. The definition of an amateur was a lengthy one, but in brief it meant no play for pay, "either before or since." He could play for the University only four years, and only if he was "not delinquent in his studies." Tramp athletes were headed off by the rule that students could not play until after they had been in the University six months (later increased to a year.)

As competition with other universities grew, so did the need for a new central organization with more stringent and definite rules to prevent such situations as the one in which a former football manager in the Big Ten was involved. He said that in 1893 he had under his
59. *Illini*, 23 (Apr. 5, 1894), 271.
60. Ibid., Nov. 14, 1922, 2.
61. ET, '92; 70.
62. These and other athletic programs mentioned in these pages are in the files of the Alumni Association.
63. *Illini*, 21 (Oct. 17, 1892), 11.
charge seven players who were not enrolled in the university all season. Stories of professionals going in to win games for over-zealous teams were common. Rivalry was so bitter, and the write-ups in the papers so partisan, that the reader who happened to see accounts written by both sides would hardly recognize them as being about the same game. Illinois had withdrawn in 1892 from the Intercollegiate Athletic Association, made up mainly of the small colleges of the state, and was ready for faster company. The silver cup, engraved for the fourth time with the victorious records of the University, was handed back to the I. A. A.

In 1895 the presidents of Illinois and six other midwestern universities met in Chicago and organized the pioneer "Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives" to include Chicago, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Purdue, Illinois, and Michigan. Except for A. A. Stagg of Chicago, none of the faculty representatives (each university was entitled to one) were in active coaching, a precaution still observed, after fifty years. Each had one vote, but all legislation had to be approved by the faculties. For Illinois, Professors H. J. Barker and G. A. Goodwin (1906-1929) and F. E. Richard (1936-1966) held the longest terms. Professor H. J. Barker held the first seven years (1899-1906), and Professor A. C. Callan (1929-1936).

The rules as worked out and presented at the 1896 and later meetings re-emphasized the stern necessity for faculty control and for strictly amateur play, and for guarding against over-emphasis in general. One year of residence and three years of play, no graduate students, faculty control, no training table or quarters, and reduction of schedules from seven or more football games to five—these were some of the more important edicts. University bodies were to appoint coaches in the regular way at moderate salaries. (Some critics had been saying that paid coaches should be done away with entirely.) Freshman and second teams were not to play outside games. Budgets were to be reduced.


67. T. F. Moran, A Digest of the Proceedings of the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives, 1895-1907 (Lafayette, 1907), 5.

68. Ibid., 14-20.
Many authorities in the midwest as well as the east thought that some of the new restrictions were too drastic. The five-game limit cut the playing season in half or more (Chicago had played twenty-two games the year before), and in addition several games of keen traditional rivalry were suspended to allow time for rivalries to cool. Conference members were put at a disadvantage in competing with other comparable universities which did not have such rules. Michigan, which was especially affected because of its traditional games with eastern teams, withdrew from the conference in 1906—and did not return until 1917.

"Training tables had been the rule everywhere with varying degrees of effort to collect the accounts from the students...." They were "a factor more prolific of graft and the fostering of the professional athlete than any other phase of American college sport."

Turning to another problem, the conference tried to do something about summer baseball. Good players had been covertly playing for pay on outside teams during the summer. Using assumed names, some of them went on for several seasons without being found out, but others were, and were subject to discipline. The much-debated "admissions charge" rule of the conference made the test of amateurism on whether gate receipts were taken at the game, rather than on whether the player received pay. Illinois, and especially Director Huff, contended that all such regulations were antiquated, not observed, were unworkable, and even hypocritical; that a man's grades and the one-year residence rules gave all the control necessary.

"A man is not a professional who plays a few games of ball to get a little money to aid him in securing an education," said Professor M. J. Barton, who was Illinois' conference representative for many years. "He is not a professional if he runs for a purse which finally finds a resting place in the tuition funds of some college. "The letter
69. Indiana and Iowa had been admitted in 1899 and Ohio State in 1912, making the "Big Ten" as it came to be known.

70. Voltmer, A Brief History, 19.

71. Alumni Quarterly, 2 (October, 1908), 126.
killeth but the spirit giveth life." The student feels the rank injustice of the rule and it is little wonder that his conscience is somewhat elastic in his statement of his standing. What would I do? I would allow any student to play ball whenever he has a chance to earn a dollar. The scholarship rule and the three years' rule remove all possible dangers... but I am compelled to add that from what I know of the situation there is little hope of tearing from his throne in the college of sport the deified amateur." Several other members of the conference agreed with Illinois, but Chicago, Wisconsin, and Purdue did not, and the rule remained. Baseball as a conference sport was actually voted out in 1915, but the action was overruled the following year.

The conference has given considerable recognition to scholarship. It endowed in 1914 a medal for proficiency in scholarship and athletics, one of which is given annually by each university to the student in the graduating class having the best records. E. A. Williford, '15, was the first recipient at Illinois.

The conduct of the affairs of the Big Ten was taking so much time of the officers and representatives, who furthermore did not like to be drawn into the many controversies over eligibility cases, that the office of commissioner of athletics in the Western Conference was created, with Maj. John L. Griffith in charge, at Chicago. He was appointed in 1915, after having been for several years at Illinois as a member of the athletics staff. He was able to take on many details and some responsibility, acted as general secretary, carried on athletic research, and assisted in the enforcement of the amateur rules. Much of the undesirable publicity formerly attending the eligibility disputes between universities was avoided.

After the first World War, with thousands of students returning to the campus, interest in football picked up rapidly, and the time for
72. Voltaire, A Brief History...59.
building the long-anticipated stadium, which was to be the war memorial, seemed to be at hand. Soon after the armistice, committees had been put to work on the many war memorial ideas. Trees for the war dead were planted around the drill field, the chinsa project was recognized as partly a war memorial one, and although a mass meeting vote in 1919 had favored a new union building, the stadium idea was by no means dead, and emerged as first choice in another roll the following year.

The campaign for stadium funds, opening in the spring of 1921, was aimed first at the students, who pledged $882,000 in two resounding mass meetings addressed by President Kinley, G. Huff, Coach Zuppke, Professor F. A. Russell, and W. E. Ekblaw, '10, the campaign manager. In the background were scores of students he had organized led by "Mr. and Mrs. Stadium" (Ruben Carlson and Ann Cooley), who, by the way, were later married. The alumni office buzzed with dozens of new workers readying the records for the alumni campaigns. Zuppke and often Huff toured the Illini clubs. Huff, highly respected, impressed everyone with his sincerity and steadfastness; Zuppke with his curious oratorical malapropisms, among them "The Camel, The Boneyard, and the Rock-Ribbed Coast." furnishing the fireworks. Audiences on chair edges were ready to do almost anything if Zuppke would just entertain them with some more of those devastating contradictions.

Other good men were being heard from. Merle J. Trees, '07, new president of the alumni Association, of the big-business executive type, strode rough-shod over all petty objections to getting things done, and tuned up the organization generally. By November it was possible to announce that some 6,000 alumni had signed up for a million dollars, and about the same number of students for $890,000.

Several months passed before the location and architects were selected. A few members of the architecture faculty, believing that the
See also Chapter Eight.

Mr. Green and his wife (Emily Naehoku, '05) are noted also as
the contributors to the University of their valuable art
collections.
design should come from campus talent, submitted sketches showing a
beautiful structure with a tower at one end which pleased many. However, it was not thought advisable to have the faculty active in the
design problems, and the commission was given to Holabird and Roche,
Chicago architects, who were already on the ground as general consulting
architects for the University. As for the location, some of the
first suggestions favored the fields south of Mount Hope Cemetery,
but these were discarded as being too far from the center of athletic
activities, and from railroads and highways. The final location was
reasonably free of these faults.

At the time of the dedication, October 24, 1924, (Homecoming)
the stadium had cost more than $1,700,000. Each of the two main stands
was 546 feet long, and the seating capacity 57,000, was exceeded only
by Ohio State in the western conference. The dedication game (Illinois
39, Michigan 14) was the most astounding athletic event in Illinois his-
tory. Red Grange’s 95-yard touchdown run from the kickoff is today generally regarded as one of the greatest single plays in football anywhere.
Then he went on to score three more touchdown runs before the first
quarter was over. The Stadium could hardly have received a more thump-
ing dedication.

Grange had entered the University two years before as a freshman
from Champaign, and played his first Illinois game October 6, 1923. At
this time, on Illinois field, the stadium being still under construct-
ion, Nebraska was defeated 24-7. Grange carried the ball on the three
touchdowns, one of them from his 66-yard run through the entire Nebraska
team. These performances were typical of what the delighted Illinois
fans, and many others, saw all season as the team won all its games and
tied with Michigan for the championship. Especially relished was the
defeat of Chicago, 7-0, in the first game in the new stadium, Grange
Mt. Hope was directly in the path of progress in developing the south campus. Belahird & Reche recommended its purchase and moving, if possible, and others also made the suggestion. Many of the best known faculty people were buried there.

One of the most detailed accounts of this game is in JAN 3 (November, 1924), 45.

JAN 2 (December, 1923), 77.
making the touchdown. With a crowd of 60,000 on hand, the University had its first taste of real big-time football and found it good. Some 210,000 people saw Illinois play at home and away in the 1923 season.

In 1924, Grange's last year, the team was slow in developing and by mid-season had lost to Iowa and Michigan, but won the last two games, Chicago and Ohio State, and tied with Iowa for fourth place. But the season was not without its sensation—which didn't count in the conference rating, however—Illinois' great victory, 24-2, over Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. Grange with his three touchdowns electrified the east.

It was inevitable of course that such a genius as Grange would attract the attention of the professionals. After the Ohio State game, the last of the 1924 season, he left to join the Chicago "Bears," and he played with them through most of December and January. Great crowds went to see him but demanded their money back whenever he failed to appear. He was headlined in a movie, his name went on candy, dolls, etc., he entered radio, and was an exhibition in a cross-country caravan; in general his promoters exploited him for all he was worth. But Grange kept a fairly level head through it all; he made many new friends, and today continues to be the Illinois athletic hero with the largest following.

In the rest of the Sipple era, 1927-1941, were two championship teams, 1927 and 1933. In 1927 with Bob Neitsch as captain the team won all games, but met—a tie with Iowa State. In 1933 A. J. "Butch" Demaher led the team to another championship, losing only to Michigan. Considered from a winning-team standpoint, the fortunes of Sipple declined in the 1930-1940 decade, but Illinois games continued to be the exciting, often unpredictable affairs they always had been under him. Grange was so much in the headlines that there is danger of over-
77. IAN, 2 (January, 1924), 114.

The first half of the decade after 1930 is well represented by Gilbert Berry, G. S. Bennis, and Jack Seymon; the second half and later by James McDonald, Mel Brewer, James Reeder, Alex Agase, Tony Butkovich, Don Griffin, Claude Young, Eddie Bray.

The next large projects of athletic interest after the Stadium were the George Huff Gymnasium and the Ice-Skating Rink. The old gymnasium had expanded into the Armory, and on into the "engine annex," a wartime building, but space was still lacking. The adjacent Illinois field was hemmed in by residence districts. All of the plans for the last fifteen years had shown new athletic areas on the south campus, and with the completion of the Stadium there, little doubt remained as to where the new Gymnasium would go. Located across the street south from the armory, the main central part was completed in 1925, the south wing in 1927, and the whole was named after George Huff. The $366,000 Skating Rink, built north of the Armory, financed by the Athletic Association with football profits, and opened in 1931, was a great satisfaction to Huff, who had long talked of improving the winter sports program. What little skating had been done before depended on the few days of uncertain freezing up of Crystal Lake in Urbana. A record attendance of 113,224 in the rink was set in 1941-1942, the last year of civilian use before it was turned over to the army. The opening of the rink aroused interest in ice hockey. Ray Eliot, of the football staff, did
With the dedication of the Roosevelt Illinois Field in 1927, members of the athletics staff placed these seventeen men in the field.

For the period since 1927, members of the athletics staff have placed these seventeen men in the field. See also footnotes 86.

These means were taken from the "All-Time Illinois" selections of 1927. See also footnotes 86.
some of the early hockey coaching, until the coming in 1940 of Vic Heyliger, formerly of the Chicago Blackhawks, who conceived his new duties to be not merely to coach but to find out where the high grade players were and why they were not at Illinois. In his second year here his team won the conference championship, and again in 1942 and 1943.

The death of Mr. Huff in 1936 ended the era of Illinois' greatest personality in athletics. For thirty-five years everything athletic centered in Huff. Coaches, directors, trustees, and the president generally had only one question to ask about any athletic matter—what does Huff say? His influence was tremendous and far-reaching.

The financing and building of the Stadium would have been a much harder task without him. He took the lead in it, as he did in building the Skating Rink and in founding the courses for coaches, the first of which in 1914 was given only in the summer by the Illinois coaches aided by several others from other universities. Five years later a full four-year course was established in the College of Education which, however, dropped it in the early 1930's and it was resumed in the School of Physical Education. Mr. Huff also insisted that students be taught games which they could continue to enjoy playing after they left the campus. This he saw as physical education at its best. Nor did he overlook the research side of physical education and athletics. C. K. Griffith, a young professor of psychology, was asked to set up a laboratory in the new Gymnasium where he made some important analyses of the nature of muscular co-ordination and of the kinds of exercises that would promote it. "Griffith has various reaction and co-ordination machinery which comes nearer to putting an athlete into cold figures than anything
we ever thought existed," said a current observer.

Mr. Huff's death was deeply and widely mourned, not only by the legions of his personal friends but by friends of Illinois athletics in general who knew something of the heavy responsibilities he had carried and how hard it might be to redistribute them. Huff had foreseen this, and shortly before his death had asked that his dual duties be divided, one man whom he thought should be Wendell Wilson to succeed him as director of athletics—and he was duly appointed; another as head of the School of Physical Education. Edward Staley was named for the latter post, and went quietly to work. It wasn't new to him, as he had been in general charge for fourteen years, and had written several books on the subject. He was, in fact, the most prolific writer on the southwest campus.

Wilson, like Huff, had the background of an Illinois athlete himself, and had been on the coaching staff for several years. He was young, ambitious, and although he was imbued with the Huff ideals he agreed with many others that more promotion work seemed desirable. He set out on a vigorous campaign to make Illinois better known among the high schools of the state. In this he had the co-operation of many of the staff and alumni. He made many speeches to alumni throughout the state, and urged the coaches to do the same. He realized, as some apparently did not, that high school athletic heroes who a couple of decades before naturally came to Illinois, would now "shop around" and probably go elsewhere because of "better" inducements offered.

Illini who wanted mere "promotion" pointed to the football season of 1928, with Illinois in seventh place. Coach Zuppke, weary of it all, talked of retiring, but a disagreement among the trustees resulted in his continuance after his friends rallied to his defense. Not until three years later, in November, 1931, was the atmosphere cleared by his
61. LAB, 9 (December, 1930), 131.

62. At one time Mr. Huff had spoken of Carl Lundgren as his successor but he died first (1934). Two other men were approached but both declined. DB, 142: 330.

63. None other is better illustrated the peculiarities of newspapers in emphasizing campus events. The appointment of the director of the School of Physical Education received only perfunctory mention, but the new director of athletics was the subject of scores of articles, multiplied even more of course when he became involved in a controversy with the football coach.

64. Athletic Association, Board of Directors, Minutes, Nov. 25, 27, 28, 1938. The retiring age under the rules was 66 (65 in exceptional cases) and Zuppke was only 53 at the time, but the University worked out a bridge-over arrangement for the intervening years, at the end of which the regular system would begin.
retirement as of September 1, 1942, and by Wilson's resignation as of the same date. The wildest period in Illinois athletics was ended.

"There is a good deal of sympathy for Wm. Wilson," said one observer. "A high-minded clean-cut young man, a lover of young men, and whose loyalty to the University can't be questioned, he has conducted himself like a gentleman throughout the controversy and loses without excuses. He was the victim of an unfortunate situation in which better men than he would have tried their cases in the newspapers, and would have brought further notoriety to the University...."

The five-year controversy, a rather violent adjustment between the old athletics and the new, revealed some weaknesses in the Athletic Association structure which were corrected: The director of athletics had been also a voting member of the board of directors of the Athletic Association—which was as if President Willard were on the University Board of Trustees; and it had been possible for all the alumni directors of the Association to be former players in the same sport.

As replacements for Wilson and Zuppke the authorities decided not to go out of the family. Douglas R. Mills, '30, popular young basketball coach, was also made director of athletics, as of September 1, 1942, and Ray Eliot, '32, football coach, as of February 1, 1942. Both were young and vigorous, very popular with their players, and associates, and had good coaching records. Mills at Joliet high school and Eliot at Illinois College. Mills as a student had been on the championship Illini football teams of 1927 and 1928, and played basketball three years, was captain in 1930. Eliot (see Hapsickel), an eastern man (Brighton, Mass., high school), came to the University in 1928, worked his way, and won letters in football and baseball. Returning to the campus in 1937 he was an assistant coach in football and also coached hockey for a time.
35. IAN 20 (September 1, 1941), 6.
36. II, 142, 380.
37. Ibid., 692.
38. Ibid., 771.
Hills was in the midst of turning out championship basketball teams, but Elick had yet to prove himself as head of Illinois football. In his first season, 1962, the Illini tied for third place, the best since 1934. In 1963, with players leaving for war service until the team became known as the "vanishing Illini," the record slumped. The war had varied effects on athletics in all universities, depending on how the athletes were registered in the armed forces. Most of them were in the collegiate units of the navy or the army stationed on the various campuses. The navy (but not the army) allowed its trainees to compete in athletics wherever they happened to be. The marines division appealed especially to the athletes and many of the best of them went into it. But only a third of the Big Ten universities were favored by the rather limited number of marine units--Purdue-Michigan, and Northwestern—and in 1943 they ended up in that order in the conference. The Illini, as well as some other teams in their plight, had the experiences from week to week of playing against some of their own best men. Purdue, co-champion, had six Illinois transfers in its first-team line-up.

The spirit of "athletics for all," a popular slogan among all athletics directors, as it is at Illinois, is traceable back to the field days of the 1880's and early 1890's. Today it finds expression through the well-organized intramural division of the Athletic Association, in charge for many years of E. J. Manley, swimming coach, who was familiar with municipal athletics in St. Louis. Others have taken over where Manley left off. The students come out in the largest numbers for basketball, softball, baseball, and track, but the dozen or more other sports including football, soccer, playground ball, tennis, wrestling, swimming, volleyball, golf, fencing, and horseshoes are popular too. The added lure of trophy awards gives further incentive.

Although the department of physical education for women has been
for several years a part of the general School of Physical Education, supervised by its director who is also director of the men, not much note is ever made of the fact. To think of physical education and athletics for women these days is to think of Miss Louise Yoser, who has been in charge almost thirty years, longer than any of her predecessors, the three principal ones having been Miss Gertrude Woulton, 1909-1918, Mrs. Jeannette Carpenter Lincoln, of Maypole memories, 1896-1909, and Miss Louise Allen, 1870-1880 (later Mrs. John N. Gregory.)

Miss Allen, who was also in charge of domestic science, led the few girls in exercises in "calisthenics hall, " the large southwest basement room." The trustees went in to see them swing dumbbells and Indian clubs, and the state board of health gave "hearty approval." After Miss Allen's marriage to the Regent the work was carried on routinely for several years by various women, but mothers and physicians objected--"the girls are already healthy--" and the subject was dropped, not to appear again until toward the early 'nineties, when the sudden appearance at chapel of the girls in uniform almost broke up the meeting; "why, their skirts are scandalously high--almost at their shoulders."

None of the trends of athletics in recent years is more remarkable than the rapid rise of basketball. The annual state high school basketball tournament in March, dating back to 1908, is now the largest attended indoor athletic event of the year, even after the removal of most of the preliminaries to regional meets. Many famous Illini players had their first contacts with the University through the tournament.

In contrast to the annual interscholastic in any, formerly the main attraction for one of the three biggest weekends of the year, but now almost extinct. Completely so are the state-wide art exhibit, the oratorical contest, and the circus, all grouped with it.

Throughout more than half a century of Illinois athletics, during
89. ET, '76: 90, 104, 144, 149, 184.
90. Ibid., '90: 77.
which over 2,100 men (up to 1941) received the "I", the University has been fortunate in its leaders. It was fortunate that President Draper and Director Huff came at about the same time, for Draper was not only keenly interested in athletics but was a man of lofty moral principles who gave the subject uncompromisingly high standing; and Huff, no less a believer, maintained it throughout the years. Huff, a good judge of men, seemed able generally to pick that happy combination of man and coach who won games without cutting corners; and temperamental though they sometimes were, he knew how to get along with them, even to the extent of paying one of them more than he was receiving himself. Notwithstanding the murmurs from some who thought he was "too honest" and that youths of athletic promise were being attracted elsewhere by "more liberal" directors he refused to be diverted from his policy. Near the close of his regime he could take some pride in the report of the Carnegie Foundation which after a long investigation said that Illinois and one other (Chicago) were the only two members of the Big Ten where no evidence was found of the subsidization of athletics.

George Huff was a big, stoop shouldered fellow, kindly faced, slow moving, outwardly seldom wrought up about anything. Hunched up on the coaches' bench, he could hardly stir, even though one of his players hit over the fence for a home run, or was downed for the final out, with the bases full. He expected no miracles from his own players and none from his coaches or other sports. If they won more games than they lost, he was usually content. He did find it hard to keep his pulse, however, in the face of the wave of hyperpocrisy, and the drinking and betting at games which came in with the football boom of the early 1920's. The

ten-point "Illini code of sportsmanship," though obviously over-done, as such things usually are, nevertheless with Huff's name behind it has had a wholesome influence. He believed that athletics was a good safety valve. "If the ten thousand students of today," he said in 1930, "should turn loose in the same manner that five hundred of us used to do, there would not be one brick left on another on our campus."

Several Illini poets including a classmate, Anna Shattuck Palmer, have tried their hands at memorializing Huff:

"Soaring shafts of memory, -- high above the game, "g" unseen there mingle, with each hallowed name, Symbol of silent service that our thought embowers, "There is but one Huff." -- and he is ours."
The Bands

I sat afar in some high-numbered seat
A lone alumnus at the year's big game,
A stranger dumbly wondering why I came,
With heavy heart that prophesied defeat.

Until their beat across the autumn air
The curt staccato of the vibrant drum.
With misty eyes I leaped to see them come --
The Band!

--George E. Post, "The Illini, University of Illinois," 6 (December, 1927), 125.

When the other team wins and the stadium empties, Illini find solace in "Well, anyhow, we have the best college band in the world...."

The fame of Albert Austin Harding's "world's greatest college band," an appreciation confirmed by the immortal Sousa, is of recent years, but the organization is as old as the University itself. Even before the first student came in 1868 the committee on the military department had determined that there would be a band. The first one, in the fall of 1866, had two drums, bass and tenor, thumped by student volunteers Will Crayne and Will Reiss; a little later George Lyman went home one week-end for a fife; then Jared Speake brought in an E-flat cornet. Henry Robbins a tuba, and the Dunlap boys most of the brass of the Savoy band. There were no tryouts, no elections. Those who had horns were in, and Robbins with the largest was leader.

In the fall of 1870 sixteen boys with instruments asked the trustees for instruction. With sixty dollars provided, Professor Snyder, in charge of drill, hired a local music teacher, I. W. Colberg, as bandmaster at four dollars a weekly lesson. He wrote out the music for all the performers and taught them to play and march for dress drill and for the daily chapel processions. In March, 1880, a month after the first military rebellion, the musicians went on strike, refusing for more than a week to play until their demand for new instruments was met. Those

2. BT, '70: 122; '71: 103.
they had were old and out of date. Some of the horns had rotary valves, and belonged only in museums. A grant of $125 was received, but more was needed and was raised probably by subscription. Leaders after 1882 were paid fifteen dollars a term, as much to keep the equipment in repair and tune as to teach the boys.

"Besides playing for chapel services the band appeared in all its glory and uniforms at all battalion dress parades," recalls one of the old bandmen. "It was on these occasions that the coeds and city girls were all overcome. On one occasion the band participated in a funeral for a defeated state candidate, but the details would make another story. Those who were present at the riot that followed will still remember it."

The music was necessarily of the simplest kind. Grant Gregory, '87, who led when he was a junior and senior, reminisced that his band "wore to a frazzle" easy arrangements of selections from "The Mikado" and "H. M. S. Pinafore," then new in America, and some of Beethoven's compositions on all occasions. Spirit usually made up for lack of skill; most of the players had little or no training. They had fun, too, prowling about on midnight serenades to the campus fair ones.

In these early years the band was limited to fifteen members, a precaution taken to prevent too many from using it as an escape from military drill. Its uniforms were the same as the military until 1889 when the trim was changed. A second improvement, made by William E. Sandford, one of the ablest student directors, was to attempt concert music. Expression was one of Sandford's aims. One may imagine the effects achieved in the piece de resistance, the "Pest and Peasant" overture, or in the director's baritone solo number, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." The bass drummer was "G." Huff, '92, himself, and Charles A. Kiler, '32, was one of the alto horns; Glenn Hobbs, '91, the cornet soloist and director a year later who organized the first Univer-


5. IAN, 3 (May, 1925), 244.


city of Chicago band; and Charles Elder, '94, who in May, 1892, led in the first annual concert. In 1893, with Elder as director, concerts were given twice daily for two weeks at the World's Fair, in Chicago. There they were so often mistaken for official guides that they resolved they would have a new uniform, one as distinctive as that worn by Sousa's own peerless band. With the help of Professors Burrill and Snyder they blossomed out in snappy navy blues in the following year. Overcoats with orange-lined caps were presented many years later by the Alumni Association and orange spats were added, but the Sousa model is still the basic costume.

By the mid-'nineties the band had proved itself a vital part of campus life. It could play most of the standard overtures and popular operatic selections, marches, and even dance tunes. President Draper, on his coming in 1894, found it a most desirable and successful expression of campus spirit, and almost at once turned his organizing hand to it. In 1896 it was divided into a battalion band for freshmen and sophomores, and a larger University military band to which juniors and seniors were attracted by the remission of their term fees. The leader, William L. Steele, '96, was given a scholarship, and the directors of the School of Music were charged with the musical instruction. But by this time new interests were competing for student attention, and the band did not grow beyond thirty-odd members. New instruments were added, among them the saxophone, from which Hewitt S. Dixon first drew lush tones, and the library was enriched. Though the immediate results were less than expected, the band was creditable. In its first years it was in the hands of more than a dozen leaders and directors, some of whom men of talent, but all part-time with other duties claiming their main attention. On one occasion President Draper took one of these men severely to task for not having the band on hand when a procession was ready to move; and there were probably other instances of
9. It was about this time that the claims of the band's excellence made their first appearance. Illini 21 (June 8, 1902), 14; 25 (Feb. 7, 1896), 261-263. "Still Talking about That Early-'90 Band." IAN 12 (December, 1933), 88.


12. The Illinois 2 (November, 1903), 352.
this kind.

But something of a renaissance came about when Albert Austin ("Aus") Harding, a student in Talbot's course in municipal engineering, took charge in 1906 and was soon giving all his time to the work. A youth with a knack for quickly learning to play almost any instrument, he had been leader of the town band while still an student in the Paris, Illinois, high school. He looked forward to a musical career, but prospects changed after he had been talked to by L. H. Fischer, '88, the Paris city engineer, who had just been graduated in municipal and sanitary engineering at Illinois. That was the course for Harding! In 1902 he arrived at Urbana as a freshman, becoming at the beginning of his fourth year not the engineer he was expected to be, but the university's bandmaster. Fifteen new players, almost a fifty per cent increase, joined in his first year, and at the end of it as fulltime director he asked and got $5,000 for new instruments. Assured of these to give balance to the sections he bought new music from European as well as American publishers. The band became a popular activity again, its membership increasing to 100 by the end of Harding's first decade, and to 215 by 1918. It could have been increased to 500 or more, but in the interests of efficiency it was finally limited to about 320 in four sections—three military bands and the concert band.

The hearts of the students were quickly captured by these bands. Earlier ones, since the eighties at least, had played for oratorical and athletic contests and accompanied the teams to some of them out of town. Sometimes they boarded streetcars and toured Urbana-Champaign just before the big game. In 1909 the home football crowds saw the band change magically into the marching block I for the first time. In 1911 began the twilight concerts held weekly on spring evenings on the Auditorium plaza until 1915 when the Union building terrace proved

14. ST. '09: 382.


The band found its voice, singing as it marched, at the Illinois-Iowa football game of 1920, and nuances in formations were introduced annually until people wondered what the players would do next. "Hello" and other welcome spells by the 180 members of the usual game band became almost commonplace, but were distinguished by the precision with which the words were formed and changed without peeping pistols, shrill whistles, or other signals. At one Illinois-Southern California game, more recently, the form of the Trojan horse appeared, complete to moving feet, switching tail, and concealed warriors, ending up with "The Old Gray Mare." An Iowa game brought out the outline of the two states and a flowing Mississippi. Then again, the northwestern wildcat was stalked and cornered by an Illini brave who shot living arrows to the tune of descriptive music. Then West Point came to the University a "cannon" lobbed out shells which on bursting spelled... There was the "clock" formation, in which a vast acreage of players, marching and back-tracking and deploying, caused a giant clock hand to revolve slowly, the while all the musicians tooted industrially and polished their shoes on the grass. Then there was a giant W formation. Many bandmasters would be content to spell the W and let it go at that, but Illinois added an extra touch by running a neat border around it. All the spectators could understand that, even though they may not have known who had the ball or why. Spelling out names came to be no great problem, though six trombone players were left over after FMM had been formed in the mud at Philadelphia—but they hastily regrouped themselves into a huge "period" around the drum major.

An easy assumption would be that the outwardly serious-minded Harding has never spent much time on such musical acrobatics; but the truth is that he has worked out almost all of the formations, some fifty a year, before turning them over to his staff for final drill. Perhaps it is his engineering training. But much credit is also due to his chief assis-

18. This is said to be the first instance of a cappella singing by a band.

tant until 1934, Hay Dvorak, '22, now Wisconsin's bandmaster, and to
Mark Hindsgaw and Clarence Sawhill, '42, of later years. None of the
ideas was happier than the one which led to the tradition of Illiniwek,
the dancing brave, complete in roshida regalia, who first appeared in
1906 to music of Alford's "March of the Illini" and its invariable intro-
duction, King's "Pride of the Illini." The idea grew out of one of the
ceremonies of the campus organization of Eagle Scouts; tradition has
it that Illiniwek is always an Eagle Scout, though war changes made
necessary the temporary appointment of a non, who was called "Illini-
wek."

It was in 1933, Harding's twenty-fifth anniversary year, that the
country gave its approval to Illinois' right to the title, "world's great-
est college band." At the time of the annual concert many of the lead-
ing bandmasters and band music composers of the country came to honor
Harding and to direct the band, among them Edwin Franke Goldman and John
Philip Sousa. The first playing of Sousa's "University of Illinois
March" was heard, and the great leader himself directed the band two
weeks later when a special concert was held in his honor and he was
given a distinctive medal. In the fall the band went to New York to
the Army game, winning extravagant praise from the easterners who were
bewildered by its size and vitality, and by "Illiniwek" who, some thought,
was a real Indian. Once before, in 1906, the band had gone east to the
Pennsylvania game and with Red Grange had similarly captured Philadelphia.
In 1934 it began a series of twenty concerts over radio station WLS but
after the fourth one the Chicago musicians' union leader decided the com-
petition was too much for him and ended the broadcasts by an obstructing
demand.

The greatest tribute of all was Sousa's bequest giving to the Uni-
versity his musical library—forty-two trunks packed with scores, and
other memorabilia of his long career. The Illinois band's library and
20. Stanley Shapte, "Sixth Chief Illiniwek to Perform Today,"  

21. Stanley Shapte, "Sixth Chief Illiniwek to Perform Today,"  
Daily Illini, March 8, 1930, 1.

for Ad H. Harding, '06," The President's Report, 1929-1930,  
IAN, 8 (April, 1930), 222.


Instrumentation were already of the best; with this addition probably only the library of the Garde le Republicaine in Paris could be favorably compared. After Sousa died, it was hoped that a new "Sousa" band could be regrouped under Harding's leadership, but he was not tempted. With his own band he could do much more, for none of the size and quality maintained by the University could afford to carry on a comparable program. Bandmasters, too, had honors for the Illinois band, naming its leader to succeed the presidency of their national association. In 1929 was begun Illinois' annual band clinic, the first in the country. It originated on a state basis but by 1931 was drawing some 500 delegates from eighteen states. Band leaders and composers gathered annually to consider as many as 150 new musical manuscripts and to set standards for the country's many band contests. Although now again on the state basis, as at the beginning, the Illinois band still reads the music of many composers for the first tryout. Harding is one of the nation's foremost judges of bands.

His ideals have been variously listed, but the most prominent are, to have a band in keeping with the dignity and position of a great university; to play with the high standards of the best symphonic orchestras; to develop appreciation for good music. As many as three hundred and more compositions a year are played, ranging through fantasies, symphonies, popular tunes, and marches. Much of Harding's time is spent in making arrangements of music. He looks upon his own compositions as "indiscretions" of his youth, but he is noted for his adaptations of symphonic works, otherwise unavailable. New music appears every season, much of it for the first time, as for instance the first playing in America of the new Russian national anthem. Harding always emphasizes the fact that the playing of the classics by the concert band is his main responsibility. The public knows it best for its by-products of marches and evolutions.
At the games, but time out is always taken for at least one "heavy" number, and in other ways the more permanent qualities of music are kept in mind. The original title, "Military Bands," has been retained, possibly to avoid confusion with the jazz and swing organizations which like to call themselves bands.

From time to time Harding's collections of unusual instruments have been drawn on to play pieces which to most musical organizations are impossible. Found here is the only complete family of slide trombones, including the contra bass; a set of sarrusophones, required for a number of French and Italian compositions; an A-flat clarinet, and also a contra double B-flat one, six feet long, the giant of the collection, with a reed two inches wide; a heckelphone, a five-foot member of the oboe family; and more exotic instruments such as a Hungarian tarangato, sounding like a soprano saxophone, and a Chinese fish-skin flute. Some day Harding's piscole will be there too.

Alumni of the bands who have continued in the profession include Glenn C. Bainum, director of bands at Northwestern University, and in charge of all the bands of the American forces overseas in the second world war; Ray Dvorak, '22, director at the University of Wisconsin, George C. Wilson, '31, at the University of Arizona, and L. Bruce Jones, '28, at Louisiana State University; Henry Buse, '14, for several years in the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, and in charge of music for the Publix Theaters; Max Krome, '26, assistant director of music at the University of Southern California. All of these except Buse have been assistant directors for Harding at various times, as have been E. E. Newcomb, '21, cornetist, who later played for Sousa; Neil Kjos, '32; Graham Overgard, C. E. Sawhill, Keith Wilson, '39; Edward Schroepfer, and Mark Hindsley, who in the second world war was in charge of all the bands in the United States Air Forces Training Command.
The Department of Military Music has become in effect a band school, though it teaches no courses. Instruction is carried on in the School of Music, in which the band staff are faculty members, but the loyalty of its former members goes back to the little wooden barracks-like armory annex that will continue to bear the name band building until the dream of a new and adequate one is realized.

Here Colonel Harding (he was given that title by the governor several years ago) may be found almost any hour of the day. When he is not putting one of the bands through its paces—and he is a stern drill master—he is across the hall in his corner office, deep in the details of rearranging some piece of music for band use. His desk and the tables and cases on all sides are piled high with manuscripts, books, letters, and odds and ends of instruments, including an unusual ocarina (“sweet potato”) with valves. A little search might turn up the “A. A. Harding March,” dedicated to him several years ago, which he modestly calls “March No. 28,” and which for some reason is a favorite with the prison band at San Quentin, California. One’s first impression of Harding is that of a rather shy polite man with a friendly smile as if nothing much mattered. But when he stands before his band and raises his baton he is an alert hard-driving executive, intent on a tuned-up performance no less than the best from each of his men (and, more recently, women). Sweat pouring from his face, he finishes practice, returns to his office, and dons a faded I sweater. In conversation he hasn’t much to say until the subject veers around to bands when he will talk and talk, giving his listener little chance to break in. Classes, other engagements, meals—all will wait.
27. Until 1895 the band was administered by the military department, then jointly by that and the School of Music, until it became an independent department in 1916.