

## CHAPTER VIII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Summary

The intercollegiate athletic activities at Bethel College had their beginning in a student movement. A few faculty members, some board members and a small number of people in the constituency understood the needs of the students and came to their rescue. This led to the gradual expansion of the program to include the intercollegiate sports engaged in by the other church related colleges in Kansas.

Bethel College has fielded thirty-eight football teams and sixteen different coaches have been in charge of these teams. In basketball the College has had forty-four varsity teams and fourteen different coaches. The Bethel track program has a thirty-nine year history with fifteen different coaches. Approximately five hundred students have received a varsity award since they were granted.

The thirty-eight football teams participated in 278 football games of which eighty-six were won and 181 lost. Eleven ended in a tie. In basketball the situation was a little different. The forty-four teams participated in 732 games. Bethel won 374 and lost 358. In track the breakdown is a little more difficult. In dual competition Bethel won twenty-seven and lost thirty-five. Bethel won twenty-three triangular meets and lost twenty-two. Six quadrangular meets were won and fifteen lost. The breakdown does not include larger meets. Bethel

track teams participated in fifty-seven larger meets.

Bethel intercollegiate athletic teams have won few conference championships--in fact, only two, outside those won in the Sunflower Conference in which only three colleges held membership. Runner-up honors have gone to her teams in basketball, track and tennis.

### Conclusions

The intercollegiate athletic program has a history that spans three generations. During this time the attitude has changed considerably toward athletics. At first it was a program with many reservations, and many limitations had to be placed upon it. The coaching was limited. Often the coach had to teach in other departments. In the last decade more sports have been added to the intercollegiate program and each sport has had a coach. No coach has more than one varsity sport to supervise in a season, as was the case before the last decade.

Bethel College has had few really outstanding athletes. There have been a few that received conference recognition in more than two consecutive years. A small number excelled in more than one sport. Seldom has a year gone by that not one or two Bethel athletes were selected for All-Conference recognition on either the first or second team. Bethel has had many athletes that were good small college players but seldom were there more than two on a given team. This is one reason why there were few championship teams.

The cage sport is the only one that has held its own. This may be due in part to the smaller number that are required for this sport.

With a limited number of better-than-average players, it was easier to field a team that was competitive.

The athletic record at Bethel, with its lack of championship publicity, has not made an attractive appeal to prospective college athletes. The better high school athlete has had to select Bethel as his college on other bases than her athletic achievements.

### Recommendations

Ford Foundation Research has revealed that Bethel ranked in the top fifty colleges in the nation in the percentage of students graduated that go on to get their advanced degrees. It would be of value to know what effect their academic achievement has had on their participation in the intercollegiate athletic program and vice versa.

The writer recommends that a follow-up study be made to determine what percent of the students participating in varsity athletics receive their degrees.

Another study could be made of the occupations the lettermen are in, and whether their athletic experience contributed to or influenced their choice of occupation. This study should include an evaluation of the intercollegiate athletic experience as a preparation for the years that follow.