Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to create a realistic view of athletics at Ohio Northern University. The study encompasses One-hundred-fifteen years of the history of Ohio Northern.

This study will help further generations in understanding the importance of athletics at ONU and possibly contribute to the education of the school on a large scale.

MEMORANDUM

from
The Office of the Chairman
Department of Health and Physical Education
Ohio Northern University
Ada, Ohio 45810
419/772-2442

To: Dr. Logsdon
Re: History of ONU Athletics
Date: July 14, 1986

Dr. Logsdon please find enclosed a copy of my class's finished product. I am still working on it and will continue to do so in the fall. If you have any comments, suggestions, or materials that will help me please feel free to contact me later in August when I return to campus. I realize it needs "beefing up" and more continuity. You have the only other copy at this time for your use. Look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks.
The Beginning: Henry Soloman Lehr

The Ohio Normal University was founded August 11, 1871 by Henry S. Lehr. Lehr began the school because he felt a need for such an institution devoted towards foreign scholars. The original enrollment was 120 students. At this time there were no "athletics" as such. For one, Lehr was not an avid athletic enthusiast and secondly, student interest in athletics was at a minimum. The only physical activity the students participated in was chopping wood, farming, and hiking. Not until 1882, when Lehr organized four companies of military cadets, did physical activity become a daily routine.

As the enrollment increased to 1,918 by 1882, the interest in athletics also increased. The first documented recognition of "athletics" was when Lehr, in May of 1886, donated his cow pasture to a group of baseball players from the University. ONU athletics had begun.

Although Lehr did promote physical activity for both men and women, he did not support University teams in football, and it took him a while to support baseball. Lehr felt football was an "unduly rough game" and baseball interfered with the scholastic achievement of the student/athlete.

As the enrollment increased and the university expanded, the students began calling for a gym to be built and athletic fields to be constructed. As the departments of Engineering, Pharmacy, and Law were growing, students from cities were being drawn to ONU, thus providing the personnel for bigger athletic squads.

By April 1890, athletics at ONU had a strong foothold. Baseball was played by students and football and croquet were said to be the games of the campus. Although many students were involved, none of these sports were
supported financially by the University. The students formed their own clubs and competed against each other.

Eventually, due to student interest, the Ohio Normal School Athletic Association was formed, with a written constitution to govern all types of athletics; and athletics became official. President Lehr supported the actions of this Association and was appointed to chair the executive committee. The Association then elected a governing body for themselves. The President was a faculty member, Professor B.S. Young, Pharmacy; Vice President Jacob Line, student, B.F. Paul, Manager of the Baseball team; H.A. Cotton, Secretary; B.F. Wills, Treasurer; D.A. Liggit, University Herald Reporter. The Association was to be permanent and controlled similar to that of the societies on campus. To become a member of the Association each person had to pay 25c per year. This covered the cost of equipment that had to be purchased, uniforms for the baseball team, and other miscellaneous items.

As time passed by, President Lehr was faced with the problem of funding the University. In 1897, he tried to get the state to take over the University, but his attempt failed. Therefore he was pressured into raising the school's tuition two dollars per term. In the meantime, the Athletic Association was also seeking donations from the area businessmen. The Association wanted a three dollar donation so they could get "good men" to play baseball. If a donation of seventy dollars was made, that business would have their name printed in the paper. These donations were also used for baseball uniforms, a new backstop, bats and balls. Because the public was becoming involved with the Association, a request was made by the public to have access to the equipment. The Association honored this request and sold membership tickets at twenty-five cents a piece. By revealing a membership card, the public could use the University equipment when not being used by the students. Thus, the community and the University became patrons of each other.
In the early 1900's President Lehr's military companies had been thrown into the national eye. The companies were known for their excellence in drill and military maneuvers. Thus, when World War I began, "Our Boys" were called upon to help our country. When the boys left, naturally the enrollment decreased. The decrease in enrollment affected the Athletic Association, and athletics at the University subsided over the next five years.

Since there was such a lack of involvement by the Association, the University pooled its efforts and created a Field Day. This day was significant because it offered an outlet for all students. The competition consisted of the following events:

- Combination Race - Foot & Bicycle
- One mile bike race (novice)
- One-half mile bike race
- One-quarter mile bike race
- Two mile bike race
- One hundred yard dash
- Two hundred-twenty yard dash (novice)
- Hurdle race
- High jump
- Hop, Step, Jump
- Broad jump
- Hammer throw
- Shot put
- Relay race

The Relay race was the most important of all. Whoever won the race was the champion for that year. The winner was presented with a silver cup and their name was engraved on the cup. Today the cup cannot be found.

This brings us to 1896. This year is significant because of the creation of scheduled baseball and football games. Both Baseball and Football had formed clubs in which each player paid dues to play. Each club had twelve scheduled games per year. Season tickets were sold to the students and the community at one dollar per ticket. The football team was inspired by the support of everyone and they practiced every night. The competition was becoming stronger, and on September 17th, 1896, the football team went up against St. Mary's.
St. Mary's was one of the best amateur teams in the state. ONU lost the contest. "Although we were defeated, the fact that we played such a close game is more to our credit than if we had defeated a poor club." 1

As is the case with many universities today, corruption also took place within the Athletic Association at ONU in 1896. An investigation took place, condemning football manager H.M. Bartlett. Bartlett was found guilty of withholding funds belonging to the football team of $12.08. An article was run in the December 18th, 1896 issue of the University Herald stating:

"In justification of the ONU football team and for the honor of the Ohio Normal University we wish to publicly condemn the actions of Mr. H.M. Bartlett while acting in the capacity of manager of our team."

It was signed by K.P. Johnson (left half), T.L. Lowe (right half), and A.C. Bowersox (center). President Lehr upheld this request and H.M. Bartlett was released from his duty.

As the turn of the century approached, President Lehr, in conjunction with the Athletic Association began planning for the upcoming seasons for football and baseball. The membership of the Association was one hundred and an expected two hundred members was forecast by the opening of the football season. The initiation fee was still twenty-five cents and a badge was included to wear. The football team was practicing with the Ada High School team and for the season opener the Toledo YMCA was scheduled.

Although the Association membership had increased, the University, on the whole, lacked in spirit. This, in combination with the lack of funding, forced President Henry S. Lehr to sell ONU to the Methodist Conference.

The year was 1900 when ONU became Methodist affiliated. The time had come for a change. President Lehr had laid the groundwork, and for twenty-nine years he survived. The enrollment of the University had increased from one hundred-twenty students in 1871 to three thousand at the turn of the
century. The progression of athletics went from chopping wood, to an Athletic Association, which created a governing body, constitution, financial drawings, established regular seasons in both football and baseball, scheduled opponents, and in conjunction with the other societies and groups on campus began the Field Day.

By 1900, the football team had a set criteria of rules as did the baseball team. Although President Lehr did not directly influence these decisions, he did have some input.

Although Henry S. Lehr did remain active on campus, his presidency was taken away by the Methodists and Lehrs' era had ended. The time had come for ONU and its athletics to build the framework.
The beginning of the twenty century, Ohio Northern was a small school in Northwest Ohio. It was a very rich school in academics. At this time the founder of the University had just stepped down as President of the University. There was to begin a new era of rule at ONU. The University was growing in enrollment at this time. Dr. Leroy Belt took over the office of President from Dr. Lehr. Dr. Belt was a special part of the University's growing up. In the year's of Belt's term changes at the University grew tremendously. Dr. Belt's leadership was felt throughout the University.

Dr. Belt was a man of influence, character and drive. Belt took it upon himself to create a better educational statement for the University. He went out and tried to create a building tradition for the University. I believe Dr. Belt took a special interest in athletics. He wanted a well rounded education for the students. His presence was felt throughout the University in all areas. During his term many new things rose up at ONU. There were many additions built during his term. Belt was behind the building of Dukes Memorial and Brown Auditorium. Brown Auditorium eventually was used by the athletic teams for games. Belt also brought a new library to the University. Belt also had chemistry and physical labs built and new equipment purchased. For our concerns Belt bought twenty-eight acres of land from the Tri-County Farm Association. He created athletic fields with this land.

Athletics during these times were around but not that noticeable. Athletics at the University finally were officially recognized. This occurred around 1900-01. The sports only recognized were basketball and football. The records of these seasons were really not kept. During the following years athletics really did not prosper. If they competed they merely did
it on their own. Nobody took a real interest in athletics at this time. Belt tried to encourage athletics but many stayed away.

In 1904 athletics took a mere step forward. In this year a coach or manager first took notice. Athletics became a little more organized. I.W. Geiger was the coach or manager of the football team. He stated, "While some were enthusiastic about athletics, there were many who did not realize the necessity for entering into the spirit of athletics." This shows the non-support of the student body. ONU was well known outside of the area for its athletic teams. Larger newspapers took interest in our athletic events. They would send telegrams asking us for our results of our games. Alumni would write back to see how things were going. There were many professors who were very enthusiastic about the athletic teams. But the problem was in the student body. They didn't show the same enthusiasm as did the faculty. They really didn't see the benefit of athletics to the school.

Another interesting item was they charged twenty-five cents for admission to the football games. This money was used in paying the opposing teams. They didn't play many who played for free. There were complaints when the fee was going to be raised. The reason for the larger fee was to hopefully bring in bigger and better teams. At larger schools the fee was fifty cents for admission into the game plus an additional fee for a seat. This showed to watch athletic events was not free.

In 1905 Dr. Belt resigned as President of the University. He had a very successful term as President. He brought to the University a new beginning, new facilities which were important to the academics. He started a lasting tradition of the University.
Dr. Edwin Albert Smith

On July 21, 1905 Dr. Edwin Albert Smith was inaugurated as the third President of ONU. Smith was a very strong leader. He brought to the school a strong commitment to a total education. He believed in a strong academic status but also believed athletics were a part of this total education. Smith took a special interest in athletics. Smith believed in physical fitness. He believed in a sound body as well as mind. Smith stated, "The preparation of a sound body for a sound mind is a part of education and leads me to the declaration that athletics are a factor of college life." This tells you how much athletics meant to Smith. He took them very serious.

Although Smith encouraged college athletics he did not endorse pro-sports. He said they, "demoralized studies and squandered money." Back then many good athletes did not participate in college. They would play and get paid for it. There were many semi-professional teams back then. They would come to the colleges and ask the athletes if they wanted to play for money.

Smith took athletics very serious. He believed in them. He encouraged everyone to participate. If not on varsity teams then some other form of physical activity. The varsity teams were not very popular but the societies were. These would compare to fraternities today in some characteristics. They had more success with teams than did the varsity squad. As time went on more people became involved in varsity athletics. Smith stated, "A well built gym with a physical direction of judgement and of sense may be as much to a student as any other room or instructor." This showed that Smith was very serious about athletics. Smith also said, "I shall be an ardent friend of the ball park, the duel ground, the gymnasium, that is to be and all else that will send out our young people armed with vitality as well as intellectuality and spiritually to struggle with a rough not to
In the years 1901 to 1907 the athletic teams of ONU were really not a hot topic. They did not receive much publicity or help. In 1907 or 1908, the year is questionable, an athletic board was created. President Smith and Professor Smull were behind the creation of the athletic board. The board was given power to rule over all varsity athletics. Whether this occurred or not is uncertain but they were to have total control over athletics. The board consisted of faculty members, coaches, and student representatives. Smull was the president for five years then he became advisor. Smull is considered the "Father of ONU Athletics." He made many contributions to the athletic program at ONU. He helped teams to obtain national recognition of larger schools. He also initiated a policy of paying off all debts at the end of each year.

In the years to follow athletics at ONU became more recognized and more popular. Dr. Smith brought the idea that athletics was healthy and as important as an education. These times are important to today's activities because of their rising involvement. We can base a lot of things today on past experiences.

Ohio Northern sports had barely survived through the early years of the school's history. A slow process of building a strong athletic program started under the influence of President Smith in 1904. The process was just crawling along until some eleven years later when a revival occurred.

Nineteen-fifteen was a big year for Ohio Northern University and also for its athletes. ONU was admitted to the Ohio Athletic Conference. Professor Smull was the major force in getting ONU into the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC). The student body met in the chapel on October 15, 1915 to vote on the entrance into the conference. Their response was this, "Whereas, it is the sense of the student body of the Ohio Northern
University that it will be to our scholastic as well as athletic advantage to secure membership on the Ohio Athletic Conference, be it hereby. ONU was to be admitted formally in 1916. The OAC had fourteen teams in the conference, including: Ohio University, Miami of Ohio, Ohio State, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Western Reserve, Case University, Cincinnati, Kenyon, Denison, Wooster, Wittenberg, Akron, and Mount Union.

Athletics were the major beneficiary of the move to the OAC. ONU athletes would now be eligible for All-American nominations. This move would also do away with the corruption and professionalism that occurred in the independent leagues. The problem of ringers (athletes who participated in an athletic event but were not enrolled in school) was also quite common in the independent leagues. The OAC was a respectable league and these illegalities did not occur.

World War I affected athletics in the next few years. Brown Gymnasium was closed to athletics and used by the University military department for training. Many students didn't participate in sports because they were either our fighting or involved in the military department. The Northern Yearbook noted that there were barely enough football players to finish the season.

In 1920 C.W. Bolen is hired as both a Professor of Physical Education and an Athletic Director. This is the first time the title of Athletic Director has been used at Ohio Northern. Professor Smull did the work equivalent to an Athletic Director prior to Bolen, but he was never titled as one. Bolen started quickly and added ONU's first intramural program. There were five leagues with three to six teams in each league. A single elimination tournament was run. The tournament was successful as three hundred students participated.
The job of faculty manager was becoming an important job. Prior to 1920 there was a different faculty manager for every major sport. Professor Sleesman in 1920 became the first faculty member to manage all three major sports (football, basketball, and baseball), Sleesman had been faculty manager to baseball prior to the 1920 season. The job involves the scheduling of athletic events with other universities. Unlike today, in which this is the job of the Athletic Director, the Faculty manager was responsible. The Faculty manager also oversaw that all scholastic requirements were fulfilled and no wrong doings occurred. Professor Sleesman was faced with a problem right away with baseball scheduling. He could schedule only six games because at this time baseball was financially unsound throughout most colleges. Many colleges no longer carried baseball as a varsity sport.

Professor Smull who was known as the "Father of ONU athletics," is no longer involved with athletics. Smull was the first faculty representative to the Ohio Athletic Conference and he was well respected by other university representatives. Dr. J.O. Newton is now the Chairman of the Athletic Board at ONU. He is also the new Professor of Physical Education. There was evidence found that Smull played a big part in the decision making process of some A.D. decisions even though he was not officially designated too. This may be why Bolen was left solely with the A.D. job and Newton was given the Professor of Physical Education position.

In 1923 Dr. Newton organizes the first varsity track team at ONU. He also coached football and basketball. In his first year at the helm of the baseball team he led them to a conference championship. Northern went 8-1 and the one loss was due to bad umpiring. According to the Northern Yearbook, "the umpires showed partiality to Ohio Wesleyan." The captain of the team was Roland Wander who was All-Ohio first team and considered
one of the best players in all of the country. Baseball had been the only real success in Northern athletics at the time and people were tired of ONU getting beat. The University realized they had to spend money to keep up with the other OAC schools. A money drive was instituted in 1923 and $4,000 was raised to rehabilitate the athletics fields. The next year Bolen resigned as A.D. and Newton took over. It is only speculation but it could have been that Bolen was forced to resign as A.D. because of the new emphasis on winning. Professor Sleesman was still the faculty manager and together with the new A.D. set out to build a great tradition in Ohio Northern sports. Newton had already built a strong physical education department in which physical fitness tests were given to Freshmen students. The test was to determine if the students stay in shape by comparing results of their freshmen year to the results of their sophomore year. Newton also remodeled Brown Gym but he was also planning on building a new gym in the near future. A new cinder track was also built. This was a very new facility to intercollegiate athletics.

In 1924 Newton introduced tennis and women's sports were starting to develop. Valerie Marie Holt developed a women's Field Hockey team. Thirty girls made up the squad. The team was divided in half and each team was named after their captains, the Newtonians and the Hooverians. The Newtonians prevailed three games to two. When the team did not practice they went on hikes which were supervised by Mary Kalp. The hope was to schedule another university team the next year.

Cross Country was developed in 1925. This was to serve as an additional treat for the alumni at Homecoming. The meet was run at halftime of the football game. Members were taken from the track team to perform the treat. It then stayed on as a sport. A girl's basketball team was first introduced this year. They played against area high school teams.
Dr. Newton's last year was 1928. He was credited for raising ONU to high standards in athletics. He increased the standards of the Physical Education programs and he developed coaching courses for both men and women. He even purchased a bus for the athletic teams. Along with previously mentioned accomplishments, Dr. Newton did as much or more than any other man in the history of Ohio Northern.

Ernest Miller took over as the Director of Athletics in 1929. A boxing club was organized by a law student, Eddie Wapole, an ex-sparing partner of Jack Dempsey. The dedication of Taft Gym took place on May 24. This was the crowning achievement to the end of Dr. Smith's reign as president. He also deserves credit in developing the growth of both the University and athletics, as noted, "If Dr. Lehr has been the founder of our Alma Mater then Dr. Smith has been the builder."
Dr. Robert Williams

The year 1929 marked the beginning of Robert Williams' era as president of Ohio Northern University. The Williams' era saw many changes take place in the physical education department and in Northern's intercollegiate athletic program. It also was the first year that Taft gym was used.

E.R. Miller, the director of athletics, was the overseer of numerous intercollegiate athletics at Ohio Northern. The brothers, Clyde and Harris Lamb, were hired during 1929-30 and would later be a big part of athletics at ONU. They would serve double duty as instructors and coaches. Other instructors mentioned in the physical education department were Miss Mildred Bruckheim and Miss Borman. Miss Bruckheim was also the girl's basketball coach and advisor to the newly formed Women's Athletic Association. This association was organized to provide physical activities for the women of ONU. Harris Lamb was the new football coach and the replacement of Will Meredith. He also was the new basketball coach, replacing Charles Guy Zimmer. He suffered losing seasons in both sports. His brother Clyde was the freshman football and basketball coach. The freshman teams would not compete against other schools through the entire Williams' era. Clyde was also the advisor for all intramural activities. The baseball team under the direction of Will Meredith compiled an 11-2 record. Other sports discussed were cross country, track, and fencing. The intramural program was solely for men and consisted of six different sports. The organizations mentioned were the Varsity "N" Association and the Athletic Board. These organizations were originated in earlier years and should already have been discussed.

In 1930-31 E.R. Miller is still the person in charge of physical education and athletics. Clyde and Harris Lamb continued to coach the sports they coached the year before and will continue to do so throughout the
William's era. Clyde added cross country track to his coaching duties in 1930. The baseball and fencing teams had fine seasons this year, while the other teams had .500 and below seasons. This year marked the first year for an all-sports trophy for the mens intramural program. There was no mention of womens athletics this year, but Mildred Bruckheimer was in charge of intramurals in conjunction with the W.A.A.

Nineteen hundred thirty-one saw Clyde Lamb become the new Director of Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics. The coaching staff remained the same as the year before, with Clyde and Harris Lamb performing almost all of the coaching duties. Under the new regime, students had to complete six quarters of physical education in order to graduate. This was done to allow students to watch and compete in intercollegiate sporting events.

The Football team opened with a game against Army at West Point. They lost the game 60-0, but went on to compile a 6-2 record. This year also saw seventy-five people try out for Clyde Lamb's freshman basketball team. Only ten players made the team. The baseball team was 15-1 and won the OAC Championship. They lost only to Muskingum. Women's athletics were solely under the direction of the W.A.A. in the form of intramurals. The W.A.A. also sponsored a high school play-day for the area high school girls. This was to provide activity for the high school girls.

The physical education and athletic staff remained the same in 1932-33. A few sports were dropped due to economic problems. The sports dropped were cross country, track, and baseball. The football team opened against the University of Pittsburgh and lost 42-0.

The W.A.A. still under Bruckheimer once again sponsored high school play-day. They also sponsored the homecoming dance which was the first dance at ONU in sixty-one years. ONU defeated Capital to win its' first home-
coming game in eight years.

The fencing team finished second in the OAC and lost the championship to Wittenberg.

In 1933-34 the only change in the physical education department was the addition of Miss Claire Reddington, who replaced Mildred Bruckheimer as instructor and advisor to the W.A.A. The athletic teams, football, basketball and fencing, all suffered rough seasons. The football team opened with Colgate and lost 72-0 and went on to compile a 0-5-2 record. An interesting side-note: The freshman football and basketball teams were said to constantly defeat their varsity counterparts.

Highlighted by two events was 1934-35. The football team was 6-0-1 and was the first undefeated and unscored on team in ONU history. They were also the only unscored upon team in the nation.

Miss Alva Tolf was hired to replace Miss Reddington as an instructor and advisor to the W.A.A. She is said to have a big part in womens athletics being a part in ONU's curriculum.

In 1935-36 the staff remained the same. Tennis was reinstated and Clyde Lamb was the coach. Harris Lamb suffered losing seasons in both football and basketball, as did Cliff Deming in fencing.

The staff once again remained the same in 1936-37. They hired an assistant coach named Schuchardt. This was also the first year the freshman were awarded numerals for their efforts. The homecoming attendance of five thousand set a school record. In the spring of the year, track was reinstated after a prolonged absence. The W.A.A. also named a head to each intramural sport and these women were considered outstanding performers in those sports.

1937-38 saw the first fully equipped student health service established in the fall. This particular year also saw four potential starters ineligible to play football due to grades. Golf was now part of Northern's
intercollegiate sporting events. Clyde Lamb was, of course, the coach.

Very little was happening in the last few years at ONU in the physical education department. The 1938-39 span was no exception. Two significant things happened in this year. Mr. Jack Guys was hired as the freshman football coach and the baseball program returned after an eight year absence under Coach Schuhardt.

In the winter of 1940, Coach Harris Lamb lost his first home basketball game in two years. The baseball team was under the direction of new coach Nick Merhab. It also looks as if the president of ONU, Robert Williams, is on his way out.

In 1940 talks of a possible second World War are beginning to filter into the American public. This year saw the basketball team finish third in the state. The baseball team was now playing only teams in the Lima and Kenton area. Probably due to the drafting of athletes from other schools.
Dr. Robert O. McClure

According to an article in the Ada Herald on February 19, 1943, Ohio Northern University President Williams retired, effective June 30 of the same year. His replacement was Robert O. McClure.¹

The year of 1943 was a down one for Ohio Northern University with enrollment down to two hundred students, and dwindling because of the war. Also because of the war, Northern offered defense classes. Even with the declining enrollment, the University tried to raise money to accredit its liberal arts college. At this time, to attend Northern, it cost $40 per quarter, with no entrance fee, and $30 per quarter tuition totalling $70 per quarter. During this time period an article from the Ada Herald stated that President McClure standardized these fees for all the colleges in the University, but upon research in the Ohio Northern University Catalog, there seems to be a discrepancy on this statement.² Budget figures for the athletic department were unavailable because of university policy of only keeping records back five years. From a personnel standpoint, C.A. Lamb was head of the physical education department. In this year Northern hired M. Lee Youngs as an instructor of physical education. The head coach of the football team was Milliad Murphy, and the Bears won the OAC Championship with a 6-1-1 record. Even with the war on, the team still was able to field twenty-nine men. The basketball team didn't have the championship success that the Bear football team had, but still managed a respectable record of 8-6 playing in Taft Gym. Mens intramurals were strong with sports including football, softball, and wrestling among others. Womens intramurals included field hockey, tennis, archery, volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, and badminton. There was also a YMCA club, with a cabinet of three members and an advisor,
and a YWCA club. The relationship between the OAC and the Bears seemed to be a prosperous one, and the Bears remained part of it.

In 1944, intercollegiate sports diminished with the loss of the varsity football and basketball teams which was the result of loss of participation due to the war effort. But even with the decline in male participation in varsity athletics, the women's intramurals remained strong. Enrollment fees stayed the same as the previous year all the way to 1947.

The year of 1945 marked the emergence of three "trailer villages" established as temporary housing for returning veterans.

The year of 1946 saw enrollment rise to six hundred students with fees staying the same. It also was a time when the university added Marjorie Omler to the physical education staff as instructor of women's physical education. Clyde Lamb was still head of the athletic department, but now was also head football coach. He also took on two assistants in Rev. Lee Moore and Murphy. The reason for Murphy's demotion was not given, but it seems there was conflict of authority between he and Lamb. In any case, the three led the Bears to a 3-6 record. The basketball team went 5-7 behind the leadership of Jack Gay as the mentor, and still played in Taft Gym. The emergence of a golf team surfaced at this time as well as the good chance of baseball and track teams, although the later two can not be documented because of the early publication of the yearbook. There was also an intramural basketball tournament with the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity taking the championship.

1947 saw the emergence of a Lima branch of Ohio Northern University. Fees for enrollment were also raised to a total of $80 per quarter for liberal arts, and $85 per quarter for the colleges of engineering, law, and pharmacy in contradiction of the standardized fee policy set by President McClure in 1943. Lamb still had his duties as head of physical education and football coach, but also took on the head coaching job of the Bear
track team. This year also saw the emergence of the first junior varsity basketball team. Taft’s floor was also refinished because of the extensive home schedules of the varsity and junior varsity teams, although the cost of the project was not given. The baseball team was revived after a seven year lapse and played on a newly constructed Wibbler field. The cost of this project was not available. An interesting point about the baseball team was that on their uniforms they had "Ada" printed on the front instead of "Northern." The reason for this was unexplained. Some of the buildings on campus were Lehr Hall, for Arts and Sciences; Presser Hall, for music; Hill Building, for engineering; and Warren G. Harding College of Law. At this time they also started the N-Men club, which was a club for Northern Varsity letter winners.

In 1948 Ada saw the dedication of Ada Memorial Park, and the Bear football and track teams promptly moved from Kenton to their new home. Even with a dismal 2-5-1 record, there was excitement about Bear football with the move to the park and the first night football game in Ada. Lamb still had his duties of the preceding years but also took on the basketball head coaching position and the Bears went 3-11. The baseball team took on a new mentor and went 4-4 winning the OAC Championship. This was also the first time that the University seemed to become discontented with the Ohio Athletic Conference because in the Ada Herald, Clyde Lamb was quoted as saying, "I can see no particular advantage in staying in the conference" after it was rumored Northern would leave the conference after Findlay decided to exit. Some of the buildings on campus were George Franklin and Sarah Getty College of Liberal Arts; Dukes Memorial, for pharmacy; Brown Building, for some engineering courses; and Presser Hall. Fees for enrollment were the same as 1947, and stayed constant during the remainder of the McClure administration.
The last year of the McClure administration, 1949, saw some additions. Lamb held on to all the duties he acquired in the previous years and led the Bear gridders to a 5-3-1 record. He also hired Gene Fetter to coach the offensive and defensive lines as well as the track team. The first freshman football team emerged at this time. Lamb also led the basketball team to an impressive 14-7 record while playing much taller opponents. Lamb also hired Charlie Heck as baseball coach, but there was no explanation why Archer was fired. In any case, Heck led the Bears to a perfect 10-0 season, which was the first in Northern history, and an OAC Championship. The track team didn't fare as well, with a 1-4 record under new head coach Gene Fetter. This time also saw a tragedy for the University with the destroying of Turner Hall by a fire. Although the replacement of the building was vital to housing shortages in Ada, the building was never replaced during the McClure administration. The reason seemed to be procrastination by the University officials. In any case President McClure retired in April because of ill-health. 12

The administrative style of Clyde Lamb during the McClure administration seemed very similar to the style of Fielding Harris Yost at the University of Michigan. Lamb seemed to have to be involved in everything and had a very authoritarian rule. Evidence to support these conclusions would be the frequent coaching changes and Lamb's involvement with just about every sport on campus. He was probably a very hard man to work for and also probably got just about everything he wanted, within reason. Although after seeing the records of the sports teams and their not too impressive results, he made major steps towards a winning tradition in baseball. But the unimpressive records can't all be blamed on him, because you must take the time period into consideration with the war effort. All-in-all, he
had a major influence on the continuation of intercollegiate athletics at Northern, even during the war for the most part, and he should be commended.

Major policy decisions during this administration were minimal because of the war. With declining enrollment and students being called to duty, the money just was not there to make hardly any improvements to the University at all. There were basically two major decisions to be made at this time, and it seems that both were put off to the next administration. The first was whether or not to leave the OAC. Rumors started in 1948 that Northern would leave the OAC after Findlay did the same, but the actual decision didn't come until after McClure was out of office. The second decision was to replace Turner Hall after a fire destroyed it. The need for a residence hall was evident because of a housing shortage for students in Ada, but the decision again was not reached in the McClure administration. It was passed on to President McIntosh because of procrastination and red tape.

Transition between administrators seemed to go rather smoothly. From McClure to McIntosh, there seemed to be no major problems or areas for concern, except for the sliding of McClure's decisions. As for the transition from coach to coach, there were no problems, which were documented from the fairly stable records of the sports teams.
Dr. Frank Bringle McIntosh

The era of Dr. McIntosh was one of rebuilding. World War II was just ending and people were trying to regain what semblances of a normal life were left. Ex-GI's were returning to college to start over and athletics were regrouping and rebuilding.

Physical Education was a major part of every student's life at Ohio Northern, as each student was required to take so many quarters of physical education during their first two years:

"Some form of physical activity is required of all students during their first two years at the University. The nature and amount of work taken depends upon physical conditions revealed by a careful examination and efficiency test given at the beginning of the year."

It's obvious that the administrators felt that a healthy body and a healthy mind went hand in hand.

Another policy instituted during this time was the creation of the Athletic Council. This council was composed of the department chairman and six professors. Their main responsibility was to make athletic awards as well as approve athletic schedules for intercollegiate competition. Also from this council came a group of students appointed to plan and officiate the annual pole rush between the freshmen and the sophomores.

Women's athletics at this time were very slow. If there was a team at all, it seemed to depend on the amount of interest in that sport that year. Different teams came and went. In 1954, the women participated in volleyball (two games) and in basketball (six games). They played area teams, such as Lima and Findlay, and even competed with high school teams. Women's athletics were not mentioned again until 1957 when basketball returned. In 1959, fencing was revived for women, but that is the only sport the yearbook mentioned. The first year women's tennis was mentioned
was in 1961 and in 1963 volleyball and basketball was back, as was tennis.

Although women's athletics were not popular, women's intramurals were. Intramurals were well organized and gave the women a chance to compete on a non-varsity level.

An interesting thing to notice is that during 1960 and 1961 there was a woman by the name of Jewell Moody on the men's varsity tennis team. In 1961, Moody was undefeated at her singles position. As well as being undefeated on a men's tennis team, she also competed in basketball and volleyball. According to Marv English, she really did not cause much of a stir on campus. The first few matches, people were intrigued so they came to watch. But, after a while, the excitement died down and no one paid much attention to her.

Although women's athletics were not popular at this time, the Women's Recreation Association was. This club was designed to give women the chance to compete for recreational enjoyment. The club had a large membership and was affiliated with varsity athletics as well as intramurals. The club was comparable to the varsity "N-Men's Club" on campus at that time. The Women's Recreation Association became so popular that in 1959, it became state and nationally affiliated.

Another group that was gaining popularity at this time was the Physical Education Club. This club was started in 1956 and was composed of majors and minors in the fields of both men's and women's physical education. The club's purpose was to broaden the field of physical education and to give the students "out of the classroom" experience and education. The advisors to this group were the instructors in the department.

During this time, finances never played a major role of importance.

It was during these years that the will of Helen King was drawn up, stating
that Ohio Northern University would be the recipient of 1.89 million dollars. The only stipulation was that a building was to be erected and named after her husband, Jesse King, and her brother, Fred Horn, an Ohio Northern alumni. However, Northern did not receive the money until after Dr. Samual Meyer became president of the University in 1965. It was Dr. Meyer who formed a committee to study the possibilities of an athletic complex. The committee reported favorably and thus King-Horn Convocation and Physical Education Center was erected in 1975. The center cost 2.3 million dollars with the University supplying the remaining one million dollars for construction.

Also during this time, because Ohio Northern was not a member of the Ohio Athletic Conference, they were free to give athletic scholarships. Though the exact amount of money used for scholarships was not found, the scholarships did exist and they did exist quite frequently. The Alumni "N-Men" Association funded a good deal of these scholarships, but the exact amount is unknown.

In 1958, the ice hockey club had been in its third season. It had a hierarchy of team business that consisted of a general manager, treasurer, and secretary. The ice hockey club became charter members of the Ohio Hockey Intercollegiate Association (OHIA). The OHIA consisted of The Ohio State University, Ohio U., Fenn College, Dennison U., and the University of Dayton. None of these teams were financially backed by their schools. Location of games and practices were extremely difficult because the nearest ice rink was in Troy, Ohio. Also, Ohio State, Dennison, and Dayton had to play their games at the Troy ice rink.

In 1960, the University finally financially backed the ice hockey club. This allowed for more freedom of traveling. In 1961, the University stopped backing the club again. The reason was not found.
In 1962, the ice hockey club earned its first win. The win came against Case Institute. The win was mainly contributed to a former professional hockey player, Doug Houston, who assisted with the team.

According to Marve English, the hockey team was not a feasible sport. In other words, it was not a logical sport for Ohio Northern to have because of location and money. This preempted the Athletic Advisory Committee which would make decisions similar to this. At this time, many sports were being pushed to become a part of Ohio Northern University athletics. The committee would decide if the sports were feasible or not.

During these years, there was an average of four people in the Department of Physical Education and the Department of Athletics. Because of the small members, jobs often overlapped. For example, Clyde Lamb served in many capacities while at Northern. He started as an instructor in physical education as well as a coach. He coached football and baseball, and was the assistant basketball coach prior to his becoming Department Chairman and Athletic Director. Then his coaching duties were reduced to mainly football.

Other members of the faculty were Marvin English, Arden "Stretch" Roberson, Mozelle Pickering, and John Nettleton. English joined the faculty of his alma mater in 1949. Through the years he was either assistant coach or head coach of football, baseball, and basketball. English assumed the duties of assistant Director of Athletics even though there was no formal position. He was in essence, Lamb's "right-hand man." This helped him later when he made a smooth transition into the role of Athletic Director.

Arden "Stretch" Roberson joined the faculty in 1960 as head football coach and instructor of Physical Education. In his first year as football coach, Stretch led the Bears into their first successful season in many years and a part of the MOL crown.
John Nettleton was present on the staff for four years beginning in 1956 during which time he coached wrestling and assisted with football.

The lone woman on the staff was Mozelle Pickering. She was an instructor of women's physical education and coach of women's athletics. In 1963, Helen Ludwig joined the faculty as an instructor. She also coached the women's athletics and served as advisor to the Women's Recreation Association.

In the way of administrative style, Clyde Lamb didn't really have time to establish any pattern. He was assisted in his duties as Athletic Director by Marv English, but both men were extremely busy. To them athletics was their life. Lamb was fair but firm when dealing with the wants of the students. Even though he had to believe that a hockey team was economically feasible, he still formed a committee to check into the matter. He wanted athletics to be an important part of the university, for he truly believed in the benefits of sport for everyone. The impression was never given that he was not a fair and honest man. It appears that President McIntosh allowed the Athletic Department to operate on its own. He was as supportive of athletics as he could be, given the present situation of trying to rebuild the University after the war.

Because of the number of faculty, the department was a close-knit one. Everyone had to work together and be supportive of each other. While it is highly likely that things did not always go well and people aggravated each other, the faculty appeared to be close. This was probably part of the reason why the transition from Lamb to English as athletic director was so smooth. Everyone had worked with English and knew what to expect from him in this role.

Without a doubt, the biggest policy decision of this time was Northern's exit from the Ohio Athletic Conference of which it had been a member since
1916. The announcement came from Dr. McIntosh on July 7, 1949. He said, "We are making the move with a definite feeling that it is experimental, and may want to ask reinstatement after a trial period." The reason given for the withdrawal was very vague. Dr. McIntosh stated that "The move is due to a number of readjustments in the entire university set-up." No other explanation was given to the public, but during an interview with Harv English, who was a member of the faculty then, it was discovered that the main reason for the withdrawal was a rule that stated freshmen were not eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. This rule had been in existence before 1949, but it never had much effect on Ohio Northern. However, at this time, World War II had just ended and the majority of students on campus were ex-GI's who were just starting college and were in their early to mid-twenties. Therefore the majority of students who could participate were not eligible.

To deal with this problem of eligibility Northern had two choices: either invoke the White Rule or withdraw from the conference. The White Rule is a long standing rule in the OAC which states that if, at any time a given university can not comply with a given rule, then that university could participate as they were for one year during which they must try to comply with the rule. If, at the end of a year, the university still cannot comply, then they must withdraw from the conference. Rather that try to invoke the White Rule, Northern chose to withdraw from the OAC. Kenyon College, which had been a charter member of the conference formed in 1902 also decided they could no longer live with the eligibility rule and withdrew shortly after Northern. The decision to withdraw from the OAC was not a hasty one. In May, members of the "N-Men" Association on campus circulated a petition among the students asking the administration to withdraw from the Ohio Athletic Conference. The petition was well received
It is obvious that it was not only the administrators who were upset with the rules of the conference.

After leaving the Ohio Athletic Conference, Northern had planned on remaining independent. However, with the end of the war, many colleges were beginning to rebuild their athletic programs. It soon became obvious that in order for Northern to schedule schools of comparable size, it had to belong to a conference. So when Northern was invited to join the Mid-Ohio League, in December of 1949, they quickly accepted. The Mid-Ohio League consisted of schools approximately the same size as Northern and who were members of the NAIA. These schools included Defiance, Ashland, Findlay, Bluffton, and Cedarville. They were to compete in football, men's basketball, baseball, men's tennis, and golf.

Ohio Northern then began a long winning tradition in the MOL. Football won the conference in 1951 and 1961. Golf won in 1951, 1953-56, and 1960-62. Tennis followed suit by winning in 1951, 1953-60, and 1962. In 1951 they finished second and were undefeated. Baseball won the conference in 1961. There was no evidence found of basketball ever winning or losing the conference even though they did participate.

Northern enjoyed strong relationships in the MOL until 1962 when the conference disbanded. There are conflicting stories as to why the conference split up. Dr. McIntosh's public announcement stated that "When, because of insufficient votes, it became impossible to change the constitution and by-laws, the conference voted to disband." The main by-law the conference wanted to change was one which dealt with athletic scholarships. The conference wanted to limit aid to athletes to a maximum of one third the total cost of education at the university. Northern objected to this because total tuition fluctuates from one university.
to another, while the room and board charges at each school were comparable.

A statement issued by Dr. McIntosh said,

"We felt it would be better to provide not more than full tuition at any and all the colleges and leave the student to provide room and board for himself. We were even prepared to limit the number of athletes to occupy a place on any varsity squad at any one time, but we could not get a chance to even discuss it."

The only issue the conference could agree upon was the proposal to disband. After the disbandment, Ashland, Defiance, Wilmington, Bluffton, and Cedarville formed a new conference called the Mid-Ohio Intercollegiate Conference. Neither Ohio Northern nor Findlay joined this new conference.

The disbandment did not go unnoticed by the students at Northern. An editorial in the campus newspaper, The Northern Review, stated:

"At the final meeting of the MOL, Ohio Northern and Findlay were singled out, as we understand it, as investing too much money in athletic scholarships. The other teams felt they were unable financially to match the subsidies granted by these two schools, therefore introduced a bill to limit athletic scholarships to one third full tuition and not more than 50 scholarships per year. When Findlay and Northern blocked the bill a compromise was deemed impossible, the MOL disbanded."

It is apparent that there was conflict over the issue on campus. While some students, especially the editor of the Northern Review, believed that there was too much emphasis on athletics at Northern, the majority of the students did agree that withdrawing from the MOL was a good move, and that the administration was correct in reacting as they did.

It has been proposed that the dispute over athletic scholarships really had little to do with the disbanding of the MOL and that that argument was just a cover up to get Ohio Northern and Findlay out of the conference. Northern and Findlay were the dominant teams in the MOL and were continuously winning everything. In researching this, it was discovered that in 1961, the season before the break up, Northern won the MOL crown in foot-
ball, baseball, and golf and finished second in tennis. This coincidence apparently did not get past the administrators because in his statement about the break up Dr. McIntosh said:

"We enjoyed a very fine relationship in this conference, especially during the years when Northern was losing most of its games. But when Ohio Northern improved its leadership and began to win its fair share of games played, tensions began to develop and some ill will was evidenced."

Whatever the actual reason was, the Mid-Ohio League was no longer in existence and Ohio Northern was once again an independent. At the end of the McIntosh era, Northern remained independent until rejoining the OAC in the early 1970's under the Meyer administration.
Dr. Samuel Lewis Meyer

Dr. Samuel Lewis Meyer, the seventh president of Ohio Northern University, exemplified higher education development and advancement better than any other ONU President. He came to ONU from the University of the Pacific in California, where he had served as the Vice President for Academics. Dr. Meyer's inaugural address, entitled "Two Bequests: Roots and Wings," indicated from the very beginning of his administration that he would promote educational growth for ONU students, faculty, and administration and still place continued strong emphasis on our religious affiliation. He stressed during an interview in September 1965 that a "church related university will survive and prosper if it continues to impart ideals as well as ideas, and demands creative scholarship of the highest quality for both faculty and students." According to past ONU Athletic Director, Marvin English, who either attended Ohio Northern under, worked with, or knew, seven different ONU Presidents; Drs. Smith, Williamson, McClure, McIntosh, Meyer, Loeschner, and Freed; Dr. Meyer "strove for excellence in everything." English also says Dr. Meyer probably was the most "pro-athletic" of any ONU President with McIntosh a close second.

Dr. Meyer appeared to be a "stickler' on everything. Once he set his sights on something there was no turning back and it almost always was achieved or completed his way. Some people would say he ruled Ohio Northern, others say he just guided it along, whichever the case, it is very clear that Dr. Samuel Meyer was an excellent leader at a time when Ohio Northern needed him desperately. His development of the physical plant has proven to be one of ONU's strongest enduring characteristics. Dr. Meyer promoted the essence of Ohio Northern while in office for eleven years and continues to support and promote ONU in his retirement.
Dr. Meyer came on the ONU scene at an opportune time some people would say. Why? Because Northern was fast approaching its centennial anniversary. In 1965 the Board of Trustees approved a sixteen million dollar building plan to be completed by 1971 for the Centennial Celebration. Dr. McIntosh and his administration had laid the "ground work" but someone else was to provide the actual leadership it would take to complete this massive undertaking. It was and still remains the largest financial venture ever undertaken in the history of ONU. The development plan was supported and approved by both Drs. McIntosh and Meyer, faculty, and trustees. The six year building plan was to include facilities for the College of Pharmacy, basic sciences, Fine Arts, classrooms, College of Engineering, continuing education center, science library, chapel, administrative offices, infirmary, and a president's home. The plans also supplied monies for the renovation of Dukes, Hill, Brown, and Lehr buildings, as well as the College of Law and Heterick library expansions. Of importance to the athletic and Health and Physical Education programs were to be a swimming pool ($200,000), field house ($1,000,000), and stadium ($400,000). The plan also stipulated the purchase of new property as a must, dictating about $600,000 towards it. The new facilities were to allow for an increase in enrollment up to 2,700 students.

These plans were to be carried out with funds from existing university monies and primarily from donations yet to be gathered. As the years passed the campus developed steadily and money seemed to come when needed. For example, in 1965 the university received $700,000 from the Heterick's will, they had previously given over $600,000. However, as time passes changes occur. A major change that occurred in the building plan was the construction of King-Horn Convocation and Physical Education Center to replace Taft Gym. The structure cost over 2.3 million dollars and basically filled the
void of the field house and swimming pool listed on the building plan. A stadium was never built by the University instead it chose to rent War Memorial Stadium at the Ada Municipal Park, Ada, Ohio.

Also right around 1965 Northern received its fifth free car from Cole Motors, a local car dealership in Ada. Interesting is a picture in the Ada Herald showing Marv English, then Athletic Director, receiving the keys.

However, in a speech in early November 1965 Dr. Meyer aired hopes of getting back into the Ohio Athletic Conference but said, "there is a limit to our investment in the athletic program at this time." It is uncertain what he meant by the word "investment."

During most of Dr. Meyer's administration Northern was a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and did not belong to any league or conference until 1972 when ONU rejoined the Ohio Athletic Conference. From the very start of his administration Dr. Meyer worked for ONU to regain entrance to the OAC but it was a long, struggling battle. Marv English said he and Dr. Meyer communicated on this very subject while Dr. Meyer was still in California.

After leaving the Mid-Ohio League, ONU tried to gain entrance to the OAC and looked into possible membership in the Hoosier Buckeye Conference but felt it was plagued with too many existing problems and pursued an interest in the OAC. Our admittance to the OAC was finally brought about by the long determination of Marv English and Dr. Meyer. You could speculate that we had "inside" help since at that time Nolan "Chic" Smith was the OAC Commissioner, a graduate of both Ada High School and Ohio Northern.

Through the efforts in Ada and those of Smith, Bill Burnwell, Athletic Director at Capital University, and Lee Tresell (from Ada) at Baldwin-Wallace we did gain admittance.
According to Marv English it was a difficult battle because when ONU and three other schools, including Findlay College and Cleveland State University petitioned for entrance to the OAC in 1963 they were all turned down. Mr. English speculates it was because Cleveland was a state-supported school unlike any of the other member schools and also because of Findlay College's "shaky" academic standing. After that the OAC developed a new policy saying that you could only join the Ohio Athletic Conference if you were invited. Finally in March of 1971 we were admitted to the OAC on a one year probationary membership.

Women's athletics were really not developed fully enough to exist in any conference, as was the case throughout the United States. There were no real conferences for women at that time.

When Marv English took over as Athletic Director, a major problem was the fact that due to increased enrollment, there was a need for more personnel. In 1966 there were seven Health and Physical Education instructors who also doubled as coaches. Arden "Stretch" Roberson was head football and golf coach, while Mr. English headed the men's basketball program. The women's teams, volleyball and basketball, were coached by Mrs. Helen Ludwig, who was also the only woman instructor. In the next two years six new members were hired. These included Rhonda Lou Kerr, women's instructor; Joe Miller, head baseball; Mike Palmissano, wrestling and cross country; Bob Middleton, tennis and assistant football; Mark Covert, assistant football; and Gayle Lauth, instructor and softball. By the school year 1967-68 there were nine men's instructors and three women's. After Ms. Gayle Lauth was hired in 1967, there have been no women's department expansions. Mr. English was in charge of the hiring and then sought approval of Pres. Meyer. When hiring, most candidates interviewed with the entire
staff of the HPE and Athletic Departments on a one to one basis. Mr. English handled contract negotiations. In 1968 Diana Ford was hired to replace Ms. Kerr and served as an instructor for one year. Clyde Lamb had been Athletic Director and Chairperson until the 1966 school year when he retired because of the state mandatory retirement age. Mr. Lamb taught as a full time professor of Physical Education until his death one month before his retirement. Herb Strayer was hired in 1969 to replace Mr. Lamb as instructor and soon to be head baseball coach. Miss Sheila Wallace was hired in 1969 under the provision that a vaulting horse would be purchased to teach gymnastics. Dr. Meyer agreed and Miss Wallace is still teaching gymnastics today.

In the fall of 1969 Marv English suffered from a heart attack and Mrs. Ludwig became acting Chairperson and Athletic Director. In March 1970 Stretch Roberson retired (resigned) as head football coach but continued as an instructor on P.E. because of his tenure. It is for this reason that coaches are no longer hired on a tenure track. The only major personnel controversies were linked to Palmissano. Michael Palmissano was not rehired until the end of the year. Mr. English claims that he was not recommended for rehire because of his inability to follow rules. A more probable explanation could be the envy of success from football and basketball. Department rumor of the time speculated that the Alumni "N" Men's Club used a loophole stating Palmissano used budget money to buy shoes in order to force Palmissano from Northern. Palmissano did leave ONU before the 1972 season when Tody McCormick took over. The next four years brought about a large turnover of coaches in the men's sports. Gale Daugherty was hired in 1974 and is still at the helm of the men's basketball program. In 1975 A. Wallace Hood was hired and coached football until 1983.
One of the major issues that plagued ONU athletics early in Dr. Meyer's era was the Ice Hockey Club. The club had petitioned both Dr. McIntosh and previous Athletic Director, Clyde Lamb for varsity sport status and were denied. They initially requested only reimbursement of funds for money they spent on travel, equipment, and ice rental but received very little compensation and for only a short time. They again re-organized in the Fall of 1965 but in November they were basically told it was not feasible for them to attain an intercollegiate sport status. Marv English said that is was a well-thought-out decision and simply made good sense at the time.

There were limited funds for existing programs at that time and a site for practice and competition that was approximately seventy miles away was inconducive to the overall educational program. Mr. English would have liked to have supported it, as he was a former player, but it just was not possible.

In October of 1965 we also saw the first organization of a soccer "club." It existed as an organized club for several years before being promoted to varsity sport status in 1975.

Women's sports grew very fast and furiously especially after Title IX was mandated. According to Marv English the women's programs at ONU were ahead of their times compared to area schools like Bluffton and Finlay colleges.

Dr. Meyer is also responsible for a number of the current housing rules as they exist today. He developed the Ohio Northern seal; prior to his administration Ohio Northern did not really use anything much except the seal of the State of Ohio.

Of significant importance was the decision to join the Ohio Athletic Conference. Why? Because when we did we lost our ability to give grants-in-aid to future athletes. ONU athletics weathered the change very well.
It was not a very great change at all, because at that point ONU was giving very few grants-in-aid to athletes and those that were being issued were of small monetary value by Marve English's standards. 45

Facility expansion is what Dr. Meyer will be remembered for the most as his greatest achievement. The addition of the Pharmacy building, Engineering, Meyer Hall of Science, Heterick Library, the Art Center, Wesley Chapel, Jay Otis Young building, and the King-Horn Center were directly due to him.

King-Horn was just part of the West Campus development, which also included fraternity circle. King-Horn was payed for through donations and not one cent of tuition money was used. The building was named after Helen King, her husband, and a brother, after she donated $1.8 million.

It was decided the money would be used to build a field house because Taft Gymnasium could no longer provide the needs of the campus. In 1965 a development plan called for a gymnasium and pool to be built on the ONU campus.

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to decide what King-Horn should provide and how it would be built. The committee was made up of Dr. Hassell, Vice President for Financial Affairs; Dr. Straight, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dick Pheigler, Vice President for Development; Don Traxler, Dale Wilhelm, and Don Forythe, all of the faculty. Three members of the HPE/Athletic Department were also appointed to the committee—Herb Strayer, Helen Ludwig, and Marv English. According to English, the committee had a great deal of input into what the building should contain. 46

The capacity of King-Horn was to be 3,200 for contests, where in Taft the capacity was 1,500. There are quite a few unique qualities to King-Horn. A V.I.P. lounge where both swimming and diving competitions and basketball and volleyball games could be viewed, a dance room, completely equipped gymnastics room, and three racquetball courts which were unique in the 70's.
King-Horn was hailed as one of the most complete facilities in the state at the time. Along with K-H the university expanded the outdoor athletic complex. Practice football fields were built beside K-H and intramural fields were built behind fraternity circle. In 1977 Wander Field was built for baseball and still is one of the best Division III diamonds in the country. In 1979 the construction of a soccer field was completed and also ranks as an excellent facility.

It was difficult to find out information on the faculty representatives that ONU had. Dr. Eric Nelson was the first, followed by Jim Klingberger. When Klingberger took over it was a complete mystery because he was not mentioned anywhere. According to Marv English, Klingberger had a good relationship with the OAC and the schools. "Jim was very well liked in the conference and had quite a bit of influence on the faculty," said Marv English. 47 Klingberger had a very deep personal concern for ONU athletics and was one of its biggest supporters according to Mr. English. 48

The move from the strict hand of Meyer to the low-keyed position of Dr. Loeschner was not an easy one. With Meyer faculty feared for their jobs but with Loeschner people thought the opposite. No real changes occurred within the athletic department and some people blamed that on President Loeschner.
Dr. Ray B. Loeschner

Dr. Ray B. Loeschner served ONU from 1977-79. His administration was rocked and plagued by turmoil. One could say it would have been tough for anyone to follow such a dynamic leader as Dr. Meyer but Dr. Loeschner had unusual difficulties. From the very beginning he encountered difficulties. He was plagued with disgruntled faculty who used his low-keyed personality to spend pentup energy from Dr. Meyer's administration. Dr. Loeschner was hired by the Board of Trustees to be more "laid-back and low-keyed," very different from Dr. Meyer. They apparently commissioned him to do four major things for ONU according to English. Dr. Loeschner managed to accomplish all four tasks but in a different manner which caused constant uprising from the faculty, staff, and students. Student opposition to Dr. Loeschner at the beginning of his second year was so great that an open letter to the editor in the Northern Review called for his resignation. And in 1979 Dr. Loeschner did just that, he tendered his resignation to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Loeschner never did anything that Marv English could recall which would have caused such adamant opposition to his presidency at Ohio Northern. "He was a good man," says English, "but just not right for ONU at that time."

An interesting bit of information is how the pond on the inside of fraternity circle was funded. It was built during Dr. Loeschner's era much to the disapproval of many students and faculty. However, according to English, Dr. Loeschner's hands were tied on the matter. The donor stipulated that the money be used for the purpose of constructing a pond on campus. Dr. Loeschner was merely using the money as required and at the same time adding beautification to the campus. These facts did not matter
to the dissidents of the time. They did everything in their power to turn it against Dr. Loeschner and ultimately succeeded.

Also of interest to note is Dr. Loeschner's current position. He now works for the Mott Corporation in Michigan and holds a vice presidency with that company. Therefore one could conclude that Dr. Loeschner could not have been overly poor as an administrator, just inadequate in his manner while at Northern.

The only large financial venture initiated during Loeschner's era was the construction of the pond or "Lake Loeschner" as it has been termed. The other controversial use of university monies was the installation of lights around the pond.

During Dr. Loeschner's administration, ONU was still a newcomer to the Ohio Athletic Conference and therefore continued to encounter occasional scheduling problems. We nonetheless fared very well in conference standings.

When Dr. Loeschner took over as President of the University in 1977 there was only one major personnel change. In 1977 Dick West was hired as head wrestling coach and assistant football to replace McCormick. Since Meyer did not retire until June 1977 he was probably responsible for signing West as a coach. All other departmental coaching and teaching positions remained the same. One controversial point in Dr. Loeschner's era is the resignation of the Dean of the Liberal Arts college. There appear to be some questionable reasons, like the Dean openly discussed and showed his dislike for President Loeschner.

Probably the single most major decision during Dr. Loeschner's administration was the promotion of the Department of Business and Economics to the College of Business Administration (CBA). The college became fully operational in September 1978. Much work went into the transition prior
to Dr. Loeschnet's arrival, but his administration is certainly responsible for expediting the changeover.

According to Mary English, Dr. Loeschnet was a supporter of the athletic programs at ONU. However, he lacked the "visibility" of his predecessors and that of his successor. Dr. Loeschnet, a former boxer and All-American football performer at Adrian College in Michigan, certainly knew of the importance athletics played in the educational and personal growth of young men and women.

During President Loeschnet's era sports took a back seat to all the controversy surrounding him. The only real development was the lake south of King-Horn. It was built with a partial intent to include canoeing and other water recreation activities. These never evolved.

Jim Kilngberger remained the OAC Faculty Rep. during Dr. Loeschnet's era. It was definitely to ONU's advantage to retain Prof. Klingberger as he added stability in the eyes of the conference foes.

The transition between Drs. Loeschnet and Freed was nonexistent since Dr. Loeschnet left in July of 1979 and Dr. Freed did not come onto the ONU scene until approximately December 1979.
Dr. DeBow Freed

In December of 1979, Dr. DeBow Freed assumed office and became the ninth president of Ohio Northern University. The campus was recovering from the Loeschner years, which had been mared by student protests. When Dr. Freed assumed office his goal was to reinstate the academic prestige of ONU. In the future when people look back at President Freed's administration it will be seen as a period of remodeling. Not only the academic image but the actual physical plant of ONU. Recent administrative decisions tend to support a remodeling of the importance of athletics at Northern also.

One of the pressing issues facing the new president was retaining the College of Law's accreditation. In order to do this the law library had to be enlarged. Finally, just before the deadline the law library annex was opened in 1982. This addition doubled the capacity of the library. The law library currently holds 150,000 volumes. The 1984 hiring of Dean Gaynor VanLandingham further strengthened the Law School.

A current concern is the College of Business Administration. Dr. Kenneth Cooper, the new dean, will take office in the fall of 1986. The College will also be moved to the newly remodeled Huber Memorial building. This marks the second major remodeling venture that President Freed has completed. The first project was the complete remodeling of Presser Hall, home of the Music department, in 1985. Included in the second project is the Hill Memorial building. It will house the departments of history, political science, and public administration as well as psychology, sociology, and social work. Both of these projects are slated to be finished in the fall of 1986. A third project, also to be completed in the fall, is the fourth stage of McIntosh Center. This stage includes a drive-up
covered drop-off area and a seventy car parking lot. This will be located
where the present parking lot is and in the open lot between Presser Hall and
McIntosh Center.

When Dr. Freed became president his major concern was academics. He
was not involved in the athletic administration. He viewed them as sub-
ordinate to academics and saw no purpose other than activities for students.
But his fund raising efforts have started to change his view. President
Freed now realizes that winning athletic programs help generate money for
the whole university.

The creation of the Clyde A. Lamb Scholar-Athlete Award in 1984 was
ONU’s first step towards reemphasizing athletics. The real turning point
came in 1985 when Head Football coach Dan Kratzer was fired. President
Freed was the main force behind this firing. Dr. Freed had been upset by
the numerous negative comments of Coach Kratzer which had appeared in the
area newspapers. Constant pressure from alumni also was an important
factor. Alumni felt that this was an embarrassment to Northern. Finally,
under pressure, Coach Kratzer resigns.

Dr. William Stier was the Athletic Director when President Freed
took office. In 1982 Dr. Stier took a leave of absence and later resigned
taking an A.D. job at a New York university. Professor Herb Strayer was
named acting A.D. and in 1984 was officially named Athletic Director at
Northern. He has maintained the policies of Dr. Stier. Also in 1984,
Dr. Janet R. Kittell was named as Associate Athletic Director for Women's
Athletics and Chairperson of the Health and Physical Education Department.
She has taken on the responsibility of hiring the current HPE and coaching
staff at ONU. Tom Kaczkowski was hired to replace Kratzer as head
Football coach. Several other people have been hired to make this
the largest HPE department in the history of ONU.
Financially it is safe to assume that expenditures for athletics are the highest that they have ever been. Facilities at ONU, for almost every sport, are among the best in the OAC. Construction of the women's softball diamond in 1982 is evidence of this.

The Ohio Athletic Conference has also undergone some changes. In 1984 five schools dropped out of the league because of academic differences. Also in 1984, the women were admitted into the conference.

President Meyer, ONU's seventh president, spoiled the athletic department with his generous support. President Loeschner more or less ignored the athletics at Northern during his brief term. He left new President Freed more urgent concerns. Although if current trends continue, this will be the dawn of a new era in athletic success at Ohio Northern University.
Footnotes

1 H.M. Bartlett, manager.
2 1910 Yearbook.
3 The Northern Yearbook.
4 The Northern Review.
5 ibid.
6 The Northern Yearbook.
7 The Northern Yearbook, 1929, p. 16.
12 "Dr. F.B. McIntosh to Get ONU Reins As President McClure Retires," Ada Herald, April 15, 1949, p. 1.
14 Interview with Marvin English, former ONU Athletic Director (1965-80), Ada, Ohio, May 1, 1986.
16 ibid.
17 Interview with English, May 1, 1986.
21 ibid.
22 ibid.
23 The Northern Review, March 20, 1962.
27 Ada Herald, April 9, 1965.
29 Ada Herald, June 18, 1965.
30 The Northern Review, November 2, 1965.
32 ibid.
33 The Northern Review, August 18, 1972.
34 The Northern Yearbook, 1965.
35 The Northern Yearbook, 1966.
36 Interview with Gayle Lauth, Associate Professor of HPE, Head Women's Basketball and Softball Coach, ONU, May 19, 1986.
37 The Northern Review, May 5, 1969.
38 Interview with Sheila Wallace, Associate Professor of HPE, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, ONU, May 19, 1986.
39 Interview with Lauth.
41 The Northern Yearbook, 1974.
42 Interview with English, May 15, 1986.
43 ibid.
44 ibid.
45 ibid.
46 ibid.
47 ibid.
48 ibid.
49 ibid.
50 The Northern Review, October 2, 1978.
51 Interview with English, May 15, 1986.
52 Ibid.
54 Interview with English, May 15, 1986.