

Let's Boost Them

G. H. S. Coaching Work Merits More Money

BY BOB SWITZER

Galesburg High school is experiencing one of its most memorable years in athletic history.

The football team won all its games save one, and that to a champion Rock Island club. The basketball team won five tournament and league trophies, and failed by a photo finish in the state tournament to the state champions of Decatur. The intramural program has been unparalleled in its excellence, including in participation a huge majority of the boys in school.

The track program is coming up, and while the coaching staff isn't planning on an outstanding career, things point up toward a building toward the 1947 season. In baseball, Galesburg High has mapped a number of doubleheader contests, and has a good outlook.

These feats have been accomplished by the athletes, but they have been directed by one of the most competent and closely-working group of coaches in Galesburg High school history. They are Gerald Phillips, athletic director and coach of basketball; Cliff Van Dyke, coach of football and track; and Charles Bednar, director of intramurals and the coach of sophomore basketball and varsity baseball. Working with them has been John Aitchison as sophomore football coach and a generally competent assistant in all sports.

All these men deserve a raise in pay from the board of education to make their standards conform with those of other high school athletic coaches of the state who receive more money.

The best-suggested way of keeping these men in Galesburg is giving them recompense for 12 months of work, instead of the nine and one-half months for which they now receive salaries, and thereby assign them to summer activities directing playground work in Galesburg.

"Playground activities" is a term which has almost a belittling title. It means supervision of sports on the fine park system of Galesburg; and a supervision which is sorely needed. The 101 club sponsors the Knox County Hardball league at H. T. Custer park, affording baseball interest to many. But it has many times wished the help of a full-time worker to assure that games could be played on what might be a wet diamond, and to find that adequate help would be forthcoming for the conduct of the games.

Let's look at the record. Galesburg High school won the Illini and Northwest basketball championships. It came within a shuddering whisker of the Northwest football title, but gained the Illini crown. At East Moline, it is reported that Ray Holmes has an annual salary of \$3,500; at Moline, George Senneff drew down a reported amount of \$3,800, plus bonus; and, hold your hats, at Rock Island, "Shorty" Almquist will get next year \$4,800 as athletic director, plus a \$1,200 job as summer director of activities. See what I mean!

Let's don't go on generalities, but facts. Gay Kintner, the Decatur High coach who received only \$3,300 annually but won his third state basketball championship this year, is an example. Last night, he was raised to \$4,500. An East St. Louis coach pegs \$3,700 for a job involving coaching only one sport. Morrisonville pays its coach \$3,400, and St. Elmo (you look at the map) is offering \$3,000. Jack Lipe, one of Kintner's pupils, gets \$4,500 at Thornton.

Athletic Director Gerald Phillips here has a contract for \$3,300 next year, plus \$400 extra, for conducting summer swimming classes. Coach Van Dyke last summer worked at the "Q" tie plant; Coach Bednar had other work.

Why not pay these producing coaches, who work as smoothly as any of the teams they produce, a salary commensurate of their worth?

A SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION COMES UP SATURDAY, APRIL 14. A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT!

Decatur Coach Gets Pay Boost For Champ Club

DECATUR, Ill., March 27.—(AP)—Gay Kintner, who coached the Decatur Reds to the state high school basketball championship a week ago, today had more than headlines for his reward.

The city school board voted to name the high school gymnasium in his honor and to increase his salary from \$3,300 to \$4,500 a year.