

CHAPTER III

FALL ACTIVITIES

In considering the activities usually found in an intramural program, no detailed discussion is necessary. The activities will be discussed in alphabetical order and listed under the four seasons of the year. Our main purpose is to point out problems that will be encountered in certain sports in the program and to make a few practical suggestions here and there.

The program should be outlined at the first of the year so that students will know the order of the sports and can plan to participate in them. Since the weather must be considered in outdoor activities, the director should allow for an extra week or two when planning such schedules. Activities chosen should conform to the locality and fit into school life. It would be foolish to plan for ice boating in Florida or for soccer in a community which has been sold on touch football. If a change to soccer is planned, some missionary work is in order to induce students to take part. Many activities are used in more than one season of the year. Each available activity will be listed but it will be discussed only in relation to its main season.

ARCHERY

Archery is perhaps one of the oldest sports included in the intramural program as it has been practiced for about 50,000 years. It has a very interesting historical background which lends color and fascination to the sport. It satisfies the hunting and roving instincts of boys as well as meets the search for artistic beauty in girls. Archery may be adapted to the strength of each participant by proper selection of the bow for a wide range of ages. It seems to be most popular at the college level, but it is being introduced rapidly into the high schools. It may be made more interesting if those who participate are encouraged to make their own equipment. This can be done in connection with the industrial arts department and should furnish the basis for an adult hobby which may well become a family activity.

The objections to the inclusion of archery in the intramural program grow out of the expense and the danger resulting from careless shooting. If the students are sufficiently interested in the activity they can be encouraged to make their own equipment,* which would eliminate the financial objection and give them knowledge of a handicraft and instill into them a pride of ownership that would spur them on as archery enthusiasts.

If the equipment is to be school owned, it would be well to investigate steel and aluminum arrows. They are not very expensive, and although they bend, they can be straightened. They may be easily matched because arrows of the same length are identical and only need crestring to group them into sets. (A good archer who laughed at "tin arrows" found that the writer's aluminum arrows behaved favorably in competition with his expensive set of matched and footed Port Orford cedar arrows.)

To minimize the dangers of archery, a sodded embankment or other type of backstop should be constructed and a thorough lecture on safety regulations should be given and enforced with strict personal supervision. The range should be

* Archery, Making Tackle and Shooting. Chicago, Recreation Division of the Chicago Park District. 1937 35¢