

BASKETBALL
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Basketball and basketball tournaments as played in Indiana have borne the brunt of several attacks from more or less responsible sources and personages in recent months. In an attempt to verify or refute the criticisms, the following questionnaire was sent to 108 high school principals and coaches in all sections of Indiana. Their answers and comments, together with the name of the high school they represent, are given in the following, and the final conclusions are based upon those answers and our personal experiences.

A summary statement or a statement of the findings of this questionnaire should include the subject-matter shown in the table on pages four and five.

The schools responding to the questionnaire make up an excellent cross section of Indiana basketball.

The principals and coaches from these schools are experienced men. Few would question the integrity of these men who are working with our Indiana boys.

The answers are statements and opinions based upon years of experiences with boys and for boys.

The result is an almost unanimous vote for Indiana basketball as it is managed under the High School Athletic Association regulations. It is an almost unanimous denial of physical or moral injury to the participant by men who are not only in daily contact with the participants, but who have been participants themselves.

Basketball in Indiana is played as the High School Athletic Association intends that it shall be played; it is not harmful to the boy either physically, mentally, or morally; there is no tangible evidence that it is any more harmful than other athletic activities; attacks are founded upon lack of knowledge and experience as an athlete or with athletes; there are long term evidences as well as current evidences of benefits physically, mentally, and morally from basketball, and if properly coached and supervised, the benefits will be even more marked. Basketball in Indiana is a sane and sound activity, regardless of criticism.

A few of the comments made by principals and coaches will add meaning to the above statements:

"Problem students have often been reached by athletics."

"Just place our high school boys along side non-high school boys or non-athletic boys and note the difference."