

Perry Doc, when you started to talk about what students expect to get from their physical education classes you said the experts talked about character education and teaching boys and girls to become good sports. How does this fit into the picture?

Lapp In the study, the argument for gymnasium classes, that "gym will teach you to be a good sport", was included among the 40 reasons for taking gymnasium work and the percentage of answers is of interest. In school A in a town of 2200 people the gymnasium classes are taught by a man and he conducts the classes for both the boys and the girls. In this school the teacher tried to be a good sport in all his dealings with the students, but he did not preach sportsmanship. Ninety-one per cent of his boys thought they learned to be good sports and 89% of the girls thought the same. Nine out of 10 of every boy and girl in the high school thought they learned to be good sports.

Perry Doc, that is a pretty good average.

Lapp Yes, that is a good average. The results in the other schools were not as uniform. School B located in a town of 15,000 voted somewhat differently; 47% of the boys thought they learned to be good sports, while 90% of the girls in the same school thought they were learning about sportsmanship. If this were the only way of judging, one would say School B had a better teacher for the girls than they had for the boys. While in school C in a town of 27,000 the figures were about reversed - the boy's teacher scored 93% and the girl's teacher 67% on the good sport issue. The fourth school involved in this study was from a city with a population of 150,000 and the score was about even on the good sport issue; 89% of the boys and 85% of the girls seemed to think it was taught in gymnasium classes. And if you will stop and recall, this was the top reason listed by the girls for taking gymnasium classes and was ranked 5th by the boys.

Perry While I was looking over the percentages in this study of pupil objectives, I noticed only one 100% rating. If I remember correctly it was in school C.

Lapp Yes, we have only one 100% item in the study and you are correct about it being school C. If I were that teacher I would trade a month's salary for that compliment. Before I tell you about the item let me tell you about the teacher whose boys ranked the item so highly. It happens that of the seven teachers whose boys and girls participated in this questionnaire study, I am personally well acquainted with six of them. The instructor in boys physical education in school C was a classmate of mine and he comes nearer to being a perfect gentleman than anyone I have ever met. Usually under stress a person will say or do something that will let his friends or associates know that all does not go smoothly within their mental and physical self. Not so with this teacher. He always was a gentleman and a good student. Apparently his boys also had the same reaction as I because they voted 100% that gymnasium classes "will promote the development of students into ladies and gentlemen". I may also add that the superintendent of a large Illinois public school system must also have agreed with the boys and myself for the teacher in