A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL IN THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER THE TEXAS INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE IN 1941

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North

Texas State Teachers College in Partial

Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Ву

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140779
Denton, Texas

August, 1946

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CHAPTER I

ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

For a number of years there had been a need in the fall season for a sport for boys in small high schools in America. To meet this need, many schools had used regular football but, because of the scarcity of boys, had been compelled to abandon the game. Some had tried fall basketball and baseball, but had found that neither seemed to satisfy the needs of the students. Little interest was shown in fall baseball. Again, starting basketball early made the season too long, and interest waned in the latter part of the season.

It is safe to assume that sports are seasonal in America and that there is one particular time in the year when some one sport has more appeal to students and to the public than any other sport. In the fall football is the dominant sport. Even the traditional World Baseball Series is overshadowed by a rising surge of football mania in the early fall.

To meet the need of the small high school for a fall sport, the game of six-man football was created in 1936 by Stephen Epler, coach in the small high school of Chester, Nebraska. There was immediate acceptance of the

game by small high schools in the vicinity of the inventor. Favorable reports of the new game spread rapidly, and in a short time small high schools in other states had accepted the game, one of which was Texas. Rapid strides were made in this new game in Texas.

Statement of the Problem

This study was undertaken to determine the status of six-man football in the public high schools of Texas in 1941, as played under the direction and supervision of the Texas Interscholastic League.

Purposes of the Study

The purposes of the study were as follows:

- 1. To determine to what extent six-man football was meeting the needs of the small high school.
- 2. To determine trends in regard to the organization, administration, and conduct of the game in Texas.
- 3. To compile information that would serve those schools which are now playing six-man football, and those which are considering the adoption of the game.

Limitations of the Study

The study was limited to ninety-eight high schools of Texas which were playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League in 1941.

Definition of Terms

The term six-man football refers to an organized game patterned after eleven-man football, but played with six men according to its own set of rules.

The term Texas Interscholastic League refers to the official organization which promotes and sets regulations for the conduct of extracurricular activities in the public high schools in the state of Texas. One of the most important of these activities is athletics.

Sources of Data

Both documentary and human sources were used in the study. The documentary sources were books, periodicals and athletic journals dealing with the subject of six-man football. The human sources were coaches of six-man football; the Athletic Director of the Texas Interscholastic League; and the author's own experiences as a coach of six-man football for two seasons.

A Survey of Previous Studies

A survey of previous studies in the field of six-man football shows that few pertained to this study. A study was made by Epler in 1938 to determine the number of schools playing six-man football in the United States.

Stephen Epler, "Texas Leads in Six-Man Football", Interscholastic Leaguer, (February 1939), p. 1.

He found that Texas had more schools playing the game than any other state. There was a total of 2153 six-man football teams in the United States in 1938.

Another study was made of the schools in Texas playing six-man football in 1940 by Comalauder. 2 He sent questionnaires to 154 schools representing twenty-three districts and received 127 replies. His purpose in conducting the study was to enable the Texas Interscholastic League to improve the game and to induce a large number of small schools to participate in the sport. This study includes information concerning: (1) the total enrollment of the schools; (2) the size of the traveling squads and provision for traveling; (3) the qualifications of the coaches as shown by experience in teaching and coaching, major field in college, degree held; (4) the salary of the coaches; (5) the facilities and equipment for six-man football; (6) the financial aspects including average gate receipts, expenditure for equipment and awards; (7) the provision of medical care; (8) the type of championship game preferred.

The present study was conducted in 1941. It deals with a larger number of schools and districts. It varies from Comalauder's study in that it is more inclusive in regard to the number of topics covered and the extent to

²Ben W. Comalauder, "Survey of Six-man Football," Texas Outlook, (September, 1941), p. 23.

which the topics are covered. The present study includes an historical sketch of six-man in the United States and in the state of Texas. The purpose of the present study is to serve the small high schools in Texas which are playing six-man football or those which are considering the adoption of the game by giving them information concerning the trends in regard to organization, administration, and conduct of six-man football in Texas.

Procedures

The study involved the following procedures:

- 1. A study was made of the history of six-man football in the United States and in the state of Texas.
- 2. The number of schools playing six-man football was obtained from the Athletic Director of the Texas Inter-scholastic League.
- 3. A detailed questionnaire was constructed and mailed to the coach of each high school in which six-man football was played under the Texas Interscholastic League.
 - 4. Data from the questionnaires were tabulated.
 - 5. The findings of the study were interpreted.
 - 6. Conclusions of the study were drawn.
 - 7. Recommendations for future study were suggested.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF THE SIX-MAN FOOTBALL GAME

In the United States

Six-man football is a game that is American in origin, created by an American in the Twentieth Century, to be added to the long list of sport activities that are the heritage of the sport-loving youth of this generation.

The origin of six-man football paralleled that of basketball in that it was the invention of a single person with the vision to see the need for it and the energy to promote its early development and growth.

Stephen Epler was teaching and coaching at Chester
High School, Chester, Nebraska, in 1933. He keenly felt
the need for a fall sport for his small high school. Chester
had a population of less than one thousand, and the high
school had an enrollment of seventy-four students, only
thirty of whom were boys. Regular eleven-man football was
out of the question. There were thousands of other high

Robert B. Weaver, Amusements and Sports in America, p. 130

schools in the United States having the same difficulty of providing an adequate fall sport. 2

Epler conceived the idea of creating a game similar to football but calling for six players rather than the usual eleven players to a team. He drew up a set of rules, leaving them as much like those of eleven-man football as possible. To make the game more open he required that the player receiving the ball from center pass it to someone else rather than cross the scrimmage line with it himself. The idea of this was to emphasize trick play and reverses, and to discourage straight power play and passes. The kick-off was to be made from the thirty-yard line; quarters were to be ten minutes in length instead of fifteen; forward passes were permissable from any point behind the scrimmage line. To reduce injuries, canvas shoes with rubber soles were declared the official footwear. Otherwise the uniform was the same as that for the regular eleven-man game.

A set of these rules was sent to William Roselins, Director of Athletics at Hebron College, Hebron, Nebraska. Roselins realized the possibilities of six-man football as a sport for small high schools, as well as a means of developing future athletes for the colleges. A meeting was called of the principals and coaches of the neighboring

²Franklin M. Reek, "Play Six-man Football," <u>American</u> <u>Boy</u>, (September, 1937), p. 7.

towns of Chester, Hardy, Alexandria, and Belvidue to try out the new game. The representatives were very much interested in the possibilities of six-man football as a fall sport for their high schools. These representatives recommended that Chester High School and Hardy High School pool their players to form a six-man team and that Belvidue High School and Alexandria High School pool their players to form an opposing six-man team. The two teams were allowed two weeks in which to practice and prepare for their first game.

The first six-man football game in history was played at Hebron, Nebraska, on September 26, 1934, between the Ches-Hards and Belv-Alexes, as the two composite teams called themselves. The game was held at night under flood-lights, and one thousand people were present to witness it. Stephen Epler was referee. Every moment of the game was packed with action and excitement, and when it ended with a final score of nineteen to nineteen, six-man football was declared a success by everyone seeing or participating in it.

The four high schools that participated in the first six-man football game organized their own league and played a six-man football schedule the fall season of 1934. The teams were supported by very enthusiastic citizens of their respective home towns. The citizens of Hardy, Nebraska, became great football supporters. On Thanksgiving Day

nineteen carloads of Hardy citizens and the high school band went along with the team to Alexandria, Nebraska, for the holiday "classic."

The next fall the Little Blue Valley League was organized by the four high schools and the season was played through to a championship.

The game of six-man football spread rapidly throughout Nebraska and neighboring states. Stephen Epler went to Montana and explained the game of six-man football to several of the small high schools there. In 1936 there were thirty-five small Montana high schools playing interscholastic schedules of six-man football. Within two years the state of North Dakota had seventy-two high schools and two hundred consolidated schools playing six-man football. Next a league was formed in Arkansas. In Tennessee the secretary of the state Secondary Schools Athletic Association approved the game of six-man football, and an eight-team league was formed in that state. The game spread rapidly to Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and many other southern, midwestern, and southwestern states.

A survey was made by Stephen Epler in 1938 of all the states playing six-man football during the fall of 1938. The findings were based on the returns from forty-two states.

^{3&}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, p. 7.

The survey showed that a total of 2153 teams were playing six-man football in the United States.⁴

In Texas

The first six-man football game in Texas was played between Sylvester High School and Dowell High School on a neutral field, at Rotan, Texas, in 1936. After a hard-fought first quarter, Sylvester's offense began to work. In the last three quarters she scored three touchdowns, winning the game with a score of eighteen to nothing. That same season a six-man football district was organized in Fisher County, Texas. High schools represented were Sylvester, Hobbs, Dowell, and McCaulley. Sylvester won the league with no defeats in a schedule of seven games. 5

In the survey made by Stephen Epler of all the states playing six-man football it was shown that the state of Texas had more high schools playing six-man football than any other state.

The game of six-man football spread rapidly in the state of Texas. In 1941 there were 163 high schools, divided into twenty-four districts, playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League.

⁴Epler, op. cit., p. 1.

⁵S. S. Jobes, "Fisher County Claims First Texas Six-man Game," <u>Interscholastic Leager</u>, (September, 1939), p. 1.

Epler, op. cit., p. 1.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS

A total of one hundred sixty-three high schools, divided into twenty-four districts, was listed as playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League in 1941. A detailed questionnaire was sent to the coach of each of these high schools. A total of ninety-eight questionnaires, or 60.12%, was answered and returned.

The enrollment of these high schools ranged from twenty to 250 students. The enrollment is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1
ENROLLMENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS STUDIED

Number of Students	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
250-274 225-249 200-224 175-199 150-174 125-149 100-124 75-99 50-74 25-49 0-24 No Answer	1 0 0 3 2 4 20 29 26 10 1 2	1.1 0 0 3.1 2.1 4.2 20.7 30.3 27.0 10.4 1.1
Total	98	100.0

The highest enrollment was 250 students as reported by one school. One school had an enrollment of twenty students. Seventy-eight per cent of the schools had an enrollment that ranged between fifty and 125 students. The average enrollment was 76.8. These findings show that high schools playing six-man football had small enrollments.

The number of boys enrolled in the high schools playing six-man football was exceptionally small, ranging from ten to 109. The enrollment of boys is presented in Table 2. The average enrollment of boys was 41.3. The enrollment of 59.3 per cent of the schools ranged from thirty to fortynine boys. Six schools (6.2%) had enrollments of 100 to 109 boys.

TABLE 2
ENROLLMENT OF BOYS IN HIGH SCHOOLS STUDIED

Number of Boys	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
100-109 90-99 80-89 70-79 60-69 50-59 40-49 30-39 20-29 No Answer	2 1 1 5 11 31 26 12 6 2	2.1 1.1 1.1 5.2 11.4 32.3 27.0 12.5 6.2
Total	98	100.0

Thirteen (13.2%) of the high schools studied were classified as rural, thirty (30.6%) consolidated, fifty-two (53.1%) independent, and three (3.1%) consolidated-independent. The types of schools studied are presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3
CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS STUDIED

Types of Schools	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Independent	52 30 13 3	53.1 30.6 13.2 3.1
Total	98	100.0

The number of years the schools had played eleven-man football ranged from zero to twenty as shown in Table 4. Thirty-two schools (54.3%) had never played eleven-man football, five (8.5%) had played from one to two years, nine (15.3%) from three to five, eight (13.6%) from six to eight, two (3.5%) from nine to eleven, one (1.6%) from twelve to fourteen, one (1.6%) from fifteen to seventeen, and one (1.6%) from eighteen to twenty. Thus, better than fifty-four per cent of the schools had never played football before adopting six-man football. This new game of six-man

football filled a need for a fall sport that had existed for a long time in the small high school.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF YEARS SCHOOLS PLAYED ELEVEN-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Years	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
18-20 15-17 12-14 9-11 6-8 3-5 1-2 0 No Answer	1 1 2 8 9 5 32 39	1.6 1.6 1.6 3.5 13.6 15.3 8.5 54.3
Total	98	100.0

The number of years the schools had played six-man football is presented in Table 5. The range was from one to six years. The average number of years was 3.44. Four schools (41%) had played only one year, ten (10.2%) had played two, thirty-two (33%) had played three, forty-four (45.4%) had played four, four (4.1%) had played five, and three (3.2%) had played six. Thus, seventy-eight per cent of the schools had played six-man football between three and four years.

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF YEARS SCHOOLS HAVE PLAYED SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Years	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
6 5 4 3 2 1 No Answer	3 4 44 32 10 4 1	3.2 4.1 45.4 33.0 10.2 4.1
Total	98	100.0

None of the schools studied were playing both six-man football and eleven-man football. Eighty-six of the coaches answered the question, and twelve did not. These findings are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6
SCHOOLS PLAYING BOTH SIX-MAN FOOTBALL
AND ELEVEN-MAN FOOTBALL

Sport	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Six-man Football Eleven-man Football No Answer	86 0 12	100 0
Total	98	100

The year in which each school began playing six-man football is presented in Table 7. The years ranged from 1936 to 1941. Four schools (4.1%) began playing in 1936, sixteen (16.3%) in 1937, thirty-six (36.7%) in 1938, thirty-one (31.6%) in 1939, seven (7.3%) in 1940, and four (4.1%) in 1941. The Texas Interscholastic League began sponsoring six-man football for the first time in 1938. Very little progress had been made in the spread of the new game until that time. From 1938 to 1941 the game spread rapidly throughout the entire state.

YEARS IN WHICH SCHOOLS BEGAN PLAYING SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Year	, Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
1941 1940 1939 1938 1937	4 7 31 36 16 4	4.1 7.2 31.6 36.7 16.3 4.1
Total	98	100.0

A total of fifty-six (58.8%) of the six-man football coaches questioned had participated in football in college while thirty-nine (41.2%) had not. Three coaches did not

answer the question. The percentage of coaches who had participated in football in college was entirely too low. This information is presented in Table 8.

TABLE 8

COACHES PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Coaches Participating	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
Participating Not Participating No Answer	56 39 3	58.8 41.2
Total	98	100.0

The range in the number of years of coaching experience in eleven-man football of the coaches questioned was from one to eleven. The experience of coaches in eleven-man football is presented in Table 9. The average number of years of coaching experience in eleven-man football was 1.65. Forty coaches (50%) had never coached eleven-man football, twelve (15.2%) had coached one year, nine (11.2%) had coached two, eight (10%) had coached three, one (1.2%) had coached four, four (5%) had coached five, one (1.2%) had coached six, three (3.8%) had coached nine, one (1.2%) had coached ten, and one (1.2%) had coached eleven. Only fifty per cent of the coaches had had previous coaching experience before coaching six-man football.

TABLE 9

COACHING EXPERIENCE IN ELEVEN-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Years	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
119	1 3 0 0 1 4 1 8 9 12 40 18	1.2 1.2 3.8 0.0 0.0 1.2 5.0 1.2 10.0 11.2 15.2 50.0
Total	98	100.0

The coaching experience in six-man football is presented in Table 10. The average number of years of coaching experience in six-man football was 2.17. The range in the number of years of coaching experience in six-man football was from one to seven. Thirty-eight coaches (40%) had coached six-man football one year, twenty-five (26%) had coached two, sixteen (17%) had coached three, twelve (13%) had coached four, two (2%) had coached five, one (1%) had coached six, and one (1%) had coached seven. Six-man football was first adopted in the state of Texas in 1936; therefore two of the coaches, those with six and seven years!

coaching experience, must have coached six-man football in some other state before coming to Texas.

TABLE 10

COACHING EXPERIENCE IN SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Years	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
7 6 4 3 2 1 No Answer	1 1 2 12 16 25 38 3	1 2 13 17 26 40
Total	98	100

A total of thirty-nine coaches reported that they had not participated in football in college. The data for this are presented in Table 11. Of this number, twenty-seven had not coached eleven-man football. Therefore 69.2 per cent

TABLE 11

COACHING EXPERIENCE OF COACHES WHO HAD
NOT EXPERIENCED COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Coaching Experience in Eleven-Man Football	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
Had Coached Had Not Coached	12 27	30.8 69.2
Total	39	100.0

of the coaches, with no participation in football in college, had had no previous coaching experience before they coached six-man football. To obtain the best results, sports should be coached by well qualified personnel.

The major fields of college training of the coaches of six-man football were quite varied, as indicated in Table 12. Thirty-nine (41%) coaches had majored in social science, fifteen (15.3%) in physical education, thirteen (13.2%) in education, thirteen (13.2%) in education, thirteen (13.2%) in science, four (4.1%) in agriculture, two (2%) in industrial education, and one (1%) in language.

TABLE 12

MAJOR FIELD IN COLLEGE OF COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Major Field ,	Number of Coaches	Percentage of coaches
Social Science Physical Education Education Mathematics Science Agriculture Industrial Education. Language No Answer	39 15 13 13 10 4 2 1	41.0 15.3 13.2 13.2 10.2 4.1 2.0
Total	98	100.0

It previously has been shown that thirty-nine coaches had not played football in college. Of this number,

twenty-three (58.9%) had not coached eleven-man football or majored in physical education. This finding indicates that some of the coaches had no background or training of any kind that would qualify them as coaches of six-man football.

The inadequacy of the training of the coaches in the field of physical education is emphasized in Table 13.

The number of semester hours completed in physical education ranged from zero to forty-eight. Five of the coaches (5.4%) had had no semester hours of physical education.

TABLE 13
SEMESTER HOURS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLETED BY COACHES

Semester Hours	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
45-48 41-44 37-40 33-36 29-32 25-28 21-24 17-20 13-16 9-12 5-8 1-4 0 No Answer	1 2 2 1 5 4 6 12 6 20 17 11 5 6	1.1 2.2 2.2 1.1 5.4 4.3 6.7 13.3 6.7 21.5 18.3 11.8
Total	98	100.0

The average number of semester hours of physical education completed by the coaches was 13.08. A total of fifty-nine coaches (63.7%) had less than a minor of eighteen semester hours in physical education, eighteen (20%) had approximately a minor with between seventeen and twenty-four semester hours, and fifteen (16.3%) had a major of twenty-four semester hours or over.

The school position or duties of coaches of six-man football are shown in Table 14. Twenty-two coaches (22.6%) were superintendents, and thirty-seven (38.7%) were principals. A total of fifty-nine of the coaches (61.3%) had administrative duties. Thirty-eight of the coaches (39.2%) were teachers.

TABLE 14
SCHOOL POSITION OF COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Position	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
Teacher Principal Superintendent. Coach (only) No Answer	38 37 22 0 1	39.2 38.2 22.6 0.0
Total	98	100.0

A total of eighty-three coaches answered the question concerning the total number of hours of classroom teaching

performed per week by all coaches. The number of hours of classroom teaching is presented in Table 15. The average number of hours of classroom teaching performed by coaches was 20.5. Six coaches (7.2%) taught thirty to thirty-four hours, twelve (14.5%) taught twenty-five to twenty-nine hours, twenty-nine (35%) taught twenty to twenty-four hours, twenty-six (31.3%) taught sixteen to nineteen hours, seven (8.4%) taught ten to fourteen hours, and three (3.6%) taught five to nine hours. Thus sixty-six per cent of the coaches carried teaching loads of between fifteen and twenty-four hours per week.

TABLE 15

HOURS OF CLASSROOM TEACHING EACH WEEK
BY COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Hours per Week	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
30-34 25-29 20-24 15-19 10-14 5-9 0-4 No Answer	6 12 29 26 7 3 0 15	7.2 14.5 35.0 31.3 8.4 3.6 0.0
Total	98	100.0

Sixty-nine coaches responded to the question concerning duties performed other than administrative, teaching, and coaching. The additional duties of coaches are presented

in Table 16. The most common duties were scout work, community welfare work, and serving as class sponsors, bus drivers, and library custodians. Twenty-five coaches (36.3%) performed these additional duties, while forty-four (63.7%) did not.

TABLE 16

COACHES WHO PERFORMED DUTIES OTHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE WORK, TEACHING, AND COACHING

Additional Duties	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
Other Duties No Other Duties No Answer	25 44 29	36.3 63.7
Total	98	100.0

Seventy-five coaches (84.2%) received no additional pay for their coaching as shown in Table 17. Fourteen

TABLE 17
COACHES WHO RECEIVED EXTRA
REMUNERATION FOR COACHING

Remuneration	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
Extra Pay No Extra Pay No Answer	14 75 9	15.8 84.2
Total	98	100.0

coaches (15.8%) did receive additional pay. The trend indicated that the smaller schools were not paying extra for coaching.

The number of additional sports coached ranged from zero to five as shown in Table 18. The average number was 2.15. Eight coaches (8.3%) had coached no additional sports, twelve (12.5%) had coached one, forty-three (44.8%) had coached two, twenty-four (25%) had coached three, eight (8.3%) had coached four, and one (1.1%) had coached five.

TABLE 18

ADDITIONAL SPORTS COACHED BY COACHES
OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Sports	Number of Coaches	Percentage of Coaches
5	1 8 24 43 12 8 2	1.1 8.3 25.0 44.8 12.5 8.3
Total	98	100.0

Only eight coaches had not coached an additional sport.

The list of additional sports coached is presented in

Table 19. The majority of the coaches listed from one
to four additional sports coached in addition to six-man

football. The sports most frequently coached in addition

to six-man football were track and basketball. Eighty of the coaches listed basketball, sixty-nine listed track, twenty listed playground ball, fourteen listed baseball, thirteen listed tennis, four listed volleyball, two listed boxing, and one listed wrestling. The leading sports in the small high schools were six-man football, basketball, and track. These schools were similar to the large high schools in that they had corresponding seasonal sports, the only exception being in the kind of football played by each.

TABLE 19
LIST OF ADDITIONAL SPORTS COACHED
BY COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Sports	Times	Listed
Basketball		30
Track		39 30
Baseball		.4 3
Volleyball	•	4
Boxing	•	2 2
Wrestling	•	1 8
No Answer		2

A total of eighty coaches answered the question concerning the amounts spent by their high schools in league membership fees for the 1940-41 season. These amounts are presented in Table 20. The range in dollars was from zero to seven. The average amount of money spent was \$2.21.

Fourteen schools (17.5%) paid no league membership fees, while forty-one schools (51.2%) paid fees of two to three dollars.

TABLE 20

AMOUNTS SPENT BY SCHOOLS FOR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP
FEES IN 1940-41

Number of Dollars	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
\$7.00	1 0 6 6 22 19 12 14 18	1.3 7.5 7.5 27.5 23.7 15.0 17.5
Total	98	100.0

Table 21 shows the amounts spent for six-man football equipment by the high schools in 1940-41. The range in amounts spent was from zero to \$150. The average amount of money spent was \$95.05. Twenty-nine high schools (31%) spent from zero to forty-nine dollars, twenty-four (25%) spent from fifty to ninety-nine, thirteen (14%) spent from one hundred to \$149, and twenty-eight (30%) spent \$150 to \$199. Thus seventy per cent of these schools spent less than \$150 for six-man football equipment for the season of 1940-41, showing that the expense of equipment is within the reach of most high schools.

TABLE 21

AMOUNTS SPENT BY SCHOOLS FOR SIX-MAN FOOTBALL
EQUIPMENT IN 1940-41

Number of Dollars	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
\$150.00-\$199.00 100.00- 149.00 50.00- 99.00 0.00- 49.00 No Answer	28 13 24 29 4	30 14 25 31
Total	98	100

Ninety-eight coaches of six-man football listed the amounts spent by their high schools for officials per game. The amounts are presented in Table 22. The amounts ranged from zero to fifteen dollars. The average amount of money spent by all schools was $\psi 6.34$. Twenty-eight (28.5%) spent

TABLE 22
COST OF OFFICIALS PER SIX-MAN FOOTBALL GAME

Number of Dollars	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
\$15.00-\$19.00 10.00-14.00 5.00- 9.00 0.00- 4.00	2 13 55 28	2.0 13.4 56.1 28.5
Total	98	100.0

between zero and four dollars, fifty-five (66.1%) between five and nine, thirteen (13.4%) between ten and fourteen, and two (2%) fifteen. Thus a total of eighty-five per cent of the high schools paid less than ten dollars a game for officials.

The game attendance on the average at the six-man football games as reported by the coaches ranged from fifty to 449 people. The game attendance is presented in Table 23. The average of the attendance reported was 203.5. Six high schools (6.7%) had an average attendance between fifty and ninety-nine, twenty-four (27%) had 100 to 149, eighteen (20.2%) had 150 to 199, eighteen (20.2%) had 200 to 249, eight (9%) had 250 to 299, ten (11.2%) had 300 to 349, one (1.2%) had 350 to 399, and four (4.5%) had 400 to 499.

TABLE 23

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT SIX-MAN FOOTBALL GAMES

Game Attendance	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
400-449 350-399 300-349 250-299 200-249 150-199 100-149 50-99	4 1 10 8 18 18 24 6 9	4.5 1.2 11.2 9.0 20.2 20.2 27.0 6.7
Total	98	100.0

Considering the size of the towns and high schools supporting six-man football the game attendance was high, showing that the game was popular with the students and the public.

The admission fee charged for six-man football games is presented in Table 24. The admission fee ranged from zero to twenty cents for students. Ten high schools (11%) had no admission fee, one (1%) charged five cents, fifty-seven (58%) charged ten cents, twenty-nine (29%) charged fifteen cents, and one (1%) charged twenty cents. The average charge for students was 12.5 cents. The range of admission for adults was from zero to thirty-five cents. The average charge for adults was 25.1 cents. Five schools (5.1%) charged their adults nothing, ten (10.1%) charged fifteen cents, six (6.3%) charged twenty cents, sixty-three (64.9%) charged twenty-five cents, eleven (11.3%)

TABLE 24

ADMISSION FEE FOR SIX-MAN FOOTBALL GAMES

Admission Fee	Students	Percentage of Schools	Public	Percentage of Schools
\$0.35 .25 .20 .15 .10 .05 .00	0 0 1 29 57 1 10	0 •• 1 29 58 1 11	2 11 63 6 10 0 0 5	2.3 11.3 64.9 6.3 10.1
Total	98	100.00	98	100.00

charged thirty cents, and two (2.3%) charged thirty-five cents. It is seen that admission charges were not prohibitive. From the findings concerning the game plus the findings on the admission charged, it is seen that the receipts from the game attendance netted a considerable share of the financial cost of the game.

The financial arrangements used between competing teams as reported by ninety-seven coaches of six-man football are presented in Table 25. Four types of arrangements were indicated from the study. The most popular type seemed to be the "home and home" basis with no cash involved.

TABLE 25
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN COMPETING
SIX-MAN FOOTBALL TEAMS

Type of Agreement	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Home and Home Basis with No Cash Involved	66	68.0
Percentage of the Gate Receipts	11	11.4
Cash Guarantee for Visiting Team	10	10.3
Combination Cash Guar- antee and Percentage	10	10.3
No Answer	1	• • •
Total	98	100.0

Sixty-six high schools (68%) favored this type of arrangement. Eleven schools (11.4%) used a system whereby each team received a certain "percentage" of the gate receipts. Ten schools (10.3%) used a "cash guarantee" for the visiting team. Ten schools (10.3%) used a combination "cash guarantee" and "percentage" basis for handling their financial arrangement.

That six-man football ordinarily is not entirely self-supporting is shown by Table 26. Sixty-six (67.3%) of the ninety-eight coaches reporting found this to be true, while thirty-two coaches (32.7%) found the game to be self-supporting.

TABLE 26
FINANCIAL STATUS OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL IN THE SCHOOLS

Financial Status	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Self-supporting	32	32.7
Not Self-supporting	66	67.3
Total	98	100.0

The high schools finding the six-man football program not self-supporting used various methods for removing financial deficits as shown in Table 27. Thirty schools (48.4%) used other school funds, twenty schools (32.4%) used special

programs, six schools (9.6%) depended upon other athletics, and six schools (9.6%) called upon outside civic organizations for aid. Thus fifty-six (90.4%) of the total of sixty-two schools reporting were able to remove their deficits by use of other income received by the school. The majority of the schools found that six-man football could be financed with no undue burden on the school or the community.

TABLE 27

METHODS FOR REMOVING FINANCIAL DEFICITS

Methods	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
School Funds Special Programs Other Athletics Civic Organizations No Answer	30 20 6 6 36	48.4 32.4 9.6 9.6
Total	98	100.0

Sixty-four schools (65.2%) furnished medical care for injured players as shown in Table 28. Thirty-four (34.8%) schools furnished no medical care. Thirty-six of the coaches did not answer the question. The coaches of the four schools which did not furnish medical care stated that the school arranged individual insurance for the players, but the players were obliged to pay for this protection.

TABLE 28
PROVISION FOR MEDICAL CARE FOR INJURED PLAYERS

Medical Care	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Furnished Medical Care	64	65.2
Did Not Furnish Medical Care	34	34.8
Total	98	100.0

All schools were asked whether they required physical examinations of the players before allowing them to participate in six-man football. This information is presented in Table 29. Of the ninety-seven schools answering the question, forty-four (45.4%) required physical examinations, while fifty-three (54.6%) did not. The percentage of those schools not requiring physical examinations is entirely

TABLE 29
PROVISION FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Physical Examinations	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Examination Required Not Required No Answer	44 53 1	45.4 54.6
Total	98	100.0

too high. Physical examinations are for the physical welfare and protection of the players. They likewise offer protection to the schools in case of serious injuries.

Data regarding the approximate size of the squads for six-man football in the high schools in Texas are presented in Table 30. The squads ranged in size from six to twenty-nine players. The average size of the squads was 15.05. Of a total of ninety-seven coaches replying to the question-naire, forty-five schools (66.3%) had squads of fifteen to nineteen boys, forty-four (45.3%) had ten to fourteen, six (6.2%) had twenty to twenty-four, one (1%) had only five to nine. Eighty-nine schools (91.6%) had squads of only ten to nineteen. Thus the game of six-man football was conducted in the small high schools in the state of Texas with a very limited number of boys.

TABLE 30

APPROXIMATE SIZE OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL SQUAD

Number of Players	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
25-29 20-24 15-19 10-14 5-9 No Answer	1 6 45 44 1 1	1.0 6.2 46.3 45.3 1.0
Total	98	100.0

That six-man football was accepted as a major sport in the small high schools in Texas was evidenced by the great majority of the schools which awarded letters for participation in the game. Schools which awarded letters in six-man football are presented in Table 31. Ninety-five schools (96.9%) awarded letters for participation in six-man football, while three (3.1%) did not.

TABLE 31
PRACTICE IN AWARDING LETTERS IN SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

School Policy	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Awarded Letters	95	96.9
Did not Award Letters	3	3.1
Total	98	100.0

The number of men awarded letters in six-man football in the high schools in Texas in 1941 is shown in Table 32. The range was from zero to seventeen. Of the eighty-nine schools reporting, fifty-two (58.4%) awarded five to nine letters, thirty-one (35%) awarded ten to fourteen, three (3.3%) awarded fifteen to nineteen, and three (3.3%) awarded zero to four. The average number of men lettering was 8.9. It was shown previously that the average size of the six-man

football squad was 15.4; therefore better than fifty per cent of the men on the squads earned letters.

TABLE 32

NUMBER OF MAN AWARDED LETTERS IN SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Number of Men	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
15-19 10-14 5-9 0-4 No Answer	3 31 52 3 9	3.3 35.0 58.3 3.3
Total	98	100.0

The types of awards given by the schools for lettering in six-man football were varied, as shown in Table 33, ranging from those having intrinsic value to those having extrinsic value. Eighty-one schools (84.3%), both large and small, gave awards having intrinsic value, such as sweaters and jackets, while fifteen (10.5%) of the smaller schools only made awards having extrinsic value, such as miniature footballs, certificates, or numerals. The trend seemed to be toward making awards which would recognize athletic activity and at the same time serve a practical purpose; the most popular of such awards were sweaters and jackets. It will be noted that only five schools (5.2%) did not make any type of award.

TABLE 33

TYPE OF AWARDS GIVEN FOR LETTERING IN SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Type of Award	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Sweaters Jackets Numerals Miniature Footballs. Certificates No Awards No Answer	48 33 6 2 2 5 2	50.0 34.3 6.3 2.1 2.1 5.2
Total	98	100.0

Fifteen schools (15.5%) that were playing six-man football in 1941 had lighted fields. The information concerning the schools having lighted fields is presented in Table 34. The majority of the schools, eighty-two (84.5%),

TABLE 34
FACILITIES FOR LIGHTED FOOTBALL FIELDS

Facilities	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Equipped with Lighted Field Not Equipped with Lighted Field No Answer	15 82 1	15.5 84.5
Total	98	100.0

had to depend entirely on daylight games or on night games on a neutral field that was lighted. Of the fifteen larger schools equipped for night games, most had been so equipped previously for eleven-man football.

All ninety-eight of the schools reporting furnished some type of uniform for their six-man football players as shown in Table 35. Six-man football shoes were furnished by only forty-four (45.4%) of the ninety-seven schools reporting.

TABLE 35
PROVISION FOR FURNISHING UNIFORMS AND SHOES

Uniforms and Shoes	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Uniforms Furnished	98 0	100
Total	98	100
Shoes Furnished Not Furnished No Answer	44 53 1	45.4 54.6
Total	98	100.0

Of ninety-eight schools reporting, eighty-five considered their six-man football uniforms adequate in number and type, while thirteen (13.3%) did not. This information is presented in Table 36.

TABLE 36
SCHOOLS WHICH HAD UNIFORMS ADEQUATE IN NUMBER AND TYPE

Uniforms	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Adequate in Number and Type	85	86.7
Not Adequate in Number and Type	13	13.3
Total	98	100.0

The number of games engaged in each season by the schools playing six-man football in 1941 is shown in Table 37. They ranged from six to ten games. Eight schools (8.1%) played six games, fourteen (14.2%) played seven,

TABLE 37

NUMBER OF FOOTBALL GAMES PLAYED PER SEASON

Number of Games	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
10 9 8 7 6	17 24 35 14 8	17.2 24.4 36.1 14.2 8.1
Total	98	100.0

thirty-five (36.1%) played eight, twenty-four (24.4%) played nine, and seventeen (17.2%) played ten. The average number of games per season was 8.3, indicating that most schools played schedules lasting from two to three months.

Sixty-seven (69.4%) out of a total of ninety-five schools replied that they participated in Bi-District Championship games, while twenty-eight (30.6%) did not. The number of schools that participated in Bi-District Championship games is presented in Table 38. A large majority of the schools participated in Bi-District Championship games, indicating that the game of six-man football was well established as the fall sport for the small high schools.

TABLE 38

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN BI-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Participation	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Participated Did Not Participate No Answer	67 28 3	69.4 30.6
Total	98	100.0

The reactions of the student bodies of the schools towards six-man football as reported by the coaches in Table 39, were favorable as a whole, ranging from "satisfactory" to "excellent." Twenty-four coaches failed to answer the question on the students' reaction to six-man football. No schools reported that the game was "unsatisfactory." Of the seventy-four coaches reporting, six (8.2%) showed "satisfactory," twelve (16.2%) showed "fair," thirty-two (43.2%) showed "good," and twenty-four (32.4%) showed "excellent." Four coaches added that the students liked the game much better than they had liked eleven-man football.

TABLE 39

REACTIONS OF STUDENT BODIES TOWARDS
SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Rating , ,	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Excellent Good Fair Satisfactory Unsatisfactory No Answer	24 32 12 6 0 24	32.4 43.2 16.2 8.2
Total	98	100.0

Ninety-five per cent of the schools planned to continue playing six-man football as indicated in Table 40. Only five schools (5.5%) indicated that they would probably discontinue the game; of the five, one intended to resume elevenman football, while the other four schools indicated that they could not continue six-man teams due to shortages of players.

TABLE 40

SCHOOLS THAT PLAN TO CONTINUE PLAYING SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Plans	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Plans to Continue Plans to Discontinue No Answer	87 5 6	94.5 5.5
Total	98	100.0

All ninety-four coaches (100%) reporting gave their whole-hearted approval of six-man football for the small high school. They also added that they would recommend the game for use in other small high schools. This is shown in Table 41.

TABLE 41

COACHES WHO RECOMMEND SIX-MAN FOOTBALL
FOR USE IN OTHER SCHOOLS

Recommendations :	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Would Recommend Would Not Recommend No Answer	94 O 4	100 0
Total	98	100

Without exception the ninety-eight coaches (100%) replied that they considered six-man football the best possible substitute for the eleven-man game when scarcity of boys, lack of finances, or a combination of both rendered eleven-man football impracticable.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of the Study

The present study was undertaken to determine the status of six-man football in the public high schools under the Texas Interscholastic League in 1941. The study should furnish valuable information to all schools that are interested in six-man football as a fall sport. The study was limited to those high schools playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League in 1941. Sources of data were both documentary and human. A survey of other studies was made.

A detailed questionnaire was constructed and mailed to the coaches of the 163 high schools playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League in 1941. Ninety-eight or 60.12 per cent of these questionnaires were completed and returned. The history of six-man football in the United States and in Texas was included in the study. The findings were computed, analyzed, and conclusions drawn.

Summary of the Findings

From an analysis of the data procured in pursuit of this survey the summary of the findings is as follows:

- 1. The high schools in Texas playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League had small total enrollments and small enrollments of boys.
- 2. Fifty-two of the high schools studied were classified as independent, thirty were consolidated, thirteen were rural, and three were consolidated-independent.
- 3. Six-man football was first adopted by the high schools in Texas in 1936. The Texas Interscholastic League began sponsoring it for the first time in 1938. By 1941 there were 163 high schools playing six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League. Seventy-six schools (78.4%) had played six-man football between three and four years.
- 4. The coaching experience and college preparation in physical education of the coaches of six-man football were inadequate. Only fifteen coaches out of a total of ninety-eight had majored in physical education.
- 5. Thirty-nine of the coaches of six-man football had not played football in college.
- 6. The average number of years coaching experience in the eleven-man football by the coaches was 1.65.
- 7. The average number of years coaching experience in six-man football by the coaches was 2.17.
- 8. A majority of the coaches had administrative duties which allowed insufficient time for coaching.

- 9. The average number of hours of classroom teaching performed each week by the coaches was 20.5.
- 10. The remuneration for coaching was inadequate, 82.2 per cent of the coaches receiving no additional pay for their coaching.
- 11. The majority of the coaches listed from one to four sports coached in addition to six-man football.
- 12. The average amount of money spent for league membership fees by the schools in 1941 was \$2.21.
- 13. The average amount of money spent for football equipment by the schools in 1941 was \$99.05.
- 14. The average amount of money spent by the schools for officials per game was \$\infty 6.34.
- 15. The game of six-man football was popular with both the students and the public. The average attendance as reported by the coaches was 203.5.
- 16. The average charge for admission to the six-man football games for the students was 12.5 cents, and for the adults it was 25.1 cents.
- 17. The most popular financial arrangement between the competing teams was the "home and home" basis with no cash involved.
- 18. Only thirty-two schools found six-man football to be self-supporting. However, none of the schools had any difficulty in making up the deficit.

- 19. The medical care for players of six-man football was entirely inadequate. Thirty-four schools furnished no medical care of any kind.
- 20. Too few of the schools required physical examinations of all players before participating in six-man football.
- 21. Six-man football squads were extremely small. The average size of the squad was 15.05.
- 22. Adequate awards were given by the schools for lettering in six-man football. The majority of the schools awarded sweaters and jackets.
- 23. Only fifteen of the schools had lighted football fields for night games.
- 24. All of the schools furnished uniforms for their sixman football teams. However, only forty-four schools furnished shoes for their players.
- 25. The average number of games engaged in each season by the schools was 8.3.
- 26. A majority of the schools participated in Bi-District Chanpionship games.
- 27. The ratings given six-man football as listed by the coaches ranged from "satisfactory" to "excellent." No coach listed the game "unsatisfactory."
- 28. Ninety-five per cent of the schools planned to continue playing six-man football.
- 29. All ninety-four coaches reporting gave their wholehearted approval of six-man football for the small high school.

30. Without exception the ninety-eight coaches replied that they considered six-man football the best possible substitute for eleven-man football in the small high school.

Conclusions of the Study

- 1. Six-man football has achieved a desirable status in Texas. The game is now serving as a seasonal fall sport for a large number of small high schools in the state. The game is popular with both the students and the public.
- 2. The game of six-man football was well adapted to the small high school due to the fact that it required a small number of boys, and the financial requirements for the conduct of the game were not prohibitive.
- 3. In 1941, when this study was made, the reports from the ninety-eight schools indicated that six-man football was being conducted as a well defined major sport in the small high schools. The teams had definite schedules, Bi-District Championship games were engaged in, officials were provided, league membership fees were required, gate receipts were obtained, and awards were given to the men for lettering in six-man football.
- 4. There is a need for the schools to provide well trained coaches for six-man football.
- 5. There is a need for the schools to recognize the importance of providing physical examinations for all players

before participating in six-man football, and of furnishing medical care for players who are injured.

Recommendations of the Study

- 1. All coaches of six-man football should be required to have at least a minor of eighteen semester hours in physical education and some experience in college football.
- 2. Every high school should hire a well qualified coach to handle their sports program.
- 3. Coaches should receive additional remuneration for their coaching.
- 4. All high schools should provide medical care for injured players and physical examinations prior to participation in six-man football.
- 5. All high schools should furnish both uniforms and shoes for their players in six-man football.

Recommendations for Further Study

Two suggestions are made for further study of six-man football. They are:

- 1. A study similar to the present study but including the years from 1942 to date.
- 2. A study to determine what influence World War II had on six-man football in the small high schools in the state of Texas.

APPENDIX I

LETTER SENT TO THE COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Dear Sir:

I have learned from Mr. R. J. Kidd, athletic director of the Interscholastic League, that your school plays sixman football. I am making a study on the status of sixman football in Texas, and the material is to be used in a thesis for my Master's degree. The information concerning your high school will be very valuable in the study. Therefore I wish to ask whether you will be so kind as to fill in the enclosed questionnaire.

All information which you give will be strictly confidential, and no names will be mentioned in the study. If there are any questions you had rather not answer, omit those.

The enclosed business reply envelope is for your convenience.

Thank you for your time and kindness.

Sincerely yours,

J. Ross Jones

APPENDIX II

A QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO THE COACHES OF SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Directions: These questions are to furnish material for a study to determine the status of six-man football under the Texas Interscholastic League. Will you please fill in the following questions as accurately as possible concerning your high school? Please return to J. Ross Jones, Assistant Football Coach, Austin High School, El Paso,
Texas.
1. How many years has your school played football? Eleven-man? Six-man? Does your school play eleven-man now? When did you start six-man football?
2. How many football games do you usually play? Does your district participate in bi-district games for the championship?
3. What admission do you charge for games? Students? Adults? Average game attendance?
4. Approximately how much do your officials cost you per game? Referee? Umpire? Head lineman?
5. Do you have a lighted football field?
6. Do teams in your district give the visiting team a cash guarantee? If so, how much? Does the visiting team play for a percentage of the gate receipts? If so, what per cent? Do teams play on a home and home basis with no cash involved?
7. Is your football program self-supporting? If not, how is the deficit removed?
8. Does your school require players to pass a physical examination before participation? Does the school furnish medical care for injured players?
9. How many boys do you usually have on your football squad? Do you award letters? What kind of awards are given How many men lettered last year?

Questionnaire--Continued

10. What is your present high school enrollment? Of this number, approximately how many are boys?
ll. Is your school rural, consolidated, independent? (Underscore correct one).
12. Approximately how much did you spend for football equipment last year? What is the approximate value of all six-man football equipment you have on hand now?
13. Does the school furnish uniforms for the players? Shoes? Are the uniforms adequate in number and type?
14. How much did you pay in league membership fees last year for six-man football?
When? . What is your college major? . Minor?
16. What courses do you teach? How many hours of classroom teaching do you do each week? Do you receive pay for coaching other than a regular teacher's salary?
17. List other duties you attend to besides your coaching and teaching?
18. What other sports do you coach other than six-man foot-ball?
19. How long have you coached football? Eleven-man? Six-man?
20. List reasons why your school plays six-man football?
21. Do you plan to continue with six-man football?
22. Would you recommend other schools to use six-man foot-ball?
23. List in the space below the reasons you think it is, or is not, a satisfactory game.

Questionnaire--Continued

24. What has been the react man football as an activity	cions of your student body to six-
25. List the characteristic make it a satisfactory or u	s of the game which you consider insatisfactory game.
	•
	Name
	Title
	School
	City

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