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Sport and economic growth in the Windsor area 1919 to 1939.

George Douglas. Short

University of Windsor

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SPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE WINDSOR AREA

1919 TO 1939

A Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies through the
Faculty of Physical and Health Education in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the degree of
Master of Physical Education at the
University of Windsor

by

George Douglas Short

B. P. E., University of Alberta, 1964
B. Ed., University of Calgary, 1968

Windsor, Ontario, Canada
1972
ABSTRACT

University of Windsor

SHORT, GEORGE DOUGLAS

Sport and Economic Growth in the Windsor area, 1919 to 1939.
(Alan Metcalfe)

The main focus of this study was to examine the relationship between economic growth and organized league sport in the Windsor area from 1919 to 1939. Amateur sport appeared as the only facet of athletic competition adversely affected by changes in the economic conditions. In particular, it was found to parallel the marked decline evidenced in the local economy during the early years of the 1930's. This may be attributed to the fact that sponsorship of amateur teams, by factories, business concerns, clubs, and church organizations showed a marked decrease during this period. High school, university, and professional sport was not seriously affected by local economic conditions experienced. Facilities especially created for them during the prosperity of the 1920's, coupled with their unique means of support, served to maintain these facets of sport locally.

A sub-problem of this study was concerned with what effect the depression had on the development of organized sport in the
Windsor area. The depression served as a catalyst to develop organized sport in this area; however, it was not able to stimulate league competition because of the local condition of the economy. As a result, there was a noticeable increase in organized amateur sport but not league competition.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is deeply grateful to Dr. Alan Metcalfe who acted as chairman of the thesis committee and who has continually offered his assistance, advice, and encouragement throughout the entire graduate program.

Sincerest thanks are offered to committee members Dr. R. J. Moriarty and Dean C. P. Crowley for their genuine interest in this study and for their expert direction particularly in the areas of the "Focused Interview" and arrangement of the thesis.

Appreciation is extended to the Reference Staff at Carnegie Library for their assistance during the newspaper research; those members of the Data Processing Class at Sandwich Secondary School, who key punched the many computer cards; Mr. Mike Gloster, for his proof reading of the final draft; Mr. Joe Tomc, for the hours spent preparing the figures; and a dear friend, Mrs. Marilyn Haugh, for the outstanding typing job she has done. In addition, thanks is extended to those thirteen gentlemen who gave freely of their time to make this study possible.

Finally, to my wife, Margaret, sincere gratitude for being so patient and understanding during the past three years.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

THE DECADE began with rich promise of prosperity. Prices were rising and business was flourishing. A world war had ended victoriously for the Allies, and uninterrupted progress seemed assured.\(^1\)

The third decade of the twentieth century marked the beginning of rapid economic growth in the Windsor area. Following the First World War, this area experienced prosperity unprecedented in its history. The period from 1930-1933 saw a decline in the economy of the area as a result of the financial depression. However, by 1935, Windsor ranked fourth in value of products manufactured in this country.\(^2\) This trend was to continue through the Second World War.

Need for the Study

There has been no work done specifically on the development of organized sports competition in the Windsor area. Laurendeau,\(^3\) in his thesis, points out that the 1920's saw the beginning of organized sport in this area. However, the nature of his study did not lend itself to any elaboration of this issue.

The author of this study made a prior investigation involving the time period from 1911 to 1920 in the Windsor area. It was found that economic conditions, urbanization, and industrialization were all key factors in every phase of endeavour during that time of the decade.
Consequently, the relationship between organized sport and economics posed an interesting problem.

This area is rich in history of sport because of unique patterns of development. It is hoped that this study will provide some insight into the nature of this development. And possibly, the findings may add to the body of knowledge in the history of sport which is severely lacking in this area.

Statement of the Problem

The main problem of this study was to examine the relationship between economic growth and organized sport in the Windsor area from 1919 to 1939. Specifically, the study focused on the development of league competition, which is one facet of organized sport. This distinction is necessary in order to clarify the stated problem.

There is one sub-problem, stated as a question, that is adherent to the main problem:

(1) What effect did the depression have on the development of organized sport in the Windsor area?

Review of Related Literature

There have been four studies conducted on the history of sport which have relevance to this discussion. Two of these deal with the factors that effected the development of organized sport in Canada prior to 1920. Of the remaining studies, one presents a chronological history while the other an interpretative account of sport in the
Windsor area during the time period under investigation.

Jobling, in his study, considered the effects of technological changes on the development of sport in nineteenth century Canada. He found that sport tended to reflect the changes in society caused by invention and technological innovations related to advancements in communication, transportation, urbanization, and industrialization. Directly related to sport were the improvements in sports equipment and facilities which the advancements in technology helped to produce. Consequently, the environment created by these technological changes was conducive to the rise of organized sport in this country.

Jones conducted an investigation of sport in Canada from 1900 to 1920. His study focused on the effect of the woman's role, schools and universities, amateur and professionalism, international competition, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., the church, ethnic groups, and the First World War on sport in this country. The trends identified during these two decades indicated a development of national and international competition, greater involvement of women in sport, and the allocation of sport to a higher position in our society. As a result, by 1920, sport in Canada was available to every person regardless of his social class.

The "History of Sport in Essex County, Ontario" written by John Staley provides a chronological history of sport in this area since the initial settlement. There has been no serious attempt to interpret
what occurred during the particular time period under investigation.

The study certainly provides a wealth of background material that
would be invaluable to a historian of sport examining patterns of
development in this section of the province.

Laurendeau, in his thesis, gives insight into the development
of sport in this area during the 1920's. His study, which does not
focus specifically on organized sport, indicates tremendous growth
in the Windsor area. The development of sport organizations, local
teams withdrawing from Michigan competition, and entry into provin-
cial and national sport structures are all examples of this expansion.
However, the main factor would appear to be the rapid population
increase which engulfed this area during the decade.

Definition of Terms

Sport - Structured and regulated activities of gross human move-
ment, characterized by rules and competition, manifest in physically
active and minimally active games, athletic, combat, conquest, and
transportation contests and organized active recreation.

Organized Sport - Structured or organized sport arises with the
development of intra-club, inter-club, league, provincial, national,
international, professional, and interscholastic competition.

Organized League Sport - One facet of organized sport in which
teams compete in regularly scheduled competition which ultimately
leads to a league championship.
Windsor Area - Refers to the population configuration evidenced in Windsor, Walkerville, East Windsor (Ford City), and Sandwich. In 1935, these four centers were amalgamated into the City of Windsor. 9

Economic Growth - Refers to an increase in a nation's or area's capacity to produce goods and services coupled with an increase in production of these goods and services. This would include such factors as number of employees, salaries and wages, and the gross value of products manufactured. 10

Leisure - A state of being in which activity is performed for its own sake or as its own end. 11

Work - Effort or exertion done typically to make a living or keep a house. 12

Free Time - Involves the time spent off the job that is not considered either work or leisure. 13

Urbanization - The process by which urban areas merge and develop out of the interaction of economic, technological, and socio-cultural influences. 14

Technological Growth - Refers to changes in production and manufacturing in addition to improvements in transportation and communication. 15

Industrialization - The transition from a rural to an urban manufacturing orientated environment.
Amateur - An individual that participates in a specific activity as a pastime.

Professional - An individual that participates in a specific activity as a source of livelihood.

High School - A secondary institution that includes the grades nine through thirteen.

University - A post-secondary institution of advanced learning.

Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

The major limitation of this study is the amount of related literature available. With the exception of Laurendeau's thesis, no other historical research has been conducted in the Windsor area. However, major trends in Canada observed by other historians of sport may be applicable to this area in certain instances.

A second limitation involved the selection of subjects for the focused interviews. Although those selected exhibited expertise in their particular area, additional subjects with a broad knowledge of sport in the Windsor area were not available for interview. Consequently, the maximum amount of return from this type of research technique may have been limited.

There were three major delimitations that were employed in this study. The Windsor area was chosen because the four centers that comprise it were all very influential in the overall development of the area. Secondly, the period from 1919 to 1939 was a convenient
time span to cover as it coincided with the ending of one and the beginning of another world war. And finally, the focus on league competition appeared to be the most tangible facet of organized sport that could be examined in this investigation.

Sources of Data

The primary sources for this study include:

1. Audio tape interviews with former athletes, spectators, coaches, officials, and organizers of sport in the Windsor area from 1919 to 1939.


3. The local newspapers, which included the Border Cities Star and the Windsor Daily Star.

4. Additional sources contained in the "Review of Related Literature" and Bibliography.

Focused Interview

The audio tape interviews used in this study took the form of the Focused Interview developed by Merton and Kendall. Superficially this technique might appear quite similar to other types of research interviews; however, the distinctive characteristics of the Focused Interview are as follows:

1. The interviewees are known to have been involved in a particular situation (member of an organization, etc.).
2. The investigator has provisionally analysed the situation (content analysis) and developed working hypotheses regarding the various events of the situation.

3. The content analysis leads to the information of an interview guide or research model which contains the major areas of inquiry and which also determines the criteria for the collection of relevant information.

4. The interview focuses on the subjective experiences of the interviewee in order to ascertain his personal definition of the situation.  

Content analysis is an important part of the focused interview. With this prior knowledge, the interviewer can distinguish the objective facts of the situation from the subjective definitions of the interviewees. Therefore the interviewer can play a more active role in the interview by focusing upon the significant aspects of the situation. Moreover, he can introduce effective cues of the situation (verbal or visual) which will produce a comprehensive report of responses by the interviewees. The investigator then uses the multitude of responses to test the validity of the hypotheses derived from historical theory and the prior analysis. Furthermore, the interviewer can effectively determine the unanticipated responses concerning the situation, thus creating new hypotheses.  

The sample for the interviews was compiled mainly on the basis
of newspaper research conducted by the investigator. However, at
the conclusion of each interview the subject was asked to recommend
any other persons that they felt would contribute to the study.
Included among those interviewed were athletes, spectators, coaches,
officials, and organizers.

Organization of the Paper

Chapter I presented the study through the introduction, need for
the study, statement of the problem, review of related literature,
deinition of terms, limitations and delimitations, and sources of
data used in the study. The aim of this chapter is to establish the
tone for the remainder of the paper. Chapter II deals with the
economic conditions in the Windsor area during the time period under
discussion. The purpose of this section is to present the basic
figures on number of employees, salaries and wages, gross value
of products manufactured, population, and building construction in
this area.

Chapter III considers amateur sport in the Windsor area
between 1919 and 1939. Particular attention will be focused on
organized league development in the sports of baseball, basketball,
bowling, football, hockey, soccer, and softball. Chapter IV
includes both high school and university sport. The factors
affecting the development of league competition in both cases will
be examined.
Chapter V examines the growth of professional sport here during the two decades. It will be divided into league as well as non-league sport depending on the nature of the competition. And finally, Chapter VI presents the findings and conclusions, and offers some appropriate discussion as a result.
FOOTNOTES


7 Laurendeau, op. cit., pp. 79-80.


12Ibid., p. 246.

13Ibid., p. 348.

14Jobling, op. cit., p. 328.

15Ibid., p. 331.


19Ibid., p. 2.
CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economic conditions evidenced in the Windsor area between 1919 and 1939 fall into three distinct patterns. They include the years (1) 1919 to 1929, (2) 1930 to 1933, and (3) 1934 to 1939. These are based on such variables as number of employees, salaries and wages, and the gross value of products manufactured. In addition, population data and building construction statistics are also important indicators of the relative prosperity of an area.

1919 to 1929

The third decade of the twentieth century marked the beginning of rapid economic growth in the Windsor area. Following the First World War to the onset of the depression, this area experienced prosperity unprecedented in its history. An examination of Figs. 1, 2 and 3 will indicate that the combined totals for employment, salaries and wages, and gross value of products manufactured all nearly tripled between 1919 and 1929.

The economy of this area was closely related to the production of automobiles. By 1920, both Ford Motor Company and General Motors had established plants here and begun production. In 1922, Ford decided to increase its plant capacity by some 400 per cent.
Fig. 1. Number of Employees - Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich, Combined Total, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 2. Salaries and Wages - Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich, Combined Total, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 3. Gross Value of Products - Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich, Combined Total, 1919 - 1939.
This addition was to increase their employment to 10,000 men which was almost the total combined population of Ford City and Walker-ville at that time. The significance of this development is even more apparent when it is noted that in 1923 there were only 11,780 persons employed in this area.

The rapid population growth in the Windsor area during the third decade of the twentieth century paralleled the economic prosperity that was taking place. Fig. 4 shows that between 1919 and 1929, the combined total population for the area more than doubled. However, even more significant is the fact that this population total would not be surpassed until after the Second World War.

The 1920's saw a great boom in building construction in this area. Table 1 indicates that in the City of Windsor along construction was at an all time high. The pattern was similar in the other three centers of Sandwich, East Windsor and Walkerville. In 1920, building permits issued in the Windsor area totalled nearly six million dollars. By 1925, this area ranked third in Canada as regards to the value of buildings erected during the previous year. This trend was to continue until 1929 when an estimated eleven million dollars in construction was to be undertaken.

The economic affluence evident in the Windsor area during the 1920's was to come to an end with the crash of the Wall Street stock
Fig. 4. Population Data for the Windsor Area - Windsor, East Windsor, (Ford City), Sandwich, Walkerville, Combined Total, 1919 - 1939.
Table I

Building Statistics

(Old City of Windsor from 1917 to 1935 inclusive
New City of Windsor from 1936 to 1939 inclusive)\textsuperscript{10}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. Permits</th>
<th>Estimated Value</th>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>$1,161,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>570,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>2,601,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>4,850,310</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>5,123,150</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>1,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
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market in 1929. 15 Initially, this world-wide financial collapse did not have a tremendous effect on the local economy and as a result those in business felt a rapid recovery was eminent. 16 However, this was not to be the case and the Windsor area realized the full impact of the depression between 1930 and 1933 (See Figs. 1, 2, 3).

The combined totals for employment, salaries and wages, and the gross value of products manufactured in the Windsor area declined sharply during the early years of the decade. Unemployment figures climbed from an estimated 3,500 in 1930 to 7,402 in 1933. 17 As a result, the total amount of salaries and wages paid dropped some 65 per cent during the same period of time, while the gross value of products manufactured fell some 70 per cent to an all-time low in 1932. 18

The phenomenal population growth that characterized this area during the 1920's had come to an abrupt stop (See Fig. 4). During the years 1930, 1931, and 1932 the total combined population in this area declined some 12.5 per cent. 19 This decline may be attributed to the fact that people moved to other areas of the province where they were able to find employment.

Those plants operating in the Windsor area that were associated with automobile production attempted to improve the economy of the area. Canadian Packard began production in the City of Windsor during 1931. 20 In 1932, Chrysler, Studebaker, and General Motors
began to speed up production in their local plants. Consequently, by the end of 1933 there were some two hundred establishments operating in this area that were related to the automobile industry.

The building boom that had been evident here in the 1920's had come to a sudden halt. Statistics for the City of Windsor indicate that in 1933 the estimated value of building had fallen to an unprecedented low of $70,485. This condition would not begin to improve until this area started to move out of the depression era in 1934 (See Table 1).

The automobile industry was the key to economic conditions in the Windsor area during this period of time. A majority of those employed here were involved in some facet of automobile production. The substantial decline in the economy of this area can be attributed to the fact that there were no other secondary industries large enough to offset the automobile trade. As a result, most of those employed locally experienced the brunt of the financial depression.

1934 to 1939

The economy of the Windsor area showed a remarkable recovery by the end of 1934. Statistics on employment, salaries and wages, and the gross value of products manufactured all indicated noticeable gains (See Figs. 1, 2, 3). This trend was to continue until the British declaration of war on Germany in 1939.
One reason for the rapid improvement in local economic conditions were the preferential tariff agreements signed in 1932 at the Imperial Economic Conference in Ottawa.\textsuperscript{26} The treaties and agreements drawn up, as a result of this conference by the various component parts of the Empire, encouraged and made necessary, to a much greater extent than formerly, the purchase and sale of goods produced within the Empire to the exclusion of foreign products. This would mean that in terms of export to various parts of the Empire, a preferential tariff would be applied to a product containing a specified Canadian content, consisting of Canadian materials, labour, and overhead, including all the costs of containers. Consequently, many American companies seized the opportunity to establish branch plants in this area and take advantage of the new export laws and regulations that had been enacted.\textsuperscript{27}

Employment figures in April, 1934, were at their highest point in thirty-three months.\textsuperscript{28} During the following year in Windsor, employment increased more rapidly than in any other city in Canada.\textsuperscript{29} These rapid gains would continue until they reached a peak of 18,650 in 1938.\textsuperscript{30}

The gross value of products manufactured in the Windsor area doubled between 1933 and 1935 (See Fig. 3). In 1935, Windsor ranked sixth in Canada in manufacturing due to amalgamation.\textsuperscript{31}
The following year it was fourth in gross value of products in this country.\textsuperscript{32} This rapid industrial growth could be attributed to the wide range of commodities now being produced here. Iron and steel production accounted for about 80 per cent of the industrial employment in the area.\textsuperscript{33} This was largely due to the fact that by 1935, seven major automobile plants were located in Windsor.\textsuperscript{34} In addition, there were some thirty-one plants manufacturing automobile parts and accessories.\textsuperscript{35} Finally, chemical, and wood and paper industries were quickly expanding in this area and were responsible for the remainder of the industrial life of the community.\textsuperscript{36} Although this area had its greatest industrial development in terms of the automobile, it should be noted that during the latter part of the 1930's a wide range of goods were now being manufactured here.

The population of the City of Windsor climbed to 101,157 due to amalgamation on September 1, 1935 (See Fig. 4).\textsuperscript{37} In the years to follow the industrial growth of the city would attract a large number of people.\textsuperscript{38} However, it was not until 1942 that this area exceeded its combined population total of 1929.\textsuperscript{39}

The construction figures for the City of Windsor indicate a return to normalcy by 1935 (See Table 1). In September of that year, Windsor ranked fourth among cities in Canada for the total number of building permits issued. The automobile industry was chiefly responsible for this steady improvement. Ford Motor Company
constructed another foundry unit in East Windsor while the Chrysler Corporation erected a large addition to its property on Drouillard Road. These two projects alone accounted for a large percentage of the amount spent on building construction that year. However, the building figures of 1935 were nowhere near the total of the decade that preceded the depression. During those years building permits totalling $685,000 were frequently issued in one month.

The economy of the Windsor area between 1919 and 1939 depended to a large extent on the production of automobiles. During the early 1930's this area, as well as other industrial centers in eastern Canada, experienced the devastating effects of the financial depression. However, by 1934 the introduction of new secondary industry in addition to the automobile trade began to move this locality out of the depression era. Consequently, the economic conditions in the Windsor area made a remarkable recovery by the end of 1937.
FOOTNOTES


2 See footnote 1.

3 See footnote 1.


5 Ibid., p. 268.

6 Border Cities Star (Windsor), July 10, 1922.


9 Ibid., pp. 24-25.

10 Ibid., p. 34.

11 Border Cities Star (Windsor), February 10, 1920.

12 Ibid., February 13, 1920.

13 Ibid., January 2, 1925.

14 Ibid., February 16, 1929.

16 Border Cities Star (Windsor), September 10, 1930.


18 See combined totals for Figs. 2 and 3.

19 City of Windsor, op. cit., p. 24.

20 Border Cities Star (Windsor), October 1, 1931.

21 Ibid., February 13, 1932; November 1, 1932.

22 Ibid., December 5, 1933.

23 City of Windsor, op. cit., p. 34.


27 Ibid., p. 4.

28 Border Cities Star (Windsor), April 12, 1934.

29 Ibid., May 10, 1935.


33 Windsor Public Libraries, op. cit., p. 4.

34 Ibid., p. 4.

35 Ibid., p. 4.
36 Ibid., p. 5.


38 City of Windsor, *op. cit.*, p. 25.

39 Ibid., p. 25.

40 *Windsor Daily Star*, November 2, 1935.

41 Ibid., November 2, 1935.
CHAPTER III

AMATEUR SPORT

The development of organized league competition in amateur sports between 1919 and 1939 in the Windsor area appears to follow three distinct patterns. This is based on an examination of Figs. 5 - 11 which indicate the number of leagues and the total number of teams involved in each of seven sports. The activities to be considered include baseball, basketball, bowling, football, hockey, soccer, and softball. These were the only sports that showed evidence of league competition during the entire period of time under investigation.

1919 to 1929

The 1920's saw the rapid development of local amateur league competition. Team sponsorship which was found by examination to be rather closely related to the economic prosperity of the Windsor area appeared as the key factor in this growth. This included such major expenses as the cost of playing equipment and travel which could not be afforded by the individual athlete. It was provided by factories or business concerns, clubs, and church organizations. A survey of the sports and age levels supported by each group may
Fig. 5. Amateur Baseball - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 6. Amateur Basketball - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 7. Amateur Bowling - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 8. Amateur Football - Leagues (Senior, Intermediate, Junior), Total Number of Teams, Exhibition Series, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 9. Amateur Hockey - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 10. Amateur Soccer - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 11. Amateur Softball - Number of Leagues, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
give some indication as to their motives for sponsorship. In addition, consideration must also be given to the expanding urban population, coupled with an increase in the playing facilities that provided the added momentum necessary in this area.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship by local factories or business concerns was most prevalent during the second decade of the twentieth century. Although it was evidenced in a number of sports to varying degrees, industrial leagues and baseball teams received the majority of support. In addition, this type of sponsorship tended to involve the senior levels of competition. ¹

Industrial league competition during the 1920’s involved primarily baseball, hockey, and softball. An Industrial Baseball League was operating by 1920, and in 1924, a softball league began play with teams representing Burrough’s, Ford, Walkers, Hydro, and Maxwell involved in the inaugural year of outdoor softball competition. ² Finally, a six team hockey league began functioning in 1926. ³ The factories sponsoring teams in the industrial leagues may have done so for two main reasons. Sponsorship of their own factory team was done primarily with the benefit of the employees in mind. ⁴ This was ensured by regulations governing industrial league operations which stipulated that only three of the players on each team could be from outside the plant. ⁵ In addition, the involvement of employees in social interaction...
outside the factory environment tended to keep them interested in the product they were manufacturing. However, regardless of the motivation this form of sponsorship assisted in the promotion of organized league competition in the Windsor area during the 1920's.

The sponsorship of local clubs by business concerns was found primarily in the sport of baseball. During this decade an array of senior teams including Chilvers, Walkerville Chicks, Meretsy-Gitlins, and Steve Paris Shines received financial support. At this time, senior baseball was very well publicised by the local newspaper since business concerns were able to receive valuable advertisement of their products while at the same time assisting in the development of amateur sport. However, their concentration on the senior level of competition tends to indicate an underlying desire to achieve some form of publicity.

Club sponsorship was responsible for the majority of teams participating in organized league competition. This type of support was not restricted to any particular sport or age level. In basketball, it covered all classifications from senior to bantam while in baseball, football, hockey, soccer, and softball it included the senior, intermediate, and junior levels. Bowling, the other remaining sport to be considered was sponsored and organized by the club members involved. The motivation guiding club sponsorship stems from the nature of the organization itself. Most organized clubs are created
in order to foster or maintain some aspect of life in the community. The MicMacas like many other sports organizations were interested in the development of athletic programs for the youth of the area. Players upon graduation from the club would continue to participate as officials and coaches thereby perpetuating the ideals of the organization. A primary consideration of these clubs was to attempt to provide a far superior program for the athletes than had been conducted in the past. Consequently, it is apparent that the motives of club sponsors are quite different than those of factory and business concerns.

The role of church organizations in team sponsorship was not prominent in the vicinity during the 1920's. An explanation for this may have been that with the economic prosperity being experienced in this area, team support was being provided to a greater extent by other types of sponsors. However, there were two leagues in evidence during the decade which included church sponsored teams. The Tuxis Boys' Basketball League was operating in 1921 with sixteen teams in two divisions. It involved clubs which represented both the Protestant and Catholic segments of the population. And finally, a Men's Church Softball League including teams from Giles Methodist, Central Methodist, All Saints, Ascension, Baptist, and Presbyterian congregations began competition in 1924. Church league competition was established for two main reasons in this area. It provided boys with an opportunity to play basketball in the Tuxis League where none other
existed. In addition, sports activity were a means of keeping the parishioners together and interested in their particular church.

Population and Facilities

The population growth evidenced in the Windsor area during the third decade of the twentieth century provided the basis from which to develop amateur sports competition. During this period of time the total combined population of this area more than doubled (See Fig. 4). Closely related to this phenomenal expansion were the variables of urbanization and industrialization which must be taken into consideration as they exerted a great influence over all aspects of human endeavour during this time. Together they lead to fewer working hours and more stable working conditions which allowed a resultant increase in amateur sports participation. In addition, the conditions of living produced by these variables created a need for some form of outlet for most people. As a result, both these factors contributed to the remarkable development of amateur league sport.

An increase in playing facilities during the 1920's fostered local amateur sports competition. The sports of baseball, basketball, bowling, football, hockey, soccer, and softball all indicated the development of new facilities. The construction of Kelsey Park in 1924, the Windsor Arena in 1925, together with the great secondary school expansion evidenced during the decade are only
a few examples that had a stimulating effect on local competition. In addition, the expansion of transportation and communications were also of great importance; the increasing use of automobiles, electric railway, and the growth of ferry service across the Detroit River increased the scope of competition. While the additional exposure and coverage given amateur sport in the Border Cities Star increased its popularity in the Windsor area. Collectively, these variables gave impetus to the development of amateur league sport in this area.
1930 to 1933

The early years of the 1930's marked the general decline of amateur league competition, as financial problems created by the depression curtailed local amateur sport (See Figs. 5-11). The absence of league play can be attributed to a large extent to the lack of sponsorship by all groups concerned. However, there were other factors responsible for decreases in baseball, football, and soccer. In addition, the sports of bowling and softball continued their league development relatively unaffected by local conditions.

Sponsorship

Factory sponsorship of teams showed a noticeable decline during the first half of the decade. Softball was the only sport in which industry was involved during the depression. A Chrysler Softball League with eight teams included was competing in 1930. Three years later an industrial group comprising six teams sponsored by local factories was entered in the Border Cities Softball Association. The drop in sponsorship can be attributed to the economic decline experienced by industry (See Figs. 1, 2, 3). However, the minimal cost involved in softball resulted in it being the only team sport that could be sponsored by local factories during this period.

The sponsorship of local teams by business concerns dropped sharply during the early part of the 1930's. Support was given to a relatively small number of teams in the sports of baseball, hockey,
and softball. Steve Paris Shines and Walkersides Dairy received the only sponsorship in senior baseball during the depression. In hockey, the Windsor Grandtrunks (formerly the MicMacs) were playing in the Michigan-Ontario Hockey League. And finally, Burnside Hardware and Chilver Coals were competing in the Border Cities Softball League during the 1930 and 1931 season. Business concerns continued to sponsor teams mainly in the senior level of competition.

Club sponsorship which showed a marked decline during the early years of the 1930's still accounted for the largest single group supporting local amateur teams. The sports of basketball, football, hockey, soccer, and softball continued to receive financial assistance in a number of different age levels. In basketball, the Windsor Alumni Senior Mens Lincoln Club intermediate, and the "Y" Arrow juvenile teams all were supported by local clubs. Although there was a drop in the amount of sponsorship due to the economic conditions in the Windsor area, clubs were still able to raise the needed funds to continue operations. These came from membership dues paid by members of the organization. Consequently, this group of sponsors, aware of the value of amateur league competition, struggled to keep it alive in this area during the depression.

The sponsorship of teams by church organizations followed the trend established by the other three groups. A Border Cities Church
Softball League comprising a senior and junior division was operating in this area in 1930. However, this was the only account of a church sponsored activity noted then in the Windsor area. Church organizations like clubs were able to obtain limited funds through their group membership. Softball was an ideal choice as it was inexpensive to play requiring only a bat and ball in addition to a few jerseys to distinguish the opposing team. As a result, softball was the area's only activity that obtained sponsorship from all four groups during the financial depression.

The decline in organized league competition in baseball, football, and soccer was not solely dependent on the local economic conditions. Amateur baseball which had flourished during the previous decade with such teams as the Walkerville Chicks and Meretsyk-Gitlins suddenly found itself in a critical situation (See Fig. 5). The suspension of a number of local players in 1930 for participating in "Sunday Ball" was one of the factors contributing to the drop in organized league play. This regulation stipulated that players affiliated with the Ontario Baseball Association were not to participate in organized baseball for other clubs on Sunday. Only eight of the original players suspended by the O. B. A. had been reinstated by the following season. In addition, all local clubs had withdrawn from the O. B. A. playoff competition in protest over the action of the provincial body. Consequently, the calibre of baseball played by
the remaining teams was not particularly appealing to local supporters. The domination of the Walkerville Chicks during the latter part of the 1920's may have also contributed to the local decline in amateur baseball. They won the Ontario Senior title and the United States Amateur Championship in 1929. This monopoly of player talent may have destroyed the senior level of local baseball competition.

Amateur football in the Windsor area had begun with the formation of the MicMac Football Club in 1919. They participated in exhibition games using the American style of play as their opposition was mainly from south of the border. In 1922, a second amateur club called the Maple Leafs was formed. The keen rivalry created by these two local clubs lasted through to the end of 1925 with the annual battle for the City title. Both the MicMacs and Maple Leafs switched to the Canadian style of play in 1926. They entered the Intermediate Ontario Rugby Union with Sarnia, and London. Although the MicMacs finished second in the final league standings, both clubs decided to return to the American style of play on an exhibition basis. The main reason for this decision was based on the fact that local fans were not familiar with the Canadian game and as a result failed to adequately support either clubs.
In 1929, the MicMac under coach Pat Ouellette joined the western section of the senior O.R.F.U. with the University of Toronto, Sarnia, and Hamilton as there was no other local senior competition available. This marked the first time a club from the Windsor area was entered in a Canadian senior league. The following year the Windsor Ambassadors became the local senior representatives. Their opposition included Sarnia, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Hamilton. In addition, East Windsor sponsored a team in the intermediate O.R.F.U. competition in an attempt to increase local enthusiasm for the Canadian game. In 1932, the Windsor Boltonites became the junior entry and the Windsor Greyhounds the senior representatives in the O.R.F.U. However, at the conclusion of the season senior football folded in this area because of poor gate receipts and high travelling expenses. Junior football continued on with great success despite the poor support it received locally as most of the opposition was in close proximity to the Windsor area.

Soccer league competition was practically non-existent during the early years of the 1930's in the Windsor area (See Fig. 10). The sport had been played predominately up until this time by those of British descent. A majority of these players had immigrated to Canada during the first two decades of the twentieth century. However, during the early part of the depression a restriction had been placed on immigration from the British Isles. In addition, no adequate
feeder system had been established in order to develop young players for senior competition. Consequently, there were no new players to stock local teams and therefore soccer competition was limited.

The sports of bowling and softball continued their league development despite the economic conditions being experienced in the Windsor area (See Figs. 7, 11). Bowling differed from the other amateur sports in terms of sponsorship. The activity was organized and sponsored by the individual members concerned. Leagues were operating in factories, business establishments, clubs, and church organizations. In addition, the sport was relatively inexpensive in terms of entertainment during this period.

The rise in popularity and development of organized softball leagues in this area can be attributed to a number of factors. Baseball competition had been on the decline since 1929 when a number of local senior players were suspended by the O. B. A. Consequently, many baseball players turned their attention to softball during this period of time. It had the advantages of being a faster game than baseball, cheaper to operate, played on a smaller field, and it appealed to a larger segment of the population from a participation standpoint. These factors combined to make softball the biggest amateur sports attraction during the first half of the decade.
The early part of the 1930's marked the general decline of amateur sports competition in the Windsor area. Sponsorship which had been provided during the previous decade by factories, business concerns, clubs, and church organizations had been seriously curtailed by the depression. In addition, other factors were responsible for decreases in baseball, football, and soccer. However, the sports of bowling and softball continued their league development despite local conditions during this period of time.
1934 to 1939

Amateur sports competition in this area showed a recovery during the latter half of the 1930's. The sports of baseball and hockey resumed their league development, bowling and softball continued their phenomenal growth, while basketball, football, and soccer indicated no appreciable change from the preceding period. The improvements in the Windsor area economy prompted an increase in local team sponsorship (See Figs. 1, 2, 3). However, it would appear that this was now to a greater extent the task of club and church organizations.

Sponsorship

Industrial sponsorship which showed no significant increase during the latter part of the 1930's primarily involved hockey and softball. A Windsor Industrial Hockey League was found to be operating in 1935 in this area with six clubs entered. However, softball continued to be the popular team sport among the local factories. In 1934, an Industrial Softball League with nine teams was competing in the Windsor area. Two years later a company sponsored Ford Factory Softball League and the Factory Association Softball League involved a total of fifteen teams. Although local industries were recovering from the effects of the financial depression, it was not until 1938 that they returned to their production level of the previous decade (See Fig. 3). Consequently, factories in this area were not in a position to provide sponsorship for their employees in a variety of league sports.
The sponsorship of local teams by business concerns indicated no appreciable change from the preceding period. It now involved to varying degrees teams in baseball, basketball, hockey, and softball. By 1934, Walkersides Dairy remained the only commercially sponsored senior baseball team. In 1936, the Ford Motor Company took over the sponsorship of the Windsor Alumni Men's Basketball team prior to their representing Canada at the Olympic Games in Berlin. The team became known as the Ford V-8's and they placed second to the United States in the final basketball competition standings. Hockey sponsorship included the Windsor Grandtrunks in 1934, Park-Wogans in 1936, and the Windsor Chryslers in 1938. All three clubs competed in the Michigan-Ontario Hockey League. Finally, the sport of softball represented the largest single group sponsored by area business concerns. In 1936, the Windsor Silverwoods and McCreery's were competing in the International Girl's Softball League. A five team Banker's Softball League began play during the same year. Then in 1938, Hiram Walker sponsored a senior team in the International Men's Softball League. Business concerns, along with industry, were not in a financial situation to sponsor teams at that time. It is interesting to note that the majority of sponsorship provided by these two groups was in softball. The minimal expense involved in operating a team in this sport made it ideally suited for those two groups of sponsors.
Club sponsorship increased in Windsor during the latter half of the decade. This included a variety of teams in baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, and softball. 70 It involved teams ranging from the Windsor City Senior Baseball League to the "Y" Community Midget Softball League. 71 The sponsorship of local teams by various clubs had developed rapidly during the 1930's. This may be attributed to the fact that during the depression clubs and church organizations assumed primary responsibility for maintaining local amateur league competition.

The role of church organizations in team sponsorship increased immensely during the last half of the decade in the Windsor area. It had expanded to include teams in basketball, hockey, and softball. In 1936, the Tuxis Boy's Softball League began play with eight teams participating. 72 That same year the Essex Presbytery Young People's Union Softball League had begun operating with eighteen teams which was the largest entry in organized league play in this area. 73 Finally, the Catholic Youth Organization sponsored an eight team hockey league in 1937 and a six team basketball league in 1939. 74 Church organizations together with local clubs had accepted the challenge to maintain amateur league competition during the 1930's. As a result, their perseverance enabled the Windsor area to return to its level of league development as seen prior to the depression.
Bowling continued its phenomenal league development during the last half of the decade (See Fig. 7). By 1937, it was estimated that there were 5,000 persons involved in bowling in the City of Windsor. There were 50 organized leagues comprising some 3,000 bowlers with the remainder involved in recreational play. One reason for this great success would appear to be the socializing aspect of the activity. Those involved in team competition were more interested in the friendships developed as a result of participation than in the final outcome of the contest. As a result, the sport was ideally suited for those in factory, business, club, and church organizations.

In 1936, the number of softball leagues reached their peak for the decade, with ten separate leagues comprising some seventy-four teams operating locally (See Fig. 11). The remarkable growth of softball during the 1930's must be partially attributed to the fact that the sport appealed to all age groups of people.

The sports of basketball, football, and soccer showed no increase in league competition during this period. The lack of sponsors available to support local basketball teams had not changed significantly since the earlier part of the decade (See Fig. 6). Football at the senior level had met with poor fan support locally and had been discontinued following the 1932 season. And finally, soccer with the lack of new player talent as a result of restricted immigration and an inadequate feeder system continued to decline in this area.
Summary

Amateur sports competition between 1919 and 1939 in the Windsor area followed three distinct patterns of development. The period from 1919 to 1929 marked rapid league expansion in baseball, basketball, bowling, football, hockey, soccer, and softball (See Figs. 5-11). This can be attributed in large measure to the amount of sponsorship provided by factories, business concerns, clubs, and church organizations which was a reflection of the economic conditions of the area (See Figs. 1, 2, 3). However, the sports and age levels catered to by each group was indicative of their motives for team sponsorship. In addition, an expanding urban population coupled with a noticeable increase in playing facilities provided added momentum to this growth. The period from 1930 to 1933 saw a drop in amateur league competition due to the financial depression. A lack of sponsorship by all groups concerned was found to be the main reason for this decline. However, other factors were responsible for decreases in baseball, football, and soccer while bowling and softball continued to develop league play despite local conditions. Bowling, differed from the other amateur sports being considered in that it was organized and sponsored by the club members concerned. Then from 1934 to 1939 most amateur league competition showed a recovery in the Windsor area. The return of sponsorship was the major reason for this sudden development which was now primarily
the responsibility of club and church organizations. They had assumed the onus for providing sports competition in this area during the period of the depression. There were increases noted in baseball and hockey, bowling and softball continued their phenomenal growth, while basketball, football, and soccer showed no appreciable change from the preceding period.
FOOTNOTES

1 Senior refers to a calibre of play rather than an age restriction.

2 Border Cities Star (Windsor), July 1, 1922; June 21, 1924.

3 Ibid., February 2, 1926.

4 Personal interviews with C. Armstrong, August 18, 1972; B. Foote, August 18, 1972; W. A. Morrison, August 18, 1972; W. Lomas, August 19, 1972; L. Bertrand, August 18, 1972.

5 Personal interviews with A. Ray, August 18, 1972; B. Foote, August 18, 1972.

6 Personal interviews with C. Armstrong, August 18, 1972; J. Murray, August 19, 1972.

7 Border Cities Star (Windsor), March 26, 1924; June 3, 1924; August 14, 1926; May 11, 1929.


9 Senior and intermediate refer to a calibre of play with no age restriction. Junior under 18 years of age, juvenile under 16 years of age, midget under 15 years of age, and bantam under 14 years of age.

10 Personal interview with H. Lukos, March 10, 1972.

11 Personal interview with L. Bertrand, August 18, 1972.

12 Personal interview with J. Murray, August 19, 1972.

13 See Figs. 1, 2, 3.

14 Border Cities Star (Windsor), March 7, 1921.

16 Border Cities Star (Windsor), June 14, 1924.

17 Personal Interview with J. Murray, August 19, 1972.

18 Personal interviews with B. Foote, August 18, 1972; W. A. Morrison, August 18, 1972; W. Lomas, August 19, 1972.


20 Border Cities Star (Windsor), July 7, 1925; December 16, 1924; February 16, 1923; March 1, 1924. See also Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.


22 Morrison, op. cit., pp. 269-72.

23 The number of pages devoted to local amateur sport increased considerably during the decade in the Border Cities Star.

24 Border Cities Star (Windsor), June 6, 1930.

25 Ibid., June 1, 1933.

26 Ibid., May 4, 1932.

27 Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.

28 Border Cities Star (Windsor), July 4, 1931.

29 Windsor Alumni Senior Men's Basketball team; Windsor Bolt-onities Junior Football team; MicMac Intermediate Hockey team; Chemsals Junior Soccer team; East Windsor Intermediate Softball team.

30 Border Cities Star (Windsor), March 7, 1930; April 6, 1931.

31 Personal interviews with B. Foote; August 18, 1972; W. A. Morrison, August 18, 1972; J. Murray, August 19, 1972.
32 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), June 4, 1930.

33 Personal interviews with C. Armstrong, August 18, 1972; A. Ray, August 18, 1972.


35 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), April 15, 1931.

36 Ibid., December 31, 1930.

37 Ibid., April 15, 1931.

38 Ibid., January 10, 1931.

39 Ibid., April 15, 1931.


41 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), September 3, 1919.

42 *Windsor Daily Star*, September 3, 1943.

43 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor) November 1, 1926.

44 Ibid., November 10, 1926.


46 Ibid., September 16, 1930.

47 Ibid., September 20, 1930.

48 Ibid., October 1, 1931.

49 Personal interview with W.A. Morrison, February 24, 1972.


51 Personal interview with W. Lomas, February 15, 1972.


54 Personal interview with H. Lukos, March 10, 1972.

55 Ibid., March 10, 1972.

56 Ibid., March 10, 1972.

57 Border Cities Star (Windsor), December 31, 1930.


59 Ibid., February 16, 1972.

60 Border Cities Star (Windsor), February 1, 1935.

61 Ibid., July 4, 1934.

62 Windsor Daily Star, June 4, 1936.

63 Border Cities Star (Windsor), April 18, 1934.

64 Windsor Daily Star, June 26, 1936.

65 Ibid., September 3, 1943.


67 Ibid., June 2, 1936.

68 Ibid., June 6, 1936.

69 Ibid., August 13, 1938.

70 Windsor Titan Junior Baseball team; Windsor Grads Basketball team; Windsor Grads Junior Football team; MicMac Hockey team; East Windsor Blues Intermediate Soccer team; East Windsor Intermediate Softball team.

72 Windsor Daily Star, July 3, 1936.

73 Ibid., June 17, 1936.

74 Ibid., January 5, 1937.

75 Ibid., October 5, 1937.

76 Personal interview with H. Lukos, March 10, 1972.

77 Personal interview with A. Ray, February 16, 1972.

78 Personal interview with W. A. Morrison, February 24, 1972.

79 Personal interview with W. Lomas, March 10, 1972.
CHAPTER IV
HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SPORT

Organized league sport at the high school and university levels followed similar patterns of development in this area between 1919 and 1939. Although there was no organized university league competition here in the 1920's, during the succeeding decade it flourished together with high school athletics (Figs. 12, 13). There were a variety of team sports played which included baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and softball. These will be examined in each instance during the following periods (1) 1919 to 1929, and (2) 1930 to 1939.

1919 to 1929
High School Sport

The 1920's marked the initial phase of development in high school league competition in the Windsor area. A tremendous secondary school expansion program during the decade, coupled with the growth of high school athletic associations, provided the impetus for this trend.
Fig. 12. High School Sport - Number of Sports, Leagues (Boys & Girls), Non League Sports, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
Fig. 13. University Sport - Number of Sports, League Sports, Non League Sports, Total Number of Teams, Exhibition Series, 1919 - 1939.
Windsor Collegiate Institute was the only public high school in the Windsor area at the turn of the decade. They, like Assumption College, turned to Michigan for competition in football, basketball, and baseball.¹ All the games played in these sports prior to 1922 were strictly on an exhibition basis. However, in 1922 the Southeastern Michigan Athletic Association was formed and included W. C. I., Hamtramck, Birmingham, Highland Park, Royal Oak, Ypsilanti, and Wyandotte. These schools competed annually in football, baseball, and basketball.²

Soccer and track and field were two other activities in which W. C. I. competed during the early 1920's. Although no soccer league existed yet, the school entered a team in the Hough Soccer Cup Competition, emblematic of the Ontario High School Championship.³ There was also an annual Essex County Track Meet which brought together the best athletes in the surrounding vicinity. W. C. I., Essex, and Leamington were represented at the meet held in 1920.⁴
The great secondary school expansion in the Windsor area between 1922 and 1929 provided the major impetus for the development of organized league competition at the high school level (See Fig. 12). During those years Walkerville Collegiate, Windsor-Walkerville Technical School (W. D. Lowe Vocational School), Kennedy Collegiate, and Sandwich Continuation (Forster Collegiate) were erected. 5

In 1924, W. C. I. withdrew from the Southeastern Michigan League and began playing Canadian rules for the first time in the history of Windsor football. 6 That year a junior football league began operation among the high schools in the Windsor area. The three teams that were entered included Walkerville Collegiate, Windsor-Walkerville Technical School, and W. C. I. 7 In addition, W. C. I., who had the lone senior high school football club, was required to enter district play with Chatham, Petrolia, and Sarnia in order to obtain competition. 8 The Windsor area was part of the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association created in 1922 by the Ontario Athletic Commission; it divided the southern section of the province into districts for competition purposes. 9 Eliminations were held annually in football, soccer, hockey, basketball, and track and field with the winners representing their districts in the W.O.S.S.A. finals. A junior hockey league was also formed here during the latter part of 1924 including teams
from the three local high schools. However, the sports of basketball, baseball, and soccer were all being played in the Essex County High School League by the mid 1920's. The limited number of teams in each of these activities from this area forced those involved to seek competition with county schools.

In 1926, Windsor area high schools withdrew from the Essex County Secondary School Athletic Association because there were now sufficient teams to form a separate league in Windsor. As a result, the Windsor Secondary School Athletic Association was formed the following year including teams from Windsor-Walkerville Technical School, Walkerville Collegiate, W. C. I., and Assumption. There were now four junior and two senior teams competing in organized football leagues. In addition, a Border High School Baseball League was initiated with four schools taking part and Assumption winning the championship.

The opening of Kennedy Collegiate in 1929 brought to five the number of schools participating in the W. S. S. A. Junior Football League. As well, there were now three teams competing in the senior division of the local high school football league. In basketball, there were six teams in the junior and senior divisions with the addition of Sandwich Continuation. In hockey, the Windsor-Walkerville Technical School "Red Devils", who were the lone senior team in this area, won their second W. O. S. S. A. group title in three
Finally, the formation of the Windsor Secondary School Athletic Association in 1927 provided local schools with the opportunity to remain in this area to compete. This eliminated costly travelling expenses which plagued some schools in the province and forced them to withdraw from league play. As well, the establishment of associations like W.O.S.S.A. not only provided some schools with competition where none other existed but also served as a further incentive for high school sports participation.

University Sport

Assumption College was the only post-secondary institution in the Windsor area during the 1920's. Throughout this period they played exhibition football, basketball, and baseball games against other college teams. Their opposition involved mainly small colleges in the surrounding Detroit and Michigan area.

Hockey was the only league sport in which the college competed (See Fig. 13). They entered local amateur leagues since there was
no college competition available at this time. In 1919, they entered a team in the Detroit Hockey League.\textsuperscript{19} During the 1921-22 season the college was one of six clubs in the Windsor Hockey League and in the 1922-23 season they competed in the Border Cities Hockey League and won the playoffs against the Windsor Monarchs for the Chapman-Ord Trophy emblematic of the Border Cities title.\textsuperscript{20}

From 1924 to 1932 the college was not involved in any form of organized league competition. However, they did continue to play annual exhibition games with American colleges in football, basketball, and baseball.\textsuperscript{21} This may have proven more advantageous than being involved in college league play at this particular time.

Assumption College was not involved in organized university competition during the 1920's for a number of reasons. The college was isolated from the other universities in this part of the country. In addition, the original Big Four universities; Queen's, McGill, Toronto, and Western had a closed door policy at the time regarding the entry of any more schools into their Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union league competition.\textsuperscript{22} Assumption was also hindered by a small athletic budget which restricted the distance they could travel for athletic competition. Consequently, they were forced to compete close to home in order to continue their athletic program.\textsuperscript{23} Finally, the college had close ties with the state of Michigan as a result of the American enrollment here. A large number of
students at Assumption were from across the border and as a result preferred games with small college teams in Michigan. Collectively, these factors forced Assumption to participate in football, basketball, and baseball on an exhibition basis. This trend was to continue until their entry into the Michigan-Ontario Athletic Conference in 1932.
1930 to 1939

High School Sport

The third decade of the twentieth century marked the
compentition of secondary school expansion in the Windsor area (See
Fig. 12). By 1930, there were six high schools competing which
was a very important factor in terms of league composition.26
The sport of football, in particular, dominated high school
competition during the early years of the decade. The reason
for this was that many of the players who would have ordinarily
left school to find work prior to graduation remained because of
the high unemployment in this area.27 Consequently, many teams
retained the same personnel for several years which enabled the
coaches to develop some outstanding football talent.28 In 1931,
the Windsor area claimed its first senior W.O.S.S.A. football
title when Kennedy Collegiate under coach Hec Crighton defeated
Sarnia to win the crown.29 At the same time local high school
leagues continued to expand with the addition of three senior and
one junior club. As a result, by 1933 there were six teams in
both the junior and senior leagues each comprising two divisions.30

League play in basketball, baseball, softball, and hockey
also continued to develop during the first half of the 1930's (See
Fig. 12). Local basketball teams were successful in high school
competition outside this area. In 1930, Assumption High School won the senior boy's W.O.S.S.A. title while the following year Kennedy Collegiate captured the girl's provincial crown. By 1933, there were seven junior boys, six senior boys, and five senior girls teams involved in local high school play. Together they were to play a record total of ninety-two games during the season. In baseball, Assumption captured the Border High School title for the second time in 1930 while Central Collegiate (formerly W.C.I.) claimed the girl's softball title in the Border Cities Secondary School League that same year. While in hockey, the "Red Devils" of Windsor-Walkerville Technical School won their third senior W.O.S.S.A. hockey title in the last four years.

High school athletics remained as the only major source of competition in the Windsor area during the depression. The decline in team sponsorship previously noted seriously curtailed amateur league sport and shifted the focus of attention to the high school level. In addition, this phase of organized sport tended to receive most of the publicity and fan support. Finally, an eligibility ruling was passed requiring a student to play for either a high school or outside team but not both. This caused a lot of young athletes to remain in
high school sports rather than going elsewhere for competition. Consequently, high school league competition in the Windsor area continued to develop during the first half of the 1930's.

The rapid expansion of high school leagues in the Windsor area reached completion by the middle of the decade (See Fig. 12). From this point until the end of the decade local schools produced many outstanding teams and individual athletes which sustained the level of competition. Those involved in football and basketball gained the most prominence. Kennedy Collegiate remained the power in high school football between 1934 and 1940. Within that period the school captured the senior W. O. S. S. A. title five times and the junior title six times. The senior club also distinguished itself by being undefeated in league play during the 1936 and 1937 seasons. In addition, the school produced two outstanding players in Joe Krol and Tony Golab. Both later went on to star in professional football ranks in Canada. In basketball, Windsor high school teams continued their dominance of laurels in provincial competition. In 1934, Patterson Collegiate (formerly Central Collegiate) captured the junior boy's championship. That same year the Windsor-Walkerville Technical School won the girl's interscholastic crown. Then finally, in 1937, Kennedy Collegiate claimed the senior boy's basketball title for the province of
University Sport

In 1930, Assumption College enjoyed its greatest basketball season in the history of the institution up to that time. They compiled a 17-4 record against mainly small colleges in Michigan on a strictly exhibition basis. The great success of the basketball team prompted those to suggest that if the college were to join the soon to be formed Michigan-Ontario Athletic Association, it would benefit the entire sports program at the school. The college had not been involved in any organized league competition since the hockey team played in the Border Cities Hockey League in 1923.

Assumption entered the Michigan-Ontario Football Conference in 1932. Their opposition included Ferris College, Adrian College, St. Mary's College, Albion College, Bluffton College, Lawrence Tech, and the Windsor Grads. Football was not considered to be the college's strong sport. They were playing U.S. college teams with more extensive backgrounds in the American game. However, their game scores would tend to indicate that they were certainly competitive.

Basketball had been the most successful team sport played at Assumption College. In 1933, they entered the Michigan-Ontario Basketball Conference against Adrian College, Ferris
College, Lawrence Tech, Detroit Tech, Western, University of Detroit, and DeSales. 52 This was to mark the beginning of an athletic era unprecedented in the college's history. The 1933-34 basketball season was a memorable one at Assumption. During that season Father McGee guided the local squad to their first Michigan-Ontario Basketball Conference title. 53 This was an exceptional feat as it was only their second year in the college conference. In addition, they captured the Ontario Senior Basketball title that same year. 54 In 1935, the Assumption team won their second consecutive Michigan-Ontario Basketball Conference title. 55 They also defeated the Windsor Alumni for the second straight year to win the City Senior Basketball title. 56 The "Five Fighting Freshmen" as they were called advanced to the Dominion Senior Championship only to be defeated by the Victoria Dominoes in the final round. 57 During the following season the Assumption club won their third consecutive Michigan-Ontario Basketball Conference title. 58 However, they were defeated by the Windsor Alumni for the City Senior Basketball title. 59 The Alumni (Ford V-8's) went on to win the Dominion title and place second in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. 60

Organized hockey returned to Assumption College in 1933 after nearly a ten year absence. The only competition available
was still being provided by local amateur leagues. Consequently, the college entered the Civic Hockey League "B" Division with four other clubs. By 1934, the Assumption hockey team was involved in college league competition for the first time in their history. They joined the Detroit-Windsor Intercollegiate Hockey League which also included Wayne State University and the University of Detroit. The interest in hockey had spread through the college ranks so that it was now possible to operate a league independent of local amateur clubs.

There were other factors responsible for the development of organized university league competition in this area during the 1930's. The close proximity of Assumption College to their source of competition in the Michigan-Ontario Athletic Association was a major reason for this growth. This eliminated the high travelling expenses which plagued many college teams during the decade. Mr. Ian Allison, a former athlete at Assumption recalled the time during the depression when Father McGee took the six members of the basketball team to a game across the border "in the old car because there was not enough money to hire a bus." In addition, university sport received most of the publicity and fan support along with high school athletics during this time when there was a serious decline in amateur competition. As a result, organized league competition at the university level developed rapidly in the Windsor area during the decade.
The economic conditions experienced in the Windsor area during the depression did not affect sports competition at the high school and university levels. Although lack of sponsorship had seriously curtailed sport at the amateur level, the collection of student activity fees provided the financial basis on which to continue high school and university league play. The major expenses of equipment and travel were kept to a minimum by the sharing of equipment and the close proximity of competition. In addition, the student body at each level felt that the athletic program would benefit the institution as a whole and should be continued regardless of the inability of the educational establishments to provide it at the time. Consequently, both high school and university sports competition continued relatively unopposed during the early years of the 1930's.

Summary

High school and university sports competition between 1919 and 1939 in the Windsor area followed similar patterns of development. The period from 1919 to 1929 marked the initial phase of growth in high school athletics in this area (See Fig. 12). A tremendous secondary school expansion program coupled with the development of high school athletic associations provided the impetus for this trend. However, Assumption College which remained the lone post-secondary institution in this area was competing on a strictly exhibition basis in basketball, football, and baseball with small colleges in the state
of Michigan. Their isolation from the rest of the universities in this part of the country, the closed door policy of the original Big Four C.I.A.U. universities, a small athletic budget, and the close ties with Michigan as a result of the enrollment here all hindered their participation in organized university league competition. The period from 1930 to 1939 was dominated by high school and university sports in this area (See Figs. 12, 13). Problems created by the financial depression had all but eliminated amateur league play during the first half of the decade. The completion of secondary school expansion in this area, the only major source of competition during the depression, eligibility ruling, outstanding individuals and teams, domination of provincial competition, and the publicity and fan support received all helped foster high school athletics. Meanwhile, Assumption College had entered the Michigan-Ontario Athletic Association in football and basketball by 1933 while the hockey team resumed league play in amateur competition before joining intercollegiate ranks the following year. The great success of the Assumption basketball team, close proximity of competition, low travelling expenses, and the publicity and fan support received along with high school sports prompted the development or organized university league competition in the Windsor area.
FOOTNOTES


2 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), January 4, 1922.


6 *Windsor Daily Star*, September 3, 1943.

7 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), September 26, 1924.


10 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), December 19, 1924.

11 *Ibid.*, February 28, 1923; June 18, 1924; September 26, 1924.


14 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), June 1, 1927.


16 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), November 16, 1929.


19Ibid., January 14, 1919.

20Ibid., February 21, 1923.

21Personal interview with C. Armstrong, March 11, 1972.

22Ibid., March 11, 1972. Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union will hereafter be referred to as C.I.A. U.

23Ibid., March 11, 1972.


25Border Cities Star (Windsor), April 18, 1931.

26Dorion, op. cit., p. 19.

27Ibid., p. 23.

28Ibid., p. 23.

29Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.

30Border Cities Star (Windsor), September 16, 1933.

31Ibid., March 19, 1930; April 8, 1931.

32Ibid., March 4, 1933.

33Ibid., December 19, 1932.

34Ibid., June 5, 1930; June 11, 1930.


36Personal interview with A. Newman, February 25, 1972. See also Fig. 12.

37Personal interview with A. Newman, February 25, 1972. See also Chapter III.


Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.

Ibid., September 3, 1943.

Dorion, op. cit., p. 23.

Border Cities Star (Windsor), April 17, 1934.

Ibid., April 4, 1934.

Windsor Daily Star, April 2, 1937.

Border Cities Star (Windsor), March 20, 1930.

Personal interview with C. Armstrong, August 18, 1972.

Border Cities Star (Windsor), February 21, 1923.


Personal interview with C. Armstrong, March 11, 1972.

Budd, et. al., op. cit., p. 1.

Ibid., p. 3.

Border Cities Star (Windsor), April 9, 1934.

Ibid., February 23, 1935.

Ibid., February 26, 1935.

Budd, et. al., op. cit., p. 3.

Windsor Daily Star, March 11, 1936.

Budd, et. al., op. cit., p. 3.
60 Staley, *op. cit.*, p. 149.

61 *Border Cities Star* (Windsor), December 6, 1933.

62 Ibid., October 4, 1934.

63 Personal interview with I. Allison, March 12, 1972.


66 Ibid., September 25, 1972.

67 Ibid., September 25, 1972.
CHAPTER V

PROFESSIONAL SPORT

The growth of professional sports in the Windsor area between 1919 and 1939 will be examined in two distinct periods: (1) 1919 to 1929, and (2) 1930 to 1939. This is based on an examination of Fig. 14 which includes the sports of horseracing, boxing, wrestling, hockey, and soccer. It is necessary to consider the development of both league and non-league professional competition in order to understand what occurred in area sports.

1919 to 1929

The 1920's marked the period of rapid growth in professional sports competition in the Windsor area (See Fig. 14). Horseracing, boxing, hockey, and soccer operated here during the decade. The ban placed on horseracing and boxing in Michigan, development of new playing facilities, and the success of the Windsor Bulldog hockey team all contributed to this trend. However, pro soccer, which met with good fan support, was forced to disband after only two seasons because of a conflict involving outside jobs held by the majority of players.

Horseracing, which was banned in the state of Michigan in 1908, gained prominence here during the second decade of the
Fig. 14. Professional Sport - Number of Sports, League Sports, Non League Sports, Total Number of Teams, 1919 - 1939.
twentieth century. The Windsor Jockey Club was the only successful track in operation here by 1915. However, American interests and patrons soon encouraged the opening of the Devonshire Park Race Track, and the Kenilworth Jockey Club the following year. These initial developments contributed to the tremendous local growth of the sport during the 1920's. Probably the greatest moment in Windsor horseracing history occurred on October 12, 1920. A matched-race featuring the great Man O'War and the Canadian horse Sir Barton was held at the Kenilworth Jockey Club. Man O'War won the $80,000 purse, as an estimated 35,000 spectators witnessed the classic event.

The success of horseracing during the 1920's is more than evident. Devonshire Park Race Track had 350 horses entered in 1920, and 1,100 in 1927. There were 3,500 fans at Devonshire in 1923 to watch Manning break the Canadian record for the mile, and two years later, 16,000 patrons attended the opening day meet at the same track. In 1921, Devonshire closed for the season with a record amount of nearly $4,000,000 bet with the mutuels. This trend was to continue till 1929, which was the most successful season for horseracing in the Windsor area, from a pari-mutuel betting standpoint. The development of new facilities, and the ban placed on the activity
in Michigan, together with the resulting American patronage, were chiefly responsible for the success of the local tracks.

Ed Glasco promoted boxing matches here prior to 1920, beginning in the White Block on Sandwich Street and later moving into an arena that took up the entire top floor of the Empire Theatre Building on Pitt Street. Large crowds, mostly Detroit fans, attended weekly bouts and witnessed matches between some of the top fighters of the period. Many local boxers gained prominence during the decade. However, there was no amateur boxing association in the Windsor area and so good young boxers turned professional in order to remain active in the sport. "Patsy" Drouillard, a local boy, and Canadian Lightweight Champion for several years, was a drawing card in many of the bouts.

Professional boxing suffered a number of setbacks during the latter part of the second decade as the influenza epidemic caused the cancellation of many scheduled bouts. In addition, a change in immigration regulations restricted the movement of Detroit fans across the river to Windsor, and as a result, the number of American patrons at matches diminished considerably. Finally, the Empire Theatre was remodelled reducing the seating capacity of the arena on the top floor. There was no other place in this area large enough to make boxing shows a paying proposition and so they temporarily came to an end.
The state of Michigan allowed only "no decision" or so-called "exhibition" boxing matches to take place during the 1920's. These bouts were not popular with either the fighters or the fans. Consequently, many of the "top notch" fighters crossed the river to compete in the Windsor area. One in particular was Alex Borshak, who boxed under the name of Al Delaney and gave the great Joe Louis a good fight. Boxing crowds filled the Ford City Arena, and the Windsor Athletic Club, and outdoor shows were held at Kelsey Park, and Wigle Park. Consequently, the American patrons, together with the ban on the sport in Michigan contributed to the success of the sport in this area during the decade.

Professional hockey came to the district in 1926 when the Canadian Professional Hockey League was formed. This development coincided with the 1925 opening of the newly built Windsor Arena. The league included the Windsor Hornets, and teams from Hamilton, London, Niagara Falls, and Stratford. The immediate popularity of the sport here is evidenced by the fact that by March 10, 1927, the Hornets had attracted 51,143 fans to their home games so far that season.

In 1927, the Can Pro Hockey League expanded to include teams from Detroit, Kitchener, and Toronto. The following year the Windsor Hornets were renamed the "Bulldogs." During that same
season the Windsor club won their first league championship. 24
This was the final season for the former league, which became
the International Hockey League in 1929. It included teams from
Windsor, Niagara Falls, London, Cleveland, Hamilton, and
Buffalo. 25 The success of the local club, coupled with the new
playing facilities, provided the impetus for professional hockey
to flourish in this vicinity. As a result, it appeared that profes-
SIONAL hockey would be here to stay for sometime.

Soccer made its professional debut locally during the fall of 1926.
The National Professional Soccer League, comprising the Windsor
Rovers, Hamilton City, All Scots, Hamilton Thistles, Caledonians,
and the Montreal C. N. R. was formed. 26 Local fan support was
good as 8,000 were expected for a home game with Montreal at Kelsey
Park. 27 However, only one of the Windsor players was a true
professional while the remainder held outside jobs in local factories. 28
This conflict of interest eventually lead to the cancellation of a
scheduled league game with Montreal due to the excessive amount
of travelling time by those players employed locally. 29 Consequently,
the Border eleven continued for a second season but were forced to
disband by the end of the year over this same problem. 30
1930 - 1939

This period marked the eventual decline of the district's professional sports (See Fig. 14). Hockey remained as the only league activity, while horseracing, boxing, and wrestling were the non-league sports. The removal of the ban on horseracing and boxing in Michigan, together with the taking of hockey players by the Montreal Maroons from their Windsor farm club, were chiefly responsible for this situation. An exception to this trend was wrestling, which employed a variety of gimmicks to attract patrons and remained as the only professional sport by the end of the decade.

Horseracing continued to be a popular attraction at the local tracks during the early years of the decade. A Labor Day crowd of 9,000 attended the Devonshire Park Race Track in 1930. The following year, 5,200 witnessed the opening day of the summer meet at Kenilworth. However, by the end of 1931 betting and attendance figures at Ontario tracks, including Devonshire and Kenilworth, were down. To attract patrons, Kenilworth reduced their attendance prices in 1932 and during one day of that same meet, 7,000 fans were present at the track. However, this was to be the final season for the successful operation of horseracing in the Windsor area, for in 1933 the state of Michigan repealed their ban on the sport. A 120-day race program was held at the Detroit Fair Grounds during that fall, with an opening day crowd of some 30,000 in attendance. The success of the Michigan track left the future of Windsor area horse-
racing in doubt. 37

The effect of the triumphant return of horseracing to Michigan was apparent in this area by 1934. Kenilworth had only 160 horses training there in preparation for the summer meet. 38 Meanwhile, attempts were made at Devonshire to increase patronage by establishing bargain admission prices. 39 However, by the end of 1936, both Kenilworth and Devonshire had closed and were never to open again. 40

The eventual disappearance of horseracing in the Windsor area during the latter part of the 1930's can be attributed to a number of factors. Certainly the major reason was successful return of the sport to Michigan in 1933. This not only presented competition for the local tracks but also tended to attract the core of the horseracing profession. In addition, it should be noted that American patronage accounted for about 75 per cent of the revenue received at Kenilworth and Devonshire. 41 Without this vital support, horseracing could not possibly survive here. As a result, the sport that had reached such a peak during the previous decade was suddenly gone.

Professional boxing continued to attract local audiences during the early 1930's. However, the "top notch" fighters seen during the preceding decade were gone. 42 Legislation had been passed in Michigan allowing prize fights to be held again. 43 In Windsor,
"Patsy" Drouillard could not stay retired from the fight game and sponsored a weekly "mitt-show" at either the Windsor Arena or Wigle Park. 44 One of the local fighters who appeared regularly on the program was his nephew, Orville Drouillard, who went on to gain international recognition in the boxing world. 45 He not only appeared several times in Madison Square Gardens but also lost a close decision to Maxie Berger for the Canadian Lightweight title in Montreal. 46 However, boxing which had experienced such success during the previous decade, began to decline in this area. The removal of the ban in Michigan, coupled with the loss of American patronage caused the sport to fade rapidly in this vicinity.

During the early 1930's professional wrestling made its appearance in the Windsor area. A World Pro Wrestling Championship was held in the Windsor Arena in 1930. 47 The sport seemed to capture the fancy of local fans as 1,000 watched Jimmy Logas of Windsor win the Light Heavyweight title of the world. 48 Then attendance began dropping during the next two years and it was necessary to give special prizes in order to attract customers to the matches. 49 However, by the middle of 1933 the local promoter felt convinced that the sport was rapidly regaining its popularity in this area. 50 Professional wrestling continued its successful operations in this area following the depression. A near capacity crowd at Windsor Stadium witnessed a pro match in 1934 and the following year a record attendance mark was set at the
stadium for pro wrestling. However, by 1938 wrestling crowds in Windsor began to drop for no apparent reason. Consequently, the local wrestling promoter counteracted this by bringing in former world boxing champion Jack Dempsey as a referee and established a new gate record for wrestling.

Wrestling was a relatively new form of entertainment that appealed to local fans. However, when the spectators tired of the same routine, the promoter employed gimmicks to attract customers. In addition, during the latter part of the decade, this was really the only professional sport that remained on a regular basis. As a result, wrestling enjoyed much success locally during the 1930's.

The Windsor Bulldogs continued to achieve great success in professional hockey during the early part of the decade. They won the International Hockey League Championship during the 1930-31 season, defeating the Detroit Olympics in the playoffs. However, the following season the team experienced personnel problems which resulted in a decline in the standard of hockey being played here. This occurred because the Montreal Maroons, who were short of players, began to draft from their farm clubs, including the Windsor Bulldogs.

In 1934, the Bulldogs were competing in the International Hockey League with Detroit, Buffalo, Cleveland, Syracuse, and London.
During the 1934-35 season pro hockey began to slip in Windsor and the Bulldogs failed to draw good crowds. The reason was that the Montreal Maroons, the parent club, took the better players from the Bulldogs to stock their own club. Consequently, the following season saw the eventual death of professional hockey in Windsor and everyone looked forward to a bumper amateur year.

The economic conditions experienced locally during the financial depression did not seriously affect professional sport (See Fig. 14). There may have been a temporary decline in attendance, however, bargain admission prices at the two local tracks, together with the pay cut taken by players in the International Hockey League kept pro sport alive in this area. People still required some form of outside diversion and seemed to be able to find money where entertainment was concerned. As a result, the eventual drop in professional sports competition here during the decade resulted from other factors as well as the depression.

Summary

Professional sport in the Windsor area between 1919 and 1929 included horseracing, boxing, hockey, and soccer (See Fig. 14). Horseracing and boxing were both banned in Michigan flourished here during the 1920's. Hockey and soccer, which developed here during the latter part of the decade, both enjoyed good fan support. However, the soccer team was forced to disband after only two seasons of
competition, because only one of the Windsor players was a true professional, while the remainder held outside jobs. This conflict of interest eventually lead to the cancellation of scheduled away games due to the excessive amount of time required for travelling by those players employed by local factories. During the 1930's horseracing, boxing, wrestling, and hockey were the professional sports activities in this area. The removal of the ban on horseracing in Michigan eventually caused the local tracks to close. Boxing, which was now operating again in Michigan, continued there although the "top notch" fighters of the previous period were gone. Wrestling enjoyed much success here during the decade as it was a relatively new form of entertainment. However, the promoters were forced to employ gimmicks to attract customers when the fans tired of the same routine. And finally, a hockey club, which had provided superb competition for the past ten years, was gone by the end of 1936.
FOOTNOTES


3 Ibid., p. 286.


5 Border Cities Star (Windsor), June 28, 1920; June 16, 1927.

6 Ibid., August 6, 1926; June 6, 1925.

7 Ibid., September 6, 1921.

8 Ibid., August 10, 1929.

9 Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.

10 Ibid., September 3, 1943.

11 Ibid., September 3, 1943.

12 Ibid., September 3, 1943.

13 Ibid., September 3, 1943.

14 Windsor Public Libraries, op. cit., p. 52.


16 Personal interview with I. Allison, March 12, 1972.


18 Border Cities Star (Windsor), August 5, 1926.
19 Windsor Daily Star, September 3, 1943.

20 Border Cities Star (Windsor), November 1, 1926.

21 Ibid., March 10, 1927.

22 Ibid., December 1, 1927.

23 Ibid., October 31, 1928.

24 Ibid., November 16, 1929.

25 Ibid., November 14, 1929.

26 Ibid., May 3, 1926.

27 Ibid., May 14, 1926.


29 Border Cities Star (Windsor), May 22, 1926.


31 Border Cities Star (Windsor), September 2, 1930.

32 Ibid., July 6, 1931.

33 Ibid., October 28, 1931.

34 Ibid., August 9, 1932; August 15, 1932.

35 Laurendeau, op. cit., p. 68.

36 Border Cities Star (Windsor), September 5, 1933.

37 Ibid., December 29, 1933.

38 Ibid., April 26, 1934.

39 Windsor Daily Star, June 30, 1936.

40 Laurendeau, op. cit., p. 68.
Personal interview with L. Bertrand, February 16, 1972.

Laurendeau, _op. cit._, p. 68.

_Ibid._, p. 69.

_Border Cities Star_ (Windsor), July 18, 1934.

_Windsor Daily Star_, September 3, 1943.

_Border Cities Star_ (Windsor), April 12, 1934. _Windsor Daily Star_, October 8, 1937.

_Border Cities Star_ (Windsor), March 11, 1930.

_Ibid._, June 26, 1930.

_Ibid._, August 16, 1932.

_Ibid._, June 3, 1933.

_Ibid._, October 17, 1934; February 13, 1935.

_Windsor Daily Star_, November 28, 1938.

_Ibid._, March 8, 1939.

_Ibid._, September 3, 1943.


_Border Cities Star_ (Windsor), December 1, 1933.

_Staley, _op. cit._, p. 168.

_Windsor Daily Star_, September 3, 1943.

_Ibid._, June 30, 1936. _Border Cities Star_ (Windsor), March 2, 1933.

Personal interview with W. Rogin, February 7, 1972.
CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

The main focus of this study was to examine the relationship between economic growth and organized league sport in the Windsor area from 1919 to 1935. Amateur sport appeared as the only facet of athletic competition adversely affected by changes in economic conditions. In particular, it was found to parallel the marked decline evidenced in the local economy during the early years of the 1930's.

Sponsorship was found to be the key factor in the promotion of amateur league sport in the Windsor area. The abundance of sponsors during the 1920's, together with a rapidly expanding urban population and a noticeable increase in playing facilities, gave this aspect of organized sport the momentum necessary to develop at a phenomenal rate. However, when the local economy showed a marked decline during the financial depression, so did amateur league competition. Factories, business concerns, clubs, and church organizations found they were now unable to supply the money needed to promote local amateur teams, as they had during the preceding decade. These included such major expenses as playing equipment, travel, and facilities. The only sport that received
financial support from all four groups at this time was softball. The inexpensive nature of this activity made it ideally suited for local sponsors. In addition, clubs and church organizations were in a better position to raise the needed funds. This was done through their membership, and as a result, these two groups of sponsors shared the majority of responsibility for amateur sport in this area by the mid 1930's.

High school and university league sport were not adversely affected by the local economic conditions experienced. The tremendous secondary school expansion program that took place here during the 1920's provided the basis for future interscholastic competition. Then in the following decade, both high school and university athletics were able to continue operations despite the curtailment in amateur league sport. The collection of student activity fees, coupled with the sharing of equipment and the close proximity of competition, helped maintain both these aspects of organized sport.

Professional sport was able to maintain its position in this area despite the local economic situation. The population required some form of diversion from area conditions and this served as a major source of entertainment. Facilities that had been established here were readily available, and in all but one case, hockey, travel was not an important factor. In addition, the ban placed on the sports of
horseracing and boxing in Michigan greatly increased American patronage at these events. Consequently, professional sport continued to prosper until the latter 1930's when other factors caused its rather sudden decline locally.

High school, university, and professional sport were all operating in an environment that was conducive to the development of athletic competition. In addition, there were not the number of sports, leagues or teams involved at these levels of organized sport. Facilities created especially for them during the prosperity of the 1920's, coupled with their unique means of support, served to maintain these facets of sport locally. Meanwhile, amateur league competition, which depended solely on local sponsorship, could not survive during the financial depression. The removal of this vital means of support seriously curtailed amateur activity. As a result, this aspect of organized sport was found to be closely associated to the area's economic conditions experienced. However, organized league sport, in general, was found to have no relationship to the local economy.

A sub-problem of this study was concerned with what effect the depression had on the development of organized sport in the Windsor area. The majority of those who were asked a related question in the Focused Interview Guide felt it had a stimulating effect on local amateur sport (Appendix A). It not only served to increase individual participation but also was a source of entertainment. One of the
responses will clarify this point:

I think that what happened was that because of lack of money people tended to want to find things to occupy their time. They brought many of the sports in where not too much cost was involved. This did stimulate a lot of interest in sport because you could go to a park or arena and see a team play in the daytime.

The depression caused this entertainment to develop and people had to do something for themselves in respect to entertainment. By not having to pay to attend, it gave people something to do at no cost. I suppose many of the younger people during the depression picked up softball as a good form of entertainment. Even without a league if you had a bat and ball you could form scrub teams in the various parks or on corner lots. There was really no cost involved.  

The depression was not able to stimulate league competition because of the local condition of the economy; however, it did serve as a catalyst to develop organized sport in this area. Consequently, there was a noticeable increase in organized amateur sport but not league competition.
FOOTNOTES


2 Personal interview with W.A. Morrison, February 24, 1972.
APPENDIX A

SPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. My study involves sport during the time period from 1919 to 1939. Describe organized sport as you saw it in the Windsor area during this period of time?
   a) Prior to, during, and following the depression.
   b) Men, groups or organizations responsible.
   c) Football, soccer, hockey, basketball, softball and baseball.

2. Describe any patterns of development or decline in sport during this period of time?

3. What factors affected the development or decline of sport during this period of time? Name three of either?

4. Describe the economic conditions as you saw them during the period from 1919 to 1939 in the Windsor area.
   a) Employment, construction, wages, and industrial development.

5. What phases of sport developed or declined most prior to, during, and following the depression? Rank the following:
   a) Commercial or professional.
   b) Amateur sport.
   c) Interscholastic and university sport.

6. What were the major factors that caused changes during this period of time?
a) Events.
b) Men.
c) Areas of conflict.

7. Particular sport capability or knowledge area.
a) What did you see occurring?
b) How did you feel about it?

8. Women's sport.
a) Variety.
b) Extent of competition.

9. It is said that the depression stimulated the development of organized sport in the Windsor area. True or False?

10. Could you name three other persons who could contribute information to this study?
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Lukos, H. "Harry." Proprietor of Windsor Recreation Bowling Academy since 1924. Top bowler in Canada for thirty years. Selected to bowling "Hall of Fame." Personal taped interview at his home on March 10, 1972.


Rogin, W. "Willie." Played basketball with Assumption College, University of Toronto, Windsor Alumni, Victoria Dominoes, and 1936 Canadian Olympic team (however did not attend the Games). Coached basketball at Patterson Collegiate and Sarnia Collegiate. Officiated basketball at all levels including Canadian Olympic Trials. Officiated football in the Ontario Rugby Football Union and 1947 Grey Cup Game. Former member of Windsor Umpire's Association, Windsor District Basketball Association, and Windsor District Football Association. Personal taped interviews at Forster Collegiate on February 7 & 9, 1972.
IV. Newspapers

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B. SECONDARY SOURCES

I. Books


II. Journals and Unpublished Papers

"All Time University of Windsor Football Scores". Unpublished paper, University of Windsor, 1968.


III. Theses and Dissertations


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1966-1967 Physical Education Teacher, Queen
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MEMBERSHIP

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