



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

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Sports at Goessel

The way the game is played may have changed but sports have been played at Goessel High School since its beginning.

It was decided that girls needed physical development as well as boys. Although, the only competitive sports that girls were allowed to participate in was tennis. So, in 1926-1927 a girls' athletic organization was formed. A point system was established at that time. When a girl obtained three hundred points she would be given a letter. One-half hour of basketball, baseball, tennis or volley ball counted as one point, while three miles of hiking or bicycling counted as three points. Many of the ladies I have interviewed spoke about playing intramural sports.

Both boys and girls participated in tennis. Each spring they had separate tournaments to vary the routine of playing regular tennis. The 1929 year book indicates that the boys were invited to a tournament at Moundridge in 1928, but were eliminated in the first round. A number of girls entered the tournament in 1929 and showed considerable skill. The yearbook states, "Tennis in our school would reach a higher point of efficiency if the courts would have backstops and be on a higher elevation."

In an interview with Susie Schmidt, (now deceased), class of 1932, she indicated they played tennis on a dirt court which was positioned between the Preparatory School and the boarding house.

The annual report of 1926-27 indicates there was a men's basketball team. Since there was no gym at this time, the boys went to Bethel College twice a week to practice. The games were played at Tabor College. The first game, played in the new 1935 building was on December 19, 1935. In 1940 a new electric timing clock and scoreboard was purchased by the Hi Y group.

1967 was the first official girl's team, coached by Mr. Barnett. Games were played on Monday evenings until January of 1978, when the Heart of America League changed the rules. After that, games began at 4:30 and the order was B girls, B boys, A girls and A boys.

Students were playing baseball as early as 1926-1927, but it wasn't until the



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Sports continued

beginning of the 1929-1930 school year that the school officially joined the Marion County Class C Baseball League. Baseball was thought to be a great summer and fall sport for boys who were coming from the farm. The 1929 yearbook states, "This sudden change from muscular activities to quiet study may easily cause physical difficulties, if not properly watched." Baseball was continued until 1962-1963 year when football was introduced.

Twenty-six boys were on the first football squad. Goessel and other schools in the area were playing eight-man football at the time. In 1967, administration voted to construct a new football field. One reason for the change was, Goessel would be playing eleven-man football and a new hundred-yard field would be needed instead of the eighty-yard field. Goessel currently is playing eight-man football.

Volleyball was played as early as 1927, but only as an intramural sport for girls. In 1981-1982 Brian Stucky reintroduced the sport to the Goessel girls. Seventeen girls participated the first year.

Boys were given the opportunity to participate in track as early as 1928. The original track was located north of State Street. Although the quarter mile track was marked, cows also grazed within the same area. Girls were finally given the opportunity to participate in track in 1968.

Cross Country was not an option until the 1972-1973 school year. Five boys participated and did quite well for a first year team.

The last sport to be introduced at Goessel was golf. It was introduced in 1998 and fourteen boys participated. Troy Kemling was the first coach.

The value of sports or any extra curricula activities are significant and cannot be overlooked, but most importantly students need an academic education. USD 411 has always tried to provide classes that ignite a spark for learning. As the dynamics of education have changed, the subject matter and requirements for graduation have also been altered.

For several decades, Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been evolving. No longer offering only traditional vocational education, CTE now offers a diverse range of subjects and career fields. Kansas utilizes the National Career Clusters® Framework. These courses integrate academic instructions with a technical curriculum and field-based learning.

Career Clusters link what students learn in school to the knowledge and skills they need for success in post-secondary education and careers. Within each career cluster there are a variety of pathways. Students may take classes linked directly to a potential career and further education beyond high school. Goessel High School offers the following 13 CTE pathways; Plant Systems, Power, Structural, & Technical Systems, Business Finance, Comprehensive Agriculture, Web and Digital Communications, Visual Arts, Family Community & Consumer Services, Restaurant and Event Management, Early Childhood Development & Services, Teaching/Training, Biomedical, Animal Science, and Agribusiness Systems.

USD 411 realizes we have a tremendous amount of expertise within our alumni. As this program continues to evolve, discussions are taking place as to how we can link our alumni to this program.

Knee Deep in Athletic Records

As you already know, USD 411 has established an alumni/archive room. Thanks to many generous donations, I have been able to collect and file numerous documents. This past year, four tubs of athletic files were moved into the archive room. Brian Stucky, former teacher and coach did a fantastic job of collecting years of valuable information about the sport's programs that have been a part of GHS. Earlier this summer I spent time organizing boxes of stat books, scorebooks, reel to reel tapes, small DVD's, large DVD's, VHS tapes, you name it, we have it. Unfortunately, we don't have the machines to play some of the really old tapes.



Some of the first sports played were tennis, basketball, track, softball/baseball, and yes, an annual report from 1926-1927 indicates the existence of a soccer team. Horseshoes was added as a new competitive sport in 1937. Ping Pong was also played competitively for a short time.

If curiosity gets the best of you, and you would like to see how some of these teams performed, we have basketball score books starting with the year 1935-1936. Records for baseball/softball were kept starting in 1951, and girls basketball records start in 1967. Additional records are available for football, track, cross-country, volleyball, and golf. There are also a number of files that include newspaper and some pictures.



Mary Jane Janzen (Orlin), shared these three pictures of the basketball, track, and baseball teams. This inscription is written on the back of the baseball picture. Pitcher: Bill, 1st base: Don, 2nd base: Orlin Janzen, 3rd base: Milton, Short S: Curly, Floating S: Willard R., Left F.: Bob, Center F.: Flaming, Right F.: H. Dalke. Substitutes: Left F.: Harold W., Floating S.: Cliff V., Right F.: M. Schmidt. Coach: Klippy



1st Girl's Track Team 1967-1968



Coach: Mrs. Carlson, Laverle Franzen, Pat Bartel, Luetta Duerksen, Teresa Franzen, Delia Guhr
Wenda Nickel, Betty Schroeder, Stephanie Frey, Virginia Base, Denise Nickel, Elaine Banman

New Sport At GHS



BACK ROW: Bradford Goertzen, Manager; Sandy Hiebert, Assistant Coach, Milissa Razor, Laura Logback, DeVon Schmidt, J'Nan Hiebert, Dee Ann Byrd, Brian Stucky, Coach. MIDDLE ROW: Betsy Steetzl, Diana McMillen, Susan Schmidt, Denise Hackney, Radene Unruh, Donata Girard, Manager. FRONT ROW: Kimberly Schmidt, Janna Brandt, Anita Graber, Kay Goertzen, Dee Kaltenbach, Debbie McMillen, Jenny Schroeder.

Volleyball