

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Before 1929 the only physical education offered at Young Junior High School was to the boys who made of the football teams. These teams had been coached first by Chester Jordan, then by Leon Hughes and by Asa Self respectively. Due to the lack of funds necessary to maintain a football team, and the fact that there were no other junior high schools nearby with which our teams could compete, football was abandoned in 1931.

Under the direction of Lela Holland, in 1929, the Physical Education Department was really begun. At this time a plan for awarding school and state letters in physical education was introduced. To earn these awards, students were required to earn a certain number of points by engaging in various types of activities. For the girls, a total of 1,000 points were required for a school letter and an additional 500 points were needed for a state letter. Boys were required to gain only 500 points. Girls who earned their school and state letters were eligible to attend the annual Play Day which was held each year at Alabama College in Montevallo. Numbers of girls participated in this event each year. Letters in physical education were awarded from time to time in impressive chapel exercises.

Among the girls volley ball tournaments were held. Tennis and basketball were popular among the boys.

In 1930 still another great change was made in physical education. Six periods of physical education each day were scheduled with two classes reporting each period.

The Physical Education Department presented the following May Day Program in 1931:

Grand March--Sailor Boys, Bo Peeps, Country Garden Girls,  
Tumblers and entire Junior I Class.  
Queen--Florrie Coe  
Best Citizen--Herman McAllister

Attendants: Claire Folkes, Margaret Morgan, Beryl Barnes, Betty Speight, Agnes Blaum, Frances Boozer, Frances Farmer, Doris Brown, Alice Welch, and Doris Robinson

Bo Peep Dance  
 Junior I Drill  
 Country Garden Girls Dance  
 Tumbling Act  
 Sailor Girls--acrobats  
 Milkmaids Dance

Between parts of the program, athletic contests were held for for the boys. The winners were:

Large boys hurdles---David Trant  
 Large boys 50-yard dash--Wilson McRae  
 Large boys high jump--Gaston Capps  
 Medium boys 50-yard dash--Durward Sharron  
 Small boys 50-yard dash--Roxcell Lee

In the fall of 1934 the need for more equipment for the physical education department arose. To secure this, the department sponsored "The Great Fizz-Ed Circus" using the auditorium as the Main Show and the rooms surrounding the two courts as the Midway. The side shows included Museum of Curiosities, Midnight Frolic, Hawaiian Beauties, Magic Show, Beauty Chorus, Fortune Tellers, Siamese Twins, Fish Pond and Grab Bag, Incubator Baby, and Twenty-five Thousand Dollar Beauty. Fees for these shows ranged from one to ten cents.

The Main Show included: Grand Parade  
 Ringmaster  
 Acrobats  
 Dancers  
 Pyramid Builders  
 Tumblers  
 Balance Walkers  
 Trained Animals (elephant, pony, cat,  
 ostrich, giraffe, and donkey)  
 Clowns

The financial results were most gratifying--\$135 was raised.

In April of 1935 20 girls were sent from Young Junior High to the State Play Day at Montevallo. This was the largest number who had ever attended from our school at any one time.

Another physical education circus was given in November of 1936 at the City Auditorium under the direction of Lela Holland. The program

was as follows:

Part I

- Parade
- Ringmaster--Charles McLeod
- Militia (guards to protect the audience)
- Freaks--Towering Tommy, Sally Short, Humpty Dumpty
- Clowns--Flipper Flop and Jolly Jinks
- Drill
- Animal Performers--Jazzy Jumbo, Giraffe, Ostrich, Worms,  
Singing Frogs, Cock
- A Bull Fight
- Educated Dogs
- Animal Trainer--Sonny Gellerstedt

Part II

- Weird Wompy Wumpuses
- Pyramids
- Romping Rompers
- Indians
- Rope Feats
- Baffling Bells of Baxville
- Lipsy Tricky Tumblers
- The Magic Rose

After the resignation of Lela Holland, Louise Ellis became the director of physical education for the 1941-1942 term. She was succeeded the next year, 1942-1943 by Mary Smith.

Gwendolyn Stephenson became director of the department in the fall of 1945. One of the main activities of the department this year was a May Day Program in the spring. The program is given below:

- Processional . . . . . May Court
- Jr. III Attendant. .Ann Hanahan-- Escort--Steadman Shealy
- Jr. II Atendant. . .Martha McBryde--Escort--Archie Carmichael
- Jr. I Attendant. . .Mary F. Strickland--Escort--Wallace Scarbrough
- Jr. I Attendant. . .Shirley Walker--Escort--Jimmy Clements
  
- Coronation . . . . . Mr. Bruce Flurry
  
- Spring Dance: Betty Griffin, Connie Hill, Claire Faulk,  
June Robertson, Pat Hutchings
- Battle Hymn Carmelita. . . . . Boys' Glee Club
- Nocturne Cherubum . . . . . Girls' Glee Club
  
- May Dance: Robert Powell, Jerry Farrish, Edwin Worthy, Walter Guy  
Wills, Tom Carr, Derl Shute, Jimmy Hall, Roger Hubbard, Marlette  
Johnson, Charles Patterson, Max Peacock, June Givens, Ruth

SCENES FROM MAY DAY 1945



Gwaltney, Farrys Rose Long, Margaret Crumpton, Betty Jean Adams, Mera Cannon, Mary Cannon, Elma Guilford, Betty Sue Mathis, Barbara Willis, Margaret Weathers

Recessional. . . . . May Court

Pictures that were made during this May Day Program are given on the opposite page.

In 1945-1946 Florene Daly became director of physical education.

During the 1946-1947 term teams in football and basketball were organized under the direction of the City Recreation Director, Crawford Moseley. He served in this capacity as coach for 3 years.

William S. Ezell became coach at Young Junior High in the fall of the 1949-1950 term, and also taught several classes in physical education. Under his direction the football team had an unusually good record. They won 5 games and lost 1. Their total points for the year was 125 to the opposition's 49.

In basketball the team won 12 games while losing only 3. In the Webb Tournament the team won fourth place, and won more medals than any other team as they had done the previous year.

A track program was initiated this year also. About 30 boys attended the District Track Meet in Troy. Here Junior High's team was classed B, C, and D and won all three of these class meets.

The 1950-51 term had another good record in athletics. The Varsity and "B" teams together won 8 games and lost 1 during the football season. In basketball the team won all scheduled games, but lost to Ashford in the Webb Gold Medal Tournament semi-finals. Thus the team won third place in basketball. The athletic program for the year was interrupted at mid-term by the loss of Coach Ezell who left to enter the armed forces. The basketball schedule was completed under the direction of W. D. Hewes, City Recreation Director. Miss Daly at this time took over all physical education classes again.

A new coach and physical education instructor came to Young Junior High School in the fall of the 1951-1952 term, Oscar L. Gilstrap. Miss Daly continued to teach in this department also.

In football this year the team lost only 1 game and that was to Ozark. While in basketball the team went to the finals in the Houston County tournament where they lost to Ashford. This meant that they ranked second, and received the second place trophy. In the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet the team score for the meet was third. One member, Felton Woodham won first place in the 220-yard dash, and third place in the 100-yard dash, while the relay team won first place. Larry Morris won third place also in the broad jump.

In 1952-1953, the football team under Coach Gilstrap won 3 games and lost 2. The basketball team won 12 games while losing only 3. Again the track program was carried on and five boys from the school entered the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet.

In view of the younger student body, the faculty decided to present as the major entertainment this year a circus instead of the usual one-act plays. Each advisory selected some act or feature to prepare. While the Physical Education Department under the direction of Florene Daly assumed the responsibility of coordinating the various features, and of training many of the circus acts. The Art Department ably assisted in making the animals, scenery and equipment. With such a large number of students participating, interest and competition was unusually keen. In fact, so close was the ticket selling that all possible tickets were sold and no class or advisory could claim to be winners. The circus program was presented at the Dothan High School gymnasium for two nights. It was as follows:

Parade  
Ringmaster--Johnny Rodenbough  
Educated Dogs

Little Black Sambo  
Tumblers  
Monkey Wedding  
Indian Dances  
Educated Horse  
Rainbow Girls Dance  
Comic Characters  
Kitten Kapers  
Box Men  
Bongo--the Circus Bear  
Pyramid Builders  
Waltzing Elephants  
Jitterbugs  
Hoboes Waltz  
Prancing Ponies  
Majorettes  
Koncert Band  
Freaks  
Ancient Animals  
Caper-Cutters (clowns)

(A more complete billing is given under Plays and Special Programs.)

In athletics in 1953-1954 the football team under the leadership of Mr. Gilstrap won 3 games and tied 2. While the basketball team under the direction of Mr. Ezell won 5 games and lost 4. Six boys received letter awards for track this year. This means that Young Junior High School now holds three records in the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet