

# ATHLETICS

By athletics we do not mean only foot ball as is generally supposed, but basket ball, base ball, track or any game that can be played both indoors and outdoors. A healthy body under good control is necessary in this day of high tension in all pursuits and games, sports or athletics of any kind that will result in better brains, better balanced nervous systems, and better muscular fibre will further emphasize the value of this type of education. It is good discipline in teaching self control and prompt obedience to rules; it develops the mind for concentration and "developing sound bodies in which may dwell sound minds," will result in poise of both mind and body.

It is true there is always the element of danger, many accidents occur that are unfortunate, but these are met in all things in which any kind of a contest takes place. It has become universal in belief that the American people love those contests where there is the most danger. Not to be countenanced but should be controlled by splendidly equipped gymnasiums, play grounds which are so aptly called the "Lungs of a city."

Then if boys are well prepared for this work their bodies well taken care of, and an examination given by a physician chosen for this work, there is no reason why any boy or girl cannot enter into all of these sports. In the Willmar high athletics are carried on as far as equipment will permit. Because of no proper place to practice during the winter months the most healthful of all sports, namely that of track work has never been encouraged. Track athletics is second to none in importance and in many respects a better standard by which to judge real athletics. Their importance, in a great measure, lies in the opportunity which they afford for individual development. Fifty to seventy-five boys can work on the track, for the risk of serious injury is practically eliminated, thereby this sport reaches the larger number of boys. Many will enter some events, for they realize they have not the physical strength to play football or basket ball but will come out and enjoy themselves running or jumping and so become healthy, strong boys without having the rough and tumble life necessary in other sports. This is not necessarily confined to the boys of the high school but can be extended to the grades, where the enthusiasm is unbounded for just such work. It should be simplified for them to be of any benefit and again we see the need of a well equipped gymnasium which would be open at all times to not only the children of the public schools but to the tired business man who could spend an hour or two after supper thereby forgetting the strenuous business life in an evening of pleasure.

## BASKET BALL

Though at times defeated in football the Willmar High School team

always takes the lead in basket ball. For the last four years Willmar has had the strongest teams in the history of Willmar high school athletics.

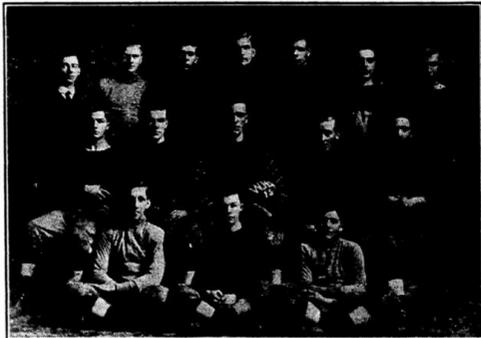
In the basket ball season of 1912-13, Willmar played seventeen games and out of those won fifteen. Winning the championship of the seventh district, they went to Northfield where they came out second in the contest for the state championship of Minnesota.

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The basket ball team of 1913-14 did not rank as high as the one of the preceding year. They had a good team, but it was not one that could be depended upon in a game. They could win a game two to one and playing the same team again, might lose by a large score. The team surprised the spectators many times by winning over teams that had not been defeated before and were not expecting to be by a high school team. They were defeated by Alexandria and therefore lost the championship

Litchfield came next in line our team going to Litchfield. These games bring the largest crowd with the exception of the ones with the Seminary.

Litchfield had a large team, their center being almost a half foot taller than our center, Erickson, but in spite of this he failed to get the tip-off. Willmar won easily in the first half and almost as easy. The final score was almost two to one.



1915 FOOTBALL SQUAD.

of the district.

The team of 1914-15 was a strong team in comparison with the other teams of the district. They were victorious in the beginning and never fell down in defeat except in one game. Having defeated the teams of this district they went to Northfield and in the race for championship Willmar came third. Later they defeated the Seminary and Cosmos therefore becoming champions of the city.

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This year's team, 1915-16 although having but two men of last year's team was even a better team than had been expected at first.

The first game was with the city team, who it seems were better prepared for the game than the high school, because the high school team started practicing later than usual and had practiced very little before Christmas. The Cosmos seemed to be in mid-season form. Erickson star-

red, getting five baskets and one foul, Nelson four, Severinsson two and Sather one.

The next game was with Granite Falls and was played in our "Gym." Granite Falls has hardly if ever at all defeated our high school team and therefore could not come here with any hopes of winning. If such had been the case, their hopes were destroyed. Their shots were good but they were unable to guard our men. The Willmar team won. Nelson shot eight baskets, Erickson six, Severinsson and Osmundson each three, Johnson two and Limperich one.

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Willmar played Morton next at Cottonwood for the last struggle for the championship. Morton was so sure of victory over Willmar so preparations were already made for their trip to Northfield. Cottonwood and a few other towns near there were wishing for Willmar's defeat in this game, but were disappointed for Willmar won by six points. Severinsson led in basket shooting for Willmar, making six baskets, followed by Johnson with three, Erickson with two and Osmundson with one.

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The high school team went to Northfield Thursday, March 22. They drew Austin for the first game, March 24. Because of the difference in height of the centers, Erickson and Dugan, Willmar had only a slight chance of winning as they were not accustomed to have a larger man against Erickson. They had always been used to having Erickson get the tip-off so this may have been the chief reason for the loss. Austin beat the Willmar team by a score of over 2 to 1. Johnson, Erickson and Nelson each made a basket and Severinsson starred making eight baskets. He received votes for the position of forward for the all-state team but was defeated by Wengert of Austen and Cussan of Virginia. Had Willmar defeated Austin the chances are that Severinsson would have filled the position on the all-state team.

About this time a championship team from Beardsley challenged us. They had not lost a single game for two seasons. When they asked for the game, they wrote that since Willmar had a strong high school team, they would like to play at Beardsley and they hoped our team would at least be good practice for them. Our team went prepared, expecting to meet an exceptionally fast team. The small gymnasium was a hindrance to our team, but nevertheless they played quite good and won with a score of over five to one, Erickson getting nine baskets, Severinsson seven, Johnson three and Limperich two.

Next in order, was with Dassel, who had defeated Litchfield. The Willmar team expected a fast hard game and were prepared. It seemed queer but Dassel had no chance from the beginning and Willmar won with a score of over four to one. Severinsson made the largest number of baskets made by any of the players during this season, Erickson made eight, Johnson seven and Osmundson two.

Next, the team went to Granite Falls for a second game with the high school. Mr. Bender took out Erickson from the first half, intend-

ing to give one of the subs a chance. He thought that because Willmar had won so easily in the last game with this team, they could easily win again without Erickson. He soon changed his mind for two reasons, first, our team was not used to playing without Erickson and secondly, their team had improved greatly by the addition of a red-headed forward who starred on that team. The first half ended in a tie, 14 to 14. Coach Bender probably fearing worse results put in Erickson in the second half. Then because of this the score of the last half was 23 to 2. Severinsson made five baskets in this game, Erickson four, Johnson and Osmundson each three and Limperich one.

The next game started the fight for the championship of the district. Willmar played Alexandria at St. Cloud and won with a score of nearly 2 to 1. While in the fight for the championship with this same team a year ago, Willmar won by only three points.

In this season's game, Severinsson made six baskets, Erickson five, Johnson two and Osmundson one.

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The following is the record of the team:

- Willmar 25; City Team 45.
- Willmar 49; Granite Falls 5.
- Willmar 33; Litchfield 17.
- Willmar 46; Beardsley 9.
- Willmar 56; Dassel 13.
- Willmar 39; Litchfield 19.
- Willmar 39; Granite Falls 16.
- Willmar 30; Alexandria 16.
- Willmar 32; Morton 26.
- Willmar 26; Austin 56.
- Willmar 24; Seminary 10.
- Willmar 12; Seminary 27.
- Willmar 22; Seminary 14.
- Willmar 435; opponents 272.
- Number of games played, 13.
- Number of games won, 10.
- Number of games lost, 3.
- Average per game by Willmar, 34.
- Average per game by opponents, 21.
- Number of fouls shot by Willmar, 45.

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Record of players:

Player	Position	Baskets
Severinsson	RF	63
Erickson	C	59
Johnson	LF	23
Nelson	F	28
Osmundson	RG	15
Limperich	LG	6
Sather	Sub	1

Thus closed a successful season notwithstanding the team was unsuccessful at Northfield, although we feel they gave a good account of themselves.

As this season closed there is a good beginning for the 1916-17 year, and every true high school student wishes the team to be a success.

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## FOOTBALL

Up to the last part of the football season of 1914, Willmar has had a strong football team every year, scarcely losing a game.

At the beginning of that season the Redwood Falls High School journeyed here. Although Redwood Falls had the heavier team, the two teams were

evenly matched, the Willmar brain taking place of the opponents brawn. The first half was scoreless, but in the third quarter Redwood Falls made a touchdown and failed to kick goal. After this no points were made by either side until the last thirty seconds of the game. Then, two successful passes brought the ball to the opponents one yard line and the next play tied the score. And as Willmar also missed the goal, the final score was 6 to 6.

The next Saturday the team went to Litchfield which has nearly always had a comparatively strong football team; this was true also in 1914, but Willmar was ready for them, having every play well in hand and defeated them with a score of 21 to 7.

The next game was with Windom Institute of Montevideo. They had a

to 0. Renville followed closely and gained a victory and Litchfield won two games in succession. The Alumni won a victory which was exceptional for them, altho in a more difficult way than they had expected.

Here to the 1916 eleven, may they prove to be a greater success than their predecessors.

The season opened late this year as there seemed to be other things to take up the time. This year for the first time, written consents from the parents and doctor's certificates were demanded. This hindered the practice for a while, but after the

Christmas vacation, all the members of the squad showed up with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Also this year we adopted new rules which made the games faster and more interesting, both to the members of the team and the audience. The floor was divided into two courts instead of three, the first center playing guard and the second playing forward.

Our first game was played with Granite Falls on the home floor, and they kept up their record of the past two years by winning the game.

We had a game scheduled with Litchfield on the opponent's floor, but on account of the irregularity of the trains, we were unable to play our old-time rival, Litchfield, played us on the home floor and we again lost the game as the Litchfield girls had been accustomed to playing boys' rules and they soon showed their superior strength. But we all took it good-naturedly and had a social time at the Odd Fellows Hall afterwards. This game ended with a score of 48

The next week both the girls and boys went to Granite Falls for double-header. On the home floor had to play old rules as the Granite Falls team were not accustomed to the new rules. But after the royal entertainment at a spread in the high school, we were ready to play a good game on the opponent's floor, making use of new rules. This time we all went down to defeat, but before very strong and good team.

After this we stopped practicing as intended to close the season, but on April 3rd and 7th we met the Seminary team on the opponent's floor. We then broke our record by winning both games. The first game ended in a tie, so a great deal of enthusiasm was put into the game the next few minutes, as the between "ill and death." The "Sem" girls mad

very weak team which the beginning of the game plainly showed. At the end of the first half, Willmar had a large score without very much exertion. As the game progressed the Willmar rooters yelled for a score of 100 to 0, and Windom being unable to block the passes were defeated by that score.

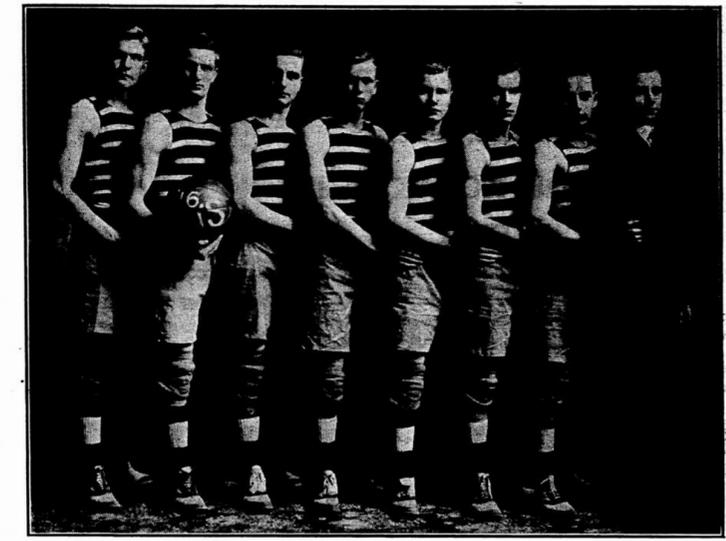
The following Saturday the team went to Montevideo. This game would have probably been as disastrous to the Windom Institute as the one preceding it, for the first half being 47 to 0 in favor of Willmar, when the game was called off.

The first team:  
Right Forward—Ruth Beck.  
Left Forward—Emma Boyd.  
First Center—Adehne Marshall.  
Second Center—Pearl Otterness.  
Right Guard—Florence Styles.  
Left Guard—Ethel McKee.  
Subs—Ruth Olson, Ethel Bergeson, Edna Magnuson.

Mis Doremus coached the girls for about half the season and then Mr. Bender, who was also the boys' coach, was procured. They both have shown their ability as coaches and have won the favor of the team.

## GIRLS' BASKET BALL

The season opened late this year as there seemed to be other things to take up the time. This year for the first time, written consents from the parents and doctor's certificates were demanded. This hindered the practice for a while, but after the



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Now Willmar met Litchfield again. It was Willmar's game from the beginning to the end. Severinsson failed to show up because one boy who was guarding him had been told to guard Severinsson only, therefore he succeeded in getting only two baskets. Erickson made eight baskets, Johnson six and Osmundson one.

Next, the team went to Granite Falls for a second game with the high school. Mr. Bender took out Erickson from the first half, intend-

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