A History of
Kalamazoo College Athletics

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FOUNDATIONS - PRIOR TO INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION

At the end of the first century of existence of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Kalamazoo College is among the leaders in MIAA championships won. The Hornets, however, were not among the charter members of the MIAA, and, in fact, did not sponsor teams of any kind on a formal basis until 1892 - four years after the league was founded.

As far back as the 1860s, there were athletic events on the Kalamazoo campus; a gymnasium club existed and exhibitions were given in various athletic skills. By 1879, an Athletic Association was in operation, and intramural games arranged in various sports. Track and baseball were among the sports represented, but as an indication of future interest, it was reported that the bruising exhibition football contests were the most popular with the spectators.

In the spring of 1884, Kalamazoo was invited to compete in a field day with Olivet and Albion at Olivet, but invitation was declined on the basis that athletics at Kalamazoo were too disorganized. A prophetic statement was made in the Kalamazoo College Index at the time, to the effect that critics feared that athletics would become a business and scholastics a secondary matter. The writer indicated that there was little danger of that happening at Kalamazoo, in view of the lack of athletic interest. Today, of course, that fear concerning athletic overemphasis has proven to be well-founded among major college and universities - but in view of philosophy of MIAA members, there still is little danger of that taking place at Kalamazoo!
Just a few years later, there had been a complete reversal of the situation at Kalamazoo, and the stage was set for varsity competition against other schools. The faculty adopted a resolution in 1891 "recognizing a sound body as an essential condition for the best mental health"; the college catalogue praised the efforts of the Athletic Association, and recommended that students make use of the excellent facilities at the new Kalamazoo YMCA Gymnasium.

In June of 1892, a two-day campus Field Day was greeted with much enthusiasm. It included such unusual events as an egg race, a potato race, a tub race (on Mirror Lake, which was then in the center of the campus), a tug-of-war, and a jumping high kick. But it also included standard events such as tennis competition, footraces - and the very first athletic event against another school. Although Kalamazoo did not sponsor what could be called a varsity team, Albion was invited to send a baseball team to take part in the Field Day. The Britons accepted the invitation, and returned home with an 8-0 win over their hosts, and thus, on a sunny day in June of 1892, propelled Kalamazoo into the world of intercollegiate athletics. On June 14, 1892, the Board of Trustees gave additional endorsement by approving the request by the Athletic Association to secure funds for a gymnasium.

THE FIRST VARSITY TEAMS

Kalamazoo organized its very first varsity athletic team in the fall of 1892, for the purpose of playing a two-game football series against Olivet. The Hornets lost both games, by scores of 20-4 and 12-4, but the players were enthusiastic about the
competition. There was no regular coach, but Sumner Remington was elected Captain and was in charge of practice sessions. There were no substitutes, as just eleven men turned out; in addition to Remington, those who had the honor of playing on the very first Kalamazoo team were Robert Gregg, Almon Hutchins, Fred Kinnane, David Magill, Frank McKinney, Elbert Nicholson, William Schelven, Richard Shutts, William Stripp, and Joseph Westnedge.

The lineup changed only slightly in the fall of 1893, when once again only eleven players were available. McKinney and Magill were not on hand in 1893, and were replaced by Ira Bullock and Marshall Warwick. The team 1893 team played two games, losing again to Olivet, 26-0, and to Notre Dame, 34-0.

The Westnedge brothers, Joseph and Richard, were members of a prominent Kalamazoo family. Joseph was a sophomore in college when he played on the 1892 team; he also competed in football in 1893 and 1894, and was Captain of the 1894 team. He became a Colonel in the United States Army, serving first in the Spanish-American war, and after he died in military service in Europe during the first World War, West Avenue in Kalamazoo was renamed Westnedge Avenue in his honor.

Richard Westnedge joined his brother on the team in 1894, in time to celebrate the first Hornet football victory, a 16-0 triumph over the Kalamazoo YMCA. Although this was followed by a 68-0 shellacking at the hands of Hillsdale College, the team finished with a winning record by downing three Rivers High School, 36-0. Richard Westnedge went on to Captain the 1895 team, and also to win two more gridiron letters in 1896 and 1897.
The presence of high school teams on the college schedules at that time was not unusual; even the larger universities matched their varsities against the prep teams. It was even a common practice for players to switch back and forth between high school and college teams. Kalamazoo College declined to use outside players, but did allow students from the preparatory school, operated by the college, to play on the college teams. There also was no particular limit on number of years of competition; if a student was regularly enrolled at the college, he was eligible for the teams.

Under these conditions, it was possible for William Stripp to be a five-time letterman in football, from 1892 to 1896, inclusive, first as a prep school student, and then as a collegian. Stripp also competed on the first track and baseball teams in the spring of 1895, and played three more seasons of baseball in 1896, 1897, and 1898. He elected not to play football in the fall of 1897, but would have been eligible to win a sixth football letter had he so desired.

The first baseball team, in the spring of 1894, was captained by Ralph Boyden, and posted a 2-3 record. Defense was not in evidence, as Kalamazoo outscored the opposition, 72-60, in those five contests. A 21-20 loss to Olivet and a 21-7 win over Michigan State were typical. The first track team also appeared in the spring of 1894, but did not compete in an outside dual meets until 1901 despite the fact that interest was maintained each spring in the interim. The school did send individuals to the MIAA track meets, however, once membership in the league was
attained in the 1896-97 season.

In addition to Remington, the Westnedge brothers, and William Stripp, other outstanding athletes from those early years included two additional Stripp brothers, Albert and Frank, and Leroy Hornbeck, a five-time football letterman from 1893 to 1897.

MIAA MEMBERSHIP

The arrival of Dr. Arthur Slocum as Kalamazoo's new president in the fall of 1892 coincided with the sponsorship of the first varsity football team. Slocum recognized the value of spirited competition, and he also realized that alignment with the four-year-old MIAA would be a step in the right direction. To this end, in the spring of 1894, he sent a representative to an MIAA meeting to discuss membership procedures. In mid-1895, Kalamazoo made formal application to the MIAA for membership, but this resulted in a negative vote by the league on the basis that Kalamazoo "had no record in athletics". But after Kalamazoo had won four out of five baseball games against MIAA teams in the spring of 1896, the application was reconsidered, and Kalamazoo was granted full membership effective with the 1896-97 school year.

That first year of league competition, starting in the fall of 1896, was a rousing success. The football team scored two important victories over Michigan State, which was then a league member, by scores of 24-0 and 18-4, and lost only a hard-fought battle with Albion, 6-4. The scores were not unusual for the times; field goals scored four points; touchdowns counted five points with one extra point for the conversion. Thus, multiples
of six points usually represented touchdowns with successful extra points.

The spring of 1897 saw Kalamazoo win its first league championship, as the baseball team posted a 9-2 record against MIAA opponents. Ed O'Brien captained the team; other diamond stars included Enos DeWaters, Maurice Waterbury, and John Hoag. Victories over Albion, 5-3; Olivet, 9-2; and Michigan State, 19-5 and 9-5, were important triumphs in the championship drive.

From that point until the turn of the century, Kalamazoo was the dominant school in MIAA competition. The baseball team added two more titles, in the spring seasons of 1898 and 1899, and the football team captured the league crown for three years in a row, in the fall seasons of 1897, 1898, and 1899.

The baseball team did not have a regular coach in those championship seasons, as the captains were in charge. Ed O'Brien thus led the 1897 team, Newton Root was in command in 1898, and Maurice Waterbury led the baseballers in 1899.

In football, however, the first regular coach appeared on the scene. Charles Hall was captain, and therefore the nominal coach, of the 1896 team (the one which lost the close 6-4 decision to Albion in a decisive league game), and after graduation, he agreed to stay on as a designated, though unpaid, coach. He began his tenure in the fall of 1897, and remained for four seasons, including the fall of 1900. Hall's teams won undisputed MIAA gridiron titles in 1897, 1898, and 1899. Hall continued his involvement with athletics throughout his entire life, becoming Sports Editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette, and
actively working with local college and high school enthusiasts.

Thus, in the calendar years ending in 1899, Kalamazoo College claimed six MIAA titles, three each in football and baseball. The Hornets had also named their first regular coach, Charles Hall, for the football squad, although no regular coach was named for baseball until 1904, and no designated coach for track until 1912, and no regular coach for tennis until 1920, even though that sport made an initial appearance in 1904.

The tennis team was organized in the spring of 1904 to join the track team in the MIAA field day, but no dual meets were scheduled for either team during the first decade of the twentieth century. As of 1904, Kalamazoo was therefore represented in four sports - football, baseball, track, and tennis - but by 1907, several Kalamazoo students who were members of the basketball team at the local YMCA convinced school authorities to sponsor a team in that sport. In the winter of 1907-08, Kalamazoo played its very first basketball game; with students from Kalamazoo on both sides, the varsity beat the YMCA group, 31-28. Not until 1919, when cross country made an appearance, was there additional expansion in the number of sports.

CROSSTOWN RIVALRY

The news that the Michigan legislature had, in 1903, authorized the establishment of a new teacher training college at Kalamazoo was greeted with enthusiasm by the entire community. The general feeling was two colleges would complement each other, and add to the city's growing reputation as a cultural and
educational center. Kalamazoo College faculty and students watched with interest as the new buildings for what would eventually become Western Michigan University took shape on Asylum Avenue (later named Oakland Drive), directly across the Michigan Central railroad tracks from the Hornet campus. With that close proximity, and with the expectation that the two schools would be reasonably equal in enrollment for a period of years, a spirited athletic rivalry soon followed.

Western opened its doors in 1905, and by the spring of 1906, had organized a baseball team to challenge K-College. On Thursday, April 12, 1906, Hornet diamond Captain Grover Kimmerle shook hands with his friend Lynn Deal, captain of the Western baseballers, and the historic first athletic meeting between the two schools got underway. K-College prevailed by a 6-0 score, and, in fact, won two later games with Western by scores of 5-1 and 7-0 with still another contest ending in a 1-1 tie. Only two more baseball games were played between the two schools, Western winning 5-1 in 1908 and 13-6 in 1911, but the rivalry extended to other sports.

In basketball, the two schools each won one game, Kalamazoo posting a 27-17 win in the 1907-08 season, and Western winning by a 45-18 margin the following year. In track, Kalamazoo finished first in two triangular meets against Western and Kalamazoo Central High School in 1907 and 1908.

An interesting sidelight to the 1907 track season was the fact that Matthew Gipp of Laurium, Michigan, was a varsity letterman. Gipp was an excellent student, and both he and his
sister Dorothy later settled in Kalamazoo. Their family was disappointed that Matthew's younger brother was much less serious about his studies, and that he showed no interest in Kalamazoo College. Thus did George Gipp choose to enroll at Notre Dame where he became a national legend and genuine folk hero after his death in 1920. It is interesting to speculate on what kind of an athletic career The Gipper might have posted, had he followed in Matthew's footsteps at Kalamazoo College!

The highest interest on the part of townspeople in the Kalamazoo-Western rivalry was the four-game football series between the two schools. The first gridiron meeting took place on November 3, 1906; Kalamazoo scored a field goal in the opening minutes for a 3-0 lead, then added two second-half touchdown (at five points each) and an extra point for a 14-0 triumph. Western gained revenge with a 41-0 victory in 1907, and went on to win in 1908 by a score of 2-0 and in 1909 by a 26-5 margin.

The 1908 game was a classic; Western had just beaten Central Michigan, 11-5, and was a heavy favorite over the Hornets, since Kalamazoo had scored just one touchdown in six games so far that season. The game was played on Thanksgiving Day, 1908, before a large crowd. Kalamazoo was deprived of a "moral victory" tie game in the final minute when a pass from center sailed over the prospective punter's head, and out of the end zone for an automatic safety which gave Western the 2-0 victory.

Thus, in the early years from 1906 to 1911, Kalamazoo and Western met in head-to-head contests more than a dozen times in four sports - football, basketball, baseball, and track. The
contacts continued thereafter only in track, as both schools entered the State Intercollegiate Meets, in which all schools in the state with the exception of the university of Michigan, took part. These continued into the 1920's; in 1920, for example, Western won the state competition, with Kalamazoo taking second. In 1921, the winner was Michigan State, but Kalamazoo had the satisfaction of placing second ahead of Western. These meets were discontinued a few years later, and the rivalry was discontinued for a half-century, until contests in tennis arranged. But during the several years that the two schools met on equal terms early in this century, and until Western's soaring enrollment put the Broncos into a higher classification, the rivalry was as intense as those which Kalamazoo enjoyed, and still does enjoy, against MIAA rivals.

EDWIN MATHER - THE FIRST FACULTY COACH AND DIRECTOR

The decade from the fall of 1901 to the spring of 1911, while interesting because of the rivalry with Western Michigan, was one of Kalamazoo's least successful time periods in MIASA competition. Only one MIAA title was won by the Hornets in those ten years, that being the baseball crown won in the spring of 1903 under Coach Roger Gorton, with Captain Cuyler North and future major leaguer Wade Killifer as the stars.

It is noteworthy that the single baseball title was under the direction of the school's first designated baseball coach, since the coaching situation was considered to be the chief factor in the lack of overall success. Several dedicated individuals offered their services, but none enjoyed faculty status. Each
team made most of its own arrangements, since there was no Athletic Director to take charge of the complete program.

In that decade, both track and tennis survived without regular coaches. The fledgling basketball team had three coaches in four season. In football, there were eight different coaches in ten seasons, and in baseball, six head coaches in ten years. Typical of the hard-working coaches during this time was Rufus Gilbert, who coached basketball and baseball, along with two different tenures as football coach. No one belittled the efforts of any of the coaches, but it was clear that some formal arrangements were necessary to insure an adequate program. The decision to hire a full-time coach and director, with full faculty status, was made in the spring of 1911, and the arrival of Edwin Mather in the fall of 1911 to fill that position heralded a new era in Kalamazoo College athletics.

Mather was a young man - he had graduated from Lake Forest College just a year earlier - but there was no question as to his ability. Though his football teams did not win an MIAA title, the winning records in 1914 and 1915 marked the first time that Kalamazoo had finished on the plus side in football since 1903, and they set the stage for a spectacular season under Coach Ralph Young in 1916.

In basketball, Mather was highly successful. His first two teams, in 1911-12 and 1912-13, played independent schedules, but his next three squads claimed undisputed MIAA championships. Mather's basketball teams never lost a home game in his tenure. These teams also set the stage for continued Kalamazoo domination
in MIAA basketball, which was enhanced even further under Young. The captains of the three cage champions were Charles Bishop, Bert MacGregor, and Bill Taylor, three of the finest Hornet athletes of the times. MacGregor also was captain of the 1916 MIAA baseball champions, marking the first diamond title since 1903.

In the summer of 1916, Mather returned to Lake Forest, and later accepted the post of head basketball coach at the University of Michigan, where he won national acclaim with two Big Ten co-championships and one undisputed title in seven seasons. He continued to be a good friend and supporter of Kalamazoo College's program, and it was a sad occasion when Hornet supporters learned of his death from cancer in August of 1928, at the peak of his career. It was a news story of national importance when, after coaching Michigan to a clear-cut Big Ten title in 1926-27, he was hospitalized, and Harry Kipke of the Michigan staff relayed play-by-play details to Mather's bedside by telephone. Kalamazoo's coach in 1928, Chester Barnard, eulogized Mather as the founder of a great Kalamazoo tradition.

THE GOLDEN YEARS WITH RALPH YOUNG

Upon Edwin Mather's return to Lake Forest in the summer of 1916, Kalamazoo College had the extreme good fortune to secure the services of Ralph Young, who many years later was to become one of the all-time great figures in the history of athletics in the state of Michigan.

Young graduated from Washington and Jefferson College, having transferred there after playing football at the University of
Chicago under the revered Amos Alonzo Stagg. His first coaching
assignment was at DePauw University, but he remained there for
just one year before accepting the job of Athletic Director and
coach of all major sports at Kalamazoo.

Young's success at Kalamazoo was nothing less than
spectacular. In the seven years which he spent at Kalamazoo, he
coached no less than 18 MIAA championship teams in football,
basketball, baseball, track, and cross country. He helped
direct, but did not coach, two other MIAA title winners in
tennis. The Hornets, in fact, were represented by champions in
every one of the six sports sponsored by the MIAA in that era.

In basketball, the terms coached by Edwin Mather had won
three basketball titles; under Young, this was extended to a ten­
year reign in which Kalamazoo won or shared every league cage
title. Thus, every basketball team coached by Young at Kalamazoo
was a champion. The Hornets also won football titles in 1916,
1919, and 1921; baseball honors in 1918, 1919, and 1920;
tracktitles in 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922, and a cross country
title in 1922, all under Young's tutelage. The two tennis
championship teams, in 1921 and 1922, had no designated coach,
but Young was in charge.

The very first Kalamazoo team under his direction was the
1916 football squad, which posted the first unbeaten and untied
Hornet gridiron record since 1898, and was to be the last to
claim that honor until the perfect season of 1962.

The 1916 gridders dominated Hillsdale, 39-7, Olivet, 27-0,
Albion, 41-13, and Alma, 21-7, in their first four games. They
followed with a school-record 108-0 victory over Grand Rapids Veterinary College in which Bert McGregor set a still-existing individual scoring record of 48 points. Eastern Michigan was the next victim, 21-6, before the season-ending 34-7 triumph over the Notre Dame freshmen.

That 1916 win over the Irish yearlings was of particular importance. The Notre Dame freshmen schedule included games against the varsities of both Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, and their first-year roster included the immortal George Gipp. Thus, Notre Dame was in a position to judge the relative strength of the Western and Kalamazoo teams. Western Michigan was one of the highest-scoring teams in the nation in 1916, but the Irish freshmen kept the Broncos in check, Gipp dropkicked a collegiate record 62-yard field goal, and Western suffered its only loss of the season, 10-6. By comparison, Kalamazoo College ran roughshod over the same Notre Dame squad, 34-7, with Gipp scoring the only touchdown for the losers. The supporters of Kalamazoo College were vociferous in claiming superiority over their Western neighbors.

The very next season, Young upgraded the Kalamazoo schedule to launch a six-year series against the Notre Dame varsity. In 1919, Notre Dame won national recognition with Coach Knute Rockne's first unbeaten team. Gipp was the star, but the Irish had to fight for every yard before posting a 14-0 victory. Notre Dame won by much larger scores before the series ended in 1923, but the Hornets had the experience of playing against some of the finest teams in the country.
THE PINNACLE OF BASKETBALL SUCCESS

The seven Hornet basketball teams coached by Young, which won or shared the MIAA title in each season, posted a total of 96 victories against 38 losses. Those were outstanding totals for that era, and they included the toughest non-league opponents in the midwest - Notre Dame, Michigan, Michigan State, Central Michigan, and Detroit, among others.

In March of 1917, Kalamazoo was chosen to play in the national championships. This was not a small-college event, but rather an open class which included the major teams from all corners of the United States. However, it did include semi-pro teams made up of former collegiate stars. Kalamazoo did very well, downing the Berwyn Athletic Club of Illinois, 57-18, before losing to Pacific Coast champion Montana State, 26-16. However, the best was yet to come, and Kalamazoo became a national power in the 1921-22 season with Young as the coach.

The Hornets posted a 22-3 record in 1921-22; they were unbeaten in the MIAA, and defeated Notre Dame, Michigan State, Valparaiso, and Detroit to once again win an invitation to the national championships. This was a time in which large and small colleges competed on equal terms, and, as in 1917, this was a true national championship event. The tourney was held at Indianapolis, and Kalamazoo disposed of the Pacific Coast champions, Idaho, by a score of 38-31, and the Eastern titleholder, Grove City of Pennsylvanis, by a 22-13 count, before facing Wabash in the finals. Wabash, which has earned the nickname of Little Giants by consistently defeating major teams
from all over the country, ended Kalamazoo's national title hopes with a convincing 43-23 margin. Wabash had earlier beaten the champions of the South, Mercer, by a 62-25 margin. In case anyone doubted Wabash's credentials, the Little Giants included Notre Dame, Indiana, Illinois, Purdue, and Georgetown among their victims that season.

That outstanding 1921-22 basketball team at Kalamazoo included Captain Tom Vroeg, one of the finest all-around athletes ever to compete for the Hornets; Milton (Bud) Hinga, later an outstanding coach and administrator at Hope College; and a future major league baseballer in Fred Spuregon.

In the next season, 1922-23, among other triumphs, Kalamazoo again won at Michigan State, 24-22, and while this was a victory to be celebrated, it once again demonstrated Young's ability to Spartan administrators. He accepted their job offer, and moved to East Lansing in the fall of 1923. Before his death in 1972, Young became famous as the architect of State's rise to national prominence, and after retirement from the university, served with distinction as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. Young's accomplishments at Kalamazoo and at Michigan State combine to form one of the great success stories of all time in collegiate athletics.

Prelude to the Barnard Era

Young's departure for a larger challenge at East Lansing in the spring of 1923 left a void which was not easily filled. Maynard Street, who had graduated from Carleton College in 1920 and who has been coaching at a military academy in Minnesota, was
named coach of all sports starting in the fall of 1923. For the first time, an assistant coach was named, as 1923 Hornet graduate Tom Vroeg agreed to remain as a graduate assistant to Street. But even this popular coaching duo could not save Kalamazoo from a sharp decline. Street remained at Kalamazoo for two school years, until the spring of 1925, but the only MIAA championship won in that time period was a cross country title in the fall of 1923. The 1923 football team, in fact, set a record in reverse, giving up 477 points while losing ten games in a row; on four occasions, opponents scored 70 or more points against that 1923 team. Street resigned in the spring of 1925, and the school immediately launched an intensive search for a successor. This marked the first time that Kalamazoo had interviewed multiple hopefuls, and it soon became apparent that Chester Barnard was the outstanding candidate. He became Kalamazoo's coach of all sports in the fall of 1925, and was to become a legendary figure during his 17 years on the campus. His twin brother, Lester Barnard, was also named to the staff for a brief period in the 1920's; Lester later became basketball coach at Central Michigan University.

The Barnards were natives of Missouri, and both graduated from Southwestern Missouri State College in 1921. When the powerful Great Lakes Navy team played the Mare Island Marines in the 1919 Rose Bowl (during the wartime absence of college teams), the Barnard twins started at the two end positions for Great Lakes. Chester also attended Northwestern University, but returned to Southwestern to join his brother for the 1921
graduation date.

Chet Barnard soon demonstrated that Kalamazoo's athletic fortunes were in capable hands. After two previous football teams had won but two of eighteen games, Barnard's first grid squad posted a 5-2-1 record and were in contention for the MIAA title before losing narrow decisions to Alma (6-0) and to Eastern Michigan (7-6). After two previous basketball teams had recorded a record of just 15 wins and 14 losses, Chet's first cage team had a 14-game win streak enroute to a 17-3 overall season record and an undisputed MIAA title. Indeed, the Hornets were once again a power to be reckoned with in league competition.

PROSPERITY AND DEPRESSION

The next decade of athletic success at Kalamazoo, from Barnard's arrival in the fall of 1925 to the end of the 1934-35 school year, was also marked by the great economic depression which followed the stock market crash in the fall of 1929. Barnard coached a league championship baseball team in the spring of 1927, captained by Neil Schrier as baseball enjoyed a revival of interest at Kalamazoo. However, baseball was dropped from the MIAA schedule for economic reasons just before the 1930 season was to open. Kalamazoo also dominated the league in cross country, winning seven titles in a row from 1926 to 1932, the first two (1926 and 1927) under Lester Barnard, and the other five under Chet's direction. But cross country was also a victim of the depression, and was dropped after Kalamazoo won its last title in the fall of 1932.

The Barnard decade ending in the spring of 1935 included
three undisputed basketball titles, in 1926, 1928, and 1930, and a co-championship with Hillsdale in 1931. In football, Chet’s teams shared the 1930 title with Alma and the 1934 title with Hope. He also kept busy in the spring, coaching a golf champion in 1935, and track winners in 1932 and 1933.

A significant development took place in the fall of 1928 when Dr. Allen B. Stowe joined the Hornet faculty as a professor of chemistry. He became Kalamazoo tennis coach in the spring of 1930, finishing second behind Olivet that season. Stowe’s teams won undisputed net titles in the following three seasons, and then finished close behind Albion in the 1934 and 1935 campaigns. The pattern had been established, however, with the three titles in 1931, 1932, and 1933, and the stage was set for a future Hornet dynasty in tennis.

THE APPROACH OF WORLD WAR TWO

Although economic depression still gripped the United States in the fall of 1935, there were signs that the nation was beginning the long journey back to prosperity. In that peacetime context, it appeared that the Barnard era might continue for many years in the future, since Chet was totally devoted to his Kalamazoo duties, and he was still a young man by the standards of the coaching profession. But in reality, only seven more school years remained before the second World War interfered, coaches as well as students entered military service, and athletic schedules were cancelled or drastically reduced for the duration. Barnard resigned from the college staff after the spring of 1942 to accept a Navy commission, and he never again
Coach aat Kalamazoo.

Crowded into those few seasons from the fall of 1935 to spring of 1942, however, were some of the finest records in the history of Hornet athletics. Barnard continued to coach one team in each season of the year—football in the fall, and basketball in the winter, and golf in the spring. Dr. Stowe continued his reign as tennis coach, and Gilmer Robinson compiled an outstanding record as golf coach.

The football team won undisputed championships in 1936 and 1937, compiling record of fourteen wins, one loss, and one tie in that time period. George Finlay, John Somer, and Stan Lane were among the outstanding grid stars and were the captains of those championship teams.

In 1936, the MIAA experimented with a unique football schedule in which some teams met twice and there were no outside games. The only blot on the 1936 record was a 7-7 tie with Albion, but Kalamazoo won the title by scoring a 6-0 win over Albion in the other meeting. This arrangement was abandoned after only one season, and in 1937 the schedule reverted to the usual football arrangement of one meeting per season. Kalamazoo won its first seven games in 1937 to clinch the MIAA title again, and lost only a non-league finale to Central Michigan.

The basketball teams of 1937-38 and 1938-39 also won back-to-back undisputed championships. One of Kalamazoo's all-time great athletes, Joe Howard, captained the 1938 team, and was co-captain in 1939 with Don Spalsbury. In both seasons, the Hornets won post-season playoffs to claim undisputed titles after tying for
regular-season honors. The 1938 team downed Hope, 44-31, in a playoff held at Grand Rapids. The 1939 team participated in the famous three-way event held at Western Michigan's gymnasium, in which Hope, Albion, and Kalamazoo each played a half-game against the other two teams. The Hornets were credited with identical 30-29 wins over Hope and Albion in classic thrillers to win the outright title.

In the spring of 1936, Henry Brown of Kalamazoo won medalist honors in the MIAA meet for the third year in a row, a record which still stands. Although Coach Gilmer Robinson's team failed to win the MIAA team title that spring, the Hornets were on the verge of a golf reign which included four league championships, in 1938, 1939, 1940, and 1942. Kalamazoo's Russ Zick was a two-time league medalist in 1939 and 1940. Golf, incidentally, was a spring sport until moved to the fall in September of 1972.

Dr. Stowe's tennis team won every available net title - seven in a row from the spring of 1936 to the spring of 1942. That was the beginning of one of the most amazing records ever compiled in collegiate athletics - an unbroken string of tennis championships extending through the 1987 season. The only league loss suffered by the Hornet netters in that span was a 4-3 dual meet setback at the hands of Hope College in 1962, but Kalamazoo still won a co-championship that season by finishing first in the league tournament.

Joe Howard, who had led Kalamazoo's basketball championship teams, was even more outstanding in track, as he lead the Hornets to three consecutive league titles in 1936, 1937, and 1938.
Thus, in just a seven year span ending in the spring of 1942, Kalamazoo won a total of 18 MIAA titles - a majority of the 35 available championships in the five sports which were offered by the league at that time.

The pinnacle was reached in the 1937-38 school year, when Kalamazoo won all five championships - football, basketball, golf, tennis, and track - to post a perfect record in competition for the All-Sports Trophy. Never before or since has a league member equalled that record.

The 1941-42 school year was in progress when the United States went to war in December, 1941. There were few wartime restrictions for the balance of the school year, and athletic competition in all sports continued as scheduled through the spring of 1942. Barnard resigned to enter military service after that spring season, most of the athletes entered military service, travel restrictions were put into effect, and by the fall of 1942 the difficult wartime era was underway.

THE WAR YEARS

The four full school years from 1942-43 to 1945-46, inclusive, were all disrupted by the war. In that time span, Kalamazoo competed continuously only in basketball, and even then with abbreviated schedules. In the 1942-43 school year, the Hornets competed only in football, basketball and track. In 1943-44 and 1944-45, basketball was the only activity. In 1945-46, football was still absent, basketball continued, and as the nation returned to a peacetime footing, golf, tennis, and track were restored in the spring of 1946.
During those four wartime school years, the MIAA determined only seven champions. Titles were won only in football (Alma), basketball (Hope), and track (Albion) in 1942-43. All championships were cancelled in 1943-44 and 1944-45. There was no opportunity to restore football in the fall of 1945, but later that winter, basketball champions were named (Albion and Hope), and a full slate of spring sports titlists were determined in the spring of 1946 - golf (Alma), tennis (Kalamazoo), and track (Albion). Kalamazoo, of course, had won the tennis title in the spring of 1942, the last uninterrupted full schedule prior to the disruptions, and the Hornets resumed their tennis domination by taking the first post-war honors in the spring of 1946.

In the fall of 1942, Bob Nulf became coach of football and basketball to fill the vacancy left by Chet Barnard's departure for military service. But Nulf himself went into service after the spring season of 1943, having spent only one school year on the campus. However, Nulf was to return after the war (in time for the 1945-46 basketball season) and played a major part in Kalamazoo's post-war success.

Interim coaches were named for basketball seasons of 1943-44 and 1944-45 as coaches, athletes, transportation, and equipment all became scarce. Ben Stout coached the 1943 team, which played only a nine-game schedule. Len Colby took over for the 1945 season, and his team posted a 5-9 record in 14 games. Colby, who later became a sportscaster in Kalamazoo, was a shrewd promoter, and he turned an apparent disadvantage into national recognition for that 1945 team. With only a few athletes on campus in that
wartime season, the available players averaged well under six feet in height - and Colby made national news with his claim of having the shortest starting lineup in the nation.

In late 1945, as the war was drawing to a close, Nulf returned in time for the 1945-46 basketball season; the MIAA resumed competition for the basketball season and for 1946 spring sports. By the fall of 1946, the nation was back on a peacetime schedule - enrollments grew as veterans returned to complete their education, athletic talent was plentiful, and both Kalamazoo College and the MIAA returned to a full schedule of activity starting with the football season of 1946.

**THE NULF-GROW COMBINATION**

In the fall of 1946, for the first time in Kalamazoo College history, separate full-time coaches were on hand for football and basketball. Nulf remained head coach in football, and Lloyd (Dob) Grow joined the staff as basketball coach. This arrangement continued until the end of the 1948-49 school year, when Nulf resigned and Grow became head coach in both football and basketball. Grow kept both positions until the conclusion of the 1952-53 school year, when he also resigned. Thus, Nulf coached three post-war football seasons (1946, 1947, and 1948) and Grow coached four gridiron seasons from 1949 to 1952. Nulf had coached basketball in the partial wartime season of 1945-46, but after he gave up those duties, Grow began a seven-year tenure in basketball.

Dr. Stowe's tennis teams continued to dominate the MIAA. They had no difficulty winning the first title in 1946 when
when competition was resumed, and they kept right on winning thereafter without interruption. Grow's basketball men won the 1949-50 MIAA title. They became the first Hornets to compete in post-season competition since the 1920's when they entered the NAIA national tournament and were beaten by Baldwin Wallace, 84-78. The most colorful player on Hornet basketball teams of that era was Manny Glasser, who at one time held virtually every school cage scoring record.

Nulf attained instant football success with two MIAA co-championship teams in 1946 and 1947. The rivalry with Hillsdale, which shared both titles with the Hornets, was intense. Both teams had large rosters of war veterans, and were extremely talented. The 1947 Kalamazoo-Hillsdale game was truly unusual - despite the quality of the teams, all of the extra point attempts failed, and the game wound up in a 12-12 tie to force a co-championship for the second year in a row.

One outstanding feature of the 1946 football season was the dedication of Angell Field, which became America's first major living war memorial of World War II. The donation was from Mr. and Mrs. William Angell, in memory of their son Chester, an Army Air Force pilot who had been killed in action in 1944. Angell Field replaced the outmoded "Old College Field" which had been located along Michigan Avenue east of the campus. Angell Field became first unit in a complex which eventually included Calder Fieldhouse (dressing and storage facilities), Woodworth Field (baseball), and MacKenzie Field (soccer).

Grow's four football teams, from 1949 to 1952, missed out on
MIAA championships, but they provided fans with some of the most existing and high-scoring gridiron games in the school's history. In four seasons, Kalamazoo and the opponents scored a total of just over 1,400 points. The passing attack gained much of the yardage with Phil Dillman at quarterback, and his favorite receiver, Jim Stefoff, became the first Hornet gridder to receive national recognition when he was named to the first-team small college All-American as an end.

Typical of the high-scoring football games of that era were a 48-32 win over Wooster, victories over Hillsdale by scores 28-27, 51-27, and 27-20, and losses to Hope, 35-33, and to DePauw, 33-31.

Grow resigned at the conclusion of the 1952-53 school year, and the stage was set for a new staff, a new athletic administration, and the start of some of the longest tenures in the history of both Kalamazoo College and the MIAA.

MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF STABILITY

Rolla Anderson, coach of state championship football teams at Battle Creek Lakeview High School, was selected in the summer of 1943 as Kalamazoo's new Athletic Director and coach of football and basketball. The decision to hire a separate basketball coach was made shortly thereafter; Rolla coached the 1953-54 and 1954-55 cage teams, at which point Ray Steffen arrived in time to coach basketball in the 1955-56 campaign. To understand the remarkable stability of the Hornet staff thereafter, one tragic event should be noted. Dr. Stowe's tennis teams continued their MIAA domination to the end of the 1956 spring season, but the
entire community was saddened by his untimely death in an automobile mishap prior to the 1957 season. Anderson took the tennis reins for the 1957 season, and Charles Donnelly coached on an interim basis in 1958 as the Hornet domination of the league continued and the search for a permanent successor was underway. George Acker was selected and arrived in time for the 1958-59 school year.

Anderson retired in the spring of 1985, having completed 32 years of service to the college. Steffen retired in the spring of 1987, having matched Anderson's 32-year tenure. Acker was still active as of the end of the 1986-87 school year, with 29 years of coaching Hornet teams. Thus, three key figures in the history of Kalamazoo College had logged a combined total of 93 years of service as of the spring of 1987, a record which is truly outstanding in the history of collegiate athletics.

SUCCESS IN ALL SPORTS - 1953-1967

The Anderson era logically divides into two portions, one covering the 14 years from the fall of 1953 to the spring of 1967, and the other covering the 18 years from the fall of 1967 to Rolla's retirement in the spring of 1985.

Kalamazoo had been a four-time winner of the MIAA All-Sports trophy in the 1930's, taking that honor in 1934-35, 1936-36, 1937-38, and 1938-39. After an eighteen-year absence, the trophy returned to the Hornet campus after the successes of the 1956-57 seasons. The trophy became Kalamazoo's property again for the success in 1959-60, 1961-62, and 1962-63. As of 1963, then, Kalamazoo became the all-time leader in number of All-Sports
trophies won in the MIAA.

Under Stowe, Anderson, Donnelley, and Acker, the tennis honors continued to accumulate, and only in the spring of 1962 was Kalamazoo forced to share honors with another school. Hope College handed Kalamazoo a 4-3 dual meet loss in 1962 (as of the completion of the 1987 season, that was the only league dual meet lost by Kalamazoo in the in 52-year span starting with the spring of 1936). The Hornets, however, won the MIAA tournament later in 1962 season to claim a seasonal co-championship with Hope, and thus preserve their string of tennis titles.

Contributing to the success of Hornet athletic teams in the 1953-1967 period were MIAA cross country titles won under coach Warren Thomas in the 1956 and 1957 fall seasons, and five golf titles won or shared under the direction of Bill Laughlin. The golfers won undisputed MIAA titles in the spring seasons of 1957, 1961, and 1962, and shared the honors with Hillsdale in 1959 and with Alma in 1963. Outstanding Hornet golfers included Don Winterhalter, MIAA medalist in 1956 and 1957, Bill Western, league medalist in 1959, and Dick Robyn, who won that honor in 1962.

Steffen's basketball teams shared two basketball titles with Hope College, for the seasons of 1961-62 and 1966-67.

The 1961-62 team posted the best Hornet basketball record in four decades, scoring 18 victories in 22 games; the last previous team to post a better winning percentage was thee 1921-22 squad which won 22 of 25 games. The 1962 team split two games with co-champion Hope, winning 61-60 and losing 78-67. Each of the co-
champions had two league losses; Kalamazoo losts an opportunity for an undisputed title when the Hornets were upset by Olivet, 60-57, ending a string of 16 straight Kalamazoo victories over the Comets.

Unlike earlier seasons, when teams were permitted to engage in post-season games or in league playoffs, the MIAA had a prohibition on extra games in the 1961-62 season; thus, the title tie remained and neither Kalamazoo nor Hope were allowed to accept tournament invitations. Star performers on that 1962 Hornet team were Gordon Rodwan and Captain Jon Lindenberg.

The 1966-67 basketball team finished with a record of 16 wins in 21 games. In league action, the Hornets split the season series with both Hope and Calvin, the net result being that Hope and Kalamazoo shared the league title with 10-2 records. The same restrictions which had been in effect in 1962 were still current in 1967, so that there was neither a league playoff nor the opportunity for post-season tournament competition. Had the MIAA permitted the acceptance of tourney invitations, Kalamazoo would have been the top candidate, since the overall Hornet record of 16-5 was by far the best in the MIAA. Bob Trenary and Tom Crawford were the outstanding players on that 1967 Hornet cage team.

Kalamazoo's first football team under Rolla Anderson in 1953 won only one game, a 34-6 victory over North Central, but the Hornets were contenders in the next three season, finishing in a tie for second place in 1954, and winning runner-up honors all alone in 1955 and 1956. The 1954 was ever-so-close to a
championship, losing just two close decisions, 12-7 to Albion and 7-0 to an extremely powerful Hillsdale team. Hillsdale dominated the MIAA in football in that era, and the Dales were the only team to stand between Kalamazoo and the league title in 1955 and 1956. Though the records in 1957 to 1960 were not as successful, Kalamazoo's finest football hours were just around the corner.

Meanwhile, Hillsdale left the MIAA at the conclusion of the 1960 season, after a disagreement concerning post-season competition; the Dales did not appear on Kalamazoo grid schedules thereafter, ending a long and spirited rivalry between the two schools.

Anderson figured that he had an outstanding group of juniors and sophomores as the 1961 season opened, but the talent wasn't apparent as the Hornets lost their first four games. In mid-season, there was a complete turnaround; the Hornets surprised a good Alma team, 30-24, and went on to beat Adrian, 26-7. Hiram, 28-7, and Hope, 42-12. The four-game win streak carried over to the start of the 1962 campaign, and there was cause for celebration when Kalamazoo scored a major upset in beating Eastern Michigan, 13-6, in the 1962 opener.

The 1962 team then posted the first unbeaten and united Hornet football record since 1916, the 8-0 record earning Rolla Anderson the honor of Michigan Coach Of The Year in balloting by news media. There were some close calls, including a 9-7 win at Ferris on a field goal by Jim Smith which just cleared the crossbar (the only successful Kalamazoo field goal attempt of the season), a classic 19-12 win over the other top contender, Albion, and a second-half rally which brought about a 21-7
season-ending victory over Augustana.

The outstanding record earned Kalamazoo no less than eight places on the 1962 All-MIAA team on offense, those named included end John Persons, tackle Bob Phillips, guard Bob Peters, and backs Jim Harkema and Ed Lauermann; on defense, the honorees included end Ray Comeau, guard Jim Jahnke, and linebacker Tom Hayward.

The 1962 success carried over to a co-championship in 1963. Eastern Michigan avenged the 1962 loss by snapping Kalamazoo's win streak, 13-12, in the 1963 opener, but the twelve victories in a row remains as the longest win streak in Hornet history. Albion handed the Hornets their first loss in MIAA competition since 1961, 25-14. Kalamazoo defeated Hope, 21-14, and Hope in turn handed Albion a 21-6 defeat, and it appeared that a three-way tie for the title was in the offing among those three teams. But Albion forfeited several games for use of an ineligible player, though the victory over Kalamazoo was not affected, and the official results showed Kalamazoo and Hope as co-champions.

Five Hornets were named to the 1963 All-MIAA football team, and two of these had the distinction of being named both on offense and defense. Bob Phillips was named at tackle on both offense and defense, and Eglis Lode was named as a linebacker and as an offensive back. The others named were all on offense - John Persons at end, Bob Peters at guard, and Ed Lauermann as a halfback.

An era ended when the seniors on the 1963 team played their
final game, a rousing 71-20 victory over Kenyon; it is doubtful that any Hornet teams of earlier or later periods were blessed with more talented players than those 1961-1963 aggregations. The 1962 season in particular was virtually injury-free, a rare occurrence and a major factor in the all-winning record.

Anderson continued to coach football through the 1966 season, when he gave up that sport to spend more time on the ever-growing duties as Athletic Director. Ed Baker was named as his successor starting with the fall of 1967.

Thus, the period from Rolla's arrival in the fall of 1953 to the completion of the spring season of 1967 was marked by outstanding success in football, basketball, cross country, golf, and tennis - and four MIAA All-Sports trophies.

TO THE END OF THE ANDERSON YEARS

The period from the fall of 1967 to Rolla Anderson's retirement in the spring of 1985 was marked by more athletic success - a string of five consecutive All-Sports trophies starting in 1972 was one highlight - but those years were also marked by dramatic changes in MIAA activity. Women's athletics received more emphasis, and a landmark was reached in the 1978-79 school year when the MIAA combined the administration of men's and women's athletics into one structure. Starting in 1981-82, the standings in women's sports were added to the All-Sports calculations. Four additions to the MIAA roster were important to Kalamazoo College - soccer, which was added in 1970, men's swimming, started in 1971, and women's swimming and tennis, which became MIAA sports in 1979.
In men's tennis, Kalamazoo continued to win consistently, so that the string of undisputed titles (except for the co-championship back in 1962) was extended. Kalamazoo also dominated the roster of MIAA Most Valuable Tennis Players, with Hornets winning that honor for all except three seasons since the award was started in 1965. In women's tennis, Tish Loveless coached four league champions - 1979, 1983, 1985, and 1986 - before her retirement in the spring of 1986.

Albion won the first MIAA men's swimming title in 1971, but under the coaching of Bob Kent, Kalamazoo began a record of 14 consecutive titles from 1972 to 1985. Hornet swimmers were named as the league's Most Valuable in eleven of those seasons, with Don Knoechel claiming the honor in four consecutive years from 1977 to 1988, inclusive. Coach Marilyn Maurer's women's swimming team added an MIAA title to the list in 1979.

Hornet golf teams won the league crown five times under two coaches in this time span. Rolla Anderson coached co-championship teams in the spring seasons of 1969 and 1970. Ed Baker took over to coach title winners in 1971 and 1972; after the spring season of 1972, golf was switched to a fall sport. Albion interrupted Kalamazoo's success cycle by winning the first fall golf title in 1972, but the Hornets won another undisputed title in the fall of 1973 as Anderson returned to coach again.

With Hardy Fuchs as coach, the Hornets shared the 1975 soccer title with Calvin. They also won league crowns in 1980 in sports which have since been removed from the league schedule - archery (Coach Ted Brooks) and wrestling with (Coach Carl Latora).