

The Lantern



ILLUMINATING HISTORY

October 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

October 2008

Over 80 years of Intramural Sports

"Intramurals are a basic part of the development of the students at John Brown University. Nearly all the students take part in at least one sport and enjoy physical atonement, emotional release and a fellowship found nowhere else on our campus." (1968 Pioneer, John Brown University year book) In the early 1920s, the great JBU tradition of intramurals began with baseball, football, basketball, and tennis. Tennis was a favorite among students, as the 1928 year book records: "Even on...cold mornings one may see boys playing tennis with overcoats on." By 1930, football became a forbidden sport; however, volleyball was introduced. In 1935 track became the "new kid on the block," and one year later softball and soccer made their debut, and in 1939 swimming developed as an intramural sport. The sports council, whose job was "ironing out disputes, planning future schedules, and supervising activities," (1955 Pioneer) was created in 1940.



Intramural Basketball in the 1940s

An exciting year for intramurals was 1950, because football was reinstated and the first organized girl's athletic teams were formed. Notably, the girls football league was called Powder Puff, and had been called so until fairly recently.

Teams were made either by class, department, or clubs; some of the more popular teams were Engineers, Radio, and Faculty. A rifle team and a wrestling team began in 1952. In 1953, the basketball champions were Education, and surprisingly, Faculty took third over such teams as the Aggies, Business, and Aviation. Ping Pong and badminton made their first appearance in 1954 and archery soon followed in 1956. Even though JBU started participating in intercollegiate sports in 1958, intramurals still attracted a large number of students. While basketball and baseball continued to be both an intercollegiate and intramural sport, the tennis and golf teams became strictly intercollegiate. Shot put, golf, tumbling, and weightlifting were established in

1959. Bowling, which was extremely popular throughout the 1960s, became an intramural sport in 1962, along with horseshoes; shuffleboard was introduced in 1963. Unexpectedly, chess, checkers, and rook became intramural sports in 1974; bicycle races also appeared during this year. Developed in 1975, coed volleyball became the most popular sport

for over a decade; in 1980 alone it attracted over 20 teams. Golf and tennis were

reinstated in 1983.

In 1992 and 1993,

a Valentine's Day run became a big event in intramurals. Ultimate Frisbee and sand volleyball became intramural sports in 2004; dodge ball is the most recent intramural sport, having been added in 2007. While sports at JBU have been ever changing the students' love of intramural sports has stayed the same, and that is because "we have the spirit. Some call it the spirit of JBU. It is the spirit of John Brown University embodying all of the essential principles of sportsmanship, idealism, and Christian character. We love the game for nothing more than the game's sake and the thrill of friendly rivalry." (1935 memory book)



Powder Puff team in 1972

Milestones

October 15, 1927: A first ever Hobo Party is thrown at JBU. At this party, which started at 7:20 PM, students dressed like hobos.

October 31, 1958: The sophomore class hosted a school wide Halloween party in the gymnasium, the theme for the party was "Spooknik."



Intramural Volleyball in 1940

ECHOES OF THE PAST

Excerpt from the 2 February 1962 issue of the Threefold Advocate

The return of beards perils college life, if not our entire culture. When that all-male plumage begins to blossom, who will be able to tell the freshmen from upperclassmen? The stern and knowing set of chin that distinguishes upperclassmen will be hidden from view. Let your imagination illustrate for you what the results of that folly might be.

And, if that were not enough, how about the women? Our blushing coeds, who have never been subject to more than a mild rasping from a two-day growth, may not be able to cope with the necessity of kissing a billowing mass of curls. The weaker ones might faint dead away, and romance, always a bright spot in campus life, might become a thing of the past. The possibilities are absolutely frightening!

And, if this latest fashion becomes widespread, the whole nation might well suffer. Sports cars and beards were never meant for each other, and neither were barbeques and beards, small neckties and beards, [nor]

stickpins and beards. There would be some advantages, however. Scarves wouldn't be the necessity [that] they are, and a shirt could be worn at least a day longer. Weak-chinned men could have a new outlook on life. Post-office "Wanted" pictures would be useless.

But, balancing pros against cons, a return to the beards our grandfathers wore just doesn't seem to be a good idea. Besides the indisputable damage such action would do to razor blade manufacturers, our local barbers might revolt and raise the price of haircuts. Think, too, of the many small children who would run wildly to mamma, frightened out of their wits by men who no longer bear any resemblance to daddy.

The current trend toward a revival of the beard seems inconsistent with our present standards. At the risk of being considered anti-progressive, we vote for a continuation of the bare male chin.



JBU students show off their beards in 1962

Did You Know?

In 1939 national preparation for World War II hit the campus of JBU, and the year old aviation department exploded. As a result an airport was built a half mile southwest of campus in Oklahoma. The guest of honor at its dedication in May of 1940 was World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker



Insights

From the works of John Brown, Sr.

Too many folk look upon the place of prayer as the big easy chair, head quarters proposition, where they are to issue orders to the Almighty. The Holy Spirit goes to old humanity through human lips—ministers to the wants of humanity by human hands. One of the saddest facts of the church today is that of the thousands that claim to be saved by the Cross of Christ, comparatively few are ready to yield them-

selves in ready, willing, loving service in reaching the millions yet unsaved. And too often this fact applies to everybody connected with the church, from the pulpit down. The church occupies a distinct and exclusive field, and as long as she remains true to the high purpose to which God called her, she stands alone and without competition—that is, as long as she adheres rigidly to the high purpose of giving herself to "traffic in the things of God."

Excerpt from The Holy Spirit and the Soul Winner