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DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIVALRY
BETWEEN CAPITAL AND OTTERBEIN

by

Susan DeLay

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Westerville, Ohio
Dr. Hancock

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction
- II. Athletics at Otterbein
- III. Football at Otterbein
- IV. Capital-Otterbein Rivalry
- V. Appendix
- VI. Bibliography

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIVALRY BETWEEN CAPITAL AND OTTERBEIN

INTRODUCTION

Athletics have been an important part of Otterbein College since their introduction in the early 1880's with such variations of baseball as "round town" and "three old cat".

Football, one of the first intercollegiate sports, has had a special place within the college. The game has brought distinction and humiliation, victory and defeat, good sportsmanship and childish actions, and healthy and sometimes disastrous rivalries.

This paper will focus on Otterbein's oldest rivalry--the one that exists with Capital University in Bexley, Ohio.

ATHLETICS AT OTTERBEIN

Otterbein did not have provisions for training in physical education in its earliest years, but administrators recognized a need for some sort of activity for the students

baseball."³

Students were furious and complained that the faculty resolution would take away their only exercise. In an effort to compromise, the administration came up with a plan to furnish gymnastic equipment to the students as a means of physical exercise.

Soon after, there was a rising interest in other sports among the students. Track and field contests were held; gymnastics became an established activity; archery was taken up, and finally football came to Otterbein. At that time football had just been introduced at Yale University and people thought of it as a "free-for-all game" requiring no practice or previous experience.⁴

The earliest recorded interest in football was in 1883 in the December Otterbein College Record:

The autumnal chills and frosts that stiffen the muscles of the college oarsmen and baseball players have brought in the sport of football, which, though it does not yet require the careful methods of the oarsmen or the keen nerves of the

³ Minutes of Faculty, October 9, 1882.

⁴ Denton Elliott, A Historical Study of the Development of Physical Education at Otterbein College, OSU, p. 12.

baseball player, has broad and democratic virtues of its own....It requires numbers, scope of area, activity always without skill, and considered merely as an exercise has no rival. It is the single sport which seems adapted to that broad and general bodily training which wise instructors will always strive to make a concomitant of a college curriculum.⁵

Football was re-introduced to Otterbein students in 1889 when Robert E. Speer, the "Princeton scholar, Christian and athlete" visited the college and explained the game to interested boys. Several caught the "football fever" and were bound and determined to be represented on the grid-⁶iron.

William Garst, Ernest "Rev" Barnard, and L.A. Thompson raised four dollars for a football and soon work-outs began. "Every afternoon the boys might be seen on the athletic field running and jumping, kicking and throwing that pigskin as well as hammering each other with sticks, brick-bats, clubs, etc., in order to develop in each one the required amount of endurance and stoicism."⁷

The first eleven-man team was formed in 1890 under Captain Lawrence Barnard. Barnard, son of Reverend Barnard of Westerville and brother of Ernest Barnard of the

⁶
Denton Elliott, p. 12.

⁷
Sibyl, 1901, p. 47.

Cleveland Baseball Club, one time commissioner of the American League, led the team in every way as there was no coach. Other members of the team were: A.T. Howard, former bishop of the United Brethern Church and father of Gordon Howard, one-time President of Otterbein; William Garst, son of an Otterbein professor of that day; John Francis, former commissioner of education in California; Clyde Secrist and Frank Resler, both of Westerville; Irv Kumler, former vice president of the Rike-Kumler Company, O.L. Shank, a farmer in Germantown; Edgar Pumphrey, an instructor at Steele high school; Ed Burtner of Germantown, M.D. Fanning; L.A. Thompson, son of a former Otterbein president who was candidate for President of the United States on the Prohibition ticket in the 1890's; and a player named Cramer of whom nothing else is known.⁸

Ernest "Rev" Barnard was the first manager who also played jack-of-all trades for the team. He refereed; he carried water; he coached; he scouted. In fact, he has the distinction of being the first scout in Ohio.⁹ Barnard was hired to coach the Otterbein squad after graduation and from then on he dedicated his life to the school's athletics. He has often been referred to as the "Father of Otterbein Athletics".⁹

⁸

Dayton Daily News, November 28, 1954, p. 7.

⁹

Tan and Cardinal, April 10, 1931, p. 1.

The men on the first team had such enthusiasm they headed for the field each afternoon even when the "ground was covered with snow and the temperature was near zero degrees" in order to learn the essence of football--tackling, falling on the ball, and kicking.¹⁰

Even with endless practice, the "first team in 1890 knew no more about organized football than a savage Zulu knows about Sunday".¹¹ They suffered overwhelming defeats. Kenyon, then a powerful team, hesitated to play Otterbein because to them the boys from the 'Bein were not in their class. Finally, however, they played and the Otters were crushed 48-6.¹²

Their next foe was Denison where they suffered defeat again; this time the score was 0-14. "After this game, A.L. Artz from Dartmouth and a native of Dayton, Ohio was engaged to coach the team for one week. From that time on, Otterbein had, if not a full-time, a part-time coach.

¹⁰ Sibyl 1901, p.47.

¹¹ Sibyl, 1908, p. 58.

¹² Grace Duerr, Athletics in Otterbein College, January, 1930, p. 1.

Ohio State University fell to defeat at the hands of Otterbein (42-6) in 1891 in the days when OSU's team was not quite as "invincible" as it is now.¹³ The Otters met the Buckeyes on the grid-iron a total of eighteen times. Otterbein won the first three games; OSU won twelve of the remaining games; the other three were tied scores.

Otterbein's football team closed the nineteenth century in defeat. The 1899 team had no coach and no victorious season. "The final whistle blew and the season of '99 was recorded in an indellible history on the minds of the teams and rooters. The mudladen suits were stowed away in the relic room."¹⁴

Football was generally approved, although many faculty, administrators, and alumni objected to the game because it was dangerous, expensive, too time consuming for the players, and caused the moral tendency to plunge downward. Most felt as Dr. George Scott, President of Otterbein from 1901-1904 that "the good that has come to Otterbein outweighs the evil and it would be a distinct loss to give it up."¹⁵

Otterbein had her share of football "personalities". In 1903, it was a twenty-six year-old half-back named Bates.

¹³

Dayton Daily News, November 28, 1954, p. 7.

¹⁴

A.C. Van Saun, Synopical Survey of the Football History of Otterbein University, 1915, p. 7.

¹⁵

Inaugural Address of President George Scott.

His popularity is revealed in this verse published in the Sibyl:

She clung to him, the game was o'er,
 Content was in her soul.
 "I am so very glad," she said,
 "That you have come back whole".
 And then Bates answered with a smile--
 He scarce could keep a laugh back--
 "Machere, your joy is premature,
 For I am only HALF-BACK."¹⁶

By 1915, Otterbein had wrapped up a quarter century of football. It began with defeat and ended with defeat. They scored approximately 1750 points to the 2200 of their opponents. Her grid-iron performance began with the crudest methods and evolved to a point where she had the greatest coach in the Middle West. Her growth was gradual, normal, and ever-progressive. Her name is established. The future presents brilliant aspects and the old "tan and cardinal" of Otterbein shall never be trampled in the dust.¹⁷

¹⁶

Sibyl, 1903, p. 97.

¹⁷

A.C.Van Saun, p. 22.

Otterbein has never been specifically known for her consistent football prowess. Her overall record would at best appear mediocre. There have been victories; there have been defeats.



MARKLEV, M'G'r, '95.

C. TEETER, '99.

SHANK, '98.

JONES, '95.
RHODES, '97.
BENNETT, '90.

HALLER, '97.
SENEFF, '97.
DAVIS, CAPT.

GILBERT, '97.
W. TEETER, '98.

FARRAR, COACH.
LONG, '98.
BARNES, '98.

MOORMAN.

OTTERBEIN FOOT BALL TEAM.

CAPITAL-OTTERBEIN RIVALRY

Football was responsible for bringing Otterbein several rivalries with other colleges. The first was with Kenyon who tromped Otterbein continuously until 1916 when the Otters defeated them 7 - 0.¹⁸ But Otterbein's longest and fiercest rivalry has been with Capital University.

The Cap-Otter rivalry compares with the famous rivalries between Army-Navy, Harvard-Yale, and Michigan-Ohio State. Capital games carry a long tradition that has resulted in arson, victory, violence, and even death.¹⁹

According to Brett Moorehead and Ed Hartung, writers for the Tan and Cardinal in the early 1970's, "It all began back in the 1890's when Capital and Otterbein used to have canoe races from Alum Creek to Columbus."²⁰

The arrival of football pitted the two schools together for the first time in 1894. Otterbein defeated the Crusaders from Capital 60-0 and the two schools did not meet each other again until 1927.

Walter J. Clippinger, President of Otterbein College

¹⁸
Sibyl 1917, p. 102.

¹⁹
Tan and Cardinal, January 18, 1972, p. 3.

²⁰
Ibid.

wrote to President Otto Mees of Capital before the 1927 game urging students and faculty to attend the game. Dr. Mees replied, "As to the outcome of the game, I, too can say, 'if wishes were horses, beggars could ride.' This is our 'lean' year, especially on the grid-iron, but we will fight hard, but fair, and if we must leave the decision with you , we will walk off the field with heads 'bloody but unbowed'." ²¹

At around 1:00 the morning of the game, the Otterbein stadium was burned to the ground. Local firemen were summoned, but by the time they arrived with their pony equipment, the structure was a roaring mass of flame. ²²

The fire caused \$1500 worth of damage to the grandstand. The stadium was a wooden structure seating approximately 600 spectators. Students were dissatisfied with its shabby appearance and wished for a new stadium. ²³ "Authorities believed that there could be no doubt that the burning was the result of long planning, since a rumor had been floating around the student body for some time that the Stadium might be burned." ²⁴ Nevertheless, the game was

²¹

Presidential Papers 1927 as quoted by H. Hancock, The Cap-Otter Trophy, 1972, p. 1.

²² Tan and Cardinal, November 11, 1927, p. 3.

²³ H.Hancock, Cap-Otter Trophy, p. 1.

²⁴ Tan and Cardinal, November 8, 1927, p. 3.

was played, minus a grandstand, and Otterbein won 39-6.

Football games have been a major part of the existing rivalry every year except for 1943. In that year, Capital did not put forth a team because of the war.

As of 1974, Otterbein has won twenty games, Capital, twenty-six; there has been one tie (1958). Capital has won²⁵ nineteen of the last twenty-five games played.

Rivalry between the schools was intensified with basketball. The first game played on January 12, 1908 resulted in a 31-24 win for Otterbein. The second game of that year won a victory for Capital (30-23) in Cap's Loy Gymnasium, at that time, the "pride and joy of Ohio gymnasiums."²⁶

The next basketball game was not played until 1912 and from then on, the two teams have usually faced each other twice a year.

In 1937, a hassle occurred on the floor of Loy Gymnasium brought about by the actions of a few of the players. During the game, Capital became upset with the actions of an Otterbein player, Tom Weston with George Freeman, Capital's only black player. Cap's Don Burkkey rebounded off the Otterbein goal and Weston elbowed him. Burkkey came down and let him have one in the face (up from the floor). Weston

²⁵ Steven E. Traylor, Otterbein College Intercollegiate Athletic Scores 1890-1972.

²⁶

Hilmar Grimm, an interview, October 10, 1974.

was knocked out. The crowd came down onto the floor and got Weston up. Otterbein said they would never play in Loy gymnasium again. From then on, when Capital played host to Otterbein, the games were held in Bexley High School or in the Coliseum at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

In May, 1973, representatives from Capital and Otterbein met at Capital and decided to play all games at the Coliseum in order to keep spectators more separated from the teams.

Presentation of a trophy to the football victors originated in 1932 among students. The two student bodies gathered donations in order to purchase it. The new trophy was two paddles emerging from a shield with two clasped hands in the center to indicate the friendship between the two schools. The paddles represented Alum Creek which passes by both colleges.²⁷ Later, the trophy was to be given to the school which had acquired the most Points in sporting events at the end of the year. Football, basketball, and baseball were worth four points each while tennis and track carried a two point value.

Captain Roger Huhn (Otterbein) received the first trophy during the intermission of the 1933 game because the Otters had defeated Capital 6-0 the previous year.

²⁷

Tan and Cardinal, November 16, 1933, p. 1.

The trophy seemed only to deepen the rivalry between the two schools. The losing side was bitter when they lost the "oars". Each year, students at both schools seemed willing to try anything to "get at" the other school.

In 1948, fourteen Otterbein students were suspended for painting signs on Capital's buildings. Otterbein's response to the action was one more of embarrassment and regret rather than anger. "The Administrative Council regretted the painting of Capital University by 14 Otterbein students and voted that temporary suspension of these students be continued until they made satisfactory arrangements with Capital's President,²⁸ Dr. Harold Yochum".

The Council also supported a plan proposed by the Student Council to work out a long range policy to prevent such episodes from happening in the future. The hope was that the friendly rivalry could be continued on and off the field.²⁹

The proposed policy to continue friendship was not as effective as it had been hoped. Later in the year, the tension between the rivals climaxed in an exchange of paint throwing

²⁸

Tan and Cardinal, February 20, 1948, p. 1.

²⁹

Ibid.

between a car of Otterbein students and one of Capital students. The incident resulted in a very serious accident. "Something had to be done before a civil war broke out between the two schools."³⁰

The official peace agreement was signed in April 1948, and stressed the importance of improving relations. Both schools hoped to exchange speakers, programs, and even students. The agreement also suggested students release their hostilities towards their rival by playing chess and participating in debates.³¹

The rivalry and the violence that accompanied it continued. Editorials appeared in both student newspapers, The Tan and Cardinal (Otterbein) and The Chimes (Capital), condemning the juvenile actions of immature students at Cap-Otter games. "Fights signify nothing and only serve to degrade the image of the college."³²

Students, nevertheless, persisted in their annual visits to each other's campuses before the "big game".

³⁰

Tan and Cardinal, December 9, 1949, p. 1.

³¹

H. Hancock, The Cap-Otter Trophy, p. 2.

³²

Tan and Cardinal, November 22, 1968, p. 2.

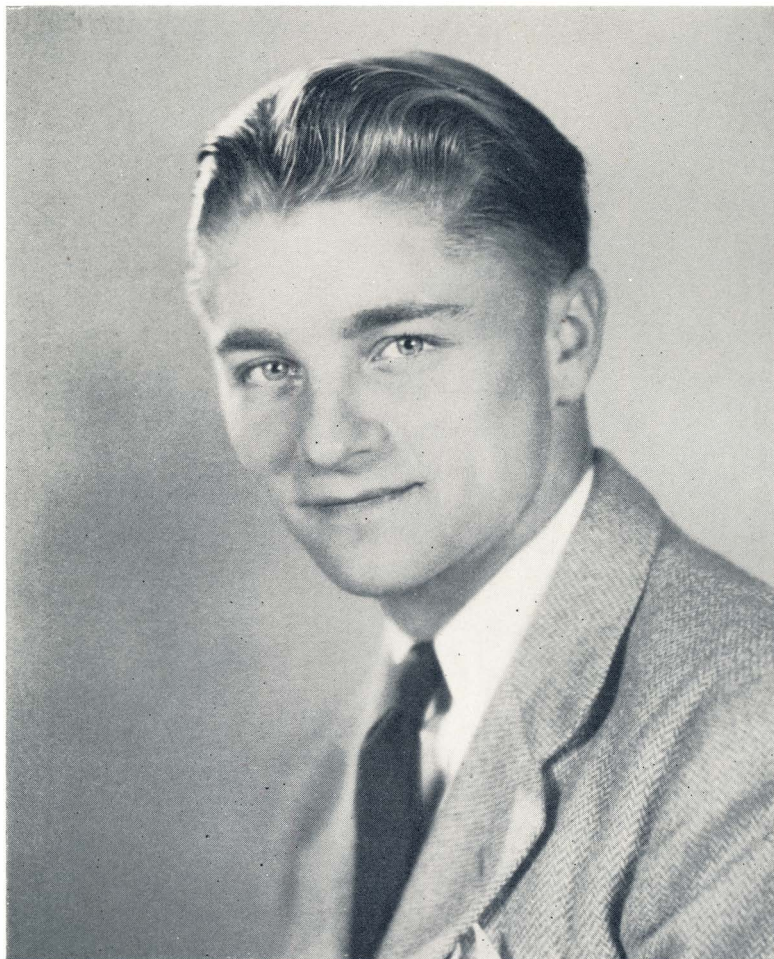
Early on a Tuesday morning before the game in 1969, a group of Otterbein boys painted, defaced, and marred buildings on Capital's grounds by painting obscenities on the walls and burning the college initials OC on the grass near the campus center. Although the administrations have repeatedly tried to put an end to such activities, they have not been particularly successful.

The blackest spot on the rivalry occurred on February 15, 1950 when Robert N. Buck from Otterbein and three fraternity brothers (Pi Kappa Phi) attempted to canoe down Alum Creek to visit Capital's campus before a game. The canoe ran into an overhanging tree limb and the canoe capsized. Buck's friends, George Welsh, Thomas Buchanan, and Larry Moody, managed to swim to shore, but Buck, who could not swim, drowned.

He was discovered at 10:00 a.m. that day wedged between two tree limbs and a sandbar with only his feet showing.³³ The tragedy stunned all the students, the faculties, and both administrations of the schools. Everyone felt touched in some way that a student had lost his life because of a rivalry.

³³

Public Opinion, February 16, 1950, p. 1.



IN DEDICATION

For Robert Nelson Buck, now with us in spirit only, do we take a brief pause that his memory may linger with us through the years. Only the Master of that Great Eternity, of which Bob is now a part, knows whether or not his picture would have appeared among the graduating seniors of the class of 1951. It is with this thought that this dedication is made.

Otterbein and Capital throw previous records out the window before a game. Both teams are out for a victory at any cost and their "win-or-die" attitude is enthusiastically supported by their fans. . Before a game, pep signs are posted, pep rallies are held, and a spirit campaign is launched by both colleges to cheer on their teams.

One college newspaper editorial described the spirit during games as being so great that "it's actually safer on the field as the players have helmets to protect themselves from the egg barrage."³⁴

A spirit-filled Crusader poet dedicated the following poem to his 'arch-rivals':

The school they found in Westerville
 They thought they otter name;
 And so they racked their brains for one
 To bring them lots of fame.
 They thought they'd name it Otterbone,
 And it was very nice.
 But one man said, "It's out of joint,"
 And put that name on ice.
 Then Otterbean was on the floor,
 But they gave that the boot,
 Because they had a pungent meal
 Which had the music fruit.

³⁴

The Chimes, September 28, 1973, p. 3.

The next name that was up for grabs
 Was timely Otterbane;
 They should have given up, you know,
 The whole thing was in vain!
 Now Otterban seemed fit, although
 One comment caused alarms;
 "My kid won't see a school that sounds
 Like junk for underarms!"
 It's sad they cut one name they had
 'Cause think of all the fun,
 Why, even guys would join to cheer
 "Go sandwich Otterbun!"
 The name they finally chose we know,
 Most infamous of words.
 They call themselves the Cardinals,
 They're really for the birds;
 And in the pigskin game, they'll see
 It really is a grind
 Our Slaughterettes know what to do,
 Yes, them they otter bind! 35

At both schools, a football or basketball season
 is a success, regardless of how many other games are lost if
 their arch-rival from down the Creek is defeated.

APPENDIX A

Football Scores: Otterbein vs Capital

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Ott.</u> | <u>Cap.</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Ott.</u> | <u>Cap.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1894 | 60 | 0 | 1950 | 32 | 0 |
| 1927 | 39 | 6 | 1951 | 20 | 14 |
| 1928 | 45 | 0 | 1952 | 19 | 20 |
| 1929 | 20 | 6 | 1953 | 20 | 19 |
| 1930 | 0 | 13 | 1954 | 0 | 20 |
| 1931 | 20 | 6 | 1955 | 7 | 33 |
| 1932 | 6 | 0 | 1956 | 7 | 41 |
| 1933 | 20 | 0 | 1957 | 14 | 28 |
| 1934 | 6 | 12 | 1958 | 18 | 18 |
| 1935 | 6 | 7 | 1959 | 60 | 28 |
| 1936 | 6 | 13 | 1960 | 50 | 12 |
| 1937 | 6 | 14 | 1961 | 17 | 23 |
| 1938 | 0 | 27 | 1962 | 0 | 13 |
| 1939 | 0 | 25 | 1963 | 21 | 6 |
| 1940 | 0 | 32 | 1964 | 10 | 19 |
| 1941 | 26 | 6 | 1965 | 6 | 53 |
| 1942 | 0 | 3 | 1966 | 0 | 32 |
| 1944 | 28 | 0 | 1967 | 7 | 25 |
| | 32 | 0 | 1968 | 20 | 40 |
| 1945 | 14 | 6 | 1969 | 18 | 26 |
| 1946 | 50 | 6 | 1970 | 7 | 40 |
| 1947 | 45 | 6 | 1971 | 20 | 35 |
| 1948 | 6 | 7 | 1972 | 0 | 16 |
| 1949 | 44 | 20 | 1973 | 7 | 9 |
| | | | 1974 | 13 | 16 |

APPENDIX B

Basketball Scores: Otterbein vs Capital

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Ott.</u> | <u>Cap.</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Ott.</u> | <u>Cap.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1908 | 31-24, | 23-30 | 1944-5 | 42 | 38 |
| 1912-3 | 22-21 | | | 54 | 37 |
| 1913-4 | 43-20 | | 1945-6 | 50 | 46 |
| 1914-5 | 26-31 | | | 45 | 49 |
| 1915-6 | 24-39, | 25-32 | 1946-7 | 61 | 57 |
| 1916-7 | 33-23, | 27-32 | | 43 | 53 |
| 1917-8 | 24-42, | 17-52 | 1947-8 | 45 | 49 |
| 1918-9 | 27-38, | 9-48 | | 55 | 63 |
| 1919-0 | 35-25, | 34-37 | 1948-9 | 69 | 53 |
| 1920-1 | 15-38, | 17-35 | | 44 | 61 |
| 1921-2 | 19-38, | 17-34 | 1949-0 | 60 | 56 |
| 1927-8 | 40-29, | 56-35 | | 59 | 69 |
| 1928-9 | 24-46, | 32-44 | 1950-1 | 60 | 63 |
| 1929-0 | 19-21, | 32-29 | | 49 | 60 |
| 1930-1 | 24-47, | 17-44 | 1951-2 | 69 | 77 |
| 1931-2 | 30-26, | 33-26 | | 77 | 63 |
| 1932-3 | 52-32, | 56-19 | 1952-3 | 67 | 87 |
| 1933-4 | 29-19, | 29-25 | | 76 | 86 |
| 1934-5 | 40-37, | 33-27 | 1953-4s | 84 | 82 |
| 1935-6 | 43-34, | 35-30 | | 86 | 76 |
| 1936-7 | 37-26, | 45-31 | 1954-5 | 64 | 79 |
| 1937-8 | 35-37, | 40-54 | | 79 | 74 |
| 1938-9 | 35-46, | 33-40 | 1955-6 | 86 | 83 |
| 1939-0 | 31-20, | 40-39 | | 83 | 81 |
| 1940-1 | 58-31, | 45-49 | 1956-7 | 70- | 76 |
| 1941-2 | 47-73, | 47-59 | | 49 | 86 |
| 1942-3 | 36-44, | 40-50 | 1957-8 | 63 | 98 |
| 1943-4 | 53-50 | | | 54 | 53 |
| | | | 1958-9 | 66 | 91 |
| | | | | 88 | 95 |
| | | | 1959-0 | 60 | 58 |
| | | | | 51 | 61 |
| | | | 1961-2 | 61 | 66 |
| | | | | 56 | 76 |
| | | | 1962-3 | 64 | 62 |
| | | | | 54 | 66 |
| | | | 1962-3 | 57 | 54 |
| | | | | 59 | 72 |
| | | | 1963-4 | 60 | 49 |
| | | | | 96 | 86 |
| | | | 1964-5 | 87 | 74 |
| | | | 1965-6 | 74 | 58 |
| | | | | 80 | 43 |
| | | | 1966-7 | 99 | 88 |
| | | | 1967-8 | 72 | 61 |
| | | | | 82 | 64 |

Basketball Scores Con't.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Ott.</u> | <u>Cap.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1969-0 | 73 | 95 |
| 1970-1 | 84 | 86 |
| | 57 | 77 |
| 1971-2 | 62 | 53 |
| (OAC Tourn) | 64- | 71 |
| 1972-3 | 64 | 62 |
| 1973-4 | 58 | 66 |
| (OAC TOURN) | 57- | 56 |
| 1974-5 | 52 | 68 |
| (OAC TOURN) | 60- | 74 |

APPENDIX C

THE RIVALRY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE COACHES

Curtis Tong, former basketball coach at Otterbein College believed the rivalry is potentially good if it is geared to the sporting event and not the side shows that sometimes accompany the main event. He felt that a rivalry is good for young people because it contributes to a spirit of competition and unites the student body.³⁶

On the other hand, Vincent Chickarella, Capital's head basketball coach, thinks the rivalry is deplorable. "It is overplayed and gets out of balance. When adults and young people get in such a frenzy that they lose their own good sense of judgment, then it isn't worth it. When people resort to physical violence...it is to me deplorable. This is not what rivalry was meant to be."³⁷

"Only students can stop the violence of rivalry", says Gene Slaughter, Capital's head football coach. "Eventually, it may come to a point where the games will have to be played without spectators."

³⁶Tan and Cardinal, January 18, 1972, p. 9.

³⁷Tan and Cardinal, January 18, 1972, p. 10.

"The close proximity of Capital to Otterbein makes it a natural for us to be rivals. We're almost twin schools. There is nothing wrong with the rivalry--it's healthy. Ours is one of the oldest around. The trouble is never among the players; it's caused by a minimal ten to twelve people.

"The serious problem began in the 1940's and got worse. Traditions that were good seem to have been put by the way-side.

"In a Cap-Otter game, the underdog always has a chance; records don't mean much. It makes for a good game, but violence takes the dignity out of sports."³⁸

Otterbein's present basketball coach, Dick Reynolds has this to say about the existing rivalry: "Competition is good. Anytime you have intercollegiate rivalry in athletics it binds the schools with spirit and enthusiasm and that is good. Our rivalry has a lot to offer. There is competition for the players and involvement for the students. The bad part comes when there is an interest in things other than competition. The unsportsmanship of a few spoil it for everyone. Both schools get along well, including students and administrators; unfortunately, a few take advantage of the enthusiasms to be destructive and that is uncalled for."³⁹ Otterbein's Athletic Director, Robert Agler, agrees with Coach Reynolds that the rivalry is a "good thing".⁴⁰

³⁸ Gene Slaughter, an interview, October 33, 1974.

³⁹ Dick Reynolds, an interview, May , 1975.

⁴⁰ Robert Agler, May 15, 1975.

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