

# rdors Tie for Third in City League by Beating Art Smiths 4 to 2

## The Press Box . . . "Dream Team" of 1941 Climaxed Remarkable Career of Lyle McNitt

GREATER MUSKEGON is losing one of its outstanding leaders of boys, as Lyle C. McNitt, the only athletic director North Muskegon High school ever has had.

Coach McNitt's passing may be cheered by a few who once tried to have him resign, and actually succeeded. But such a clatter and row was raised by the North Muskegon fans, who demanded his return as athletic director, that Coach McNitt reconsidered.

This time the coach will not reconsider. He has resigned to take a step up in the coaching world, and a deserved step. He will move into Ludington High school as successor to Mitchell O. Reed, who has entered an

industry. It is a Class B school, one class above North Muskegon, and in the Northern Michigan Class B Conference, McNitt will find more wartime opportunities than in the North Muskegon school.

Coach McNitt will be missed. It isn't often a school can find as outstanding a combination of superior teacher, coach and leader of young people. He has developed winning teams, but more important is the regard with which he is held by boys who have worked under him in the classrooms and on the athletic fields and courts.

COACH MCNITT has been with North Muskegon since it first climbed from a grade school to a

junior high (ninth grade), back in 1931. He was coach as a tenth grade was added in 1932, an 11th grade in 1933, and became as senior high school and a member of the Western Michigan Conference in 1934.

During that time Coach McNitt has won many laurels for the school as basketball and football coach. The climax was last year when he coached the "dream team" of all coaches, an undefeated, untied, unscored on aggregation of football players, few of whom had been regulars the year before.

It was the second undefeated and untied football team he had

coached. His team won all of its games in 1938.

His first team, back in 1934, won two games, lost three and was tied once. The following year, 1935, he won four, lost one and tied two. In 1936 his record was won 4, lost three.

From that year his teams have been almost unbeatable despite the shifting personnel from year to year. In 1937 he won six, lost one and tied one. In 1938 he won all eight games played, lost one and won seven in 1939, lost two and won six in 1940 and won all eight in 1941.

That's a record for 35 victories, four defeats and one tie in five

successive years. Few coaches in small schools, or big ones for that matter, can point to such a record. All the defeats were by Class B schools and North Muskegon is in Class C.

HIS BASKETBALL record is almost as remarkable, although he hasn't coached an undefeated team. In the 1933-34 season his team won nine and lost five. It won 14 and lost five in 1934-35, going through to a district championship. In 1935-36 the Norse teams won 13 and lost 3, and in 1936-37 won 12 and lost four.

Again in 1937-38 his teams won 12 and lost four, and in the 1938-39 season won the West Michigan championship

and a district title with a record of 14 victories and four defeats. He coached two conference championship baseball teams in addition, and turned out some exceptionally well drilled young baseball players.

GREATER MUSKEGON sports followers know Lyle McNitt only through his athletic achievements, but in the world of education he is regarded as one of the leading teachers of the state in his favorite subjects science and mathematics.

Mr. McNitt was graduated from Central State Teachers College (now Central Michigan College) in 1931. He wasn't satisfied, and since has obtained his Masters Degree

in Physics at the University of Michigan, attending summer schools.

While at Central, McNitt took part in all sports allowed during his freshman year, then didn't compete in varsity sports. However, he took several courses in athletic theory, and kept in shape with class athletics. Since graduation he has attended coaching schools at the University of Michigan, Marquette University and Northeastern University.

North Muskegon will find it hard to replace him as a coach and leader of boys, and also as teacher of a full schedule of mathematics and science.

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