

Lyle Smith Papers, 1926-2000

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Smith, Lyle H., 1916-
Title	Lyle Smith Papers
Dates	1926-2000 (inclusive) 1926 2000
Quantity	6.0 linear feet, (8 boxes, plus oversize material)
Collection Number	MSS 085
Summary	Scrapbooks, correspondence, teaching and coaching material, memorabilia, articles, and photos relating to Smith's participation in high school and college sports in Idaho, his career as football coach at Boise Junior College (1946-1968), and his World War II service with the U.S. Navy as a physical training instructor.
Repository	Boise State University Library, Special Collections and Archives Special Collections and Archives 1910 University Drive Boise ID 83725 Telephone: 208-426-3958 archives@boisestate.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is available for research.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Historical Note

Lyle H. Smith, the son of Burrel F. Smith and Addie (Humphrey) Smith, was born March 17, 1916, in the rural town of Steptoe, Washington. He attended Moscow High School in Moscow, Idaho, where he was actively involved in sports, playing varsity football and basketball for two consecutive years. Smith distinguished himself in both sports and for his efforts he was awarded a high school letter for each. In 1933 and 1934, Smith helped the Moscow High School basketball squad win the coveted title of "State Champions". Also, in 1933 he was chosen amongst his colleagues to represent Moscow High School on the "All State Team".

On May 23, 1934, Smith graduated from Moscow High School. In the fall of that year, he entered the University of Idaho Southern Branch in Pocatello, as a physical education major and graduated from the University of Idaho in Moscow on June 5, 1939 with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in history. Also, he was the center for the University of Idaho football team and guard for the basketball team. Upon graduating from college, Smith began what would be a lifelong career of teaching and coaching. From September of 1939 to May of 1949, he taught social sciences and physical education at Moscow High School, where he also coached athletics and served as the "M" club advisor.

With the United States entrance into World War II, Lyle Smith, like many of his generation, entered the military to participate in the war effort. In June of 1942, Smith was notified of his acceptance into

the Naval Reserve. On June 15, 1942, Smith reported to the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to start school in the Navy's V-5 Physical Fitness Instructor Course. On August 29, 1942, after completing the V-5 course, Smith was assigned to the Navy's Pre-Flight School at St. Mary's College in California as a Physical Training Officer. In September of 1943, Smith was transferred from St. Mary's College to the U.S. Naval Air Station in Livermore, California. At Livermore he instructed Aviation Cadets in physical education and standard military training. In 1944, the United States began to intensify the war effort in the Pacific theater and with this Lyle Smith was reassigned to Pearl Harbor in September of that year. While in Pearl Harbor he worked at the Naval Supply Depot where he supervised the handling of cargo that was being prepared for the supply lines in the Pacific. He served at Pearl Harbor until November 1, 1945, at which time he was released from active duty and transferred back to the continental United States to process out of the Navy in Los Angeles, California.

With the Japanese surrender in 1945, the Second World War ended and many of America's soldiers that returned home took advantage of the educational benefits being offered to them by the United States government. For Lyle Smith this meant an opportunity to return to the University of Idaho to attend Graduate School. In 1946, Smith received a Master of Science in Education from the University of Idaho. To fulfill the requirements for his Masters Degree, Smith wrote a professional paper titled "A Recreational Program for the Youth of a City under 10,000 Population".

In 1946, Smith came to Boise Junior College (BJC) to fill the position of assistant to head football coach Harry Jacoby. A year later, Jacoby resigned and Smith became the head football coach for BJC, a position he held until the end of 1967 football season. Smith left an impressive record in his 21 years of coaching at Boise Junior/State College with a record of 158 wins, 25 losses, and 6 ties. Under his leadership, the Broncos were invited to seven post-season Junior College Bowl Games such as the Potato Bowl and Little Rose Bowl. In 1949, Smith took BJC to Bakersfield, California to play in the Kern County Shrine Potato Bowl where in front of 12,000 fans BJC upset Taft Junior College with a final score of 25 to 7. In the middle of the 1950 football season Lyle Smith, like many other veterans of World War II, was called back into military service for the Korean War but resumed coaching duties in August of 1952 upon returning home. In 1958, at Bronco Stadium, BJC defeated Tyler College of Texas, thus winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Championship, a victory that gave them the honor of being the number one Junior College football team in the country that year. In addition to coaching football, Lyle Smith also served as a baseball coach for Boise Junior/State College club team.

In his 21 years as head football coach, Smith's teams remained a dominant figure in the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference winning the conference title 16 out of 21 times. In January of 1968, Smith officially resigned as head football coach and was rehired in March to serve as Boise State College's Director of Athletics, a position he held until retirement in 1981. During his tenure as Athletic Director, Bronco Stadium was built and construction on the Pavilion was started. On September 11, 1970, BJC's football field was dedicated as the "Lyle Smith Field".

Content Description

The papers of Lyle H. Smith consist of naval correspondence, college term papers, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, military certificates, photographs, and correspondence relating to his coaching and teaching career. Additionally, there are numerous documents relating to Smith's high school and college sports activities.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[item description], Lyle Smith Papers, Box [number] Folder [number], Boise State University Special Collections and Archives.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Lyle Smith after he retired as Boise State University's Athletic Director in 1981.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	California Department of Education	1944-1945
1	2	Certificates	1939-1981
1	3	Correspondence	1939-1986
1	4	Boy Scouts	undated
1	5	Navy: Certificates	1946-1954
1	6	Navy: Group Photo	undated
1	7	Navy: Manual	1939
1	8	Navy: Memorabilia	1944-1945
1	9	Navy: Official Military Correspondence	1942-1953
1	10	Navy: U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School, St. Mary's College	undated
1	11	Navy: Regulations	1944-1947

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	12	Navy: Rosters	1942-1943
2	1	Navy: Training Courses	1946, 1953
2	2	Navy: V-Five Directories	1948-1950
2	3	Personal	1941-1947, 1970
2	4	College Correspondence	1934-1946
2	5	College Newspaper Clippings	1935-1939
2	6	High School Correspondence	1929-1934
2	7	High School Newspaper Articles	1930-1934
2	8	High School Teaching	1940-1942
2	10	University of Idaho Coursework	undated
3	1	American Football Coaches Association	
3	2	Articles	1949-1973
3	3	Articles about Lyle Smith	1971-2004
3	4	Boise Junior College/Boise State College Coaching	1949-1968
3	5	Boise Junior College Football	1950-1964
3	6	Boise Junior College Football Scholarships	1947, 1956
3	7	Boise Junior College 1947 Football Team Reunion	1997
3	8	Boise Junior College 1951 Football Team Reunion	2001
3	6	Boise College Football	1965
3	10	Boise State College Football	1971-1972
		Boise State University Athletics	1981-2006

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
4	1-2	Bronco Athletic Association	1979-2005
4	3	California, North Dakota Football	1935, 1951
4	4	Ditto Practice Lessons in Football by maury A. Kent	1935
4	5	Football Playbook	undated
4	6	Fundamentals of Basketball Coaching by Forrest F. Twogood	undated
4	7	Illustrated Football Annual	1937-1938, 1948
4	8	Junior Rose Bowl	1950, 1956
4	9	Lyle Smith Day	1981
4	10	The Modern Formation with Man-in-Motion by Clark Shaughnessy, Ralph Jones, George Halas	undated
4	11	Naval Training Center Football	1950-1951
5	1	Outline of Basketball course by A.T. "Slats" Gill	undated
5	2	Rose Bowl	1951
5	3	Shrine Evergreen Football Game	1956, 1967
5	4	Shrine Potato Bowl	1954, 1957, 1965
5	5	Speak Up for Football by the American Football Coaches Association	1981
5	6	Stan Musial's How the Majors Play Baseball by Bob Broeg	1957
5	7	Touchdown Club	1981
5	8	University of Idaho Basketball	1936-1940

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5 9-10	University of Idaho Football	1934-1939
5 11	Wing-T and the Chinese Bandits by Paul F. Dietzel	1958
5 12	Photos: Lyle Smith	1928-2003
5 13	Photos: Baseball	1950s, 1972
5 14	Photos: Basketball	1950s
6 1	Photos: Football	1940s-1950s
6 2	Photos: Potato Bowl	1954, 1957
6 3	Photos: 1947 Football Team Reunion	1997
6 4	Photos: 1953-1954 Football Team Reunion	2004
6 5	Photos: Wally Brown	undated
7	Memorabilia	
7	Bobby Dodd on Football by Robert L. "Bobby" Dodd	1955
7	Baseball: Individual Play and Team Strategy by John W. "Jack" Coombs	1947
7	The Tumult and the Shouting: My Life in Sport by Grantland Rice	1954
8	Fedoras	
7, 9-10	Scrapbooks	1946-1972, 2000
11	Memorabilia: plaques, 1954 Potato Bowl football jacket, 1980 signed football, film "End of an Era" (1967), hats, Navy	
Drawer		
1	Portrait	

Find Related Collections

Subject Terms :

[Boise \(Idaho\)](#)

[Boise Junior College--Football](#)

[Football](#)

[Sport](#)

[United States. Navy--Physical training](#)