



THIRD ISF AWARDS WINNERS SHOWN WITH DR. WAYNE TAYLOR (FAR RIGHT)

GENERAL SCIENCE

New ISF Council Chairman Elected

► THE INTERNATIONAL Science Fair Council, in session during the 17th ISF held in Dallas this month, elected Dr. Leslie A. Willig, to the post of council chairman. Dr. Willig is vice president of Tri-State College, Angola, Ind., and has been active in science fairs almost since their inception.

Dr. Willig replaces Dr. Wayne Taylor, professor, Science and Math Teaching Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Elected vice chairman was Dr. Reuben A. Diettert, professor of botany at Montana State University, Missoula. Dr. Diettert succeeds Dr. Willig as vice chairman.

The International Science Fair Council advises SCIENCE SERVICE on administration of the ISF, and is comprised of 21 members who have been active in science fairs at least five years prior to Council service and have attended a minimum of three International Science Fairs. Term of membership on the Council is three years with terms of seven members expiring each May.

• Science News, 89:412 May 28, 1966

MEDICINE

Sports for Adolescents Do More Good Than Harm

► IN SPITE OF the danger of injuring the growing bones of youngsters competing in sports, the advantages of athletics far outweigh the disadvantages, the American Medical Association said.

"Adolescents are simply going to compete, with or without sanction," said an AMA Journal, 196: 607, 1966, editorial by Dr. Thomas E. Shaffer of Columbus, Ohio, who is a member of the AMA Committee on the Medical Aspects of Sports.

A report from Eugene, Ore., by two

physicians of Sacred Heart Hospital, reviewed 1,338 athletic injuries treated by four orthopedists in the area, and found that although 20% of the injured children were 14 years old or younger, only six percent sustained injury to the epiphyses, the pieces of bone joined by cartilage to the body's long bones.

This is the potentially crippling injury that causes greatest concern, the doctors said. Growth takes place in these cartilaginous joint areas during childhood, and eventually the bones grow together under normal circumstances.

Among the six percent of injuries involving the epiphyses, growth disturbances were the exception rather than the rule.

Drs. Robert L. Larson and Robert O. McMahan, who made the study, suggested that certain types of youngsters should postpone sports activity

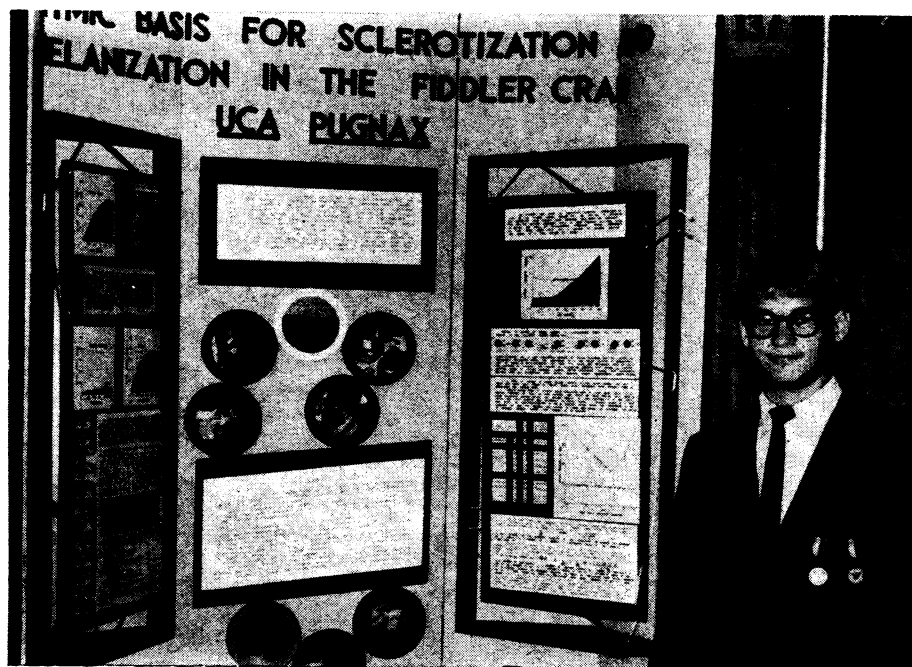
until they develop further. Most susceptible to epiphyseal injury are obese children and tall uncoordinated, lanky youngsters with poor muscle development.

Some activities are unusually hazardous for young athletes, The base-runner's slide in baseball is a cause of frequent bone and joint injury and consideration is being given to eliminating it from Little League play.

One medical study suggests that curve balls should be ruled out for pitchers, aged nine to 14, and that they be limited to two innings of play per week. Little Leagues already limit pitchers to four to six innings.

Sprains on weight-bearing joints should be watched for possible damage to epiphyseal areas, the doctors said. Youngsters 12 to 15 years old are often injured after landing stiff-legged in basketball rebounding, or pole-vaulting.

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