

Guide to the Bill Zorn Papers, 1916-1987

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Overview of the Collection

Repository:

Special Collections & Archives
McIntyre Library
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
P.O. Box 4004
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
(715) 836-2739
<https://library.uwec.edu/archives/>

Reference Code: USGZE AS393

Accession Number: 89-061, 96-070, 15-017

Collection Number: Archives Series 393

Creators: Zorn, Bill (1899-1987)

Title: Bill Zorn Papers

Dates: 1916-1987

Quantity: 8.55 linear feet (15 archives boxes, one ½ record carton and one oversize box)

Location of Collection: D8/2e-D8/2g, A4/1c

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Summary: Bill Zorn was a dean, athletic director and coach from 1928-1969 at the University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire. The collection includes personal and administrative files.

Biographical / Historical Note

Willis Lawrence "Bill" Zorn was a Dean of Men, athletic director and a celebrated coach of the UW-Eau Claire basketball and football teams. Zorn was born March 30, 1899, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He attended high school in Stevens Point, graduating in 1918. After high school, Zorn attended Stevens Point Normal School and enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) during World War I. In 1920, he enrolled at the University of Chicago. On June 30, 1924, he married his high school sweetheart Virginia; they had one son, Bill Jr., and one daughter, Amy Lou.

After graduating from Chicago, Zorn took his first teaching position in 1924 at Hedding College in Abingdon, Illinois and in 1925 he accepted a position as the football coach at Waite High School in

Toledo, Ohio. In 1928 he was hired by the Eau Claire State Normal School as a football and basketball coach. Zorn coached Blugold football until 1943 and continued to lead the basketball team for 40 years. Nicknamed "Mr. Enthusiasm," he was known for his strong character and leadership both on and off the court. Zorn led the team to conference championships in 1938, 1939, 1955 and 1956, as well as the National Intercollegiate Basketball tournament in Kansas City in 1939, 1945, 1946, 1951 and 1956. When he retired as the basketball head coach in 1968, he had compiled a record at Eau Claire of 387-357. During his tenure at Eau Claire, Zorn was also the athletic director and dean of men. His responsibilities included overseeing the athletic program for the university and the supervision of male students, with duties including discipline, providing counsel, housing and other administrative duties. From March 1943 to June 1944, Zorn coordinated the Army Air Force and civilian pilot training program that was held on campus. In addition to his work at Eau Claire, from 1954-55 Zorn served as the president of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and in 1958 was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. He fully retired from the university in 1969 and passed away in 1987.

Content Description

The series includes biographical information and administrative files from Bill Zorn's tenure as the Dean of Men, coach, and athletic director at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The collection is divided into six subseries: Personal Files, University Administration and Student Life, Eau Claire Athletics, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Air Force Training Program, and newspaper clippings. Includes artifacts such as awards, certificates, diaries, scrapbooks, ticket stubs and team photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: Donated to the University Archives and Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire by Bill Zorn. Additions donated by Laurie Gapko in April 1996.

Access Restrictions: Box 1 is restricted. The rest of this series is open to the public. Contact Special Collections and Archives for information regarding access (715-836-2739).

Use Restrictions: Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. Copyright owned by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Processing Note: Processed by Andrea Stepanik in October 2009.

Arrangement: By series.

OCLC #: 21087026

Subjects

Personal Names:

Zorn, Bill

Corporate Names:

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - Athletics

Subject Terms:

College teachers – Wisconsin – Eau Claire
College administrators – Wisconsin – Eau Claire
College sports – Wisconsin – Eau Claire
Basketball coaches – Wisconsin – Eau Claire
Coaches (Athletics) – Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Detailed List of Contents

Series 1: Personal

Subseries contains Zorn’s personal papers, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, awards, speeches and other miscellaneous records. Also included are several photographs, including a large portrait of Zorn.

Dates: 1922–1984

Extent: 2.15 linear feet (1 archives box, and one oversized box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 11/1	Eau Claire Resume	1942–1969
Box/Folder 11/2	Awards and Honors	1954–1976
Box/Folder 11/3	“Bill Zorn Night” Records	1968–1970
Box/Folder 11/4	“Mr. Enthusiasm” Personal Records	1967–1968
Box/Folder 11/5	Amos Alonzo Stagg Clippings and Correspondence	1949–1962
Box/Folder 11/6	Congratulation Telegrams	1955–1956
Box/Folder 11/7	Speech Notes and Misc. Stories	ca. 1965–1980
Box/Folder 11/8	Humor Clippings and Correspondence	ca. 1930–1975
Box/Folder 11/9	Personal Correspondence	1913–1984
Box/Folder 11/10	Speeches	undated
Box/Folder 11/11	Rotary Club Records	1942
Box/Folder 11/12	Miscellaneous	1937–1957
Box/Folder 11/13	Misc. Programs and Newsletters – Prior to Eau Claire	1922–1926

Box/Folder 11/14	Waite High School Newspaper Stories and Team Roster	1925-1928
Box/Folder 16	Diary - lists basketball and football notes, schedules and plays	ca. 1923-1929
Box/Folder 16	Right hand fingerprints	7/24/1946
Box/Folder 16	Box of sporting event ticket stubs for Eau Claire State Teacher's College and Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire	ca. 1930's-1950s
Box/Folder 16	Diary - includes hunting diary and list of anecdotal events and stories	ca. 1936-1972
Box/Folder 16	Portraits of Zorn	undated
Box/Folder	N. A. I. A. Award of Merit	1954-1955
Box/Folder 16	Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame certificate	1960
Box/Folder 16	Bill Zorn Day framed comic strip	undated

Series 2: University Administration and Student Life

Subseries contains records of Zorn's tenure as the Dean of Men. The majority of the records document disciplinary action, housing, student life and organizations, Zorn's membership of the Administration Committee and scholarship and loan materials. Materials in Box 1 are restricted.

Dates: 1935-1977

Extent: 2.95 linear feet (3 archives boxes and one oversized box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 1/1, 1/4-1/16, 2/6, 2/15	Student Disciplinary Action and Correspondence	1944-1947, 1952-1969
Box/Folder 1/2-1/3	Campus Staff and Faculty Disciplinary Action	1946-1952
Box/Folder 2/1	Federal Housing Project	1946-1953
Box/Folder 2/2	Housing Correspondence	ca. 1946-1967
Box/Folder 2/3	Dr. Harry Student Affairs Correspondence	1964
Box/Folder 2/4	Housing Regulations	1965-1969
Box/Folder 2/5	Dorm Newsletters	1968
Box/Folder 2/7	Parking Problem	1953

Box/Folder 2/8	Miscellaneous Publications	ca. 1965-1968
Box/Folder 2/9	Students for a Democratic Society	ca. 1967-1969
Box/Folder 2/10	Frosh Forum	1968-1969
Box/Folder 2/11, 2/14	Discipline Guidelines	1968-1969
Box/Folder 2/12	Rehabilitation Foundation Guide for Alcoholism	1967
Box/Folder 2/13	Campus Safety and Welfare	1967-1969
Box/Folder 2/16	Wynot Alcoholic Treatment Center	undated
Box/Folder 2/17	Illegal Drug Information	1968
Box/Folder 3/1	Student Life Organizations and Events	1961-1969
Box/Folder 3/2	Cheerleading	1966-1967
Box/Folder 3/3	Organization Commission and Constitutions	ca. 1967-1969
Box/Folder 3/4	Correspondence	1968-1969
Box/Folder 3/5	Selective Service	1968-1969
Box/Folder 3/6	Veteran Supplies	1968
Box/Folder 3/7	Fraternity and Alumni Association Newsletters	1976-1977
Box/Folder 3/8	Faculty Committee	1955-1956
Box/Folder 3/9	Wisconsin State Colleges Public Relations	1956
Box/Folder 3/10	Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire Foundation	ca. 1959-1963
Box/Folder 3/11	Presidents Council	1968
Box/Folder 3/12-3/13	Scholarship and Loan Materials and Correspondence	1938-1960
Box/Folder 3/14	Trustee Endowment Fund Agreement	1945-1956
Box/Folder 3/15	"Stuffy" Culver Memorial Fund	1956
Box/Folder 3/16	National Defense Loan Fund	1959-1960
Box/Folder 3/17	Scholarship and Loan Fund Report	1960

Box/Folder 3/18	Athletic Scholarship Committee	1962-1965
Box/Folder 16/1	Student rally posters	undated

Series 3: Eau Claire Athletics

Subseries contains records of Zorn's athletic activities at Eau Claire. The majority of the documents focus on basketball records, including team rosters, plays, photographs, event programs, and statistics. Also, the series contains information on the athletics budget, the Wisconsin State College Athletic Conference, athletic awards, and football records. A wide variety of photographs are found throughout the subseries, including team, individual and action shots for basketball and football. In addition, there is a cassette tape recording of the 1977 Homecoming presentation including the "Mr. Enthusiasm" cheer.

Dates: 1916-1982

Extent: 4.55 linear feet (7 archives boxes and one oversized box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 7/1-7/4	Athletic Budget and Expenditures; MAA log of dues	1931, ca. 1949-1967
Box/Folder 7/5	Travel Vouchers	1963-1969
Box/Folder 7/6	Concession Expenses	ca. 1952-1965
Box/Folder 7/7	Wisconsin State College Athletic Conference - History, Constitution, Game Schedules, Meeting Minutes and Correspondence	ca. 1924-1953
Box/Folder 7/8	Intercollegiate Athletics Principles of Conduct	1951-1954
Box/Folder 7/9	WSUAC Activity Fee Survey	1957
Box/Folder 7/10-7/11	NAIA/WSUAC Meetings, Reports and Correspondence	1960-1967
Box/Folder 8/1	WSUAC Athletic Directors Meeting	1966
Box/Folder 8/2	Athletic Director Correspondence	1966-1968
Box/Folder 8/3	WSUAC Football Meetings and Reports	1967
Box/Folder 8/4	Athletic News Releases	1967
Box/Folder 8/5	Athletic Injuries - Reports and Expenditures	ca. 1953-1969
Box/Folder 8/6	Minneapolis Laker Game	1955
Box/Folder 8/7	"Dad's Night" Planning and Letters	1953-1965

Box/Folder 8/8	Boosters Correspondence	1957-1964
Box/Folder 8/9	Letterman's Club	1952-1967
Box/Folder 8/10	Hall of Fame	ca. 1970-1982
Box/Folder 8/11	Ade Olson Tribute	1969
Box/Folder 8/12	New Athletic Appointments Correspondence	1957, 1967-1968
Box/Folder 8/13	Organization of Professional Baseball Student Paper	1970
Box/Folder 8/14	Basketball Prospectuses	1951-1966
Box/Folder 9/1, 9/10	Miscellaneous Basketball Scores, Plays Rosters and Handbooks	ca. 1955-1956, 1967
Box/Folder 9/2	Converse Basketball Yearbooks	1956-1958
Box/Folder 9/3	Basketball Awards	ca. 1956-1968
Box/Folder 9/4-9/5	Basketball Plays	ca. 1956-1966
Box/Folder 9/6	Novak's System of Basketball Handbook	1950
Box/Folder 9/7	Basketball Correspondence	1955-1968
Box/Folder 9/8	Basketball Statistics	1962-1965
Box/Folder 9/9	Basketball Player Prospects Correspondence	1965-1967
Box/Folder 9/11	Basketball News Releases	1965-1967
Box/Folder 9/12	Football Game Records	1916-1965
Box/Folder 9/13, 10/1-10/4	Football Plays	ca. 1927, 1931-1938
Box/Folder 10/5	Pre-season Letters to Football Players	1937-1940
Box/Folder 10/6	Football Awards	1948-1966
Box/Folder 10/7	Football Prospectuses	1957-1965
Box/Folder 10/8	Football Schedules	1958-1967
Box/Folder 10/9	Football Officials	1959-1967

Box/Folder 10/10	Football Correspondence	1959-1967
Box/Folder 10/11	Athletic Eligibility Proposal	ca. 1962-1967
Box/Folder 10/12	Carson Park Football Stadium Addition	1967
Box/Folder 10/13	Locker Room Athletic Poems	ca. 1942
Box/Folder 12/7	Recording of "Mr. Enthusiasm" cheer	1977
Box/Folder 13/1-13/2, 13/4	Football Photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/3	Photograph negatives	ca. 1946-1947
Box/Folder 13/5	Track photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/6	Miscellaneous photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/7	Homecoming photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/8	Basketball team photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/9	Basketball individual photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/10	Basketball action photographs	undated
Box/Folder 13/11, 14/1-14/9, 15/5	Spalding's Official Football Guides	1916-1917, 1919, 1922, 1924, 1926-1927, 1931-1932, 1934- 1938, 1940-1941, 1945
Box/Folder 15/1	Football Programs	ca. 1933-1966
Box/Folder 15/2-15/4	Basketball Programs	ca. 1939-1972
Box/Folder 16/1	Scrapbook - basketball and football action, individual and team shots, newspaper clippings	undated
Box/Folder 16/1	Wisconsin State College Athletic Conference Code of Ethics	undated
Box/Folder 16/1	Football team picture	undated
Box/Folder 16/1	Two large posters of newspaper clippings and basketball team photo	undated

Series 4: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

Subseries contains Zorn's personal records, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, awards, speeches and other miscellaneous records. Also included are records of Zorn's

involvement with the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB).

Dates: 1944–1977

Extent: 2.55 linear feet (2 archives boxes and one oversized box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 5/2	NAIB Meetings	1946–1949
Box/Folder 5/3, 5/5, 5/7, 6/1-6/2, 6/4-6/8, 7/10	NAIA/NAIB Correspondence	1949–1962, 1965–1969
Box/Folder 5/4, 5/6, 5/8, 6/3, 6/7-6/8	NAIA Annual Meetings and Administrative Reports	1952–1960, 1965–1969
Box/Folder 6/5	NAIA Committee Handbook	ca. 1958–1959
Box/Folder 6/9	NAIA Hockey National Tournaments and Correspondence	1969–1970
Box/Folder 6/10	NAIA Miscellaneous	1970–1977
Box/Folder 6/11	NAIA History, Newsletters and Constitution	ca. 1944–1976
Box/Folder 6/12-6/13	NAIB – Correspondence, Executive Committee Minutes, Budget Reports and Membership	1945–1954
Box/Folder 17	Trophies/awards: to WSU-EC For service to Boy Scouts of America (1965); Boy Scouts of America (1965); Metal Cup “W.L. Zorn Member, Mr. Mc’s Gang, N.A.I.A. President, 1954–1955”; Angel Statue: “In Honor of Bill Zorn for his outstanding records at Waite Good Luck Bill Your W Boys 27–28”	1928–1965

Series 5: Air Force Training Program

Series contains records of the military training program that was housed on the Eau Claire campus from 1943–44. It includes enlistment forms and applications, correspondence, fitness guides and statistics, government property inventory and other records. A few photographs are also found in the subseries of recruits participating in the program.

Dates: 1941–1944

Extent: 0.4 linear feet (1 archives box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 4/1	“Value of Physical Fitness” Speech	1942

Box/Folder 4/2	Civilian Pilot Training Applications and Correspondence	1942
Box/Folder 4/3	Enlisted Reserve Student Records	1942-1943
Box/Folder 4/4	Enlisted Reserve Student Records	1942-1943
Box/Folder 4/5	Civilian Pilot Training Agreements/Press Releases	1942-1943
Box/Folder 4/6	Civilian Pilot Training Clothing Records	1942-1943
Box/Folder 4/7	301 st Air Corps Unit	1944
Box/Folder 4/8	Eau Claire Flying School	1942-1943
Box/Folder 4/9	Civil Aeronautics Administration - Misc.	1941-1943
Box/Folder 4/10	Physical Fitness and Recreation Program	undated [1943]
Box/Folder 4/11	Government Property	1944-1945
Box/Folder 5/1	Navy Pre-Flight School Physical Fitness Program	1942

Series 6: Newspaper Clippings

Series contains newspaper clippings involving sporting and other university events involving Zorn.

Dates: 1929-1987

Extent: .2 linear feet (1 archives box)

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 12/1	Undated Newspaper Clippings	undated
Box/Folder 12/2-12-6	Newspaper Clippings	ca. 1929-1964
Box 12/8	Zorn Exhibit Material (Rick Pifer)	1987