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H17-1957. Kraft, George C. (1939-).
Papers, n.d., 1943-2012. 0.75 linear ft. **PARTIALLY
RESTRICTED**



Abstract

George C. Kraft, Jr. was born to missionary parents, Rev. Kraft and his wife, Pearl, in Chengdu, China, in 1939. Due to political unrest and war, his family traveled between the United States and China several times. Eventually, his parents returned to continue in the mission field, while he and his siblings, a younger brother and sister, stayed stateside in a mission home from 1951 until leaving to pursue education at Wheaton College. He graduated in 1962 and served for a short time in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer before attending Indiana University for his Master of Science degree, class of 1965. Shortly after graduating, he was hired at Hope College as an assistant professor and football coach in 1967. He received his doctorate in physical education in 1971 from Indiana University, and after that became the program director for the Dow Center in 1978. From the beginning of his time as a professor at Hope until he became the program director, he also served as a wrestling coach for the school. He served as chair of the department of kinesiology from 1988 to 2003. During his 38-year service with Hope College, his book, *Coaching the Fundamentals of Football* was published in 1984 and a second edition was released in 1991. Several articles written by Kraft also appeared in multiple national coaching publications. He retired from coaching football after the 1996 season, and retired from Hope faculty in 2005. In November 2013, the performance lab at DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College was dedicated in honor of Kraft's contributions and career at Hope College. The George C. Kraft collection includes articles written by Kraft and others concerning physical education and high school and college athletics, especially football, as well as his memoirs concerning his life as child of missionaries.

Accession No: H17-1957
Provenance: George C. Kraft
Donor: George C. Kraft
Processed by: Geoffrey Reynolds, May 2017

Biography

George C. Kraft, Jr. was born to missionary parents, Rev. Kraft and his wife, Pearl, in Chengdu, China, in 1939. His early childhood was a colorful tapestry of strong faith and Chinese and Tibetan traditional culture. Due to political unrest and war, his family traveled between the United States and China several times. Eventually, his parents returned to continue in the mission field, while he and his siblings, a younger brother and sister, stayed stateside in a mission home from 1951 until leaving to pursue education at Wheaton College. He graduated in 1962 and served for a short time in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer before attending Indiana University for his Master of Science degree, class of 1965. Shortly after graduating, he was hired at Hope College as an assistant professor and football coach in 1967. He received his doctorate in physical education in 1971 from Indiana University, and after that became the

program director for the Dow Center in 1978. From the beginning of his time as a professor at Hope until he became the program director, he also served as a wrestling coach for the school. He served as chair of the department of kinesiology from 1988 to 2003.

Kraft and his wife, Roberta, an associate professor of piano at Hope and an elementary school music teacher, also took the time to help enrich lives around them by performing faculty concerts and at local arts festivals, providing showcases of American gospel music, as well as formative works by secular composers. Together they created a life based on ministry, music, and service, and raised two children, Chip and Robyn.

During his 38-year service with Hope College, his book, *Coaching the Fundamentals of Football* was published in 1984 and a second edition was released in 1991. Several articles written by Kraft also appeared in multiple national coaching publications. He retired from coaching football after the 1996 season, and retired from Hope faculty in 2005. In November 2013, the performance lab at DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College was dedicated in honor of Kraft's contributions and career at Hope College.

Scope and Content

The George C. Kraft collection includes articles written by Kraft and others concerning physical education and high school and college athletics, especially football, as well as his memoirs concerning his life as child of missionaries.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical, n.d., 1943-2005

Personnel File, 1967-1985 (**RESTRICTED**)

Publications by George C. Kraft

“Attacking the 5-2 Angle from the I,” *Athletic Journal*, April 1977

“Attacking the 5-2 Angle from the I,” *Athletic Journal* (Part 2), May 1977

“Blocking 5-2 Stunted Defenses,” *Scholastic Coach*, November 1977

China: A Missionary Kid Returns to His Roots, July 4-July 24, 2012, by George Kraft, n.d.

Coaching the Fundamentals of Football by George Kraft, 1985

The Fundamentals of Coaching Football (second edition) by George C. Kraft, 1992

The Fundamentals of Coaching Football (third edition) by George C. Kraft, n.d.

Publications by George C. Kraft and others

“5-2 Stunted Defenses,” *Athletic Journal*, June 1980

“An Activity Center That Generates Revenue,” *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance*, May 1981

Box 2

Publications by George C. Kraft and others (cont.)

“The Computer and Its Uses in Football,” *The Coaching Clinic*, April 1978

- “Making the 5-2 Angle Work,” *Athletic Journal*, May 1979
- “The One-on-One Block,” *The American Football Coaches Association, Summer Manual 1978*
- “Planning Pays Dividends for Hope’s Dow Center,” *Athletic Administration*, Spring 1980
- “Teaching a One-on-One Block,” *Athletic Journal*, June 1977
- The 52 Angle Defense: Workbook to Accompany Videotape* by Dean Kreps and George Kraft, n.d.