Before 1929 the only physical education offered at Young Junior High School was to the boys who made up the football teams. These teams had been coached first by Chester Jordan, then by Leon Hughes and by Asa Self respectively. Due to the lack of funds necessary to maintain a football team, and the fact that there were no other junior high schools nearby with which our teams could compete, football was abandoned in 1931.

Under the direction of Lela Holland, in 1929, the Physical Education Department was really begun. At this time a plan for awarding school and state letters in physical education was introduced. To earn these awards, students were required to earn a certain number of points by engaging in various types of activities. For the girls, a total of 1,000 points were required for a school letter and an additional 500 points were needed for a state letter. Boys were required to gain only 500 points. Girls who earned their school and state letters were eligible to attend the annual Play Day which was held each year at Alabama College in Montevallo. Numbers of girls participated in this event each year. Letters in physical education were awarded from time to time in impressive chapel exercises.

Among the girls volleyball tournaments were held. Tennis and basketball were popular among the boys.

In 1930 still another great change was made in physical education. Six periods of physical education each day were scheduled with two classes reporting each period.

The Physical Education Department presented the following May Day Program in 1931:

Grand March--Sailor Boys, Eo Peeps, Country Garden Girls, Tumblers and entire Junior I Class.
Queen--Florrie Coe
Best Citizen--Herman McAllister
Attendants: Claire Folkes, Margaret Morgan, Beryl Barnes, Betty Speight, Agnes Elaum, Frances Boozer, Frances Farmer, Doris Brown, Alice Welch, and Doris Robinson
Bo Peep Dance
Junior I Drill
Country Garden Girls Dance
Tumbling Act
Sailor Girls--acrobats
Milkmaids Dance

Between parts of the program, athletic contests were held for the boys. The winners were:

Large boys hurdles---David Trant
Large boys 50-yard dash--Wilson McRae
Large boys high jump--Gaston Capps
Medium boys 50-yard dash--Durward Sharron
Small boys 50-yard dash--Roxcell "ee

In the fall of 1934 the need for more equipment for the physical education department arose. To secure this, the department sponsored "The Great Fizz-Ed Circus" using the auditorium as the Main Show and the rooms surrounding the two courts as the Midway. The side shows included Museum of Curiosities, Midnight Frolic, Hawaiian Beauties, Magic Show, Beauty Chorus, Fortune Tellers, Siamese Twins, Fish Pond and Grab Bag, Incubator Baby, and Twenty-five Thousand Dollar Beauty. Fees for these shows ranged from one to ten cents.

The Main Show included: Grand Parade
Ringmaster
Acrobats
Dancers
Pyramid Builders
Tumblers
Balance Walkers
Trained Animals (elephant, pony, cat, ostrich, giraffe, and donkey)
Clowns

The financial results were most gratifying---$135 was raised.

In April of 1935 30 girls were sent from Young Junior High to the State Play Day at Montevallo. This was the largest number who had ever attended from our school at any one time.

Another physical education circus was given in November of 1936 at the City Auditorium under the direction of Lela Holland. The program
was as follows:

Part I

Parade
Ringmaster—Charles McLeod
Militia (guards to protect the audience)
Freaks—Towering Tommy, Sally Short, Humpty Dumpty
Clowns—Flipper Flop and Jolly Jinks
Drill
Animal Performers—Jazzy Jumbo, Giraffe, Ostrich, Worms,
Singing Frogs, Cock
A Bull Fight
Educated Dogs
Animal Trainer—Sonny Gellerstedt

Part II

Weird Wompy Wumpuses
Pyramids
Romping Rompers
Indians
Rope Feats
Baffling Bells of Baxville
Lipsy Tricky Tumblers
The Magic Rose

After the resignation of Lela Holland, Louise Ellis became the
director of physical education for the 1941-1942 term. She was succeeded
the next year, 1942-1943 by Mary Smith.

Gwendolyn Stephenson became director of the department in the fall
of 1945. One of the main activities of the department this year was
a May Day Program in the spring. The program is given below:

Processional . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . May Court
Jr. III Attendant. . . . Ann Hanahan—Escort—Steadman Shealy
Jr. II Attendant. . . . Martha McEryde—Escort—Archie Carmichael
Jr. I Attendant. . . . Mary F. Strickland—Escort—Wallace Scarbrough
Coronation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Mr. Bruce Flurry

Spring Dance: Betty Griffin, Connie Hill, Claire Faulk,
June Robertson, Pat Hutchings
Battle Hymn Carmelita. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Boys' Glee Club
Nocturne Cherubum . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Girls' Glee Club

May Dance: Robert Powell, Jerry Farrish, Edwin Worthy, Walter Guy
Wills, Tom Carr, Derl Shute, Jimmy Hall, Roger Hubbard, Marlette
Johnson, Charles Patterson, Max Peacock, June Givens, Auth
Gwaltney, Farrys Rose Long, Margaret Crumpton, Betty Jean Adams, Mera Cannon, Mary Cannon, Elma Guilford, Betty Sue Mathis, Barbara Willis, Margaret Weathers

Recessional. .................. May Court

Pictures that were made during this May Day Program are given on the opposite page.

In 1945-1946 Florene Daly became director of physical education.

During the 1946-1947 term teams in football and basketball were organized under the direction of the City Recreation Director, Crawford Moseley. He served in this capacity as coach for 3 years.

William S. Ezell became coach at Young Junior High in the fall of the 1949-1950 term, and also taught several classes in physical education. Under his direction the football team had an unusually good record. They won 5 games and lost 1. Their total points for the year was 125 to the opposition's 49.

In basketball the team won 12 games while losing only 3. In the Webb Tournament the team won fourth place, and won more medals than any other team as they had done the previous year.

A track program was initiated this year also. About 30 boys attended the District Track Meet in Troy. Here Junior High's team was classed B, C, and D and won all three of these class meets.

The 1950-51 term had another good record in athletics. The Varsity and "B" teams together won 8 games and lost 1 during the football season. In basketball the team won all scheduled games, but lost to Ashford in the Webb Gold Medal Tournament semi-finals. Thus the team won third place in basketball. The athletic program for the year was interrupted at mid-term by the loss of Coach Ezell who left to enter the armed forces. The basketball schedule was completed under the direction of W. D. Hewes, City Recreation Director. Miss Daly at this time took over all physical education classes again.
A new coach and physical education instructor came to Young Junior High School in the fall of the 1951-1952 term, Oscar L. Gilstrap. Miss Daly continued to teach in this department also.

In football this year the team lost only 1 game and that was to Ozark. While in basketball the team went to the finals in the Houston County tournament where they lost to Ashford. This meant that they ranked second, and received the second place trophy. In the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet the team score for the meet was third. One member, Felton Woodham won first place in the 220-yard dash, and third place in the 100-yard dash, while the relay team won first place. Larry Morris won third place also in the broad jump.

In 1952-1953, the football team under Coach Gilstrap won 3 games and lost 2. The basketball team won 12 games while losing only 3. Again the track program was carried on and five boys from the school entered the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet.

In view of the younger student body, the faculty decided to present as the major entertainment this year a circus instead of the usual one-act plays. Each advisory selected some act or feature to prepare. While the Physical Education Department under the direction of Florene Daly assumed the responsibility of coordinating the various features, and of training many of the circus acts. The Art Department ably assisted in making the animals, scenery and equipment. With such a large number of students participating, interest and competition was unusually keen. In fact, so close was the ticket selling that all possible tickets were sold and no class or advisory could claim to be winners. The circus program was presented at the Dothan High School gymnasium for two nights. It was as follows:

Parade
Ringmaster--Johnny Rodenbough
Educated Dogs
Little Black Sambo
Tumblers
Monkey Wedding
Indian Dances
Educated Horse
Rainbow Girls Dance
Comic Characters
Kitten Kapers
Box Men
Bongo--the Circus Bear
Pyramid Builders
Waltzing Elephants
Jitterbugs
Hobo Waltz
Prancing Ponies
Majorettes
Konzert Band
Freaks
Ancient Animals
Caper-Cutters (clowns)

(A more complete billing is given under Plays and Special Programs.)

In athletics in 1953-1954, the football team under the leadership of Mr. Gilstrap won 3 games and tied 2. While the basketball team under the direction of Mr. Ezell won 5 games and lost 4. Six boys received letter awards for track this year. This means that Young Junior High School now holds three records in the Montgomery Invitational Track Meet.