

Not All Education in Books

The control and administration of school athletics has gone through four stages in regard to the attitude of the general educator. Thirty years ago with few exceptions the general attitude was one of OPPOSITION to this growing intrusion of this dominant activity which tremendously controls the interests of the students. This is but natural if we know our adolescent psychology. Sports are essential to youth. It is the zest of their very life. They grow and develop and become men through life experiences on the gridiron and the diamond and the playing field. They are taught to give and take. Here are some of the real lessons to be taught now for preparation of future adult living. Not all education is in books. Education is an action process not a learning process. Education lies in doing, in meeting situations representative of life's problems and nowhere can we get these educational situations better than through plays, games, and sports. Through games and sports youth grows, learns, develops, and disciplines himself. This is the true educational process. The place of play in education has been splendidly presented by Aristotle, Hobbs, Froebel, J. Stanley Hall, Gulick, and Dewey. Athletics, not bread, is the staff of life to the growing adolescent youth. So how unwise our predecessors were who thirty years ago opposed this potential educational force "for good as well as evil." They should have lead it and controlled it instead of having the students, alumni and the athletic association take the leadership.

Athletic Missionaries

So the first attitude of the general educator toward athletics was one of opposition. The second attitude was that of TOLERATION. Twenty years ago the general educator began to tolerate athletics, permitting a few members of the faculty to devote some of their spare time to work with the boys outside of school hours to handle the problems of athletics. Then there were few state associations, mostly local, sectional leagues. To these few faculty members we owe much for the development of the educational management of athletics. They had the vision. They devoted their time and money. They were not only missionaries but in many cases martyrs, because still the general run of