

the Queens boys are lamenting that they were not given another opportunity of being beaten. But why did they go to Montreal to play exhibition games, when greater honors *might* have been gained nearer home? Was it their success against the Montrealers that raised the hope in their bosoms that they *might* defeat the champions? Or did they expect that we would keep in readiness to play at any date? It is not our way to make other teams feel disappointed by refusing their challenges; we have another and more decisive plan, but we draw the line at the 17th of November. And now, dear disappointed brothers, let this thought cheer you. You will have a chance to meet Ottawa College next season—and you shall be beaten. So take comfort; let the pleasant anticipations of the future act as an antidote on the sad reminiscences of the past.

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The present is the foot-baller's opportunity. Never in the history of the game has there been so favorable an occasion for making football a popular Canadian sport. Baseball can scarcely be considered a rival, for during the greater part of the football season baseball cannot be played with any degree of pleasure for either players or spectators. It cannot be denied that public interest in lacrosse is diminishing while cricket is becoming annually lazier. So that everything seems to point to the necessity of some other game to replace the old-time favorites. Why should not this game be football? What is there to prevent football from taking as prominent a place among Canadian sports as it does among those of the United States or England? At present the rules of the game prevent such an occurrence. But as the Ontario Football Union holds its annual meeting in a few days this obstacle could be easily removed. If the rules were amended so as to eliminate as far as possible the elements of slowness and brute strength now found in the game and to encourage fast and scientific play the public would soon realize that football can be made an interesting and enjoyable game. We hope to see radical changes in the rules as a result of the next meeting of the O.R.F.U.

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During the course of the next two months the sporting organizations of the country will hold their regular annual meetings and discuss the "burning" questions in the field of athletics. One old and familiar string will undoubtedly be harped upon—professionalism, and dire vengeance will be vowed on him who dares violate the written rules of amateurism. We do not pretend to prognosticate what the decisions will be, but we venture to predict that the ultimate result will be quite as farcical as in past years. As a general rule our ideas on the subject of professionalism are decidedly unnatural. How much at variance are the pictures we draw of the amateur and the professional! See our amateur; what a gentleman he is in appearance; how high he carries his head; how the most distinguished men slap him on the back and say *Bas Jovv!* while all the prettiest girls smile at him most bewitchingly. But on the other hand what a hideous monster we make the professional! A sneaky hang-dog individual without a single good quality; one from whom nothing honorable need be expected and who must be treated accordingly. And why? Because he does openly what nine-tenths of our so-called amateurs do cover.

The amateur plays (and heaven knows how poorly) for pure love of the game (and the grand stand). The professional plays because he can give a satisfactory and pleasing exhibition of his game and like every other man expects a reward for his services.

This is the aspect of things now in our Canadian world of sport. The amateur may be as bad as he wishes in every respect provided he has money whereby he may indulge in athletics for "pure love of the sport." The professional may be every way praiseworthy, but he must be ostracized because his finances will not permit him to contribute to the public pleasure without drawing from the public purse. Than our Canadian amateur, no more sickening sham ever made a pretence to reality. How long will this thing last! Let us hope that those who lead the way in athletics will have courage to face the question boldly and settle it once and forever one way or the other.