

Then came informal and simple games of baseball and football, tug-of-war contests and the like, among various changing groups in the same college. No student or professor in that century and a half foresaw intercollegiate athletics as a great interest and a great problem.

Even after the launching of intercollegiate sports in the 170's, the system remained for a long time very simple, arousing no great public interest. There are not a few heretofore who have been observers of the entire period of the great development in our intercollegiate athletic program; the constantly more specialized coaching and training methods; the increasing emphasis given by the press to college athletics and athletes; the increasing interest of the public; the erection of great stadia; the increasingly vigorous debates upon the subject of over-emphasis. It is not for ~~me~~ me to enter this debate tonight. Certain abuses have crept into our athletic system as they creep into every human endeavour. These, however, are receiving increasingly keen attention as time goes on. I believe that the ethical standards of college sport are becoming constantly better, that dirty play and professionalism and double dealing are less and less evident, that good sportsmanship is gaining ground.

The questions that interest us in the administration of colleges, in connection with athletics as in every other activity, are these: Will athletics continue along the same line in the future as in the past, and if not, what changes are necessary to make them of real educational value in the face of future social and economic needs in America? It is my belief that we have seen intercollegiate athletics reach their zenith as far as public and alumni patronage of games is concerned. There were many reports of decreased football receipts from colleges and universities last fall. The general explanation of this was the financial depression. I do not believe this explains the situation fully.

Only a few years ago, football held the centre of the athletic stage in October and November. The professional baseball season was over. There was not much to do Saturday after work. Sport lovers turned to the football field. And then there appeared a sport which for a long time made little popular headway and which furnished humorous writers endless material; the game of golf. Today it is not the subject for humorous comment; it is serious business for millions of people. The most amazing development in physical recreation program in this country has been that in golf. Country clubs crowd each other about the country side. Few of even our smaller cities do not have municipal golf courses. The results - people are playing games Saturday afternoon themselves rather than taking their athletics vicariously. Nor is participation limited to golf; other sports are being more and more participated in.

This general desire to play games by our people is going to affect the football set-up, and so, until the extent is known, college and university administrators will be wise to proceed slowly with the building of large stadia. In the meanwhile, more of the available money might well be put into college golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, squash courts and the like.

All this is not to say that football is not a fine sport. It is just that and should be continued in our colleges. But it is the part of wisdom to anticipate its future and to prepare intelligently for it.