

were, were brought together from all parts of the country, made the guests of honor at a public dinner at ten dollars a plate, presented with gold watches and lauded as the great football heroes of the year. I do not know that it did those boys any particular harm. They seemed to be an unusually level-headed group of lads. And yet I know and you know that that sort of thing is bad for the game. I attended that dinner as a guest primarily for the purpose of expressing the hope that there would never be another such dinner held in this country. It was perhaps an ungracious thing to do, but I had the permission of my hosts to do it. I would like to renew the expression of that hope right here, and also express the hope that no college president will ever again give his consent to a student of his college going on exhibition at such a dinner.

In all fairness I ought to say that the hosts at that dinner are friends of the game and believed that what they were doing was not only not hostile to the best interest of the game, but they really felt they were doing a good thing for the game.

How Excessive Publicity Affects The Individual Player.

I would like to give three instances of ways in which this over-emphasis of the individual player affects the players themselves, and the younger boys who are looking forward to being players when they get to college.

In a dressing-room just before an important game this fall an alumnus asked the coach by how large a score he expected the home team to win. Practically everyone expected the home team would win. To the surprise of the alumnus, the coach replied, "We are not going to win today." The alumnus asked for an explanation. The coach replied that the team had gotten out-of-hand owing to the fact that they had read about themselves in the college and public press, and that each was now out for individual exploits instead of for a team win.

Another very different effect. A coach called his men together and, referring to the game they had lost on the previous Saturday, said: "Of course you fellows ought to have won that game hands

down. Not by way of criticism, but solely for my own information, I want you fellows to tell me why you did not win. I could not figure it out during the game, and I have not been able to figure it out since." The first to reply was the outstanding half-back on the team, whose performance in the game had been noticeably and unusually mediocre. He said, "I was scared to death." "What were you scared of?" said the coach. "I was afraid I could not make good. The college paper and some of the city papers that the fellows all read have been touting me as a wonderful half-back. Now I know that there is nothing to it. I have happened to get away with three or four long runs this season. It was a combination of gilt-edged interference and good luck. I simply hung onto the ball. I was literally scared to death over the fact that I could not live up to this fake reputation."

Boys Want to Become Galloping Ghosts.

A third illustration. A friend of mine was asked by the fifteen-year-old captain of a Junior High School eleven to coach the team Saturday morning. He could not interest the boys in line plunging nor interference, nor anything but end runs. No one wanted to play in the line. They all wanted to carry the ball and make end runs. Their sole conception of the game was to make long runs and become a galaxy of "Galloping Ghosts."

The point I want to make is that this exaggerated glorification and paper-heroizing of the individual players tends to neutralize much of the good that is inherent in the game. It is grossly unfair to the boys. It gives them an inflated idea of their own importance. It sets a false standard; if they fail to live up to this they are more or less in disgrace. It is giving the boys in the secondary schools a totally false conception of the game, from which otherwise they may get many valuable lessons, and it is not fair to the game itself for the game is a team game.

College Football and Professional Football Must be Kept Apart.

The second tendency of which I wish to speak is the danger of mixing college