

game takes too much time and attention away from the college work; and that the attendance at the games and the gate receipts themselves are far too large.

*Short Schedules not the Answer.*

The first criticism, namely, that interest in the game distracts from the college work, is undoubtedly more or less justified, especially in some colleges. The suggested remedies, however, that the schedule be cut down to two or three important games and that the preliminary training be eliminated, do not appeal to me as sound or effective. Football is too strenuous a game to send the boys into it without necessary preliminary training, and limiting the play to two or three intercollegiate games would, it seems to me, tend to consolidate the emphasis of the whole season into a single month of play.

Neither of these remedies goes to the real root of the trouble.

*Publicity of Accounts—Not Curtailed Receipts.*

With the second criticism, that the game is too popular, that too many people attend the game, and that the gate receipts run into enormous figures, I have little sympathy. What harm if the gate receipts are large? They are contributed in small amounts, and I see no harm in the aggregate being large provided it is put to proper uses. If there is any temptation to put any part of it to improper uses, this can quickly be remedied by the academic and athletic authorities by giving full publicity to the accounts. Simply as a matter of good business management, this ought to be done in any event.

As a matter of fact, generally speaking, the gate receipts of football throughout the country are being put to one of the finest possible uses. Football is supporting to a greater or lesser degree practically all of the so-called minor sports which do not attract the crowds because they are not the wonderful team games that football is. What better possible use could be made of the money, than using its excess receipts in the support of basket ball, swimming, soccer, baseball, hockey, tennis, cross-country running, track and field athletics; so that each and every one of these games is open to every member of the college without any tax or special burden.

*Four Tendencies that Need Checking.*

I have been endeavoring to analyze the situation, and, as I see it, there are four tendencies, the checking of which, and I believe they can be checked, would assure the preservation of all that is best in the game and eliminate the features surrounding the play that are giving the friends of the game so much concern.

These four tendencies are the over-emphasis of the importance of the individual player, the danger of not keeping college football and professional football distinctly and definitely separated, the over-emphasis of the necessity of having a "winning season" and the tendency to treat the winning of games more like a business and less like a sport.

*Too Much Hero-Worship.*

I have recently had something to say on the over-emphasis of the individual player and shall not take much of your time on this subject. It is hardly necessary before this audience. If football is a good game it is because it is a team game. If it is a distinctive game it is because it is a team game. The soul of the game consists in eleven men working together unselfishly in the highest form of coöperative effort, not for the purpose of winning a particular contest for their school. We see various illustrations of the over-emphasis of the importance of the work of the individual player throughout the season. We see it in the so-called pre-season write-ups, in the mid-week publicity and in the after-season ratings. I am not speaking about the comment on the outstanding players in connection with the account of a given game. This is part of the story and the incidents of exceptional feats of prowess and skill in given games are interwoven with all the traditions of the sport. It is the pre-season and midweek and after-season publicity and glorification and heroizing of the individual player apart from his contributions in some particular game that is doing the damage.

An illustration of this tendency was found in a public dinner given by a metropolitan daily at the close of last season to its selection for an All-American team. These boys, and a fine set of lads they