

"This is not a backward but a forward step, indicative of the progressive expansion of education and of universities' appreciation of their responsibility.

"The establishment of a University Department of Physical Education naturally involves, in most cases, a combined annual budget of huge proportions and calls for University administration and a very careful definition and continuity of policy.

"Instead of curbing student initiative, centralized departmental control and management of athletics is certain to 'bring athletics back to the students' and revive the student spontaneity, initiative and general participation which marked undergraduate sports in the early days."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTER-COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.

The formation of the Junior Cricket Club in 1843 by some forty undergraduates, comprising about ten percent of the student body at that time, seems to mark the authentic beginning of athletic sports at Pennsylvania. The first inter-collegiate game in any branch of sport was played with the Haverford College cricket team on May 17, 1864.

Today the University is represented in fourteen inter-collegiate sports and more than a thousand students appear annually as candidates for these teams.

Football, of course, occupied the centre of the stage so far as the spectator view-point is concerned. It is hard, however, to reconcile the cry of commercialization, as applied to large attendance at football games and the resulting large gate receipts, with the truer aspects of the situation. One has but to trace the history of public competitive amateur sport at colleges to get the real picture.

At the beginning students organized, managed, financed and equipped themselves for such games as were then played; were frowned upon by faculties and were lightly regarded by passers-by, who paused and smiled at their efforts.