

Cy says that apparently we prefer to lop off the head of the chicken rather than to de-louse it. Certainly I do not believe in lopping off the head of such a fine sport as football. I merely pointed out to these high school and college players that these coaches and the so-called friends of football are the ones who are killing it, and the yelp that the coaches emit shows that they have been struck by missiles which hit the mark.

When a gardener trims excessive branches from a grapevine he does it to improve the fruit. Certainly you will not deny this, will you, Brownie? By lopping off many of the football barnacles, football could be saved. And so could basketball, for that matter. But the way it is going at the present time causes people to wonder whether the men who make money out of football will permit it to be saved.

May I make another observation? The future crop of coaches in both football and basketball will of necessity come from a group of men who are outstanding in the sport from the angle of technical skill. This is their laboratory work to show that they are experts. These men, by and large, are not athletes who are receiving either their board, room tuition, books, and so forth, or a large part of it, and some are men who positively leave school with a larger bank account than they entered with. How in the world can these great builders of character challenge a boy to enroll in the university except by the same and only method they know - that is the pay check.

These major spectacular sports are nothing but a racket, or a business racket tied to the tail of the university or college. The boy is made to feel that that is the most important thing in his existence, when all of us know that it is not by any manner of means the most important. It is important because it is an incentive which should drive him on to the durable things of life, and that is the thing that he gets in the classroom and in the contact with his fellows. But when he knows that he is nothing more than a paid professional, keeping from the general public the truth of his status, then you and I both know that it is a racket.

I certainly have no quarrel with you when you say, "Football represents so much of a spirit of a game where mental, physical, and emotional expressions have a wholesome outlet that youth will demand, and have, in one way or another." Again I say, let's have it in the right way, and not in the way it is being conducted in the "big time". Again I want to say that I do not want to kill football, but I want to point to the boy who is playing it the danger of following wandering fires lost in the quagmire.

Brownie, I have never worried much about ostracism. I find that I make a few friends and lose a few, but when I characterize a group of coaches as "beagle hounds out sniffing the bushes for athletes to be given salaries for doing no work", I state correctly what I know and what you know. Of course, some big time schools have someone else to do their beagle-hounding for them, and they sit back as respectable individuals while the dirty work is done by the less important beagle hounds. Had I not talked to so many professors who tell me the pressure they feel from the advance agent for so many of these flunking athletes, then I might say that some of them might resent it. But I know this game from all the intricacies as you do. And these professors do not resent this snap course idea because they know how many of the wise boys hunt for them.