

Scandal in the Colleges

NOW that five Brooklyn College boys have admitted being paid by gamblers to "throw" a basketball game, so that the gamblers could make a killing, all the cover-up artists of amateur sport may be expected to explain that this is just an isolated case.

The fact is that collegiate athletics for many years has been increasingly commercialized if not professionalized, with heavy emphasis on drawing enough gate receipts to pay off the stadium and fieldhouse bonds. When basketball was transformed into a big-time sport, played in metropolitan centers to draw large crowds—and incidentally enriching promoters—it was virtually certain that some youngster would eventually be victimized by the money-hungry fixers and professional sharps always hunting for a sure thing.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen of the University of Kansas weeks ago warned that gambling and fixing of basketball games was taking place, but he was shouted down by loud public denials. Maybe the presidents of colleges and universities will now heed his counsel to set up some system to protect the kids whose competitive skill and stamina bring in the golden gate receipts.