

#7 Mr. John R. Tunis
February 27, 1935

the alleged over emphasis on football nothing constructive to date has been accomplished by the publication of this famous bulletin. It did not act as a deflationary instrument on sport nor is it of any potent constructive force at present.

May I quote the words of President Angell of Yale University when he said, "We must believe in all sincerity, as I am sure many of us do not, that physical education, including competitive sports, is an essential part of the obligation of the college and in no sense a mere excrescence to be confided to the casual outsider or to the transient apprentice. We must recognize that it stands in the closest possible relation to moral education, which we often pronounce as one of the prime duties of the college, if not, indeed, the very first. We must believe unreservedly in sports for the whole college community, and competitive group sports as far as possible. If, then, physical education in the largest sense is an intrinsic part of the work of the college, why should there longer be hesitation in recognizing that fact, and accepting the full responsibilities that go with it."

Thirty years ago Ex-president Theodore Roosevelt saved the game of football for the good that he thought it possessed. The disease of the gridiron starts from without, among the men whose interest is misguided. The games of football and basket ball will increase in player and spectator interest because they are contact and combat games that appeal to the red-blooded youth of America.

Of course, attendance in sport fell off with the decline in earning power during the depression starting in 1930. Exhibitionisms or attendance sports may have been on the decline the last few years but the real Golden Era of attendance sports will reach its peak in 1939, and, Mr. Tunis, your article as of December 1934, will be in the same relationship of antiquity regarding prophecy as was your Mr. Jones' abundant interest concerning sport. All stadia will be overflowing, our playgrounds, public and private courses will be filled to capacity with the return of prosperity. The depression deflated sport as it did all super-activities, so shall boom days again return the milk and honey to the land of athletic plenty.

With all sincerity, I am
Very cordially yours,