

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

The basket ball games that I mentioned were college sports played by amateurs - collegians. The tennis match that you mention was more than tennis. It was a duel between two professional super-champions, Tilden and Cochet. You ought to know that.

In spite of the fact that in dividing your article into epochs, you state that the super-champions passed away at the end of 1930. Yet, you state the basket ball games were exhibitionisms and not sport. I maintain that these games were and are more than exhibitionisms, - they are both attendance and participation sports and are entitled to the benefits of both.

Again I ask, when for years basket ball over the United States has been both a fast growing attendance and participation sport, why you utterly ignore it as either? However, I note that you concede basket ball to woman-competition. This is some concession.

Of course, you can be excused for your undue liberality toward tennis. Perhaps you can say the same thing for me concerning basket ball. You might be interested to know that at the University of California, Prof. Clifton Price, a tennis and not a basket ball enthusiast, in his letter to me of January 7, 1935 states, "That we have only 12 tennis courts for 11,750 students at Berkeley." In contrast to this they have built a new mammoth field house for basket ball at Berkeley, which seats over 8,000 spectators.

Most of our mid-western state universities have field houses which accomodate from 5,000 to 15,000 spectators at their conference semi-weekly championship basket ball games. The legislators and school board members are the real Sports Promoters of Basket Ball. With a thorough working public school system, requiring compulsory physical training, one has the explanation of the astounding growth of basket ball throughout the United States. Every new public school building is equipped with a gymnasium outfitted for basket ball. And most of the private schools have them, as do many churches. Basket ball is inexpensive to the player. The state pays the overhead. The expense to the player is a cotton gym shirt and a pair of tennis shoes or sneakers. One basket ball will last a whole season.