

Ned Irish wrote me on October 24th, and I am sending you a copy of his letter together with a copy of my reply. I am not persecuting or prosecuting Irish. He is a businessman handling a hot rock, and one would naturally expect him to try to endeavor to protect his business interests. He is a fine man.

Hy Goldberg, in his "Sports in The News" column of the Newark News, says it is much easier to "fix" the basketball outcome than it is in any other sport. I emphatically agree with him. He writes as follows:

"It wouldn't be a question of throwing the game. Betting on basketball is confined pretty much to a point basis. As long as his team wins, the average player isn't too interested in the score, and if a wily citizen can induce a key performer not to run up the tally, once his team is in the lead, well, it might not sound too bad. . . . but it's probably easier to 'fix' a basketball contest than any other team game that comes to mind. Football pools have been rampant in the country for years, but no single member of a football squad can control a game as can a key scorer on a five-man basketball team. A baseball player is similarly incapable of taking charge of the situation. But in basketball, the high scorer need only narrowly miss the basket on a few shots to hold the score down, and not even his own teammates could detect it. In fact, that sort of thing was a common practice for years in professional court circles. It wasn't necessarily a matter of heavy wagering. The big pro outfits simply avoided humiliating the hometown team. They 'made it close', usually with an eye toward a return engagement."

Bob Considine in writing on the term "cooperation" used by Lou Greenberg, former manager of the Syracuse, N. Y., Reds, professional basketball team, said that pro players had told him of their alleged cooperation in having the point scores in their college games fit the gambling odds. Dan Parker, sports editor of the New York Daily Mirror, and Bob Considine, sports editor and columnist, have often flayed the gambling interests in their 'in the middle' gambling on basketball games. Considine wrote recently:

"Most of the warnings . . . have centered around the curious way in which so many of the final scores of Garden games have ended 'in the middle'. 'In the middle' is a gambling expression denoting a final score which is just right for the gambler - in that he collects from both wagering sides. For instance, a gambler ordains that one team is '15-13' over another, meaning that if you want to bet on the favorite you must bet not that the favorite will win, but that the favorite will win by at least fifteen points, or if you want the underdog you bet that said underdog will come within thirteen points of winning. A lot of games have been ending in the middle, which, in the hypothetical case outlined above, would mean that the winning team wins by only fourteen points. Thus the bookmaker collects from both bettors. There have been a few too many in-the-middle games to suit the lovers of the law of mathematics. . . ."