

The national A. A. U. must look to its own house before it goes barging into the colleges of the country.

The men at the top of the A. A. U., nationally, are honest enough, goodness knows. The fact is they are so honest in their own rights that they know little or nothing of the world in which they live. Men, for example, like National A. A. U. President L. di Benedetto, the New Orleans playground instructor, and his assistant, J. Lyman Bingham, once of D. U., cannot conceive, thru training and background, that there are men who would see a little kid all but get his brains knocked out for the lone dirty dollar paid to the manager of a winning boxer in an amateur bout.

When, as mentioned by Allen, baseball faced its "Black Sox" scandal, it didn't go into the playgrounds and colleges for a "czar." It went into the courts—the courts where life as it is actually lived is on daily parade. It took for its chief a man who knew all about life on the other side of the college and playground fence—a hard-boiled, plain-spoken, wise and understanding jurist that nobody can fool—and nobody tries to fool, either.

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**WE DO** not think Allen has overstated the situation. He has not as far as basketball in Madison Square Garden is concerned. This is not intended for, nor is it a reflection on, Ned Irish, the Garden promoter, a man who has done as much, or more, to make the cage game popular as any individual you can name. It is simply that basketball, in the Garden, is more than a sport. It is a gambling enterprise, just as Allen states.

Let us look at the men involved in this gamble. Let us look at them from our own local viewpoint, for we of the Rocky Mountain west are sending two teams into the Garden this year—Wyoming and Utah.

Out here we are frankly a bunch of hypocrites. We say we are playing college games purely for the love of sports, and for the good of the kids taking part. We go around with pious faces making rules and regulations "designed to keep our sports pure." We, on the quiet, give athletes free tuition—some of them their books, others just their schooling. But we deny the kids a training table or a place to live. That, we of the Big Seven say with solemn looks upon our faces, is done in the interest of "the purity of athletics." Phooey!

For we, in council meeting as we draw our schedules—what do we talk about? The gate, brothers and sisters—the gate. The gate means how many cash customers we can expect for this contest or that one. Then of a Saturday we send these kids out to play before these cash customers. The kids down there on the field—many of them—haven't had a square meal inside them all thru the football season. I know and I can name names. I can tell you the names of kids in the Big Seven who lived on hamburgers because they were unable to hold down jobs that would pay them sufficient money to keep themselves decently. The reason they couldn't hold down such jobs is that their school work plus their athletic drills took up every waking minute.

Well, sir, this hungry kid, of a Saturday afternoon, looks up in the stands and counts some 10,000 or 20,000 customers who came there for what? To see him play. That's what they came for. The kids may be young. But the kids can think. And the kids are human. You put those elements together and you have a kid who, unless he's made of some mighty wonderful stuff, could very well lend an ear to some gambler who showed him a sheaf of greenbacks in return for not playing quite as hard as his alma mammy—that's starving him—expects him to play.

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**WE DON'T** believe this has happened as yet. The wonder is that it hasn't—that we haven't had the scandal Allen predicts. But with money like it is—well, that remark of Allen's about the coming period being "a golden age of sports because there won't be enough silver to pay off the athletes" isn't just wise cracking.

This department is, and ever has been, against "buying" and "paying" college athletes. But by the same token it is high time that the colleges of this nation—of our own section, especially—treat the athletes like human beings, giving in return for their services as boxoffice attractions, honestly awarded and openly acknowledged scholarships, plus the training table, with quarters, during the periods of competition.

If we need a national commissioner to bring this about, well and good.

This department believes that just a little common honesty can do the job unaided.