

December 21, 1944.

Mr. Hugh Fullerton, Jr.,
The Associated Press,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Fullerton:

I read your comment of Major Griffith's statement and thought that I would write you personally, but not for publication.

Major Griffith and I have known each other for a long time; in fact, when Major was in the thick of the fight against the AAU, he consulted me very often. He was fighting for the colleges to have representation on the Olympic Games coaching committee. He was bitter in his denunciation of the autocratic attitude of the American Olympic Committee. He assailed them forthright. He stated that he had become convinced that a fight was wearing on a person's nerves, but if it was necessary for him to sacrifice his life for a principle he was willing to do it.

He used General Palmer E. Pierce, the president of the NCAA, as his lanceet, and a bitter warfare was waged. With the resignation of General Pierce, peace came between the AAU and the NCAA. Major Griffith emerged as the strong man and spokesman for the NCAA. But it was Major Griffith's guiding hand that determined the destinies of this fight, from first to last.

After we had established basketball as an Olympic sport, the NCAA sold it down the river to the AAU, and in the exchange the NCAA received the right to appoint the coaches of four Olympic sports, - track and field, swimming, crew and wrestling.

In your article you quote Major Griffith as saying, "First, you can't make athletic people good by legislation, and it is foolish to make laws before there is a demand for the laws. Second, our athletics can be controlled better by local groups than by a national organization" By this, it would appear that Major Griffith would subscribe to the policy that it would be necessary to have an insurance scandal in New York State before Charles Evans Hughes would write a law prohibiting a repetition. Or there would have to be a Black Sox scandal before Judge Landis should be engaged. By this thinking, it would be better to have a gambler's scandal connected with college athletics before we did anything rather than to forestall it.