

IN THIS CORNER with -

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PAY COLLEGE PLAYERS

Dr. John K. Brallier of Latrobe, Pa., is the guy who started peeling frogskins off the pigskin- who started demanding bucks for bucking. He was our first professional football player.

And now at 61, Dentist Brallier is still yelling for football dough; not for himself but for the lads who play it. He is campaigning for pay checks every month for college performers, as well as the pros.

"I was the first man ever paid outright for playing football" the robust old molar mauler said. "But I certainly wasn't the first to be subsidized for joining a college team. Colleges were taking care of the football boys long before my time. They're still doing it under cover. That sub-rosa business is wrong. They should pay the boys openly."

Brallier, father of three children and a grandfather through one of his offspring, says he became America's first pro gridster back in 1895. He was attending Washington and Jefferson at the time and just beginning his gallop to glory as a quarterback.

The nearby steel town of Latrobe had its own football team. This outfit was slated for an important game when its quarterback, Deacon Blair suffered an attack of colic, spavin the heaves or something. So the Latrobe manager, in desperation, got in touch with Brallier at W. and J. and asked if he could fill in for Blair. Brallier replied, "I don't see how I could do it."

"But we've just got to have a good quarterback for this game," insisted the frantic manager. "Would \$10 and expenses interest you?" "I'll say it will!" exclaimed Brallier. "I'll be your quarterback."

IN BIG DOUGH

In those days 10 bucks and expenses was big dough for the sturdy but struggling son of Widow Brallier of Indiana, Pa. Accordingly Brallier participated in several Latrobe games while still playing with W. and J. And he was paid for every Latrobe game.

Latrobe's team was composed of young steel workers, miners and one of two former college players. They were competing for fun and fame alone--as were the lads on all other town and city teams--until Brallier came along. When the word got out that our dentist friend was getting paid, other stellar performers started demanding cash for their efforts. Such was the birth of the commercial gridstar.