

BOOING, A REAL MENACE

Fielding H. Yost, of the University of Michigan, once said, "Before intercollegiate athletics can mean all they should mean, spectators, students, critics, and school authorities must accept the word of the officials as final."

So long as spectators object to the rulings of the officials they are not qualified to wear the toga of true sportsmanship.

Alonzo A. Stagg, Chicago's grand old man and dean of all coaches and directors, once said to his basketball audience when it lost its head, "Ladies and Gentlemen! Be ladies and gentlemen!"

There is still peril for the longevity of college sports in the blatant rowdiness expressed in the form of booing, hissing, and the well-known Bronx cheer. These regrettable outbursts are the products of the professional hippodrome and its ballyhoo. From professional boxing and wrestling arenas, as well as from the fans in baseball parks, this practice of oral razzing has come. The management of such places must accept their customers. However, it is wrong to permit the public, because it pays money, to deride and cajole and abuse the officials.

In college sports the boys who play the game are constantly under the discipline of training in order to acquit themselves well in the games. There are set rules of behavior that the athletes must follow. Just because the spectators pay admission to these contests, it does not follow that they should be permitted to hurl unpleasant epithets and discourteous remarks at both players and officials and thus disrupt the smoothness of a contest which was planned for their enjoyment.

Within this deplorable situation lies a disrespect for law and order. Let us suppose for the sake of argument that a father who is careless in his respect for the opponents and the officials should take his young sons, below college age, along with him to the games, and that he boos lustily