

Basketball - The National Game
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YOUR SON AND HIS ATHLETICS

Riverda H. Jordan. Ph.D.
Professor of Education

I have a very real belief in the value of competitive athletics for boys. But at the very start I must qualify this statement by specifying sane athletics, having as their ultimate purpose sound physical development and the formation of permanent health habits. In my experience of over forty years I have seen such remarkable advantages in properly conducted sports, and, on the other hand, have seen so many unfortunate results growing out of sports improperly conducted, that I must caution you against allowing your sons to participate except where you are satisfied that the conditions are good. Otherwise you may bitterly regret that your son was ever drawn into athletic participation.

Let us enumerate some of the advantages of sound athletics: First, through them your son should develop a physical constitution whereby he will be better fitted to meet the physical demands of later life -- a sound body, an intensified vitality, and a habit of exercise, all three of which will tend to enable him to withstand the strenuous demands of industry and to throw off readily the onslaughts of disease.

These outcomes, however, are not enough. They must be coupled with a growth in self-possession and self-confidence, development of courage and moral