

individual prowess in the interest of the entire group, and so give opportunity for inculcating lessons of self-control with self-reliance and fair play. Some of these games require skills that continue through life. The boy who plays ice hockey will continue to skate as long as he lives. The boy who makes a swimming team will always enjoy swimming. The boy who plays baseball may play baseball at least in a modified form for many years. These sports therefore rank high in the list.

Other group games which are strongly to be recommended are soccer, lacrosse, and football. These are not likely to be played in later years, but the boy who becomes interested in them will find suitable substitutes on leaving school or college. His later exercises will probably be centered around golf, or tennis. Boxing, wrestling, fencing, tennis, and golf all have their place because of their individual values, but do not give the opportunity for group participation.

Some parents fear to have their sons take part in the rougher sports such as football, lacrosse, and soccer, on account of fear of injury and possible death. It is just this factor of hazard that makes them valuable sports. Under competent coaches (you see the coach always comes into the picture) the danger of actual serious injury will be much lessened. But the fact that there is a hazard means that a boy is developing those valuable qualities of courage and even heroism which can be attained so readily in no other way. I have seen so many timid boys become courageous and self-reliant from participation in football that I rate it probably first in the group, but, of course, only for boys who have the physical qualities to enable them to stand the strenuous requirements.

You may wonder that I do not include basketball in these games. This sport does not qualify under any of my categories. It is probably the most strenuous of all sports and therefore should be played only by boys of rather unusual physical equipment. It is ordinarily played indoors, at night, under extremely artificial conditions, usually where the air is foul and frequently clogged with dust. It involves only a small number of participants and unfortunately the desire to win is usually carried to such an extent that there are frequently charges of foul play, and, worse than all, it is very difficult to get suitable referees