

who will win the prize. In our earlier
years it is promoted by the sporting
element and gives rise to the evils of betting, of
interference by outsiders with school regulations,
and with such a question placed upon victory that an
unsuccessful contestant in the sense of winning games,
has difficulty in keeping his position even though
he may be a good coach and have the finest influence
over the boys in his charge.

I would say a word in behalf of track and
field athletics. The great advantage of these games
and sports is that they give the boys a chance to
take part and that many boys who cannot participate
in other sports can find a place within the varied
scope of the kinds of activities involved. Team play
and co-operation are present in these sports to a
somewhat limited extent, so that the work is not
entirely individual in character. The contest here is
against over-excitement and participation is too many
times. The presence of a well-trained coach is more
important in this work than in almost any other.

There is also a splendid opportunity for
athletes and expense involved and the lack of facilities
in many places means that it has to be tried out at
great consideration.

The value of team athletics in general is so
great and the opportunities so varied that I have not
to have your sons become normal participants and not
passive spectators.

The question is so large that it is impossible
to treat it properly in an answer. I have tried to
give extended discussion and shall be glad to refer you to several good discussions
which you can easily secure.

I close as I began, by saying that I believe
thoroughly in athletics for boys, but only under the
direction of men of high ideals, who will not subor-
dinate the welfare of your son to the desire for
victory.