

suppose you are aware of the fact that you have three fouls charged against you--be careful." With no hesitation whatever he turned to me and said, "You be careful." It is the alert mind like this which makes the successful athlete. Many times a player lacking in physical ability will make up the discrepancy in mental alertness. So should the official be alert to all situations.

One of the most helpful plans I would suggest is that the younger official make a study of a successful official and endeavor to take into account his various positions in different situations. You remarked in your book of the ability of Ernie Quigley and in my locality we have an official whom may acknowledge as one of the best. You have probably seen or heard of Pat Kennedy of New York. Pat was my pattern in my first days and I endeavored in every way to study his work. Just as a successful coach will watch the professional or well-coached college teams, so can the young official study the successful arbiter. Although I have never had the opportunity as yet of acknowledging my indebtedness to Kennedy, I hope to work with him in the near future.

I liked your poem, Courage, included in the chapter, Esprit de Corps. I believe it is that spirit more than anything that has made American and American sports so successful. I know 'tis true for I have had to battle my way to the place I hold today in officiating. I made the climb in three short years, but they were years in which I often faced disappointment and loneliness. Nevertheless I had set a goal and with determination I began to realize that I was making rapid progress. Through independent basketball to the American League is a road which was rough but I managed to survive, and surviving gathered strength. My American League debut is in the future but the fact that my name is on the probationary list is satisfactory knowledge to me that I will be a regular man soon.

You did mention the American League in your book and although we do not have the high-salaried men of past years nevertheless the East is a hot-bed for professional basketball. In a professional game last year I had an amusing incident happen which might have meant my failure if I had not known the rules. Hazleton was playing at Pottstown in the Tri-County League of Pennsylvania. Hazleton presented the tallest player I have ever seen, a center-man standing 6' 11". A Pottstown man shot for his own goal and the ball was directly over the hoop about to enter when the tall center reached over the top and politely plucked the ball out of the air. I immediately blew the whistle and awarded a goal to Pottstown. Of course a great howl went up from the Hazleton players, calling me "homer" and a few other choice phrases. But I stuck to my decision which I knew to be right and the goal was scored. Strangely enough the final score read: Pottstown 31, Hazleton 30. After the game was over the Hazleton captain, who incidently was an assistant coach at Hazleton High School who were the Penna. State Champions, called me over and congratulated me on the game I handled. Later I officiated at the State semi-final High School game in which Hazleton was eliminated from competition, through the efforts of the assistant coach's intervention. Later I also officiated the play-off games in the Tri-County League. It was during these play-off games that my name was mentioned for the American League.

I have not written to merely get glory to my name for I do not want that, but rather to corroborate many of the truths you have so ably stated in your book.

There are many other stories I could tell of my experiences even as you can as a coach but I shall not take your time here to do so. I would like to express however, in closing, my triad arrangement of