

has created more national drawing power in the way of publicity than all of our track events, or all they will ever draw at Kansas. The coaches of track are primarily responsible for not drawing more people because, again, they go back on the prima donna idea of the high jump or special events, and the meet drags out so long that people leave the field for lack of thrills. If a track contest could be over in one hour, the same as a basketball game, you would have a crowd thrilling to these exciting relays. Have relays in which everybody could run - according to weight and size; lightweight relays, heavyweight relays; football relays; outdoor shuttle hurdle relays. People want to see the passing of that baton.

And too, a track man is highly selfish because he thinks only of himself and his own competition. So is a basketball or football man selfish, but through having to struggle with his fellows for victory, he learns to be more unselfish.

Your argument that too often the high school coach is a college football or basketball player who knows nothing about track, is very weak indeed. The reason the schools hire a football or basketball player as coach is because people go to see those games and do not go to see track to any appreciable extent. If they had, track would be tops in the way of coaching.

Why don't you take a new angle and study the thing? I would be glad to talk to you some time.

Now, as far as conditioning is concerned, all physical training experts have long said it takes more conditioning to play basketball than any other sport. I have known track men that never trained, and still won championships.

If it were not for the Olympic Games track would not have survived at all, in my opinion, or, at least, to any appreciable extent. But having the Olympic Games every four years stimulates track to an unusual degree. I am happy for that and with that we might have more track, but if you would look at the financial records of an athletic association you would be amazed to see how many thousands track costs as compared to the other sports. And as I told you, people still determine the coaching personnel by what is taken in at the gate. Since the schools do not subsidize these sports, they must depend upon the drawing power of the contest.

This is said in all good spirit, but I wanted to rise in defense of the two sports - football and basketball. In the sporting vernacular, as well as others, - "that which deserves to live, lives." I am talking about sustaining a sport from its own resources.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.