

# BASKETBALL AND THE WAR

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ON DECEMBER twelfth Congress received a most comprehensive new draft bill that would require every man in the nation between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five to register for service. It further provides that all those from nineteen to forty-five are liable to military service, the others to register in other phases of our vast war effort.

The military authorities have said that they are not primarily concerned with the military knowledge of the recruits, but that they would be thankful if the recruits were in adequate physical condition and appreciated the value of the proper health habits which are necessary to maintain efficient physical and mental health. The quickest way to train recruits for fighting is to have them study and practice the specific activities involved in war. But, the authorities know that the progress of such learning, if it is to be practical, must necessarily be in keeping with the physical ability of the individual to stand such a rigorous training. There can be no question that a program of military training pursued with lads who are in first class physical condition will proceed more rapidly than a program organized for recruits who, in addition to being in need of training in military activities, also require a great deal of time to get them into satisfactory condition to practice and perform these activities effectively.

In the face of these facts it is our duty to continue to promote basketball contests and to encourage as many of the boys of our schools as we can to participate in this sport, which develops so many attributes that may be useful to the fighting

man. Some may ask, in what way sport is related to the subject of military preparedness. Sport is essentially play and war is essentially work. The two seem to be at opposite poles. Nevertheless, it has been recognized by coaches that there is a direct and positive relationship between the play of sports and the work of war; and I may add, the work of living. Activity in sports is a primary means of developing and maintaining the high degree of physical competence needed by fighting men. As a means to this end basketball is an effective aid. It is becoming more and more a game of speed, of skill, of alertness, of quick judgment, of cleverness, of stamina, and of sportsmanship and morale. It is becoming less and less a game of brute strength. Assessing the qualities necessary for a capable soldier we will make no mistake when we advise a young man to prepare himself for his national duty by seriously playing basketball. Every muscle of his body will be developed for stamina, for quick action and deliberate action. His mental reactions will be quickened by the rapidly changing phases of the game.

There are three factors in basketball, no less than in other competitive sports, which the player should keep in mind. Assuming the necessary educational background, a lad aspiring to a commission in the military services has a strong recommendation in his favor if he has had the experience of competitive sports. Secondly, if he has had this experience recently, in all probability, he is in the necessary physical condition to weather the exacting discipline which he must undergo to prove himself worthy of a commission. And, finally, he knows quite a lot about discipline because he has willingly subjected himself to exacting discipline. He has proved he can take it! He is in a better position to impose it if he must.

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## ORGANIZE CHICAGO WRITERS GROUP

When West Texas State set a record of 70 points in the Oklahoma City all-college tournament, substitute Chuck Johnson made the 66th point which broke the record and substitutes Ledru Jacobs and Norman Trimble sank a field goal each . . . Coach Shorty Almquist, Rock Island (Ill.) H. S., claims Jim Holland holds scoring ace of opponents scoreless

by hypnotism . . . Art Morse, graduate manager of athletics at DePaul University, is trying to get a Basketball Writer's Association started in Chicago modeled after the one in N. Y. . . . Wally Borrevik, 6-8 Oregon center, injured in an auto accident last spring and advised to give up college competition for a year, is now playing with an oil company team.