

Spencer, Sullivan, Terre Haute (Indiana State Laboratory High School and Wiley High School), Tipton, West Terre Haute (Concannon High School), Worthington.

Basketball is and should be only incidental to a high school education, but it is also one of the vital unifying forces of a well-rounded secondary school training that leads upward toward the realization of the fullness of life of adolescent school youth by giving outlet to his surplus energy through capable direction.

Our conclusion in regard to the criticisms of those directors, both state and local, and of the student body, is as follows when figured in percentages:

1. 87% are without any foundation in fact.
2. 10% have but little or no foundation in fact.
3. 3% have real foundation in fact.

Personal experiences since 1895, as a student playing on one of the first Teachers' College teams, later as coach, and during the past twenty-five years in making physical examinations and noting the mental and moral effect, have convinced us that the game is wholesome. Teams from the local high school have been frequent contestants at the state basketball tournaments. The earliest one in which they participated was held in the old Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium in Indianapolis. On the opening round there were present 23 spectators with seating room for 25 more.

In all the physical examinations we have made of tournament contestants and other players, we never have found a single student who, in our opinion, was ever injured physically or mentally. The examples are many where the boys have been improved physically and broadened mentally and morally.

Some critics have implied that examining physicians in local high schools are either careless or incapable of making the required examinations. We deny the allegations and maintain that more reliance can be placed upon the local physician than upon any outside critic, whether the critic be physician, official, or laity. Our experiences lead us to believe that we should not further restrict the basketball tournament, but rather that we could well return to the plan used in former years except to limit the number of games played in any one day, and we might further suggest that there be two classifications of the high schools with two tournaments held concurrently.

Reprinted from The Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association, August, 1938 Vol. 31, No. 8, Pp. 407-408, 426.
(Copyright, 1938, Indiana State Medical Association)