

With Dick Hyland, Los Angeles Times

A recent thought, probably provoked by the fact that we are now passing from the season of one sport to that of several others, was that there is not, after all, such a great difference between the playing of various sports. In most all of them, as Illinois' Prof. Coleman Griffith has pointed out, learning, habit, memory, sight, hearing, muscular feel, thinking, emotion, determination, resolution, concentration, attention, selection and imagination have a place. The more of these things you possess, and the better you use them, the closer you are to being the champion of your sport. and no one was ever a champion of any sport without having all of them to some degree and some of them to a great degree.

The more familiar you become with any game the easier it is to recognize the application of these mentioned basic qualities to the playing of that game. Perhaps we may not analyze things but may, instead, simply know and appreciate that DiMaggio can hit the ball, that Bobby Riggs is a master of baseline play, that Davey O'Brien and Don Hutson would be one whale of a pass combination, that Joe Louis is a champion, but that Gene Tunney was a better one, that Johnny Weissmuller was related to a fish and the Trojans have a good basketball team.

#### WANT TO BE A CHAMPION?

Every athlete mentioned, indeed, every player in every game, has used identical basic qualities but expressed them in different ways, as called for in his sport. It may take just as much courage, alertness, co-ordination and learning to stand over a cook stove all day as it does to stand under a falling punt for two seconds. So, perhaps, there are games AND games to which the basic qualities apply.

Incidentally, to put forth a personal belief based upon experience, no persons possess these qualities to the exclusion of other persons. All of us can learn to use every quality used by a champion. How well we train ourselves determines how close we may come to being champions ourselves. Present prep school athletes should learn that before all else.

#### A PERFECT EXAMPLE

An unforgettable incident in the 1932 Olympic Games proved Georgia Coleman a champion. A beautiful girl, who will be just as happy if her name isn't mentioned here, was giving Georgia a licking off the 10-foot board. She came to her pet dive, a difficult thing she usually did perfectly. It was, in fact, too easy, because she flopped the dive badly. She forgot (memory) what she had learned, broke her habit, did not look at the board, failed to feel she was wrong, did not determine to do as she knew she could, failed to concentrate, let her attention wander; and she undoubtedly did these things because her imagination had grasped what it meant to be licking Georgia Coleman and becoming the champion of the world. She thought the wrong things.

Georgia Coleman, with the full pressure on her, stepped to the board and knocked off two of her best dives to win the championship - - as usual. She used each of the basic qualities properly.

Continued.