

It stands to reason that when you or I can earn hundreds of dollars, or probably more than a \$1,000 over a three-month period, money that comes to us in addition to our weekly earnings, you and I are not going to attempt to diminish this extra coin, if we can help it.

Aren't we, then, at the mercy of the physical director (graduate manager or coach) who hires us from time to time?

What would be our feelings toward a team (at a subsequent game) should its coach display an objection to our officiating?

The answers are obvious, and, being human, you or I would feel as bitter as anyone else -- however fair we would try to be.

Basketball, because of its make-up, probably needs more competent officiating than baseball or football. It needs a system where the physical director (graduate manager or coach) as remote as possible from the officiating element.

Is such a Utopian system possible? I think it is.

It is my belief that if a Commissioner (or a Commission of three) were selected by the New England colleges, empowered to assign all officials to college games, the game will be greatly enhanced. If such a Czar (or a Commission of three) were to perform such assigning roles, the referees would feel that they were the choice, not of the home team, but of BOTH teams, spectators and all. In other words, by popular approval!

None of us even for a moment can imagine that an American League umpire, working at Fenway Park, is an employee of the Boston Red Sox, and, when this same umpire appears at the Yankee Stadium, is a hireling of the New York Yankees! The reasonable explanation is that he receives his pay from headquarters, and not from the contending teams.

In analyzing my suggested plan, let's over-look the element of traveling expenses so that the scheme would be clearer. Under the proposed system, all colleges would forward, at the start of each basketball season, a sum of money covering the cost of officiating. Suppose a college plays 10 home games in a given season and each official receives \$15.00 per contest. The officiating would cost \$300.00 for the season. Upon being advised that a referee worked a contest assigned to him, the Commissioner (Commission of three) will forward him his check for \$15.00. In such an instance, the assignment officials will not regard themselves as employees of the home team, nor look upon their fees as compensation received from the home team, nor fear that, in the face of an honest but adverse decision, the home team will cease accepting him in future contests.

It is interesting to point out that in sectional games, such as those staged at the Madison Square Garden, Philadelphia, etc., the teams don't look upon the referees as employees of their opponents. And undoubtedly, these officials, receiving their fees from a third party, don't give a hoot as to who wins, or how angry this or that coach is! The official tries to do his best because he knows that, if he does his best, the promoter will want him back, irrespective of how many times the "home team" may lose.

Some may say that it would be almost impossible to find a capable Commissioner (or Commission of three) in all New England.

Football has its Commissioner, why can't basketball?

If all New England can't provide one (or a Commission of three) it is a sorrowful state of affairs sorrowful for the manhood of this section, and also of the physical directors (graduate managers, or coaches) for not being able to agree upon either one or three men!