

# CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS LETTER

*A Publication Dedicated to the Future of Intercollegiate Athletics in a Nation at War*

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## KEEPING THE RECORD UNBLEMISHED

College athletics have established a good war record. It would be unfortunate if this were spoiled by a poor post-war record.

The wartime contributions of campus sports have been significant. They have produced legitimate and badly needed recreation not only for undergraduates but also for the public. More important, they have been of immense value in the early training of members of the country's armed forces, and men in actual combat have found that experience in athletic competition stands them in good stead in war's sterner competitive tests.

In view of these achievements there undoubtedly will develop at war's end a strong temptation for collegiate athletics to undertake other functions in addition to those for which it is qualified. Already there are unmistakable indications that, in the midst of the inevitable reaction against compulsory military service during peace times, the proposal will be made that the vital purposes of such a training regimen be accomplished through a nationwide compulsory sports program. This idea will be popular for, while appealing to all those who are tired of uniforms and military discipline, it will also appear to offer the easy way out. But let all beware of this lazy man's panacea, for it won't work. Athletic administrators will make a big mistake if they lend their support to any movement to have a sports program accepted as a substitute for military training.

Sport's proper post-war job will be to assure physical fitness on the part of the nation far superior to that possessed at the outbreak of World War II or at any other time in the past. To attain this end, one hundred percent participation in athletic competition will be needed at schools and colleges, in towns, communities and neighborhoods. Nevertheless, no matter how successfully this program may be prosecuted, it will not prepare for war or protect against another war. Universal military training will be prerequisite to this all-important objective.

Why not make mandatory for all young Americans one full year in service immediately following high school graduation or, for any not continuing education to this point, one year at age eighteen? To say that this procedure will make the country harmfully militaristic is prattle. No longer can this nation choose whether or not it will be more extensively militarized than it used to be. In the present war the USA has demonstrated to other countries that overseas invasion against well armed opposition is practicable. Therefore, in future the USA must discourage all these other countries from the thought of yielding in wars ahead to the urge to do likewise where American shores are concerned -- and it must do this by being ready itself to withstand such invasion. The nation must have strength in arms, and it must have all of its young men prepared. To disarm in the hope of influencing others to disarm will bring the opposite effect and will invite disaster. Experience should have taught that lesson by this time.