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THE COLLEGES AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

At the meeting of the N.C.A.A. Council held in New York last December the relations between the colleges and the Olympic Association were discussed. Following the Council meeting, an N.C.A.A. Olympic Committee was created to study the situation, to make suggestions relative to contributions on the part of college men to the Olympic Fund, and to take whatever steps seemed advisable toward furthering the interests, especially, of the sports in which the colleges are particularly interested.

On February 15th and 16th the committee met in Chicago and discussed Olympic finances and methods of assisting the next Olympic Committee in the organization and promotion of the following Olympic sports- track and field, swimming, wrestling, and the eight-oared crew.

It is well to review the growth and development of the Olympics from the standpoint of the colleges and to call attention to certain developing factors. In the first place, the United States is the only member of the International Olympic Association in which the educational institutions are in a large sense the athletic units. Here in America there are some thirty-three million individuals enrolled in the schools, colleges and universities. In fact, there are more young people in attendance in our institutions below college rank than there are in all the rest of the schools of similar character throughout the world; more young men and young women are enrolled in the colleges and universities than are enrolled in all of the rest of the colleges of the world. There are approximately sixteen thousand schools and one thousand institutions above high school grade in which inter-institutional athletic programs are sponsored and promoted. Most of these institutions have athletic plants and facilities and employ trained coaches. Naturally, then, the Olympic teams in the sports fostered by the schools and colleges are largely composed of college trained athletes. In the February Athletic Journal is an article prepared by T. N. Metcalf which shows that 99% of the points won by the American track and field team in the recent Olympics in Berlin were won by undergraduates or by recent college graduates who trained for the Olympics under the guidance of their coaches on the college athletic fields.

The eight-oared crew is always composed exclusively of college undergraduates. Further, the men who excel in Olympic swimming and wrestling are invariably college trained men.

In short, the colleges are now the training ground for the Olympic champions in the sports designated. This was not always true. There was a time when perhaps one-half of the members of the American Olympic track team were athletes who had never attended college. The A.A.U. came into existence back in 1889 at which time school and college athletics in this country were in their infancy. Beginning with the second Olympic Games, the A.A.U. has pretty much controlled, officered and administered our Olympic activities in the sports mentioned as well as in others. However, with the educational institutions gradually growing in importance in athletics recognition has been given them and this fact from time to time. Following the War, the Olympic Association was created and the N.C.A.A. became a member of this Association. Some eight years ago the Olympic Association constitution was revised, giving the N.C.A.A. more voting strength than it previously had enjoyed. Today it is felt that the colleges should assume more responsibility in the matter of financing the teams composed largely of college men and should have larger responsibility in the management and control of these four sports previously mentioned.