

Of course, you and I both know that there is the difference in officiating and what one official calls on one player one night and what another official calls on the same player the next night may be different. There is such a wide latitude in officiating that this is the major problem rather than merely the disqualifying of one player who is attempting to play a clean game. I have made this observation - that a certain official who is utterly fair and does not have it in for any of the players will call the same type of foul on a certain player consistently, yet he will let another player get away with another type of foul that appears many times much more serious than the foul that was called. That is the human equation. I believe if we can improve our officiating we will do the thing that is most needed.

High school organizations can require the attendance of their officials at a conference, but college officiating is the most variable thing that I know of. Seldom are all the officials present at a conference meeting, and then oftentimes it is necessary to make changes in the officiating schedule and obtain officials that have never worked college games. The old time college officials called fewer fouls, while the younger college officials and those officials who work many high school games call a great number. Personally, I am very strong for the younger fellows calling more fouls, and when you call more fouls you are going to disqualify more men. But the old timers are just throwing the ball up and calling as few as possible. This is bad for the game and bad for the sport.

Booing is giving the home team an eight to ten point advantage because the ordinary official will dislike to be personally punished mentally by calling many fouls on the home team. Therefore, the rowdy crowd, the blatant booing outfit, will give their home team that much of an advantage. The school that discourages booing and tries to develop a standard of sportsmanship is penalizing their team. I think this is beyond argument. More and more the home team is winning their games at home and losing them away. In our Big Six Conference to date there have been 19 conference games played and 18 of those games have been won by home teams. Only one game has been won off of the home team's floor. While this may be a larger percentage than usual, it shows clearly that the home team is getting the breaks from the officials because the blatant rowdyites are developing in the players a complex or a condition known as "rabbit ears". I think the booing angle and the sportsmanship of the home crowd needs a definite revision.

Now, H. V., there is one other matter that I am convinced needs discussion, yet I am not going to press it or ask you to put it on the questionnaire. That is the 12 foot basket for college players. In our conference this year three times the defensive players have jumped up and struck the basket when the ball was on the rim, and the only time that an official will call it is when you have a fellow 6'6" or over