

# The Second Guess

By VIRGIL CORY

## Monday Is a Quiet Day, So Let's Talk About the Grand American College Sport of Football, Its Schedules and Its Pay Rolls.

THAT there's "growing pains" in the great college sport of football is no secret. From good old New Haven to Westwood Village in Los Angeles' suburbs, the fall sport has been in for more than its share of criticism this season and Wichita fans are pushing their noses right into the discussion too.

The following facts are not personal opinions, and neither are they beliefs of any one man; they've been thrust on to this department by a number of students of the game and the serious manner in which they have been relayed carries some weight.

Here's two suggestions that these local fans bring out plainly:

1. Colleges should play more than eight or nine games a season.

2. The hypocrisy of colleges with million-dollar mortgages on huge grid bowls should stop. They should pay their players openly—and pay them what they're worth as drawing cards.

The second suggestion is well known, but the first was slightly surprising to us. Why should colleges play more than eight or nine games every season?

"Because they're not teaching a young man football in all its phases under the present method," snap exponents of this idea.

"Just look at the pros—they play from 18 to 24 games a season and are in fine condition all of the time," these men continue, "These pros know just how much they can play to get the best out of a season."

"In colleges the boys don't handle a football until they snow up around September 1. Then they practice for a month. About October 5 they usually play their first game. Then they play once a week until Thanksgiving and that's just eight short weeks.

"After they've played their first couple of games, most universities don't even have their players scrimmage, fearing that their stars will suffer a hurt that will lose some dollars at the gate on Saturday afternoon. Why in this day and age a young man who wants to learn football has to go on pro ranks in order to learn anything about the sport.

"Now if colleges played about 18 games a season the boys could get into action in regular play about September 15, and carry on to about December 5. When they wind up their season they'll still be in fine shape and will know more about football than they can learn in three seasons otherwise."

One of the men who believes in the above statements played his football in 1898-99.

"In our day football was so rough that we had to keep our schedule down to eight or 10 games," he said. "Nowadays if a player even slips and falls in an open field he's down. That's just one example of the fact that football is much easier now than it used to be. To make it up and toughen these boys as they should, why don't they play more games?"

Just to get an idea from a pro-

essional football player we called up Pete Bausch, who was selected on the United Press all-star pro team this season. Pete plays center with the Boston Redskins.

Pete said, "Yes, I finished our season feeling like I could play a half dozen more games. Let's see, we played 19 games this year and 12 of these were league contests."

Bausch agreed heartily with the idea that more games on a college schedule would help players.

"I've learned more since I've played with the Boston pros than I ever learned in my life before," he admitted. "In college we never had time to digest the reasons why we were supposed to block this man or to run this direction. We did it blindly. In pro football we have enough games that we can learn every detail of the sport slowly and surely as the season progresses. Yes, I would certainly say that colleges could play about 20 games a season with more benefit than the usual number of eight or nine games."

In compiling a schedule to fit this proposed plan, it is suggested by several that regular Saturday games would still be in order. Say play 10 contests on Saturdays. Ten more games could be arranged on Wednesday nights.

This would take the nerve-wracking emphasis off "national titles" because few teams would go through long seasons unbeaten.

What do you boys who play football this season think of a 20-game schedule?

In speaking of hypocrisy of big colleges in paying players, Pete Bausch told of the standing joke in the national pro league. It's the kidding that big college stars get when they join pro ranks.

"Well, Joe, you sure had to take a cut in pay when you signed up with the pros this year, didn't you?" an all-American player from Alabama, U. S. C., Pittsburgh or other schools is razed. And it's true, Bausch claims. Many of the college heroes make more money in college than they are making now as a pro.

"And to think that I used to have to borrow money to pay my tuition at Kansas university," Bausch moans, "I must have been plenty dumb in those days not to have me a manager at a 10 per cent cut to get me a \$300 monthly salary at a big school. Some of the guys get that now."

And so the battle rages on over football. Anyhow, we've decided, as long as everyone at least is interested in criticising football, the dollars are still going to be shoved into the box office windows. And, pardon us if we are influenced by some of these gents we've been talking to, and say that's all that matters in the class A college grid circles.