

basketball is in just as great danger as football, proportionate to the crowds that they draw. Football will always be king because some type of football will be played. It is a fall sport, played in the out-of-doors where the tang of the weather and occasion for the dramatic will also draw a great crowd. In basketball you have much scoring and action; in hockey you have much action but little scoring; in football the armor and headgear and shoulder pads appeal to the fundamental instincts to fight, such as running, clubbing, throwing to the earth and pincching the opponent.

In basketball, the great attraction is the wide open game. The ability of the spectator to see the ball in every play. This is the reason that basketball is gaining followers by the million.

I would say that the professional game in football is hurting the game decidedly. The pros are more expert and they have appealed to crowd psychology by forbidding players to run with a fumbled ball, passing any distance behind the scrimmage line, etc. and they have just peped up the game tremendously, while the college men have been too conservative.

Yes, I would say that basketball is in grave danger and here is the gravest danger. When players who have had an easy existence with soft jobs become the coaches of the teams in colleges, then these coaches will only know of the soft job idea and they will put into their practice in coaching the same ideas that they received as players; namely, a lot of pay for a soft job. That is the danger to all athletics at the present time. Perhaps I can state it another way. When a boy comes to college on his athletic ability and has an athletic clock-winding job in exchange for his athletic services, then when this chap finishes college and starts to coach, he will know only this type of existence and will not be fitted to get a team unless he recruits them. He will not have the fundamental conception that a boy goes to college to learn and struggle for a college education. He will have the preconceived idea that athletics are the main thing in college life and not the master of the profession.

Some real adjustment must come in the very near future or else educators will not be fitted to call the coach an educator. He will be a showman and a trainer of gladiators as of the Roman era.

These are not high-faluting sounding words, but real inside information on the coaching angle. I can see it in the later-day coaches; a natural softening up for easier jobs for more money just because a boy with a sturdy pair of legs can pack a football goal-ward into glory, or because some boy with exceptional skills can pivot and lay the little round ball in the hoop. There is danger in youth getting things too soft.