

Naismith -- But these men are not in physical education.

Allen -- That is right, Doctor. Our majors course in physical education was not started in any of our American colleges, in the main, until after the World War. The exception, of course, applies to Columbia, New York University, and Wisconsin. Now there are hundreds and hundreds of colleges in America offering this course. In fact, I do not know of a single college in the state of Kansas, or for that matter, in the land, that does not offer a course in training young men and women in physical education.

Naismith -- Do you think that most of these colleges that are offering this course are equipped to give a coach a real thorough training in the basic fundamentals for the development of individuals?

Allen -- Not a fulsome course, Doctor. But there is a demand for this type of work in all the high schools, and many of the graduates from the smaller colleges will accept a position at a salary that gives them employment as a teacher in academic subjects and as a part-time coach. Most of our varsity athletes are engineers, lawyers, journalists, and graduates of the School of Business. It is the business of the University to train professional men, and for that very reason we have not turned out many coaches. However, this newly organized department of physical education, in the School of Education, will supply to the high schools many teachers in physical education and athletic coaching. This has not been true heretofore.

Naismith -- Now, Doctor, you have touched upon a subject that has been a hobby with me for a number of years. That is that each institution should have a man to look after the physical welfare of the students as head of a department of physical education, employing the instructors in other departments to coach the several teams. Then, when the students or the alumni demand a new coach for the teams this man simply returns to his teaching work, and the department of physical education goes on without interruption.

Allen -- Perhaps some time the various boards of education of the high schools will accept your splendid theory and obtain both a director of physical education and an athletic coach. Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas, and in fact, all the high schools in Kansas City, Kansas - Argentine, Rosedale and Wyandotte, have this scheme in operation and it is highly satisfactory. Too many educators and laymen confuse the spectacular phase of athletics with the more prosaic development of the individual. It is very seldom that a coach who is the high-tension, inspirational type of fellow is concerned with the more serious business of building a department and devotes all his energies to developing the young men under him. When you get a combination of both, the young man you have is ideal. Then if he can organize, deputize and supervise, this set-up is truly a wonderful organization.