

I do know very well and can appreciate the point you make regarding the anguish of parents who may hear that one of their sons is seriously injured. The fact that I have six children of my own, and the fact that the three boys of this family have been athletes makes me appreciate what pangs of pain a mother or even a father might go through when the name of their child might be announced over the radio as being injured.

I know Ted Husing very well and have been with him during some of his broadcasts, and I think he is a great fellow and a great sports announcer. The fact that he mentions that "number so-and-so has the wind knocked out of him, or is injured" could also cause great anguish to the parents when such an accident is broadcast because every mother of everyone of the boys on the team would suffer terribly, feeling perhaps that the very number that was announced was the number of her own son. Do you not think that this feature could also be criticized from this angle? I see only a transitory difference between mentioning names of the boys who are injured and the numbers of the boys who are injured.

In your letter you state "I remember that he so broadcast a play in which the player received a broken limb but that he did not cause that information to go out over the air". I take it that you mean that he broadcast the football play but he did not mention the injury. Am I right? It seems to me that if we are going to mention injuries at all it is just as bad to mention the number of the player injured as, according to your argument, it is to mention his name.

Referring back to the part that I played in the broadcast, I might mention that I merely summarized during the half the incidents of the first two quarters. And again at the end of the game I briefly summarized the proceedings of the last half. I remember distinctly that I called attention to the fact that none of the boys were seriously hurt, and the boys who had appeared to be injured were entirely recovered. When I returned home Mrs. Allen asked me about the boys who were injured and I said, "I announced that they were all o.k.", and she said, "That didn't come over the air".

Then I remembered that the university electricians who were assigned to the press box had pulled the plugs, feeling that all the wire connections had been served. They did it rather prematurely but upon discovering the mistake they established connections again. But it was during the time that WREN was off the air, due to this fault of the electricians, that the information failed of its purpose.

I am also sending your letter to Mr. Vernon H. Smith, the president and general manager of WREN. I am sure that he will be very happy to receive your letter protesting certain situations. I know Mr. Smith very well and know him to be a man who is tremendously interested in his patrons receiving the highest degree of pleasure and real service concerning all broadcasting activities.