SHOULD COLLEGE ATHLETES BE SUBSIDIZED? YES!

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Subsidizing does not mean the hiring of players merely for playing ability, at a salary based on skill. That is professionalism. Then the answer for the colleges is emphatically, No!   If subsidizing means "to furnish aid with a subsidy", or to give the athlete an even break with othes in extracurricular activities, then Yes! And why not?

Twenty years ago, when intercollegiate football was on trial because of physical dangers to the participants, the late Theodore Roosevelt, ex-president of the United States, saved the game for the good that he thought it possessed. Today, with the game on trial again, this time because of alleged moral and spiritual dangers, there is need of another evolutionary leader instead of a revolutionary one.

Some facetious wag has said the only difference between a professional and an amateur was that the amateur would not take a check. Another nimble-wit has suggested that the four-letter boy in college nowadays was the boy with large capital letters in a concentric circle over his chest: C - A - S - H.

"Without discrimination for or against the athlete" has long been the slogan of the present purity collegiate eligibility rules committee. There has been much talk but little action to bring this matter squarely out in the open. Today is the age of subsidizing. President J. B. Conant, of Harvard University, stated recently that Harvard would subsidize the best young brains of the United States at his institution. The student preparing for law, medicine, engineering, the ministry, and all of the professions have been and are subsidized. Why exclude physical education and athletics? Byron "Whizzer" White is to be subsidized in England with a Rhodes Scholarship. Yet if the English practice of subsidizing Rhodes Scholars were applied to our American college athletes, all of our boys would be declared ineligible by our own