

someone else. Of course, the added interest that comes from a good contest makes it all the more attractive. It is this factor that makes it particularly adapted for interclass games and for the development of the individual. It is unnecessary to adapt the rules to suit the spectators, for it will be played wherever a goal and a basket are found. Even should it be put aside as an intercollegiate sport, it still has a part to play in the education of man. But the intercollegiate element is necessary to get the best out of the sport.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE GAME.

The future of the game lies in the hands of the coaches and officials. The rules of the intercollegiate game are as nearly perfect as can be under the present conditions. Every safeguard against roughness has been introduced, in order to make the game as clean as possible. It is clearly within the power of the official to so enforce the rules as to make the game an ideal one, for the spectator as well as for the player. It is absolutely necessary that the game be kept free from objectionable features; first, because every play is right before the audience, and every act and even every word is within the range of every spectator. Any roughness therefore is immediately detected and becomes the subject of audible criticism. This is, in turn, heard by the players, and they feel that, if the official does not enforce the rules, they must themselves retaliate or be considered cowards, so that further roughness occurs and mars the game.

Second, the attitude of audiences towards the game is different to-day from what it was several years ago. Now everyone is looking for a square deal, and the official who does not give it is likely to hear from the audience. The official who does not rule as they think he should is condemned and brings the game into disrepute.

In a recent criticism of the rules there was a statement that it is impossible to play a defense, without playing the man rather than the ball. This is a shortsighted policy, as it is not necessary to keep the score small, for the scoring of goals is one of the interesting features to the spectators, and any score around thirty is not too large. In football there are from eight to twelve minutes of actual play, while in basket ball every minute, from the start to the pause for a goal or foul, is one of intense activity. Playing the ball does not mean that the opponent should be ignored, but that, instead of trying to keep him from scoring after he has obtained possession of the ball, a guard's object should be to prevent him from getting the ball at all. The latter calls for more skill than the former, for if the guard were allowed to hold the forward, it would be impossible to make points; but it would then be a tug-of-war, not basket ball.

Those who complain of the roughness of basket ball surely do not interpret the rules aright, for there is not a single provision that allows of any personal contact between players. How anyone can make a rough game of it and follow the rules is hard to understand. If any individual game is rough, the blame cannot be laid on the rule makers, for everywhere is emphasized the fact that the game should be kept free from personal contact in even the slightest degree. It is easy for an official to let fouls pass unnoticed for a time at the beginning of the game, and then endeavor to make the rulings strict after complaint has been lodged. It is infinitely better to be strict from the first, then the players will know what to expect, and will play accordingly. The officials should know the rules of the game and enforce them according to their letter and spirit, rather than according to the desire of any coach, manager, or audience.

In those sections of the country where the game has been kept clean, open, and free from roughness, it has grown in popularity and in esteem. But wherever the officials have been lax, or indifferent about the enforcement of the rules, the game has lost in popularity, and in some cases has been dropped because of its reputed roughness. In the Middle West, players and audiences have commended the work of the very strictest officials, while they have uniformly condemned the work of those who were lax, and allowed roughness to creep in.

The *responsibility* of the coaches is even greater than that of the officials, as many of the latter are influenced by the attitude of the coaches. When the coach lacks the knowledge or ability to perfect a team in individual skill, he is willing to permit holding, in order that his men may keep the score down. He may even request that fouls be overlooked; thus roughness is introduced, for which the rules frequently get the blame. Or the coach may refuse to accept an official who is known to rule strictly and in accord with the spirit of the game. Thus the official to retain his popularity frequently officiates as the coaches ask. I have been asked by members of this Association if there was not some way to change the rules so as to eliminate roughness. There is apparently only one way to meet this difficulty, namely, to have the officials responsible to a Central Board, to get the information from impartial sources rather than from coaches and managers. At the same time dissatisfaction on the part of the coaches could be weighed, and a just estimate of the work of an official could be obtained.

#### RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS ASSOCIATION TO BASKET BALL.

While the Y. M. C. A.'s were the early pioneers who carried the game into many countries, this body is now largely responsible for its growth and development. Formerly, it was recog-