

hindrance to many taking part in intercollegiate contests is mainly a financial one, as it is impossible to carry more than a limited number of contestants any great distance. But in our class contests there is not this element and therefore there is an opportunity to enlarge the sphere of the sport. It is not a hard matter to select the best men of a class and there is little incentive for the others to do more than look on at the work of these men as they compete for the honor of the class.

The first question to be settled is the place and value of interclass contests. These have been the backbone of sports even before there were intercollegiate contests, and they are the basis of all college contests. As soon as we begin to classify students, there is a common ground for the individuals and they are united on this factor. Class contests are a natural condition of student life. Every college is an illustration of this fact; for we find that there is a natural tendency to compete for this superiority, as is seen in our class scraps, our class or cane rushes and our maypole. Each college has its own way of settling this matter and it is one of the questions of the day to find a suitable game to take the place of these rough-and-ready tests of class strength and loyalty. There have been several attempts to regulate this matter or to find a means of accomplishing this end. In my estimation there is no need for a new game which will involve the whole class as the old class scrap did, for that was mainly a test of brute strength or endurance and the element of skill took a minor part.

Class scraps had their place in the development of a modern university and the benefits which came from them are necessary to-day, but they must be reached by modern methods rather than by those which present such decided disadvantages.

The benefits which came from these were principally:

*First.* They were a method by which the students got acquainted and men found their *level*. Leaders came to the front naturally, and the would-be leader who is apt to mislead by his oratory found that men wanted deeds not words, and that they were willing to combine when results were in view.

*Second.* They fostered a class spirit which is a necessary predecessor of college spirit. The man who will fight for his class is the likely man for a loyal collegian. Whereas the man who has little class spirit is not likely to care much for his college. The man who uses his college merely for what he can get from her will lose track of her when his wants have been supplied.

*Third.* Interclass contests might, if they do not now, lead to a development of the whole student body, by insisting that each individual do his part in the contest. I have seen men with weak

hearts beg to be allowed to take part in a class scrap because their attitude would be misinterpreted. So great was the spirit of loyalty that to seek to avoid the contest was a mark of disloyalty. If this was true of the class scrap which demanded only strength, the same spirit might be invoked to develop skill and even health if that were required in the class contest.

*Fourth.* It would develop an appreciation for an educated and effective body and do more for the general student welfare than compulsory training. The incentive would be to benefit the class through the benefit to the individual, which is one of the strongest appeals that we can make to a student.

*Fifth.* It would be the best means of developing the right spirit in athletics; the man who competed for his class would do it through a desire for his class and not for some gain, and it is an easy step to doing something for his college which cannot be bought for mere money.

Interclass contests reach their highest value only when they accomplish these purposes. And we are missing the greatest means at our hands if we fail in this matter.

Present conditions are defective in several ways:

*First.* Only a few get the benefit of the contests; the others are not only losing an opportunity to compete but they lose an opportunity to know their own value and class themselves among the incompetent. There is no more hackneyed phrase than the one, "I can't do anything, so I am not going to make a fool of myself." If we look at the roster of our class athletes we are more than likely to find that the same person is taking part in several of the sports. Indeed, in the smaller colleges the same parties take part in all forms of athletics. Thus the number getting the benefit of these interclass contests after all is much more limited than would at first appear.

*Second.* There is no chance for the great mass to show their class loyalty save to go to the game and shout to the players to do a little better than they ever have done, and there is an opportunity for the onlooker to criticise the competitor, who has done his best to win the meet. There is no surer way to get a broad charity for the contestant than for every man to take his own part in the contest.

*Third.* It requires no effort on the part of any but a few. If competition is the incentive to good work which we claim that it is we should have that incentive as wide as possible. Only a few hope to make the intercollegiate team, and only a few hope to make the class team. It is true that the intercollegiate team gives an incentive to perfect the skill of those who are already skilled, but while we are doing this we should not leave undone anything