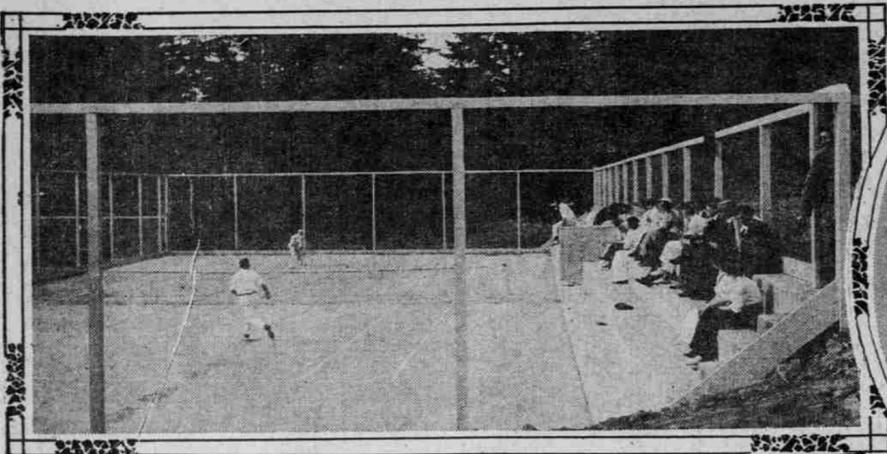


# REED PRESIDENT CONDEMNS THE PAID COACH SYSTEM

Dr. Foster, in Atlantic Monthly, Says Colleges Must Break Away From "Athletics for Business."



One of the Tennis Courts



Wm T. Foster  
Pres Reed College



Although They Don't Play Other Schools The Reed Boys  
Aren't Molliescoddies.



Gymnasium  
At Reed



Dr. Bertha Stuart, Professor  
of Physical Instruction for  
Women



Girls Playing Hockey

BY DR. WILLIAM T. FOSTER, President of Reed College, in Atlantic Monthly for November.

**A**TLETICS are conducted either for education or for business. The old distinction between amateur and professional athletics is of little use.

When athletics are conducted for education the aims are these three: (1) to develop all the students and faculty physically and to maintain health; (2) to promote moderate recreation, in the spirit of joy, as a preparation for study rather than as a substitute for study; (3) to form habits and inculcate ideals of right living.

When athletics are conducted for business the aims are these three: (1) to win games—to defeat another person or group being the chief end; (2) to make money—as it is impossible otherwise to carry on athletics as business; (3) to attain individual or group fame and notoriety. These three, which are the controlling aims of intercollegiate athletics, are also the aims of horse racing, prizefighting and professional baseball.

**Two Purposes Contrasted.** These two sets of aims are in sharp and almost absolute conflict. Roughly speaking, success in attaining the aims of athletics as education is inversely proportional to success in attaining the aims of athletics as business. Intercollegiate athletics today are for business. The question is pertinent whether it is a legitimate function of schools and colleges to promote athletics as business.

Nearly all that may be said on this subject about the colleges applies to secondary schools. The secondary schools, as a rule, tend to imitate the worst features of intercollegiate athletics, much as young people in fraternities tend to imitate the empty lives of their elders that fill the weary society columns of the newspapers.

If the objection arises that intercollegiate athletics have educational value, there is no one to deny it. "Athletics for education" and "athletics for business" are general terms, used throughout this discussion in the sense already defined.

**Many Believed Neglected.** Exceptions there may be. Only the main tendencies of the many, especially those who need it most. The coach is the embodiment of this ideal; he is the first athlete of his school; he succeeds in the work of managing athletics for business to the extent that he neglects athletics for education. The ends of intercollegiate athletics are best served by the neglect of those in greatest physical need.

**Wellington's Remark Quoted.** In our country we often quote the remark of the Duke of Wellington that Waterloo was won on the playing grounds of Eton. It is well for us to observe that the Duke of Wellington did not manage Eton. Waterloo was won on the grandstands of Eton.

A graduate of Cambridge University, England, on a visit to Syracuse University inquired how many crews there were. "Three, possibly four," was the answer. "Is that so?" said he. "At Cambridge, in my day, we had 195."

At some colleges all students are required to pay fees for the support of intercollegiate athletics. The bills are rendered and collected by the college, with tuition and laboratory charges, but students are not required to participate in games for their own benefit. Thus, in such colleges, athletics for business are compulsory; athletics for education are antipathetic.

**Lack of Grounds Condemned.** If our universities had grown up with the ideal of athletics for education they would not have been content with athletics for proxy. What do we do with the hundreds of acres of campus—fact, only a few large universities in all America with fields sufficient for conducting athletic games in the interests of the bodily health and development of all their students.

that only by such contests can interest in athletics be maintained. The theory is that boys from 16 to 25 years of age cannot be induced to play out-of-door games for fun or for their bodily development, but will play if there is any hope of "making a varsity team." This theory is flimsy. In the first place, it is an affront to youth. A boy, unspurred by athletics for business, would rush that theory off the gridiron.

In the second place, the theory is inconsistent with known facts. A "business proposition" coach can quickly eliminate the greater part of a student body as unfit for his purposes.

Although the present system of athletics by proxy has had unbounded opportunity to demonstrate what it can do for the entire student body and has proved, on the whole, a failure, athletics have had no fair opportunity in America to demonstrate what they can do without the hindrance of business aims.

**Educational Experiment Favored.** This, alone, is a sufficient reason why a few institutions should experiment. No theory of education at variance with popular practice can ever be tested while institutions are confined to imitation. The fact that all schools pursue a given policy in athletics—or in anything else—does not prove them right. We all know that it is difficult to act in accord with our belief.

The history of education is one long story of educational procedure universally accepted as sound by one generation and condemned by another. Doubtless, the schools of this generation teach various matters besides their absurd spelling, which will some day be discarded. Doubtless we are worshipping idols which will some day be intercollegiate athletics. Why not overthrow it and see what happens?

**Nearly Every Student Participates.** Reed College has ventured to do so by adopting this settled policy out-of-door games in moderation for all students and faculty, especially those who need them most. Instead of the "excesses of intercollegiate athletics" for a few students, especially those who need them least. This plan for athletics was adopted by Reed in 1910, when there were no buildings, no students, no faculty, no alumni, no traditions.

Last year every student in Reed College, man and woman alike, with but six exceptions, took part in athletics for recreation, health and development. Last Spring 60 per cent of the men of the college played baseball in a series of intramural games; 95 per cent were engaged in some form of out-of-door games.

About 74 per cent of the men and about 60 per cent of the women took part in some form of athletics five or six days out of six. All but seven of the total of 234 students took part in athletics at least two days out of the six.

**Cost of Systems Compared.** How much does it cost the student body to enjoy athletics by participation membership tickets, subscriptions, and what it costs students to pay for intercollegiate games in institutions famous for grandstand athletics—including membership tickets, subscriptions, and special assessments—to say nothing of taking trips and making bets to "support the team." It is less than \$5 per student. In some colleges it is more than \$20. At Reed College last year there were series of football games, basketball games, baseball games, track meets, tennis tournaments, handball tournaments, games of volleyball, gymnastic exhibitions, a tug-of-war and other athletics. There were not a dozen students who failed to participate in these games.

In payment for all this the average student collected from the students and expended, according to the report of the treasurer of the athletic association, was 16 cents.

**Total Expense 16 Cents.** No money for trainers, coaches, banners, medals, silver cups, ribbons, trinkets, no money for training tables, railroad fares and costly uniforms to be carried away as trophies; no money for advertising, for banners, brass bands and rallies. The "necessities" of athletics for business would have cost the Reed College Athletic Association \$16 per student instead of 16 cents.

the editors of one college paper in the State of Washington reprimand the faculty for even hesitating to approve a trip of 1500 miles for a single game of football.

**Importance Considered Small.** It is a typical football argument. It attempts to prove the necessity of the proposed trip by showing that it would tend to perpetuate the thing the value of which is under dispute.

In like vein the students of Cornell complain because the faculty did not grant an additional holiday in connection with the Pennsylvania football game. Theirs is the familiar cry, "Support the team! Win games! Advertise the college!"

After all, how important is this end for which such sacrifices are made? To hear the yelling of 20,000 spectators one might suppose this aim to be the only one of great importance in the life of the university. Yet, who wins, who loses, is a matter of but momentary concern to any except a score or two of participants; whereas, if there is one thing that should characterize a university it is its cheerful sacrifice of temporary for permanent gain—in Dr. Eliot's fine phrase, its devotion to the durable satisfactions of life.

**System Declared Curse.** The making of money through intercollegiate athletics continues a curse not only to institutions, but as well to individual players. Only innocence or blindness need prevent American colleges from seeing that the rules which aim to maintain athletics on what is called an "amateur" basis, by forbidding players to receive pay, money, are worse than useless because, while failing to prevent men from playing, they breed deceit and hypocrisy. There are many ways of paying players for their services. Only one of these, and that the most honorable, is to be eliminated by one act. With the subordination of winning games as the chief end in athletics falls also the money-making aim and its attendant evils.

All the serious evils of college athletics center about the gate receipts, the grandstands and the paid coach. Yet the aim of nearly every college appears to be to fasten these evils upon the institution by means of a costly concrete stadium or bowl and by means of more and more money for coaches. When the alumni come forward to "support

their team" they usually make matters worse.

The extent to which interest in athletics is deadened by paid coaches was shown last Spring when a track team from one university, after traveling more than 250 miles at the expense of the student body to compete with the team of another institution, took off their running shoes and went home because the coaches could not agree on the number of men who should participate in the games.

**Paid Coach Blamed.** Could there be a more abject sacrifice of the educational purposes of athletics to consider the spectacle. A glorious afternoon in Spring, a perfect playground, complete equipment in readiness, two score of eager youth in need of the health and recreation that come from sport pursued in the fine spirit of sport. Could anything keep them from playing? Only the spirit of modern American intercollegiate athletics and the embodiment of that spirit, the paid coach, who knows that he can commit but one crime—that of losing a contest.

The athletic policy of many an institution is determined by a commercial aim—the supposed needs of advertising, much as the utterances of many a newspaper are dictated by the business manager. But does the advertising gained through intercollegiate athletics induce or aid colleges? At one railroad station I was greeted by a real estate agent who offered to sell me "on easy terms a lot in the most beautiful and rapidly growing city in America." (Thus I safely cover its identity.)

**Advertising Considered Costly.** Among the attractions he mentioned the local college. He was proud of it; he said it had the best baseball team in the state. Apart from that he had not an intelligent idea about the institution or any desire for ideas. The only building he had visited was the grandstand. He could not name a member of the faculty or a course of instruction. College advertising which gets no farther than this is paid for at exorbitant rates.

The people of Tacoma discovered recently that college athletics conducted as a business are too costly. They brought college students 1400 miles to play a football game at Tacoma on Thanksgiving day for the benefit of the Belgian refugees. The charitable object of the game was widely advertised and there was a large attendance. After they had paid the expenses of the "amateur" team, the coaches and the advertising they announced that there was nothing left for the Belgians.

The conflicts frequently arising between the faculty and students over questions of intercollegiate athletics are the natural outcome of the independent control of a powerful agency with three chief aims—winning games, making money and getting advertisements—which are antagonistic to the

chief legitimate ambitions of a university faculty.

No self-respecting head of a department of psychology would tolerate the presence in the university of persons working in his field, in no way subject to him and with aims subversive of the aims of the department. No professor of physical education should tolerate a similar condition in his department. It is one of the hopeful signs in America that several of the men best qualified to conduct athletics as education have declined to consider university positions unless they could have control of students, teams, coaches, alumni committees, grandstands, fields, finances and everything else necessary to rescue athletics from the clutches of commercialism.

I have a copy of the letter of one of the ablest teachers in America, declining to accept a certain university position under the usual conditions, but outlining a plan whereby, as the real head of the department of physical education, he might begin a new chapter in the history of American athletics.

**Plan Finally Rejected.** His plan was rejected not because it had any defects as a system of educational athletics, but solely because it would cause a probable decline in victories, gate receipts and newspaper space. That university continued the traditional dual contest of coaches and physical directors with their conflicting ideals.

Recently I received a letter from the professor of physical education who had accepted the position, himself one of the ablest athletes among his graduates, declaring that he would no longer attempt the impossible in an institution that deliberately prostituted athletics for commercial ends.

We hear much about the "tired business man" who needs to get out of doors and watch a sport that will make him forget his troubles. It is true that for him a game of baseball may be a therapeutic spectacle.

**Needs of Spectators Questioned.** The question is whether institutions of learning should conduct their athletics or any other department for the benefit of spectators. Doubtless university courses in history could provide recreation for the general public and make money if instructions were given wholly by means of motion pictures. But such courses would hardly satisfy the needs of all students. Is it any less important that departments of physical education should be conducted primarily for all students rather than for spectators?

We do not insist that banks, railroads, factories, department stores and Legislatures jeopardize their main ends to provide recreation for the tired business man. Universities are institutions of equal importance to society, insofar as they attend to their main purposes. Athletics for the benefit of the grandstand must be conducted as business; athletics for

the benefit of students must be conducted as education.

It is when we rightly estimate the possibilities of athletics as education that the present tyranny of athletics as business becomes intolerable. Is it not an anomaly that those in charge of our higher institutions of learning should "have athletic activities, which are of such great potential educational value for all students, chiefly under the control of students, alumni, coaches, newspapers and spectators?"

Usually the coach is engaged by the students, paid for by the students and responsible only to them. He is not a member of the faculty or in any way responsible to the faculty. The faculty has charge of the college as an educational institution; athletics are for business and therefore separately controlled. Why not abandon faculty direction of Latin? Students, alumni and newspapers are as well qualified to elect a professor of Latin and administer the department in the interests of education.

**Faculties Agree in Objection, He Says.** A few of the more notable coaches of the country are aware of the possibilities of athletics controlled by the faculty for educational purposes. Mr. Courtney, a Cornell coach, spoke to that point.

"If athletics are not a good thing," he said, "they ought to be abolished. If they are a good thing for the boys, let our colleges first make whatever university to take over and control absolutely every branch of sport; do away with this boy management; stop this faculty squandering of money and see that the athletics of the university are run in a rational way."

Let our colleges first make whatever university to take over and control absolutely every branch of sport; do away with this boy management; stop this faculty squandering of money and see that the athletics of the university are run in a rational way.

**Team Incidental in View.** Is it therefore necessary for all institutions to give up intercollegiate athletics permanently? Probably not. Our colleges first make whatever measures are necessary to make athletics yield their educational values to all students and all teachers. If intercollegiate athletics can then be conducted as incidental and contributory to the main purposes of athletics, well and good. But that of all it must be decisively settled, which aims are to dominate—those of business or those of education. And it will be difficult, if not next to impossible, for a college to retain the system and at the same time cultivate a spirit antagonistic to it.

**Athletic Suspension Proposed.** Probably the quicker and surer way would be to suspend all intercollegiate athletics for a college generation by agreement of groups of colleges, during which period every effort should be made to establish the tradition of athletics for education. If an institution could not survive such a period of transition, it is a fair question whether the institution has any reason for survival.

Typically American though our frantic devotion to intercollegiate athletics may be, we shall not long tolerate a system which provides only a costly, injurious and excessive regime of physical training for a few students, especially those who need it most. Colleges must sooner or later heed the call; their athletics must be for education, not for business.

**Warden Saves 2 Doe Driven by Hound Into Surf.** Hunters Spot Official First and Release Hound. Game Warden Escapes.

**NEWPORT, Or., Oct. 29.—(Special.)**—An incident has just come to light whereby the timely appearance of a game warden saved the lives of two doe that had been chased into the ocean surf by dogs.

the surf. Close behind followed a hound that was gaining on the doe at every jump till they reached the water. Baffled by the inrolling waves and frightened by the presence of a strange man, the hound abandoned the chase and ran back into the brush.

The warden kept right along on his way as though he had not seen the deer or dog, till he turned a jutting promontory which hid them from sight. He then climbed the bluff and watched the animals thinking perhaps the hunters might appear that were running deer with dogs in violation of the law.

While he waited the doe picked their way down the beach, just within the line of surf, till they realized that danger had passed. A few quick jumps took them to the bushes and they disappeared.

It afterwards was learned that the hounds had seen the warden and while he was watching the deer they were watching the warden, not daring to take a shot at their escaping quarry. The deputy was unconsciously following Mr. Shoemaker's theory that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**Undue Repression Will Hurt Child's Self-Confidence.** Humbleness or Diffidence Is Stern Disadvantage—Should Be Treated as Due to Sensitiveness.

"I CAN'T bear that child, she gives herself such airs and graces," was a remark overheard, and up to a certain point it was true. The child who is "too sure" of itself is inclined to be obnoxiously precocious. But just as obnoxious is the child who, like Uriah Heep, is always "so humble."

Humbleness or diffidence is a stern disadvantage for any child to carry with it through life. The worm will always be trodden upon. Sometimes a child is a "worm" from sensitiveness, in which case it should be doctored until it gains confidence in itself. But often it is kept down, subdued, because it is thought necessary to get rid of its "airs and graces" and bombastic behavior.

**DEER SCARED HALTS AUTO** Dazzled by Headlight Animal Falls to Get Out of Car's Way.

**NEW YORK, Oct. 22.—Archibald J. McClure, of New York, had a narrow escape on a lonely road several miles out of Lakewood, N. J., when he ditched his automobile to avoid running into a deer that blocked his progress. He was unable to get the machine out of the ditch and had to walk in the storm to the Laurel House, where he is a guest.**

**EGG LIKE PEANUT IS LAID** Would Chicken Hatched From It Have Had Wasp Waist?

**INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 22.—**There is some question as to which of his hens had such a grotesque idea of what an egg should look like, but anyway an egg appeared to be right in the shape of a peanut and is a bit less than two inches from tip to tip was found in Robert Arnold's hen roost here.