

Tar Heel Sports

By Bill Peacock

A Vote For Off-Season Practice

WHEN THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE holds its meeting in Richmond this December we hope, whatever else it does, that it does not rule out all off-season practice. At the meeting of the presidents of conference schools here on Sept. 28 it was unanimously recommended that off-season practice be forbidden or limited.

This action was taken by a group who sought to find the answer to the problem created by "over-emphasized" football that was depleting treasuries and causing nation-wide scandals. But like a great many other people who are interested in correcting football, they aimed a blow at the entire athletic program and would deny students the right to practice their sport because football has come up with a black eye.

Mr. R. A. (Coach Bob) Fetzer, our own athletic director, is one of the many who feel that there has been a mistake. He feels strongly that "Football is not athletics. Many people have gotten the two confused and in their confusion would work a hardship on the students and on the so-called minor sports."

"An Opportunity For The Inexperienced"

COACH BOB DOES NOT hold the view that limiting spring practice for football (as the South-West Conference does) or eliminating it altogether would be disastrous to football. "Off-season practice offers an opportunity for the inexperienced and less talented student to participate in wholesome exercise and to learn the essentials of the game in which he is especially interested. We have uncovered quite a number of good athletes in off-season practice—especially in track, wrestling and other sports in which the essential fundamentals can be learned by the average student.

"The coach has more time to devote to boys during these practices than he does during the regular season when attention must be given to the next game on the schedule. This is especially important to the boy who is not a finished athlete, but who is interested in the game. We are proud of the fact that a boy who persists can win a letter if he tries.

Athletics have always been an important part of college life. Recently football in many places and basketball in a greatly increased number of places have been exaggerated and both games have suffered. Critics who are snicely interested in helping the games have appeared, but there are also others who are thrashing around aimlessly and taking pot-shot at athletics as a whole without giving it much thought.

A Lesson In Character

THE OLD DEFENSE OF character-building is now scoffed at by the cynics who have leveled most of the criticism at sports. But the hope of college athletics rest with the men who love it and know it is a builder of character. "It teaches a man what to expect in life," explains Coach Bob. "If he doesn't get knocked down once or twice and learn to get back up by himself, he'll go out into the world expecting a bed of roses."

We believe in athletics and feel they are a natural and desirable part of the college life. If part of the system needs a little doctoring—administer the patient aid. But because part of athletics is at present shaky, don't condemn the whole of it and try to banish it from the campus.

The Key To The Carolina Defense

AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER WHO saw Maryland trounce George Washington, 33-6, two weeks ago contends that the Carolina picture isn't as black as most people think. The Maryland split-T ground game is aimed at the outside of the defensive line and the basic split-T play is the option play with the quarterback running wide and either passing or running, depending upon how the defense plays him.

Carolina is fortunate in having a cracker-jack pair of defensive ends in George Norris and Lou Darnell. Both boys have played consistently well and were responsible for dropping Georgia's Mal Cook in the end zone for a safety. The Carolina coaches picked Darnell as the top lineman of the day and the freshman star from Astoria, Ore., was singled out by South Carolina coach Rex Enright for his fine play against the Gamecocks.

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