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THE HISTORY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS IN THE UNITED STATES

BY

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HISTORY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTER- COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS IN THE UNITED STATES.*

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The earliest record of a regular Harvard team contesting in intercollegiate sports is a reference to a boat-race with Yale in 1852. Soon followed the first organized game of intercollegiate baseball in 1863, and in 1873 the formation of the football association with a game against Yale in 1875. The athletic association was formed in that same year, while the first meet between Harvard and Yale was held in 1879.

A quotation from the President's report of 1873-74 will show that, even at that early date when conditions were comparatively simple, the evils which have caused agitation in more recent times were recognized and guarded against. After stating that "The corporation was well satisfied that the moral and physical effects of such sports as were then practiced on Jarvis and Holmes fields were alike salutary," the report continues: "that while the corporation desired to foster manly sports, they felt compelled to discourage by every means in their power the association of the students with the class of persons who make their living by practicing or exhibiting these games; and to dissuade students from making athletic sports the main business instead of one of the incidental pleasures of their college lives; and to prohibit altogether the taking of money for admission to witness the sports upon the college playgrounds." This last limitation was shortly removed.

Before 1882 the faculty had imposed only one regulation over athletics at Harvard, which was that "No match games, races or athletic exhibitions should take place in Cambridge except after the last recitation hour on Saturday or after four o'clock in the afternoon.

In the spring of 1882, alarmed by the number of baseball games to be played, away from Cambridge, by the Harvard team, the faculty appointed a committee to consider the subject of athletic sports. After their examination, they recommended (1) that a standing committee on the regulation of athletic sports be appointed, to consist of three members, including the director of the gymnasium, which committee should report to the faculty each year; and (2) that the President of Harvard address other colleges and secure the passing of regulations that baseball clubs

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of their respective colleges be forbidden to play with professional clubs. Brown, Dartmouth, Princeton and Amherst were willing to do so, Yale was not.

This committee of three constituted the first committee on the regulation of athletic sports at Harvard. The regulations they introduced tended to restrict college sports within the limits of amateur athletics.

Their articles were: (1) No college club or athletic association should play or compete with professionals. (2) No person should assume the functions of trainer or instructor in athletics upon the grounds or within the buildings of the college without authority in writing from the committee. (3) That no student should enter as a competitor in any athletic sport, or join as an active member any college athletic club including baseball, football, cricket, lacrosse, and rowing associations, without a previous examination by the director of the gymnasium, and his permission to do so. (4) That all match games outside of Cambridge should be played on Saturday, unless permission to play upon other days was first obtained from the committee. These regulations remained in force six years.

This committee endeavored to secure the joint action of various colleges to remedy the "brutal and dangerous" elements that had developed in football, and to that end called a conference on intercollegiate regulation, in New York, December 28, 1883. Eight colleges represented by twelve delegates responded. These resolutions were presented:

1. That every director or instructor in physical exercises or athletic sports must be appointed by the college authorities, and announced as such in the catalogue.

2. That no professional athlete, oarsman, or ball player shall be employed either for instruction or for practice in preparation for any intercollegiate contest.

3. That no college organization shall row or play baseball, football, lacrosse, or cricket, except with similar organizations from their own or other institutions of learning.

4. That there shall be a standing committee, composed of one member from the faculty of each of the colleges adopting these regulations, whose duty it shall be to supervise all contests in which students of their respective colleges may engage, and approve all rules and regulations under which such contests may be held.

5. That no student shall be allowed to take part in any intercollegiate contest as a member of any club, team or crew for more than four years.

6. That all intercollegiate games of baseball, football, lacrosse, and cricket shall take place upon the home grounds of one or the other of the competing colleges.

7. That no intercollegiate boat-race shall be for a longer distance than three miles.

8. That the students of colleges in which these resolutions are in force shall not be allowed to engage in games or contests with students of colleges in which they are not in force.

At a second conference these resolutions were discussed and sent to twenty-one colleges, stating that if they were adopted by five they would become binding. Princeton adopted them unanimously and Harvard by a faculty vote of 25 to 5; none of the other colleges did so, and this attempt to exercise joint control of athletics was abandoned. A later report said of these resolutions: "If it (joint control) had been successful, the evils would probably never have arisen which now cause the friends of the University great anxiety, prompting some of them to propose strict limitations upon intercollegiate contests, and inducing others even to urge their abolition."

The faculty then, through the athletic committee, prohibited all intercollegiate football games for one year. They nominated to the corporation the assistant in the department of physical training, to act as an officer of the college, and to train the students in track and field athletics. The committee was active in checking evils which had risen in regard to rowing, and maintained the policy of keeping in touch with the students by holding weekly open meetings, and frequent conferences with representatives of the various athletic organizations.

But many of the faculty looked upon the rapid growth of interests in athletics with alarm and disapproval, and this, with the growing demands of regulation, led the committee to propose that a new committee of five be appointed, to consist of the director of the gymnasium, a physician resident in Boston or Cambridge, a recent Harvard graduate interested in athletics, and two undergraduates.

This committee was significant because it recognized the principle of student representation. Its members were appointed by the President, and it was responsible to the faculty. A report of the policy of this committee says, "They have dealt resolutely with the evils attaching to football, securing finally such changes of the rules under which the game is played as will probably rid it of its most objectionable features: they have excluded professional attendants from the floor of the gymnasium during public contests; they have considered means of lessening the evil of betting at intercollegiate contests, they have promoted the formation of class organizations in the different sports; they have aimed to lessen the number of games played by the teams with other colleges and with amateurs; they have secured the appointment of a committee to audit the receipts and expenditures of the five principal athletic organizations."

In 1888 the Board of Overseers were again alarmed at the growth of athletics represented by a large increase in the number of intercollegiate and other contests, and at their instigation a committee of three of the faculty was appointed to investigate the state of "athletic exercises, and alleged abuses, excesses, and accidents incident on the same."

The extensive report of this committee was submitted to the faculty June 12, 1888. It contains (1) a short historical account of previous attempts at control, (2) minute statistical tables tending to disprove the charges of the abuse of sports in lowering scholarships, interfering with the students' academic work, etc., and (3) recommendations as to changes in the athletic committee, its number, powers, responsibility, etc. These recommendations were such as to remove the control of athletics from the college faculty to the Board, therefore the faculty rejected them and substituted the following, which were adopted by the corporation as the authority under which the committee was appointed:

"A committee for the regulation of athletic sports shall hereafter be annually appointed and chosen as follows: Three members of the college faculty, and three graduates of the college . . . these six to be appointed by the corporation with the consent of the overseers; and also three undergraduates to be chosen during the first week of the college year by the majority vote of the following students: the president of the senior, junior, and sophomore classes, and a representative from each of the following athletic organizations: the boat club, the cricket club, and the athletic, baseball, football, lacrosse, and tennis associations, who shall be called together for the purpose of making this choice by the President of the University.

"This committee shall have entire supervision and control of all athletic exercises within and without the precincts of the University, subject to the authority of the faculty of the college as defined by the statutes."

The regulations of this committee, published January 23, 1889, were substantially the same as those adopted by the first committee in 1882, enlarged, but with the first regulation (games with professionals) omitted.

The suggestion to this athletic committee by the corporation that "further restriction should be placed upon intercollegiate contests in regard to the places where and the days when they should be played, and the teams that should take part therein," led to the formation of the New England Rule—"That Harvard athletic organizations hereafter shall engage in intercollegiate contests only in New England."

Restrictions were also put on freshmen intercollegiate contests and the committee declared "they would recognize no arrange-

ment or agreement entered into by freshman organizations without the sanction of their respective university organizations." The meaning and limitation of what was implied by the term freshman was clearly defined.

In 1889 the students of Harvard, in a mass meeting withdrew from the Intercollegiate Football Association. At the football convention rules were passed to suppress the evils of admitting to membership on teams those who were not *bona fide* students of colleges, and not amateurs. The Intercollegiate Association was unable to enforce the rules, therefore the Harvard Association withdrew and subsequently adopted the rules and made them the standing rules of the committee.

An attempt about 1890 to form a dual league with Yale was unsuccessful, since Harvard would not consent to but one football game a year, that game to be played in New York, and Yale would not withdraw objection to special students on teams except on that condition. There were in the proposed articles of agreement valuable restrictions as to professionalism and amateurs; time limitation; playing rules; number, time and place of contests, etc.; and "there can be no doubt that their adoption would have furthered the true interests of sports at both universities.

In 1890 the athletic committee, believing that expert advice was needed on many matters coming under their charge, formed a plan for the organization of permanent graduate advisory committees to advise the officers of the various athletic organizations. Some of the members of the graduate advisory committee acted as coaches to the teams.

The committee, realizing the necessity for a coach fitted to give time and thought to the work, offered to secure the appointment of trainers in other sports, as it had in track athletics, who should be assistants in the department of physical training and officers of the college. Their offer was refused by the boat club in 1891.

As far back as 1882 the first committee had tried to secure better financial management of college athletics, but the attempts were not wholly successful. In 1889 articles of agreement were drawn up establishing a graduate treasurer. His reports are published, and an endeavor is made to have all funds put into his hands promptly to prevent their careless handling by treasurers of the athletic associations.

About 1890 the evils connected with athletics which had been rife in the East, penetrated to the Western Colleges, and in the rapid and vigorous growth of those institutions these abuses seemed to find fertile soil in which to flourish.

In 1903, at a meeting of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the North Central States, the athletic situation was thoroughly discussed. The glaring abuses of the system of hired coaches; the recruiting of "strong men" for the college;

the inducements offered to keep good "material" on the teams; and the subterfuges practiced in regard to evading college requirements as to scholarship, etc., all seemed to call forth more open and ardent criticisms from western authorities than appears in the reports of investigation in the East.

Mr. C. A. Waldo of Purdue University said, "The faculty began drastic action against professionalism, their motto being 'Amateurism or nothing.' Their regulations were:

- Against non-students or "ringers."
- Against direct or indirect pay for athletic services.
- Against coach or professional trainer on the field.
- Against playing under assumed name.
- Against migration from college to college for athletic purposes.
- Against non-genuine student representation.
- Against lack of faculty control over games and grounds.
- Against salaried outside coaches of questionable morals and influence.
- Against undergraduates handling large sums of athletic money.
- Against bad moral effects of games when rules are broken, evaded, etc.

Control by suppression of athletics is a confession of defeat by the faculty and few colleges are ready to adopt that method. Control by revolution is a radical departure from established methods, and difficult to bring about. The suggestion of an endowed department of physical training and consequently the removal of the necessity for gate money to pay expenses is the remedy advocated by the Dean of Washington University, St. Louis.

Control by regulations with the development of a spirit of reform from within the student body is the best means of eliminating present evils. Such regulations embrace:

- Absolute business probity.
- Year's residence, good college standing for candidate inter-collegiate team.
- Graduate and amateur coaching.
- Lower limit to gate money.
- Socializing intercollegiate athletics.
- Disarmament.
- No recruiting agencies, etc.
- Legislation against betting.

In 1901 the professional coach was abolished at Leland Stanford University. The situation there (in 1903) was much simpler than in the colleges nearer the East. There was only one big game for which to prepare, and after which to calm down. President Jordan said, "It is the absolute duty of the faculty to see that no one is in the institution for football alone." He

also expressed a desire to abolish gate money "as soon as they could get around to it."

President Butler heartily approved the action which prohibited intercollegiate football in Columbia. His arguments were: That the game had become a profession, not a sport; that the prolonged training absorbed time and interest from studies; that it was participated in by a few unrepresentative athletes; that it was an academic nuisance; that the gate money was a temptation and a commercial enterprise.

THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

In 1905 a convention of delegates from all the leading colleges was called to consider the advisability of football reform. Sixty-eight colleges sent delegates and a committee was chosen who were to amalgamate with the old rules committee on football, if possible; if not possible, to act alone; and in any case to formulate rules to correct certain evils and to secure an open game, elimination of rough and brutal playing, definite and precise rules of play, and organization and control of officials in order that the rules should be strictly and impartially enforced. Their committee met with the old rules committee consisting of representatives from Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Princeton, Chicago, Pennsylvania and Annapolis, and the necessary reforms in the playing rules of football were adopted.

At first the Association proposed "stringent eligibility rules and methods for enforcement," but this idea was abandoned in favor of "an educating and supporting body for the betterment of collegiate athletics." It endeavors "to make sport for sport's sake the controlling spirit in all institutions of learning; it discourages commercialism and encourages true amateurism; it believes the use of intercollegiate athletics for advertising purposes should be frowned upon; it strives to coördinate, in their proper relations, athletic and academic work; it cultivates high ideals of conduct on every field of sport."

PRINCIPLES OF AMATEUR SPORT.

Regulations.

Each institution which is a member of the Association agrees to enact and enforce such measures as may be necessary to prevent violations of the principles of amateur sports such as:

a. Proselyting.

1. The offering of inducements to players to enter colleges or universities because of their athletic abilities, and of supporting or maintaining players while students, on account of their

athletic abilities, either by athletic organizations, individual alumni, or otherwise, directly or indirectly.

2. The singling out of prominent athletic students of preparatory schools and endeavoring to influence them to enter a particular college or university.

b. The playing of those ineligible as amateurs.

c. The playing of those who are not *bona fide* students in good and regular standing.

d. Improper and unsportsmanlike conduct of any sort whatever, either on the part of the contestants, the coaches, their assistants or the student body.

In 1909 there were 57 Colleges and Universities enrolled in the Association. These included all the large institutions except Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell and Columbia.

Harvard's policy had remained about as defined by the regulations of its athletic committee of 1889, the committees of succeeding years endeavoring to support the athletic organizations in their attempts to maintain the standard of sports, while the general direction of teams was still left to undergraduate managers and captains. The evils still existing, such as abnormal interest in and prominence of intercollegiate contests, the expenses and extravagances incident to athletics were questions requiring careful consideration.

In 1905, before the formation of the new rules committee with the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States, the Harvard committee had adopted new eligibility rules debarring freshmen and graduates from Varsity teams.

Some of the old rules such as the "New England Rule" were modified and the Harvard teams played against Cornell, Pennsylvania and Princeton, outside of New England.

The formation in 1891 of a nine years' agreement for an annual Harvard-Yale contest for the University Track Athletic cup, involved a constitution which was clear and strict in its rules, and the adoption of which "was a long step in advance in the effort to put intercollegiate athletics on a sound basis."

The question of professional coaching was one which had confronted athletic managements since intercollegiate contests became a feature of university life. The attitude of the authorities, East and West, has been unanimously against the professional coach. Some Western colleges went so far as to attribute the majority of the evils in the athletic situation to the influence of the high salaried outside coach, who was at liberty to use his money in securing undesirable men to attend college to make his team a winning one and thus insure his position.

The sentiment of Harvard's athletic committee was to "cling to amateur coaching even if it caused defeat." But the policy of the great body of graduates and undergraduates advocated

professional coaching for the sake of a more continuous policy in methods and training of the teams than could be secured by graduate coaching.

In regard to track athletics, as stated before, a regular officer of the college had been appointed in 1884, who served until 1900, and whose skillful training won success for the team in inter-collegiate contests. The various athletic associations representing the different sports, hired professional coaches. In boating, the Weld Club hired Coach Donovan 1896-97, Wray in 1901, Rice in 1904; the Newell Club hired O'Dea 1899, Vail 1900, Stephenson 1905. In June, 1905, Wray was appointed coach for the university crew on a contract for five years.

Dartmouth College took the lead in 1907 by limiting coaching to the employment of alumni. That the Harvard authorities are in sympathy with this movement appears in the college report of 1907.

In that year a joint committee of the two governing boards on the regulation of athletic sports presented to the President and Fellows a report which contained these recommendations:

a. That hereafter the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Harvard College, and the Dean of the Lawrence Scientific School be the faculty members of the committee on the regulation of athletic sports.

b. That certain changes be made in the mode of selecting the three undergraduate members of the committee.

c. That the committee be recommended to secure the services of some man, who can give his entire time to the work, to act as graduate manager and the administrative officer of the committee.

d. That the expenses connected with athletic contests be reduced by diminishing the cost of training tables, and reducing the number, distance, and duration of trips of athletic teams away from Cambridge.

e. That the number of intercollegiate contests be reduced.

f. That the athletic committee use every effort to get concerted action with other colleges to abolish professional coaches.

g. "That the athletic committee be instructed to apply the entire surplus of athletic receipts over the sums needed for current athletic expenses to the extinguishment of the debt on the Stadium until that debt is paid, and then to reduce the gate receipts in such manner as it shall decide, so that there shall only be sufficient surplus each year for the gradual development of the athletic buildings and grounds of the university.

These recommendations were adopted, but the following year a return was made to the form of the committee as it was constituted in 1888, with three members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences representing the faculty members, instead of the Deans of three departments of the university.

The recommendation to reduce the number of intercollegiate contests had no appreciable results the first year, but some reduction in the winter schedule was secured later. Nor has the attempt to diminish the exaggerated interest in and importance of football contests, both with the public and the students, been successful. The evils of extravagance, betting, excitement and publicity have remained to demoralize the game and its effects on the universities.