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## De-Emphasis of Football, etc., to Tom McDonough, December 6, 1951

A. W. Hobt

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December 6, 1951

Mr. Tom McDonough, President  
College Physical Education Association  
Emory University  
Emory University, Georgia

Dear Mr. McDonough:

I am answering your mimeographed letter of November 27. I suppose I am more bitter than anyone in the United States regarding the current criticism of inter-school athletics and of professional training in physical education and recreation. There are, of course, some illegitimate schools in the United States where athletes may fulfill the requirements of eligibility in "crip" courses. Unfortunately, some of the "crip" courses in some of these illegitimate schools are courses in physical education and recreation. If the College Physical Education Association and the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation would spend more of their time in setting up standards and rating professional training programs and less time in the discussion of abstract and meaningless philosophies, much of this criticism would be eliminated. To this extent, it is the fault of our professional workers that a large part of the criticism has taken place.

In so far as the items a) and b) in your letter concern the University of Tennessee, I would like to make the following statements:

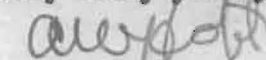
a) Professional students in Physical Education at the University of Tennessee start on their professional training in their junior year. As prerequisite to this training they are required to have completed two full years work in basic liberal art subjects with a total point average of 2. before they are permitted to enter the professional training courses in Physical Education. I would welcome and personally pay part of the expenses of an unbiased and unprejudiced committee from the American Council on Education or any other worthwhile educational organization to come to the University of Tennessee and study our professional training program. I would suggest that they visit the registrar's office and compare the grades made by our professional students in our professional courses with the grades made by these same students in Liberal Arts courses. I do not believe that

any informed person would question the academic standards of our College of Liberal Arts. I would suggest, also, that this committee make a random sampling study among our undergraduate senior students regarding the work requirement in professional Physical Education courses as compared with the work requirement in the above mentioned Liberal Arts subject courses. I would be willing to make arrangements with our registrar's office so that the entire files of the registrar's office would be open to members of the committee. I would, also, be willing to give either a written statement or personal request to our senior students that they give honest answers to any questions asked by the committee.

b) Students at the University of Tennessee who participate in intercollegiate sports are allowed to substitute this sports participation for regular required Physical Education during the quarter or quarters when they participate in that sport. This carries with it a credit for graduation of a maximum of one-third of a quarter hour of credit per quarter for a maximum of six quarters, or a maximum total of two quarter hours. No other credit whatsoever toward graduation is given at the University of Tennessee for intercollegiate participation in football, basketball, baseball, track, swimming, tennis, golf, or cross-country. I believe I can justify the above credit in the eyes of an unprejudiced committee.

You can tell from the above that I am rather bitter toward this criticism. In the first paragraph I stated one possible solution. It is my own personal opinion that if these illegitimate professional training programs in Physical Education are not weeded out, our profession will suffer greatly in the next several years. I want you or anyone else to feel free to write a letter to the President of the University of Tennessee or to any other administrative officer of the University regarding professional standards in Physical Education at the University.

Very truly yours,



A. W. Hobt

AWH:gm

CC: President C. E. Brehm

(to circularize as he desires)