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DRAWING THE LINE.

The action taken by the athletic board in formally abolishing baseball as an intercollegiate sport at Nebraska has not altered the situation. Last year the authorities refused to certify the players and it was contemplated the same stand would be taken again this season. Other colleges in the conference have followed, and baseball seems little more than a joke.

In fixing the requirements, the conference board not only put the ban on professionals, but all those who take part in any sport for compensation, however small. They say the line has to be drawn somewhere and that it is as good in this place as any. Is it? Baseball is on an entirely different footing than any other intercollegiate game. It is the great national sport and playing for hire is very common. Among this number are many college

one of the cleanest and most scientific sports in the calendar of athletics. That it is liked by the people is evidenced by the great crowds that attend the league games. Of course these games have a tendency to take away from the interest that might otherwise be shown in university contests. But if the standard of playing is raised this disadvantage will be overcome. As it is the good players for the most part are kept out of the intercollegiate game because they play semi-professional ball in order to make their way through school. It seems to be a queer turn of fate that the most of the great players were once poor men. It is a place where pure merit counts and the competition is so keen that only the best succeed. As it is, when a man shows up well in an amateur game he is offered a position which will compensate him for his skill. Many times his pecuniary circumstances are such that he can not afford to refuse.

It is an old argument that we must have clean athletics, and so we must. At present a man dare not accept a box of fudge from his sweetheart for fear of being called a professional. This idea is old and the times have outgrown it. Superstition and dogmas should be cast aside and the matter dealt with in a sensible way. The ancient ideas of dreamers that are not in harmony with our conditions of life should be shaken off, and a little common sense applied to the matter. It is just as reasonable to say that a man should not be allowed to debate or work on his college paper because he makes his living writing for some newspaper or magazine. Rules are all right, but technicalities are dangerous and often carried too far. This certainly has been the case in regard to baseball. An idealistic notion so impracticable as to almost verge into absurdity, has been carried so far that it has almost ruined one of our intercollegiate games. It is now time for action and something should be done at once.

The action taken by Nebraska and a few other schools is only a step in the right direction. These institu-

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men who are obliged to work their way through school. Their services are well paid for and it is considered an honorable occupation. Many of these men could not go through school if they were not allowed to play baseball for money. They are some of the strongest men in college and their attendance should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

To be sure the line should be drawn somewhere, or college athletics would be overrun by professionals. But why can it not be drawn in one place as well as in another? Common sense and good reason require that it be drawn so as to eliminate the professional. But men could be allowed to take part in the college games who are only semi-professional. It would be as easy, if not easier, to enforce the rules under such conditions than under the present regime. The various baseball leagues are classified and it would be an easy matter to say which classes would be professional and which semi-professional.

From a financial standpoint it would be a great improvement because it would draw better players into the college game. This would raise the standard of playing and more interest would be taken in the games.

Baseball is the great American game and should be preserved. It is

tions have realized the fact that it is almost an impossibility with a clear conscience to certify that a college baseball team is up to the standard of the conference rules. The western colleges have been the first struck and they must settle it for themselves. The by-laws of the conference should be changed so as to make no man ineligible who has engaged in semi-professional baseball. As to what class of leagues should be declared professional is a matter which a representation from the different universities could determine better than any one else. But at all events the men who take part in summer baseball and receive a compensation should not be barred from intercollegiate sports.

THE BULLETIN

February.

- 18—Catholic Students' club, Sunday afternoon, Lyceum hall.
- 18—Tegner society, Temple, 8 p. m.
- 18—Peru club, 8 p. m., 1641 M street.
- 18—Portfolio club, Library building, 2 p. m.
- 18—Agricultural club, Professor Smith, room 5 U hall, 8 p. m.

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