

A. A. U. Shows Lack of Judgment In Rulings For Amateur Status

By "DOC" ADAMS

HENRY CHILLINGWORTH, soccer player and third baseman for the Waikiki baseball team last year, has been ruled off the turf by the A. A. U. as a result of a charge of professionalism filed two years ago. Incidentally, Chillingworth is supposed to abstain from amateur athletics for two years and from professional sports forever, if he expects to be allowed to compete with, or play upon teams of, simon-pure-dyed-in-the-wool amateurs.

All of which seems to show that the A. A. U. is strict as to some rules and apparently fails to live up to its declared purposes in others.

Chillingworth, who has played semi-professional ball for several years, is beyond the pale of nice, clean sports, as listed by the Amateur Athletic Union. On the other hand, members of the faculties of local schools and colleges are allowed to perform with amateur teams at will.

We state with frankness that we cannot see the distinction between a player who receives a proportion of the gate receipts as his share of the day's booty and the one who teaches some class in school and then enters his activities in the teaching, or coaching, of some sort of sports. Of course, the teacher has the edge on the player in that he is ostensibly employed in the development of minds. It is worth noticing, however, that when the track, football, or baseball team for the season proves to be a bloomer, there is more than an even chance that there will be a chair vacant in the faculty the next season and that some other gentleman of learning, with a course in manual training, music, or something of the sort, as well as a knowledge of the shine ball, high hurdles, or drop kicks, will be engaged to develop the youthful mentalities of the students.

Of this we approve, for the man who is able to teach something, or performs in any form of sports with excellence, is entitled to what he can get out of it. If he is rated an amateur while some other man, who is not an instructor in school, but instead is a journeyman plumber, is rated a professional, that is all the better for him.

What we do object to is the straining at gnats and the swallowing of camels, giraffes and even hippopotami, which is done by the A. A. U. in many sections of the United States, with never a gulp or convulsion of the esophagus.

Not long ago we witnessed the spectacle of a certain player on a local amateur team being protested as a professional, while the same team that protested had a member of the Chinese baseball team in the lineup. The A. A. U. noticed the former, but overlooked the latter. The Outriggers were too good sports to protest the last mentioned performer.

The A. A. U. is fine in its place. It is ideal for the man who has nothing to worry about except his athletics. Its proper function is with track and field teams and, perhaps, basketball aggregations. Its chief object should be the regulation of intercollegiate and interscholastic sports, where "ringers" are sometimes run in under the guise of students.

In Honolulu, as in other places in America, the A. A. U. has taken over and dictated the policies of soccer, basketball, swimming and other athletic organizations. They have even dictated the wording of the names of such organizations, and have regulated and ruled to their hearts' content. All this is well enough, but in the interest of fairness the same stringency as to status should be applied to all. All sports need regulation, and the amateur question is one of the most troublesome ones to regulate. Indeed, it was so troublesome in Honolulu not long ago, that the chief officials of certain athletic teams indulged in a free-for-all brawl at one of the meetings—all over the matter of amateur status.

This matter was hushed up nicely, "for the good of the sport," and the fair names of all parties concerned were unfulfilled. All were amateur boxers, it is understood, so there was no taint of professionalism in the affair. This, of course, is all good, clean sport, and goes to show that no members of the teams whose representatives "mixed it" received any remuneration for their playing.

Bill Inman, however, who received almost enough money from last year's baseball games to buy a new chest-protector or bandages for his ankles, was ruled out of football for the season because of the unlimited wealth that he had been accumulating as catcher for the Waikikis.

Henry Chillingworth, who is a good soccer player, cannot play because he, two years ago, probably received money for some sort of sport.

And what is money compared with the proud pleasure of carrying a membership card in the A. A. U. and being allowed to pay dues, or having the club one represents paying them for one.

The A. A. U. is a fine institution, and a worthy one. It should help to promote sports of all kinds. Instead of punishing errant ones, suspending them for two years, adjudging them professionals and what not, it should be trying to improve the sports we have by constructive methods.

If amateur rulings are to be lived up to strictly, then why not make rulings that will place the man who receives \$3 as his cut in a football or baseball game on the same plane with the man who teaches something or other in some school and whose main object is in the development of a winning athletic team?

When this has been done there will be less complaint of "partisan politics" in athletics, directed against the A. A. U. by the followers of sports who want to see good sports and who don't care whether they are put on by professionals or amateurs, so long as they are good.

Shakespeare was right. The game's the thing.

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