



Smithsonian Institution

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therefore imperative that a strict scrutiny be made into the credentials of those who receive and supervise its distribution.

An aroused public opinion and a more active interest by the national press in the affairs of sports are other palliatives. High officials of the Government too can play a part by active participation in sports administration. The results of leaving this vehicle of recreation and national regeneration in the hands of adventurers and self-seekers are writ large all over the sports scene. Continued complacency can only spell total disaster .

The situation calls for heart-searching amongst true sportsmen and sportswomen and those who hold the cause of sports dear. If Major Salvi's energetic intervention in the Maharashtrian Cricket imbroglio leads to a probe into the mal-administration of sports in India, it would have served an excellent purpose indeed.
We sincerely hope that it does!
[[Signature]]
Auauif
[[Star]]

LEAVE SPORTS TO SPORTSMEN

Football in Calcutta once again begins to smell to high heaven and handle a day passes without some sort of disgraceful scene taking place on the Maidan or in its vicinity. So far crowd misdemeanors have been restricted to the public galleries but on recent evenings the fashionable practice of abusing and brick-batting has spread to the members' stands. This leads club executives with hardly a leg on which to stand, because all this while their defense has been that they cannot be expected to control the spectator who does not come under their various jurisdictions. What are they going to say now? What is worse, however is that certain people now claim to have proof that come Club officials are the instigators in many reprehensible cases and as I have proof that come Club officials are the instigators in many reprehensible cases and as I have been an eyewitness to certain disgraceful battles after matches and seen the way visiting members destroy property belonging to other clubs on whose grounds they are playing with no other excuse than that they are offering concrete evidence of their chagrin at being beaten, I am inclined to dismiss that theory with less alacrity than I might have done.

Everybody seeks to blame the referee but what is that poor individual to do with shoes, sticks and stones and bottles flying about his ears? Naturally he loses control of the situation which then proceeds to deteriorate with the dire results that we have seen on two recent evenings . The rot must be stopped at the source and if it is found impossible to produce or import referees who will meet with public approval then those now in charge must be given ample protection and the only way to do this seems to surround spectators with wire netting. This will create an impression of caging them up like animals in a zoo but they will only have brought such ignominy upon themselves.

Two alternate suggestions have been put forward. One is that teams with communal names or purporting to represent some part of the country be forced to change them under the direction of the State Government. There are three such clubs the Mohammedan Sporting, East Bengal and Rajasthan and I must admit that in the present political context such appellations are farcical , if not dangerous. The first tends



to perpetuate communal differences, the second presumes to represent a part of the country which is no longer a part of the country, to put it in its simplest form, while the third is about as representative of the land of the Rajputs as, shall we say, Manchester United or the New York Yankees.

The other proposal, and this is one that is trotted out with dismal monotony, is that football should be suspended sine die. The way things have gone in the last few years and continue to do, it might be a good idea if we considered giving up a game at which, it seems, we are never going to be really any good. What amuses me is that this suggestion has come from official resources and considering all the fuss that has been made in those circles in the last fortnight about the necessity of a football stadium to the exclusion of everything else, I wonder if they know what they are talking about half the time. Why not leave sport to sportsmen is all that I have to ask.
P.S.

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