Reasons Why We Should Cease and Desist From Inter-School Sports

An Appeal to the Health and PE Teachers of the North American Church School System

It is an affirmation of a false god of this age (sports mania). For our schools to be leading out in this misdirected emphasis represents a corporate apostasy. It goes directly against the inspired counsels specifically given us regarding this matter; which we neglect (or defy) at our peril.

1. It provides an almost incontrovertible argument to the critics of the system that our schools have become look-alikes to secular, "worldly" schools, and are no longer worthy of the parental/family/church sacrifice required to sustain them.

2. It introduces into our schools an uncontrollable element, reorganizing them around the play, amusement principle, instead of the traditional work/witness/service mission of SDA education. Its secularizing influence subverts the true, central purpose of Christian education: acquiring a knowledge of God and extending His kingdom on earth.

3. It is a gladiatorial model, inherently antibiblical and anti-Christian, for it idealizes an adversarial view of, and relationship to, other human beings—God's children. In that inherent vein, it generates a spirit of rivalry and animosity. In engaging in this, we are literally playing the game of life on the Enemy's court! Unbecoming, spiritually self-defeating.

4. It is not necessary educationally; everything we embrace as legitimate objectives can be reached in the approved intramural sports programs we presently have on our campuses.

NOTE: The church has not—nor does it intend—to object to fellowship games between Adventist schools within the context of Christian fellowship, such as academy/college weekend exchange programs that feature joint/reciprocal religious program presentations, Christian sharing and outreach, etcetera, by visitors and guests. However, the stand-alone athletic face-off to prove which school is "No. 1," and the participation in season league play is too risky and should be terminated.

--- G.H.A.

This appeal summarizes the major points of Dr. George Akers' taped address to the SDA Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Association in Kansas City, Missouri, April 5, 1988.