

## **"Psychology of Sports Officiating" taught by Robert Moss, Assistant Supervisor in the Department of Physical Ed.**

**January 8, 1974**

Imagine umpires and referees getting fan mail from coaches!

Imagine a student sports group known as "The Brotherhood of C.T.P." with the motto: "Negatives are positives!"

Imagine a petite coed, umpires' cap on her blond head, arguing nose-to-nose with a six foot fastballer - and winning!

It may stretch the imagination of those who follow sports, but it has become a familiar part of the athletics program at the University of California, San Diego.

Under the unique direction of Robert Moss, Assistant Supervisor in the Department of Physical Education, undergraduate students - both men and women - are learning the finer points of officiating baseball, basketball, wrestling, track and swimming. Moss teaches a course called "Psychology of Sports Officiating" which is designed to give students a thorough knowledge and mastery of rules, field layout, and scorekeeping under actual game conditions.

To all of this Moss adds a positive attitude that he says must be the basic personal characteristic of anyone desiring to achieve their greatest potential. Moss is an advocate of self motivation and his enthusiasm is the key to what has become a highly successful teaching program at UCSD.

The course began last year as a class in basketball officiating with nine students who got practical experience by working the intramural games. The program proved so successful that school officials asked Moss to expand it. During baseball season he turned out seven new umpires.

"I put them through a crash course," he said. "We spent about two weeks on procedures and rules before they worked their first varsity baseball games."

Moss worked with them for the first few games and then watched from the stands. "I just threw 'em to the dogs," he said, "but their improvement was tremendous. They learned fast by the experience."

His first crew took the field in bright shirts, charcoal caps, and red suspenders to "give them added confidence."

"There were a few catcalls, even from the home team," Moss said, "but I knew they could do the job. After the game the same guys who were yelling were saying how great the uniforms looked. One player told them, 'When you dress like that you've got to be good!'"

It was these first student umps who got the fan mail from coaches. From a private college near Santa Barbara: "Our team had the very fine pleasure of having Mr. Moss and one of his officiating students umpire our games. They both did a very fine job; in fact, they did one of the best jobs we've had all year."

From a community college coach: "The young men who worked our games did an excellent job in all areas such as: being in position, taking charge, rapport with the coaches and players, and judgment. This has got to be a credit to Bob Moss and his program."

Moss wasn't surprised by the fan mail because he knew his students could do the job once they developed the correct attitude.

"Every man and woman is capable of cultivating a positive attitude," Moss said. "However, most people live their entire life-time without realizing a positive attitude can be consciously developed."

To Moss, such an attitude is especially important in officiating because the image the official projects has a tremendous impact on the tempo of the game and the respect he gets from the crowd.

To help his students understand and achieve this, Moss established the Brotherhood of the C.T.P. (Call 'em to Perfection) with a list of attitude building fundamentals including: unwaivering courage, faith and self confidence, an open mind, and a winner's complex. The brotherhood's motto: Negatives are positives.

The brotherhood and the officiating program have grown in the past year to include wrestling, track and swimming. Women students are active in nearly all aspects of it including service as official starters and timers for track and swimming meets.

"There is one other very fundamental aspect of this program that is often overlooked," Moss said. "Sports officiating has become a rather substantial source of income for several of the students, not only during the school year but also through the summer recreational sports leagues.

"It's a chance to earn money to finance their way through school," Moss said. "And, it's a lot more educational and satisfying than most part time jobs open to students these days."

(January 8, 1974)