

November 22, 1943.

Varsity Basketball Team --

Dear Fellows:

I am leaving now for Salina and Pratt to fill four speaking engagements, but will be back for practice Wednesday afternoon. This is one of the obligations that a coach is forced to fill. I dislike very much to leave you boys but I am sure that Coach Porter will carry on in good shape until my return.

Many of you are feeling very much depressed. This is not the way that it should be. We knew that we were not in full strength, but it was for the purpose of improving ourselves and eliminating errors which we made Friday night that will help us a great deal in later days. The ASTP were men much more mature who had much more basketball experience than any of you. Bean was an outstanding star on Valparaiso University last year. My son, Milton Allen, saw him play in the National Intercollegiate tournament in the Municipal Auditorium and he was a standout. All of these fellows were much older and they showed more basketball ability than our younger boys did.

I am going to point out a few of the faults - not in a critical way but in a constructive way. On A-P #1 play Bob Malott did not swing around and face the basket, but turned his back to the basket. It is necessary for the player to face the basket to make either plays 1, 2 or 3 effective from this situation. Sherwood, I thought, played a splendid game, especially considering the fact that he had an opportunity to work very little with the squad. Scott did splendidly but seemed to be repressed. Scotty, you were in too big a hurry on this A-P #1 play. You were not cool enough but you fought hard.

Turner, while lacking the fundamental practice that the other boys had, also showed up especially well. Your height and reach, together with the power in offsetting the Army's rough tactics, made you look especially good. Corder, instead of dribbling away and keeping away from Stevenson, a more rugged and more expert dribbler, kept dribbling too close to him. You remember he stole the ball from you once, Dean, when more caution on your part would have been to stay further away from him. Another thing - you dribbled in and set your plays up too close rather than to pull them back and let the team by pulling the whole set up back near the congestion rather than forcing them down close where the congestion became more acute.