UNIVERSITY OF (Big Ten)

College of Letters and Science Office of the Dean

26 July 1940

Mr. John Blackstone Johnson County Kansas

My dear Mr. Blackstone:

This is to inform you that upon the nomination of

Assemblyman Julius Spearbraker

you will be exempt from the payment of the non-resident tuition fee for the academic year 1940-41, provided, of course, that your scholarship is of such quality as to entitle you to registration in the University.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) O. C. Spellbinder

Chairman, Committee on Legis. Scholarships

UNIVERSITY	OF	
		, California

Board of Athletic Control

June 22, 1941

Mr. John Doe, Osborn County, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Doe:

I am sorry too delay answering your letter of sometime ago but have been out of town for over a month.

Your son has an enviable record in athletics and we at are extremely interested in having him attend our school.

We have a few Alumni Scholarships that we give out to basketball prospects. These Scholarships are submitted too the school by a group of wealthy alumni. They include a boys room, board, lauddry, tuition, fees, books. All it costs the boy to attend is for his spending money and clothes. If your son accepts one of these scholarships he does not have too wait tables or do any other work around the campus. This alumni board feels that if the boy does a good job in this studies and basketball that is about all he has time for. The alumni board wants the athlete too fulfill three requirements in order too maintain this scholarship: -1) Satisfy the Dean of Discipline, 2) Satisfy the Dean of Studies, 3) Do a good job athletically. By the later I mean that he has to be of some help to the squad.

I wish that you would have your son fill out the enclosed application blank and also send in a copy of his official transcript of record, which has to go from one registrar to another. I would like to have the above information sent as soon as possible as the time is drawing nearer to registration, which takes place on the 16th of August to the 20th of August.

Thanking you kindly for your cooperation and with best wishes to you and your son, I am

Sincerely,

(Signed) Richard Roe.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

I am writing you about a boy who is enrolled here at the University.

He came in yesterday and told us that he had enrolled at last year and has played in several freshman games. That, of course, makes him ineligible to play in our conference. We have a ruling here in our conference that if a boy has matriculated in any other institution and has participated in one game he is ineligible to participate in a Conference school.

I have followed this boy with a great deal of interest and picked him up in an NYA camp in Tennessee. He is six feet, five inches tall and weighs 188 pounds stripped. He comes from a family that is very poor and he has no means of attending school whatever. Since we have scholarships here in basketball we thought enough of his ability to offer him a freshman scholarship. He has unusual ability and I felt he would make us an outstanding center. He has played a lot of ball and he is a boy of unusually fine habits. He passed our entrance examinations here in good shape and I do not believe that he would ever give you any trouble in regard to his studies.

Is there any way that you could use him at all? I am interested in sending him to you as he requested me to write this letter and I also feel that I would like to send you someone sometime that might do you some good. Naturally, if this boy were eligible to play here I would have kept him. I would appreciate hearing from you as he would be interested in enrolling there the second semester. I understand your register is closed for the first semester.

Sincerely yours,

Basketball 'Coach.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen Director of Physical Education University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen,

G. A. W

I am writing you about a boy who is enrolled here at the University.

He came in yesterday and told us that he had enrolled at T.P.I. last year and that he has played in several freshmen games. That, of course, makes him ineligible to play in our conference. We have a ruling here in our conference that if a boy has matriculated in any other institution and has participated in one game he is ineligible to participate in a Southeastern Conference school.

I have followed this boy with a great deal of interest and picked him up in an N.Y.A. camp in Tennessee. He is six feet, five inches tall and weighs 188 pounds, stripped. He comes from a family that is very poor and he has no means of attenting school whatever. Since we have scholarships here in basketball we thought enough of his ability to offer him a freshman scholarship. He has unusual ability and I felt he would make us an outstanding center. He has played a lot of ball and he is a boy of unusually fine habits. He passed our entrance examinations here in good shape and I do not believe that he would ever give you any trouble in regard to his studies.

Is there any way that you could use him at all? I am interested in sending him to you as he requested me to write this letter and I also feel that I would like to send you someone sometime that might do you some good. Naturally, if this boy were eligible to play here I would have kept him. I would appreciate hearing from you as he would be interested in enrolling there the second semester. I understand your register has closed for the first semester.

Sincerely yours,

October 2, 1941

Mr.

Basketball Coach

University of

Dear Coach,

Thank you very much for sending me your letter regarding the good basketball player who is inelligivle to play in your Conference.

I appreciate your kindness in writing, but since we have out of state tuition, which is treble that of our local tuition, there is no way that we have of handling such a young man. We do not even have scholarships, nor down have lucrative jobs that would enable him to make more than \$20.00 a month.

The authorities here figure that that is all any boy can work and still carry a full load of academic subjects.

I am sorry that this young man became ineligible for you by playing one year at _____ college.

Again thanking you and wishing you every success, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA/pg

Lt. Col. W.H. Browne, QMC 110th QM Regiment Camp Robinson, Arkansas A.P.O. 35

Dear Brownie.

Your very lengthy epistle addressed to Frederick Ware, a carbon copy of which has been sent to me, is hereby acknowledged. I also enjoyed the postscrip, "A copy has been sent to the Doctor in his lair at K.U." I was greatly interested in your activities and enjoyed the description of your environment in Mansfield, La., which you have given Fred Ware, our mutual friend. However, I feel that I should come to the point and reply to your real reason for writing the message to Fred.

I have tried to analyse carefully your arguments that you present in your letter to Fred. First, I might say to you that I have spoken on two occasions to football men wherein the newspapers have seen fit to give perhaps undue publicity. Last fall I spoke to the all-star Kansas City, Kansas, high school football men where Rotary was their host. This fall I spoke before the William Jewell College football team and three hundred students at a "football kick-off" dinner rally. I spoke to these boys directly and all the remarks that were made were prompted by a desire to present the true picture of "big time" football as it is now being conducted in a great many of our American colleges.

I coached football, Brownie, perhaps before you played it, and I believe I know the strong and the weak points of the game as I have officiated and followed it closely ever since. The game as a morale builder and as a builder of men has no equal. Cetainly I am not excepting basketball in this inclusion. But many sports at one time can be fine, and then they can become so distorted that they can be utterly ruined and useless instead of being a morale builder they can become a morale destroyer.

In my mind's eye I ran ower a great number of former coaches and present coaches, and have asked this question: Are these coaches' sons playing football? I thought of Chet Brewer, who has a son at the University of Missouri, Henry Schulte, Bernie Bierman, Dana Bible, Major Jones, Harold Browne, "Phog" Allen, Bill Hargiss, and a great host of others. Now, I realize that neither your son nor Dana Bible's son are old enough to be in a university, but I will watch with a great deal of interest and see how many sons of coaches will play football in college.

The warp and woof of the average football player at the present time is too rough and tough for the sons of coaches to compete against. Perhaps I should have said that we would rather have a son of ours major in a profession, and not in football as it is now conducted. True, there are exceptions, but it is the rule that I rather emphasise.

Regarding your statement concerning publicity, favorable or otherwise, I want to assure you that I have never sold my face for a banana ad, or Grape-nuts, or Luckies, or what-not. Nor have I endeavored to keep my name before the public unless I thought I had something to keep my name before the public unless I thought I had something to say and will say. And I do think definitely that I have something to say and will continue to say it, not as basketball coach but as the head of the department of Physical Education at the University of Kansas. (For your information, Brownie, I have never drawn as much salary for coaching information, Brownie, I have never drawn as much salary for coaching basketball as I have as director of athletics and physical education.)

There are so many young fellows that are being misguided by the socalled big shot coach in athletics that I think it is high time for somebody to be at least half way honest with these youngsters. Stories may die natural deaths, but facts never will. The fact that we have conference rules which are being broken more than they are being kept is a fact and you know it.

Your own Cy Sherman, the argosy of football hopes, in his column "Brass Tacks", says:

"The founders of football and all college sports, for that matter, gave thought only to the idea that athletics should be conducted strictly on a basis of pure amateurism, but corrupting influences unquestionably have been permitted to intrude their slimy presence, thus to make a mockery of the amateum pretense.

"The head professor of basketball at Kansas U. apparently prefers to lop off the head of the chicken rather than exterminate its lice. "That proposal conveys no appeal to this column. Football is a sport so wholesome, so desirable especially in a time of a national crisis, as to merit a definite place in the educational scheme.

"How then, can a tangible plan be worked out to save the gridiron game from the fate which fraces of Allen and others, too, have foreseen? The problem is one which this column passes to the heads of the National Collegiate Athletic association, the body which has the means and methods in its hands, but in the past - more's the pity - it has failed, either through insipidity or cowardice, to use!"

Cowardice is the word that should be used.

Certainly from as stalwart enthusiast for football as Cy is, this is unmistakably an open confession that he and all other insiders know the mockery that is now being practised under the guise of character building in a major sport - especially when big time proselytors work.

Cy says that apparently we prefer to lop off the head of the chicken rather than to de-louse it. Certainly I do not believe in lopping off the head of such a fine sport as football. I merely pointed out to these high school and college players that these coaches and the so-called friends of football are the ones who are killing it, and the yelp that the coaches emit shows that they have been struck by missiles which hit the mark.

When a gardener trims excessive branches from a grapevine he does it to improve the fruit. Certainly you will not deny this, will you, Brownie? By lopping off many of the football barnacles, football could be saved. And so could basketball, for that matter. But the way it is going at the present ime causes people to wonder whether the men who make money out of football will permit it to be saved.

May I make another observation? The future crop of coaches in both football and basketball will of necessity come from a group of men who are outstanding inthe sport from the angle of technical skill. This is their laboratory work to show that they are experts. These men, by and large, are now athletes who as receiving either their board, room tuition, books, and so forth, or a large part of it, and some are men who positively leave school with a larger bank account than they entered with. How in the world can these great builders of character challenge a boy to enroll in the university except by the same and only method they know - that is the pay check.

These major spectacular sports are nothing but a rachet, or a business racket tied to the tail of the university or college. The boy is make to feel that that is the most important thing in his existence, when all of us know that it is not by any manner of means the most important. It is important because it is an incentive which should drive him on to the durable things of life, and that is the thing that he gets in the classroom and in the contact with his fellows. But when he know that he is nothing more than a paid professional, keeping from the general public the truth of his status, then you and I both know that it is a racket.

I certainly have no quarrel with you when you say, "Football represents so much of a spirit of a game where mental, physical, and emotional expressions have a wholesome outlet that youth will demand, and have, in one way or another." Again I say, let's have it in the right way, and not in the way it is being conducted in the "big time". Again I want to say that I do not were to kill football, but I want to point to the boy who is pasying it the danger of following wandering fires lost in the quagmire.

Brownie, I have never worried much about ostracism. I find that I make a few friends and lose a few, but when I characterize a group of coaches as "beagle hounds out sniffing the bushes for athletes to be given salaries for doing no work", I state correctly what I know and what you know. Of course, some big time schools have someone else to do their beagle-hounding for them, and they sit back as respectable individuals while the dirty work is done by the less important beagle hounds. Had I not talked to so many professors who tell me the pressure they feel from the advance agent for so many of these flunking athletes, then I might say that some of them might resent it. But I know this game from all the intricacies as you do. And these professors do not resent this snap course idea because they know how many of the wise boys hunt for them.

This part of your letter makes me laugh. "The coaching profession is heartily in accord with the University Administrators controlling the athletic situation to such an extent that the department is in harmony with the aims and ideals of the institution of which it is a part." What ideals do you speak of when there are certain assistant athletic directors in large institutions who are paid for nothing else than to handle the athletes, definitely paying large sums of money to keep the them in school so that they may be eligible for athletic teams? I say that this is no part of an ideal.

I have ceached 34 years and in my association with athletics and with the coaches of these sports I find a growing tendency to spend more but to cover up more skilfully. I have always tried to put more into physical education and athletics than I have gotten out of it, and I will continue to do so, but my standard in dealing with these boys will be, so far as possible, the standard that I use in dealing with my own sons. Certainly I would not want my son to sell his academic birthright for a mess of athletic pottage such as is being peddled around by "big time" promoting athletic coaches.

You will understand, Brownie, that there are a lot of descent coaches and a lot of coaches that are not doing the things that I mention, but there are a lot of "big time" coaches who are doing this and they are doing it to the detriment of both football and basketball.

Doubtless you realize that before I said this thing I knew exactly what a great number of individuals would say to me and about me. I said it last fall and I said it again, so don't you realize that from my first experience I could maturely judge what might come again? It was not an emotional outburst, but it was a thing planned and studied, debunking a lot of the junk that goes on in "big time" athletics.

You state that "coaches will put their shoulders to the wheel and push in trying to eliminate the evils. . . You know bloomin well that if the coaches wanted to meet this situation they could eliminate and cure it over one season of play. But, you say, they are doing it. How can I step it? And in fact there are some coaches that I know of who couldn't turn out a championship team unless they got better material than the other coaches. Therefore, instead of working, they attempt to buy the team.

To show you that I was not spoofing you about football but that I also meant basketball in this charge, I am sending you a carbon copy of a letter that I received on October 2nd from a coach of national reputation who has had nationally known teams. I am also sending you a carbon copy of a letter that I wrote this coach. A boy who is 6 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 188 pounds, and who comes highly recommended by an expert coach, might do some team good under the basket, you cannot fail to admit. And doubtless you will say that these coaches are character builders instead of athletic beagle hounds. This coach said, "I picked him up". That is why I call him a beagle hound rather than a bird dog.

This boy in question has nothing. He needs board, room, tuition, books, clothes, spending money, medical expenses, and what have you. If a coach does it for one he is forced to do it for the others. Then multiply this amount that is necessary to take care of this boy by the number of men on the first squad and you have the answer to the cost of basketball.

Brownie, I have enough data to prove my points conclusively. You and I both know a young star athlete from Kansas who matriculated at Nebraska and was wet-nursed, hauled in taxicabs to his classes because he would not walk to them, and implorations were made to him in a most disgusting fashion just because he was an a thlete. True, his ineligibility casued him not to play at Nebraska, but the disgusting example set be this chap and by the people who endeavored to get him eligible created a sickening stench among those who were on the inside of such a situation. Similar situations have happened on the compus of most every college in the United States that has tried to keep such men eligible only for their athletic ability. There was no other consideration involved in handling this young boy with strong gastronnemius muscles who could peddle a ball forward. And still we talk about ideals. The name was not a long one. The first letter is B.

Thanking you for sending me this pleasant epistle to Fred, and wishing you and the great Army of the United States Godspeed, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA/AH Enc. Director of Physical Education and Recreation Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

Lt. Col. W.H. Browne, QMC 110th QM Regiment A.P.O. 35 Camp Robinson, Arkansas

Dear Brownie,

I have a real good joke on myself and I want to pass it on to you. Your letter arrived Saturday morning just prior to the Kansas-Washington football game. I hurriedly scanned over the first part of your letter and paid very little attention to the first three paragraphs. Then I read your fourth paragraph which starts out - "Now for the real reason this message is written".

By overlooking the third paragraph and not answering it I committed the greatest blunder of all my corresponding experience. In that paragraph you presented the very same argument that I had presented to the students at William Jewell - that these boys played football for the sheer fun of it, and that they do not have to have commercialized football to play for the fun of it. And when it is commercialized the bad features are added without the good ones.

If I ever needed a friend to argue my point, you certainly did it most emphatically and without any rebuttal. So, Brownie, read your own paragraph again and see if that isn't right in line with my argument, You said, "They are their own officials, and the ball changes side with very little other than a kidding dissent". Therefore, the college presidents of America will see the educational value of play, and by adjustments upon the state and by the students they will develop an intramural system which will satisfy the play instincts of the students without the big time stuff that is not a part of the educational institutions.

Brownie, I surely do like your letter.

Very sincerely yours,