

November 28, 1941.

Mr. Frederick W. Ware,  
Sports Editor,  
Omaha World-Herald,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Frederick:

Bob Busby ran your comment on the discussion of subsidized football that you obtained from the Chicago sport writer.

Frederick, I never have stated that all coaches are beagle hounds or bums. That was Brownie's interpretation that he put upon my statement. Every speech that I have ever made I have said that we have had wonderful gentlemen who have coached football and major sports, and wonderful gentlemen who are now coaching. But we do have the beagle hound variety, the fellow who beats the bushes and sniffles around for any athletic material that he can recruit. This type of coach misrepresents to the boy the pseudo-value of his athletics.

The boy is gullible and loves to play. And instead of the young athlete going to college to be inspired by his instructors and his fellow students he loses sight of that main goal, and naturally he thinks that if he can walk in the footsteps of this big time coach then he is in select company. If the boy has difficulty with his studies the coach many times selects or suggests easier courses.

Many boys finish their three years of intercollegiate athletic competition without getting past the sophomore standing - certainly not higher than junior standing. You know, Fred, a boy can take any course in the university and it counts toward his athletic eligibility. But there are sequences that a fellow must take if he graduates, and he must make at least a "C" average to graduate. Many of our so-called dumb or poor athletes play straight through on "D" grades. "C" grades only give grade points, and if he does not have enough "C" grades then he cannot advance to the next higher ranking class, as a junior, and so forth. Therefore, the big time athlete picks out soft courses because, after all, he is a big shot - he isn't thinking much about graduating. Now I am talking about the dumb big time athlete, and there are a lot of them, Fred. Their mental quotient has been blunted by the negative value afforded by intercollegiate athletics as the all-important thing, rather than the positive value of mind training and career seeking professional work that a boy is supposed to go to college for.