



U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

March 7, 1944

Dr. F. C. Allen,  
Varsity Basketball Coach  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I appreciate the "Rebounds" increasingly with each issue I receive and I know the same may be said for anyone on your mailing list. Knowing of the many feats of others on that mailing list, both in their days at the University of Kansas and now on the world's far-flung battlefields, I cannot help but feel humble and fortunate to be included.

I had hoped by this time to be something more than a "USO soldier" and when I saw you for a few minutes in December I believe I told you I soon would be starting cadet training. I was to have shipped out to start cadet training January 8, but 10 days previous to that I dislocated my left shoulder, a trick shoulder that I have dislocated several times since I "knocked it down" in high school football. I had failed to mention anything about my shoulder in entering the army or in making application for cadets. As a result the medical officer promptly disqualified me for cadet training and subsequently would not pass me on a physical exam for overseas service. I feel rather keenly about this when others are giving so much and I am giving so little.

But as to matters which I am sure will be of more interest to you, I share the "Rebounds" with Norval Kline, a brother of Johnny's. Norval was able to get a short furlough recently and see Johnny when he shipped out to this coast.

I got to see Hank Luisetti and Jim Pollard in one of their duels in San Francisco early in the season.

We had a pretty good squadron basketball team this year, undefeated in competition among the enlisted ranks on the post here. High scorer of the team was a former Salina high player, Robert Van Gundy, who did not go on to college anywhere. He was a good shot, a splendid ball-hawk and a very good all-around man. We stepped into college competition against Chico State and lost two of a three game series. The "rubber" game was a thriller, being decided in the last minute of play. Any influence I may have had as manager of the team must correctly go back to you. I am enclosing a picture of the team.

Let me congratulate you on the showing of the Kansas team this year as I feel it was very good in view of the comparative material available at K. U. in comparison to the other Big Six schools.

Sincerely,  
Elon Torrance