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October 25, 1940

Mr. Howard W. Turtle
The Kansas City Star
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your good letter of the 17th instant.

I hardly know what to say regarding Ralph Miller. The real story has been put out that Miller would not play this year. There are others that feel that his knee is in such bad shape that it will never stand the cuffing of a football season. The grapevine has it among some people that they bet Miller will be playing basketball before the winter is over. But from all information I have, none of that has come to me.

I really think that Miller is expecting to stay out this year and play next year. But in view of the war situation, he is apt to be packing a gun rather than attending the University.

Miller can graduate at the end of this coming summer's term, counting his two semesters this year. He talked to me a month or so ago about dropping out at the end of this semester and going to work, as he has no financial income beyond his income from his own labor.

Could you straddle the fence and mention that Miller was one of the regulars in the starting line-up, and if his trick knee does not mend better than it is at present he may not participate. However, he is in school and is eligible, but he desires to play football as well as basketball and having stayed out of football so far he may not want to compete in basketball. That would end his athletic eligibility; he having competed two years previously.

I realize that you cannot give him much space, but if he should return he would add to our scoring possibilities. The fact that we lost Ebling, Voran and Harp plus Miller really took all of our scores away except Engleman. We would be hard put to pick a team that looked pretty strong for this year from the material left at the end of last season.

Miller is an experienced campaigner and a money player. He is a type of competitor that loves to win so much that he comes through in the clutches. His fundamentals are not as good as some of the others, but he has a competitive spirit that would help this young crew a great deal this year.