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Mr. Howard Turtle

Nebraska is a great highschool basketball state. They have no strong secondary colleges in Nebraska, and the University monopolizes the field. In my opinion, there is no more reason why Nebraska should not be preeminate in basketball as well as in football and track because they have the environment, the field house and the material. That Nebraska team last year should have gone to great heights.

But, I am speaking off the record, Howard. If, after you read my letter, you care to pick out certain points, and ask me questions that I can answer without embarrassing any opponent or myself, I would be happy to do so. Kansas has developed esprit de corps against Nebraska and they can go right up on Nebraska bailiwick and spot them a couple of goals and still lick them. Kansas boys are no more afraid of Nebraska than they are of any other team in the Big Six. They just take them in stride, and they realize too, that all these schools in the Big Six are gunning for us in basketball just as the other Big Six schools are gunning for Nebraska in football.

Answering your question, "or is it because those 'corn-fed' boys just can't play basketball", I want to say no, because Iowa State had never won anything until Louie Menze went there for basketball. He has had two championships during his ten years there and they never came close before he joined them. I will bet a pretty dollar that Louie Menze will turn out a championship team at Nebraska in three years.

Sure, football is emphasized in Nebraska, but I know a lot of good schools who emphasize football and they can still play basketball. I have in mind the Missouri Tigers; they win football and basketball championships. In fact, I am going to have a much better basketball team next year and the year following and then the year following that than I have had for several years. Three of my regular players doubtless will be from the football squad.

I like to have football players on my basketball squad. I will cite you an incident: Ed Hall, the fullback on our football team, was drafted by me late in this past year's basketball season. After Marvin Sollenberger, our regular guard, took ill with glandular fever, at Ames, and was sent to the hospital just before our Oklahoma game, I used Charlie Walker and some of my substitutes who had little game experience, and we lost the Oklahoma game. Three days later, we played the Oklahoma Aggies, and I tried Walker again. He was not doing so well and we were losing, so I called Eddie Hall from the bench and sent him in as guard. He was rugged, aggressive, and his weight and speed off-set the advantage the Oklahoma Aggies had. He scored a goal about a minute and a half after he went in as guard, and his rugged playing stimulated the A. & M. team and we won the game by four points. I have always liked to have football players in my lineup. They give the "tang" and "zest" to this game of basketball that is needed. Charles Black, Bob Mosby, "Zeeh" Burton; I could name numerous basketball players that I have who have been football players.

This year coming up, we will have Ray Evans, Charles Black, Don Ettinger, and a couple of other boys from the football squad on our basketball team. I would say that rugged, aggressive, 'corn-fed' boys like the Nebraskans, can play basketball.