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April 28th, 1941

Mr. Howard Turtle  
Kansas City Star  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Turtle:

I am sorry that I was out of town and unable to answer your letter sooner, but I assure you it is always a pleasure to comply with your requests. I trust that you will land The Post for your Nebraska Football Article. I am very happy to say this to you.

I coached Kansas basketball in 1908 and 1909. At that time, the schools were divided into a Northern and a Southern division, and we, here at Kansas, won the Northern division. The schools of the North were Nebraska, Drake, Iowa State, etc. It was the Old Missouri Valley Conference; then Kansas and Nebraska played for the title and Kansas won the championship. It was much on the same plane as they now use on the Pacific Coast.

Now I shall try to answer your question, "Why is it that Nebraska, with its tremendous reservoir of material, can't win more Big Six basketball championships", and, with that big field house to fill. Every year that Nebraska has had a near winning team, they have packed the field house. The Big Six attendance record is held by Nebraska, and it was made during the time when Nebraska was playing Kansas for the Big Six championship.

No, I would not say it is because Nebraska cannot play basketball. They have had some wonderful stars there. I can remember the time when Nebraska could not win anything at track. They never did well until Henry Schulte went there.

Nebraska, in the early days, was known primarily as a football school. Their big games then were with Minnesota and once in awhile, an Eastern school. Nebraska won the championship in basketball along in '15 and '16 when Rutherford, Chamberlain, and those boys were playing with Nebraska. In fact, up until about 1918, Nebraska and Kansas had quite a few basketball jousts that were tough. Our record against Nebraska is: 39 won, and 11 lost.

Of course you remember that I coached football in 1920 at Kansas and tied Nebraska, 20 to 20; the Kansas team being out-weighted 27 pounds to the man. I have never feared Nebraska, and we go after them just as if they had no football reputation. Henry Schulte was football coach when I was coaching football here at Kansas, in 1920. Schulte was re-placed at the end of the 1920 football season although he had made a fine record, and he was made head track coach. Missouri was the "big gun" in track all during Schulte's regime; then the power shifted to Nebraska. Schulte was a ceaseless worker, covering the states and giving awards of little bronze buttons for track performances. He set up standards of track competition, and, as a highschool boy performed up to those particular standards, he got one of the buttons. He really built track up in a splendid fashion.