

March 15, 1944.

Mr. M. F. Ahearn,  
Director of Athletics,  
Kansas State College,  
Manhattan, Kansas.

Dear Mike:

I am happy that Cliff Rook was pleased regarding what I had to say about him. I thought he was a fine sportsman and he certainly gave the opposition a fit for the material he had at hand. I was very sincere in what I said regarding his coaching.

Now, regarding the colored boys. We do not have any in the pool this year. The reason is that we have closed the pool on account of scarlet fever epidemic. That is hush-hush stuff here, as we have had quite a bit of it. Both the Navy doctor and the hospital physician have ordered the pool closed, and we have had it closed since November when the infantile paralysis was on.

The pool is now open to no civilians, and only to the Naval machinists' and electricians' mates, the V-5 flyers, and the V-12 beginners. These are the boys who are going out first and must have their swimming. Both physicians said it was against their professional judgment that it should be opened, but since the military requirement was that these boys should swim, then they would acquiesce.

Our civilian program holds forth underneath the west stadium. They dress and shower there and so we have no civilian swimmers in the pool, nor have we had on account of the very heavy Army and Navy program that the pool has been subjected to.

But last year we did permit the colored boys to go in the pool with the other boys, and while some of the boys perhaps did not like it especially well, no one made an outcry. In fact, for the last two years we have been doing this, but at the present time we are not. It is more a military necessity than anything else. I imagine when peace time comes and when the pool is open to civilians again we will admit the colored boys.