

December 11, 1937.

Mr. Earl C. Woodward,
The Salina Journal,
Salina, Kansas.

Dear Woody:

I enjoyed your good letter of the 7th instant. I have had basketball games most every night, but I am writing you in reply to your letter realizing that your dinner meeting comes off whether we have basketball games or not.

There are so many periodicals like The American and The Reader's Digest that give so many angles of the football racket that I would hesitate to speak my mind in a short letter.

A big business man in Chicago and I were watching the Chicago Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds play baseball. We were discussing Dizzy Dean and Ford Frick, where Dean made Frick look terribly bad. Frick was trying to run baseball on the up and up, and Dean had taken advantage of him. You are so well acquainted with this situation that it is not necessary for me to go further. We were comparing in our minds, and I think all of us were, the sporting thing that Dean should have done. Ford Frick was trying to keep baseball up as a sport. The question under discussion was whether they should have let Dean continue to play or not. And this big shot business man said to me, "Humph - you are looking at baseball as a sport. It is not a sport, it is nothing but a business. Did you ever see any business man that would let hundreds of thousands of dollars slip through his hands just because the president of a league was absolutely right?"

Well, there is my answer, Woody. If we look at football as a business, then anything goes. If we look at football as a part of the scheme of education for your son and for mine, then you have the answer better than any business man would have it. In my opinion, football in college is no longer a sport. It is a business. And the thing that keeps the other sports from being rackets is that the crowds are not large enough for people to make hundreds of thousands of dollars off of them.

The article written by Frank Scully entitled "Stumble-Backs -- Does Football Make Players Stupid?" is mentioned in the Athletic Journal. Another is written by Mr. Paul Gallico, "A Magnificent Valedictory--Farewell to Sports". You see, Woody, a lot of these writers are racketeers just like the other fellow. They write anything that will cause public comment.