

February 11, 1943.

Capt. E. B. DeGroot,
Director of Physical Training,
Headquarters Fourth Air Force,
180 New Montgomery Street,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Burt:

Thank you, Burt, for your very good letter of the first instant. We have had our ups and downs. At the present time we have Charlie Black in the hospital with virus pneumonia and I will not be able to play him for quite some time - perhaps by February 26, but the Air Corps Reserve has already sent out notices that the boys will be called between February 20 and 28, and I imagine he will get well just about in time to get into the service.

We play Oklahoma here February 26, but we are leaving Friday night to play at Lincoln on the 13th and in Ames on the 15th, then the Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater on the 17th. So you see our playing without Black will be a calamity. We might lose both games up there and still we might get away by winning one. We have not lost a game, but with Black out we are very impotent on rebounds, and after all, that is your basketball game.

I appreciate all the nice things that you have to say and I am glad to know that Sonny keeps you up on the dope. We stand a chance to lose eight out of our thirteen top men, and all eight of them are the big fellows. The other five are the peewees, so to speak.

I am glad to know that you and Ruth and Mary and Pete have an opportunity to get together. I would enjoy a bullfest with that outfit, you know. That game of Stanford against California must have been a hair-raiser!

I am happy to know that you feel pleased over the accomplishments of your physical training in the Fourth Air Force. I know that with your hard work and sincerity you are bound to make a dent if they give you enough time and enough personnel. The war looks rather encouraging but still people cannot realize it is going to be as long a drag as it perhaps will be before the squareheads, the slit-eyes and the spaghetti-benders are licked. But you are doing your part, and if all of us do ours we should be able to realize that result in time.

Thanks for the Physical Achievement test and bulletin on swimming. I want to turn this over to our staff, but I also want to refer it to the Kansan to see that you come in for your share of publicity on this fine brochure. I remember well how diligently you worked on these tests before