

October 23, 1939.

Professor W. W. Davis,  
Department of History,  
University of Kansas.

Dear Friend W. W.:

I promised you some time ago to give you a resume of the modus operandi of proselyting systems over the country as it applies to football subsidizing.

I will not go into the minutia of the details. I will reserve that for conversation with you later on, if you care to have it.

Notre Dame. Knute Rockne told me, when he was alive, that he had the system worked out and under control and in smooth operation at Notre Dame. His plan was to have forty big Catholics in the United States each endow four scholarships a year at \$1200 each. This means that each big Catholic would pay \$4800 per year for his scholarships for four boys that would attend this institution. The only requirement that the boy was expected to follow was that he would visit his mother twice a year, namely on Easter and at Christmas. Rockne laconically stated, "This gives me 160 picked football players besides what the fathers and brothers of the Catholic faith send in to me. This group of 160 boys is reserved by South Bend, so they are admitted if their scholastic attainments meet the institution's standards."

Rockne told me that Conrad H. Mann, of Kansas City, was the big Catholic in this area and that Dr. D. M. Nigro, the Italian practicing physician in Kansas City, a Notre Dame alumnus, is the man who selects the four boys in this area.

University of Pittsburgh. The system there in vogue was \$90.00 a month with theater tickets, baseball tickets to the National League games, and entertainment such as the boys desired. This was taken care of by the athletic set-up. The recent flare in the papers regarding Dr. Sutherland's resignation and the Rose Bowl episode a few years ago when the players struck is just a symptom of the dissatisfaction on the part of the boys who desired more spending money than they received. They figured that if Pittsburgh could get that much money from the Rose Bowl they could raise the ante a little.