

August 26, 1940

Mr. Bruce Drake
Basketball Coach
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Bruce:

I am emphatically sure that I acknowledged receipt of the gift of that not too flaming red tie, or at least I told Mrs. Hulteen, my secretary at that time, to do so, and I rather formed the wording of the body of the letter. Well anyhow, Bruce, I want you to know that I do thank you for it, but it was not as red a red as I wanted. Anyway I am wearing it and you know I like. It is a very lovely and beautiful tie.

We were on our way through to Austin, Texas, to the coaching school, and when we drove through Norman had we not been late I would have called you and had a short visit, but Mrs. Allen and our grandson were with me and there was not much time to visit. Yes, the Norman Courts were lovely.

Regarding the new all steel backboard, I would go along with you one hundred percent on all of us buying the Medart goal. In that way we would have them uniform in the conference, and it seems to me that we would have an indestructible board and a permanent and satisfactory one. You may count on my vote now and I am wondering if you would be kind enough to write each one of the coaches and get it down from your angle rather than have me get into it. If I were you, I would not even say you had written me, but write each one of them as you have written me, making it a personal letter and letting the initiative come from you. When you get the job done, if you will write me the findings, I will greatly appreciate it.

I am leaving for Louisville in the morning to visit my married daughter and my grandchildren there. From there I plan to go to Chicago on the 6th and 7th of September to meet with the Executive Committee of the N.C.A.A. regarding the fair distribution to the colleges in the tournament. After that I expect to return to Lawrence, sometime around the 8th or 9th, but any communication you send will be forwarded to me and will receive prompt attention.

Congratulations on your acquisition of Gerald Tucker. Hank Iba and I had a good laugh over the possibility of basketball being forced into the same position as football by subsidizing the boys with board,