

January 27, 1940.

Mr. John N. Floyd,
203½ South Summit St.,
Arkansas City, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Floyd:

I am always happy to hear from parents of children who are in the University. Sometimes we think of them as grown up, but it is always necessary for us to reverse our estimates when we find that their childish ways are still dominant in their make-up.

We played the Kansas Aggies on the 12th of January, and since January 13th Jack has reported for practice twice -- on January 17th, the night before the Missouri game, and on January 22nd, the night before the Nebraska game.

Jack is a good offensive man, but his defense is positively the worst that I have coached in a good many years. Apparently the philosophy of the coaching system at Arkansas City was to develop a strong offense and let the defense take care of itself. The reason I mention this is because Paul Rogers, Bruce Reid, Howard Engleman, Jack, and practically all the boys that have come from Arkansas City, with the exception of Ray Noble, have been poor defensive men. In college the opposing coach singles out players who are weak on defense, and these coaches throw their strongest offense against the weak defense at the vulnerable point. Therefore, it is up to us to develop a defense that the opponents will not crack wide open.

Against Nebraska I used seventeen men, but I used the men who had been out for practice regularly and did not use some of the men who had reported here of late or who had not been out for practice. For instance, I had a Charles Walker on the squad who reported just about a week ago for varsity basketball. Charles is from Hutchinson and he really has excellent basketball fundamentals. He plays in guard position. I told him that he was really better versed in fundamentals and team play than some of the men that I was putting in the game, but he hadn't been out for the varsity long and it would be unfair to the fellows who had been coming out. I told Jack after the game that had he been reporting for practice he would certainly have gotten into the game. I think Jack understands it pretty well.

What I am trying to do for Jack, Mr. Floyd, is to teach him responsibility. I can see a big improvement in Jack in a good many ways. At first, Jack could not take it. He would constantly foul his opponent and he would cry and complain when he was fouled. I told Jack