

November 13, 1941

Mr. Ralph Cannon
Esquire Magazine
919 No. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cannon,

I am belatedly answering your good letter of the 7th instant.

You discussed the possibility of whether or not there was any way that college baseball could be revived and built up. Here is one angle that you might follow up ~~just~~ to see what interest there is in the high schools in the various states by writing to the executive secretaries of the commissioners of athletics in all the states. By doing this you could get a pretty good line-up on the situation.

Last week I wrote to the commissioner of the high school athletic associations to determine how many high school teams there were competing in the various sports activities. I was amazed to find that there were almost as many teams playing baseball in the State of Kansas as there were playing football. I know that you will be interested to know that there are nearly twice as many teams playing basketball in the state as are playing football. In fact, there are only seven high schools in the state that do not have basketball teams.

I am sending you a summary of the sports participation in Kansas high schools and if you would like me to work this out showing the number of high schools participating and line-up the other subsidized activities of college coaches I believe it would make interesting reading. Of course, I realize that you cannot give me this as a definite assignment, but if you think the idea is good I will work on it and see what we get.

What you really wrote to find out was how many teams were playing baseball in the state, but when I learned how many were playing baseball I found that your idea didn't hold up and as we continued to exchange letters new ideas popped up.

I know that the State of Iowa has a tremendously large number of high school teams playing baseball. I know most of these high school executive secretaries and if you think this is a good angle I will work on it. I also know many coaches in colleges that are earning a good deal of money on the side for developing baseball talent. So tell me what you think of this angle of the idea and