

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
COLUMBIA

2.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

such premature scoring may cause violent complaint by some opponent who may feel that he was forced to an unnecessary change in tactics. I hope you understand that this is a suggestion for the future, and not a complaint dealing with the past; that I feel in our case it was not of importance, but might readily be the cause of preventable friction.

In concluding our exchange of opinions regarding the ticket situations that have arisen in our last three games, I am including a note sent to me by Mr. Spurling. When your letter came I was no little disturbed by your report that some workman told a Kansas player that we were installing 1,000 seats which would be withheld from sale. Had that been true you would have real grounds for criticism of our refusal to send Kansas 200 tickets. However, Phog, I wish to assure you that such a tale was false. Last year we moved back the west bleachers and placed 250 chairs in front of them. This increased our capacity to approximately 5,000. I say approximately since our bleachers had no aisles and no marked spaces for seats. Their capacity, as usual, was estimated on the basis of 18" per person. And you know that space is mighty small. Combined with the difficulty of reaching empty spaces without aisles, and the fact that many persons take as much as 30" unless forced to crowd it usually is impossible to fill any ~~any~~ bleacher to its/rated capacity.

Our ticket report accounted for 4,996 admissions which did not include the band, ushers, and other help. Just previous to the game I had made several moves to install new bleachers, and had made personally several careful counts and measurements of our capacity. I know definitely that 5,000 could not be placed around our court without several hundred people standing. To have increased that number by 1,000, as reported to you, would have been out of the question and the statement was ridiculous. I am sorry it was made, and, until your letter came, could not have imagined that you would have paid any attention to it.

There is another feature which might have confused you. We rope off a space in the center of the east bleacher for lettermen now in school and for graduated M men. This space is given to the holder of an M pass and one companion. There are about 100 seats in this section. Ten minutes before game time the unused seats in this section are made available to holders of general admission tickets. The presence of this reserved space might have given you the idea that the report we were giving local lettermen passes for three high school athletes had some foundation.