

September 22, 1944.

Mr. Sam Smith,
United Press Association,
600 City Bank Building,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sam:

I have had little time to dictate some of the things that have been in my mind for a long time, and I won't have much time now, but here's one statement that can precede all the rest. Here it goes:

No longer are the so-called amateur athletics taken seriously by John Q. Public. The administrators of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the boys that run the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States should invite the highly efficient national professional baseball and football executives into their fold to teach the amateurs how to run their professional athletics.

This is all the outgrowth of the failure of the American Association of University and College Presidents to do anything about athletics from a postwar angle except to acknowledge that athletics have gone professional, and now the scramble is to get big name coaches to man the guns and to fill the stadium to dripping capacity. Sure, it will be a "golden age era" of sports. There won't be enough silver to hire the big boys. It will take gold.

The public doesn't care what the boys are paid so long as they perform but the educators of the country are in a different position, or should be. They are running educational institutions. And if educational institutions are efficient they should set up some machinery that will protect them from some scandal akin to the Black Sox scandal of 1923. There is more money being bet on football and basketball games in America today than is bet on all the horse races of the country.

Judge Landis will not have a racing man connected with his organized baseball because racing is so crooked and everybody knows it. It is the money angle, -the betting angle, -that has made it so. Judge Landis is fighting betting on professional baseball in his vigorous manner, but the colleges are doing nothing about it, and as sure as you live the thing is going to crack wide open sometime when they lay bare a scandal where some group of college boys have thrown a game for a tidy sum that will rock the college world. It has already happened in New York in Madison Square Garden,