

January 24, 1940.

Mr. John Glenn, Manager,  
Glenn Utilities,  
Beardstown, Illinois.

Dear Johnny:

I am very much in arrears in acknowledging your very thoughtful and stimulating wire that you sent us last Thursday, January 18, on the occasion of our much lamented visit to Tigertown.

We had more difficulties, Johnny, I believe, than you did. You had snow drifts, icy roads, and poor train connections. Well, we had a group of boys who apparently felt they were playing Puss in the Corner with the parlor tabby cat and not a real live tiger.

In the beginning of the first half we had two opportunities to punch through to a lead and we refused them both. With the score 8 to 7 in favor of the Tigers with about 5 minutes gone, Ralph Miller missed two straight free throws and Bob Allen missed one. I am sure that you can appreciate just what a psychological hindrance it is when you are right on the brink and the boys blow three in succession. Then the Tigers came through with a field goal and then another one, and the boys cracked. Had we made any one of those three free throws, I am sure that we would have given them a battle. Of course, we were fouled both times by the Tigers when we were in the act of shooting or near the goal and any of those fouls prevented us from making a field goal, so the whole thing added up to a break in the morale of the team, with a near insane and perhaps an inane crowd to drive them on to frenzied fighting. Our boys took the bacon route and curled up for just a few moments while the Tigers got the lead.

Then some stumbling judgment on the part of one of our players allowed two set-ups that should have taken place. It was the fault of one of the smartest boys on the team, but mental lapses are bound to occur even with keen boys, so that is the story of the first half.

In between halves I told them to at least go out and fight for their self-respect if they didn't have anything else left. And I might say that we really made a battle out of it. We had them hanging on to catch their breath at the last. With a minute left to play it looked as if we were going to pull up within four or five points of them, and then another silly lapse made by the same boy