

August 13, 1943.

Mr. Karl Schlademan,
Head Track Coach,
Michigan State College,
East Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Karl:

I have a letter from Don Isett dated March 12 from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. When we played the University of Iowa there a couple of years ago and licked them, Don came over and had dinner with our team. It seems as if Don has been very successful in his work and he above everything else would like a "K".

I believe it was while you were at the University I had John Bunn write to all the old K men and there were a lot of fellows that had not received K's. In fact, the mayor of our town at the present time, Charles B. Russell, played under Dr. Bert Kennedy and he had played in a number of football games but did not get a letter. Our former mayor, Robert Rankin, rowed on the Kansas rowing crew on the Kaw River in the '90's. The athletic board went over all those old oases and recommended that border line cases be granted a K.

When Don spoke to me about the possibility I suggested that he write you and see if you would be willing to say something that might leave the Athletic Board some leeway in helping him out. I have always thought that we have been too stringently granting K's. Last year I recommended 16 boys on the varsity basketball team for our ever-victorious season's award. Some of those boys, of course, might be considered inferior to the others, but I find when the boys get out in life they cherish an honor award much more than they do during the time they are getting it.

There are adherents to the belief that only the choicest should get letters - the very fewest possible. Personally, I think that is a lot of baloney, and whenever I have an opportunity to grant a boy a letter I do it and I will still do it until I retire which will be about seven years from now. The heads of departments here are retired at 65 and I will not be coaching after that of my own volition even though I could continue it. So for the next seven years I am going to make these kids as happy as possible.

There is not much in the way of athletics here, and Karl Klooz, the bursar - you remember him, of course - has been named athletic director. That means that the money will be watched pretty closely and nobody will take much of a chance on spending more than a dollar and a quarter. Things are very pleasant because we are filled up with the Army, Navy and Navy aviators.