

The Parable Of Phog Allen

Kansan's Super-Duper Sports League and League of Nations

By **BILL CUNNINGHAM**

It's amazing how faithfully and how often the world of sport mirrors democracy in all its perfections and its problems. Maybe it's one with what some analysts have claimed about religions—that a deity resembles his worshippers both in physical appearance and in mental and moral attributes, that he is, in fact, but an idealization of themselves.

"You touch heaven," wrote Novalis, "when you lay your hand upon a human body," meaning, undoubtedly, that part of divine intelligence is represented within ourselves and that most of our attempts to comprehend a life beyond are, consciously or subconsciously, idealizations of the only life we know.

Maybe sport, team sport, is idealization, too. Certainly it has all the primary attributes—fairness, courage, honesty, gallantry. It calls for co-operation, co-ordination, discipline, sacrifice for an ideal, and some more, and still, true to the fashion of life in a democracy, it runs into confusion and failure through whang-brained handling. There are those who are perpetually trying to straighten this out with one resounding suggestion or another, but, up to date, they've got nowhere, just as those trying to do the same things with nations have got nowhere.

And they've failed for precisely the same reasons. Note the perfect parallels.

HE MEANS TO BE HEARD

Nationally, we're thinking again in terms of a League of Nations. Various politicians and publicists have broached the subject boldly or cautiously, depending upon their professional safety or their ventral vis viva. Mr. Willkie has sounded his A. Minnesota's young governor, Stassen, now newly in the Navy and saying he intends to stay there, has gone all the way in two magazine articles. Minor prophets have suggested that Mr. Roosevelt sees the chance to become the most powerful and historical temporal figure this planet has ever produced through changing from President of the United States to President of the World. Et cetera.

And just to show you how things go, in terms of the constant parallel, out in the currently flood-bound corn patch of Kansas, the mighty voice of Dr. F. C. (Phog) Allen, veteran athletic director and basketball coach of the University of Kansas, is suddenly lifted across all the weary miles between demanding a League of Intercollegiate Athletic Conferences.

Dr. Allen is a first-class basketball coach and a self-starting Cicero slightly crossed with klaxon. No long-eared, shoe box-nosed, bush-tailed nightingale indigenous to the native vicinage and born to tug a plow can out-sing the Dr. when he really gets going. The crows flap their ebon wings and head wildly for neighboring Missouri, while the rabbits are drowned by the thousands trying to make it in terror across Rattlesnake River when he lifts those snoring tones. The man shakes the ground.

Noting, evidently, where every form of economic sky-writer from the womb-to-tomb boys to the Virginia feed-the-world Zolivas are feverishly blue-printing the great post-war paradise, the Dr. hitches up his britches, takes a running start and throws his weight against an autocephalous situation existing in the campus sporting sphere. His idea is that he might as well brew up a little post-war paradise, too.

Instead of approximately 118 college conferences and

associations, most of them with different rules and beholden only to themselves, he wants them all locked into one national and overall organization, with a czar like baseball's Judge Landis, and a standardized code of regulations. Each individual unit would still have its straw boss, but there'd be a Top Guy with full crack-down powers to settle all arguments and make all decisions. The Dr. even states this super-gentleman's salary. It would be \$50,000 a year.

IT JUST CAN'T BE DONE

I'm for it, but it's got about as much chance of coming to pass as a testimonial dinner to Hitler in your nearest synagogue. It would pull the linch-pin completely out of our intercollegiate athletic cosmos as it is, or was, and coast-to-coast reorganization would have to be complete.

The Muscovites have just liquidated their Communistic International and part of the official reasons given read, "Profound differences, even contradictions, in the historical development of every land and in their social structures, differences of level and rate of social and political development . . ." made it impossible further to run the affair from one master blue-print. That's what they said, anyhow, and whether that's the truth, or an out, so far as the Russian leaders go, it's a straight description of the college athletic difficulties.

Not only do very few of those intercollegiate groupings operate the same way, but most of them seem to have differing and determined convictions concerning what is right and what wrong in any given circumstance. The common denominator would be very hard to find. Some would quit and others die if it ever were found, wherever and whatever it is, and set up as the law of the stadium Medes and the gym-floor Persians.

I once went into this matter as a definite piece of research and was forced to abandon it completely as irreducible and undecipherable. What can you do when you find a couple of institutions such as Stanford and Harvard, each celebrated, each clean and each socially hygienic on its coast, and yet both completely at variance upon what constitutes financial help to an athlete, and each insisting, politely but immovably, that it is correct?

IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES

The difference in what constitutes proselytizing, what constitutes an athletic scholarship, what constitutes eligibility changes almost from conference to conference. Finding the median between the Southeastern Conference and the Ivy League, for instance, would be like looking for the halfway mark between the French Foreign Legion and a Sunday school class. The Sunday school class is not going to enlist to fight the Arabs and the Legion has no interest in turning sis, so where are you?

There's all that, and then there are the social significances. Dr. Phog doesn't suggest tampering with schedules, but, with a standardized set-up, the temptation to work out a real national championship annually would be great. Great—and strongly resisted by certain teams jealous of their local reputations and their local exclusiveness.

The Catholic colleges, either more brazen or more honest in their building of teams, have been the victims of exclusion on both coasts. The Pacific Coast Conference has resisted all pressure to include Santa Clara and St. Mary's, whereas the Ivy institutions on this shore don't play Boston College at all, and Holy Cross only on the skip-stop pattern. The perfection of the proposed plan would probably expect Dives to deal with Lazarus on a more fraternal basis than merely tossing him the crumb of a Stadium date about once in every 10 years. But who can deliver the Dives?

Tracing the parallel any further is no intention of mine. I'm for a league of some sort or other when the war ends, as long as we don't have to surrender our identity as a nation, our traditions or our way of life. Somebody's got to straddle that Hun. But those who are thinking in terms of an international camp-meeting can well afford to skid an eye across that college sports world jumble. Who's going to give up what? Who's going to say what's right, what's wrong? Who, if a jam comes, is going to make 'em? Who's going to help and what with?

Circus Entertaining Boston

The circus is in Boston Garden. The only casualty thus far was May Kova, animal trainer, who was clawed twice by a black panther. There was almost another circus in the House chamber in Washington, where Rep. Gene Cox, 63-year-old fiery Georgian, walked over to the chair of 31-year-old Rep. Will Rogers, Jr., of California, and said Rogers had accused him of taking a bribe. Cooler law-makers stepped in, just as Cox attempted to tie a headlock on Rogers.....There were no casualties.....

The Ruml plan was killed by the House, after the President indicated he would veto the bill, and some sort of compromise measure is believed on the way.....In Massachusetts, the House killed the proposal to finance old age assistance payments through a state lottery.....Seven women have been appointed as special police guards at Massachusetts Institute of Technology..... And Mrs. Alice Dixon Bond, literary editor of The Herald, is the new president of the Women's City Club of Boston.....

Navy Secretary Knox, in town last week, predicted Allied attacks on Europe and Asia in the near future.....President Roosevelt's letter to Premier Stalin has been delivered personally in Moscow by former Ambassador Joseph E. Davies. Stalin read the letter, withheld immediate comment, and then talked with Davies for two hours.....

Sgt. Allan J. Gately of Medford, in the Army at Ft. Devens for the past 13 months, received a questionnaire from his local draft board last week with an explanation they wanted to classify him for military service.....Three New England girls are among the newly arrived WAACs in North Africa. Introducing Third Officer Susan Hammond of Nahant, Auxiliary Sadie A. Coury, Torrington, Ct., and Auxiliary Alice A. Boose, Lewiston, Me..... A love-sick woman war worker was given WLB permission to leave her job in Hartford and take another at Pearl Harbor, where her swain labors at war work, too. The WLB ascribed it a case of "sickness of the heart".....

LaGuardia Predicts Duce to Quit

Mayor LaGuardia, who fought with Italy as an Allied nation in the last war, predicted in New York that Mussolini would soon "sneak out of Italy in the dark of the night and abandon the Alps.".....Which wouldn't be a bad idea.....It looks as though the Americans now have the island of Attu in their grasp, in addition to what remains of the Jap soldiers there.....Elmer J. Flynn, Jr., 23, of 12 Arnold circle, Cambridge, a Navy storekeeper, was given the Silver Star medal for heroism in landing operations on the African coast last November.....

Nearly 30,000 workers are out in a wage dispute at six Chrysler Corporation plants in Michigan, where the principal item of production is tanks.....Tufts College awarded 206 degrees last week. Bernard Baruch, a war advisor, was to have received the honorary degree of doctor of laws, but he was called back to Washington and thus lost out. Tufts does not award honorary degrees in absentia.....Sgt. Edward J. Kelley of 319 Allston street, Brighton, and Capt. Charles F. Conner of 22 Thompson lane, Milton, both heroes on Guadalcanal, are now taking it easy for a while on some South Sea island camp.....

Braves Drop Notch in Standing

The Boston Braves on their last Sabbath at home couldn't see well enough to bat in runs and they dropped a doubleheader to the Chicago Cubs, of all people.....And dropped into third place in the National League.....The Braves, however, did nobly during their home stay and hope to do as well on the western tour.....The Red Sox come home after what might be called a poor road trip and they're still in the cellar of the American League.....

There's a new world lightweight champion of New YorkBob Montgomery of Philadelphia, who defeated Beau Jack very decisively.....But Montgomery can't be recognized as champion in his own state because Pennsylvania is a member of the National Boxing Association and the champion of that group is Sammy Angott, another Pennsylvanian, who has beaten Montgomery three times in overweight matches.....So that's a nice set-up isn't it?.....Or isn't it as important as cleaning the Japs out of Attu and Kiska and some more islands?..... Oh, yes.....Although their coach, Don Enoch, is now a lieutenant in the Army, the Newton High track athletes won the state Class A championship once more.....A Newton habit.....Belmont High won the Class B championship.....And, finally, Suffolk Downs is still doing a big business.....The daily average for the first 12 days is \$562,000.....This despite the fact that all the travel there must be by trolley car.....Aren't you fellows proud of the way horse-players are showing their ability to keep going under adverse conditions?.....

Sincerely _____

AP FEATURES

50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK

July 16, 1943

Mr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Phog:

Will you please airmail me your views on a post-war commissioner to rule intercollegiate athletics? I am planning a post-war sports series in the near future and would like to include your proposal in it. May I use your byline on the story?

Looking forward to seeing you again when the basketball season rolls around,

Sincerely yours,

Chip Royal

Chip Royal

Sports Editor

a

July 19, 1943.

Mr. Chip Royal,
Sports Editor,
AP Features,
50 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

Dear Chip:

I am doing the best I can for you on short notice. I am sending you a copy of the speech that I made at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941. You will notice then that I set up a scheme for a national czar of intercollegiate athletics. This is my own idea and you may use my byline on the story if you desire.

My idea was that this czar would have the same powers as Judge Landis, and that he would not be a commissioner or an athletic director, or anyone connected with intercollegiate athletics. He would come entirely from the outside of any administrative work so that he would have no background or impediments or encumbrances. He should be a lawyer, and preferably a judge who has already established himself for fearlessness in rendering decisions. He might be a dean of a law college, but he should have a national reputation for fairness and justice.

If Judge Landis could stabilize the almost impossible baseball situation after the Black Sox scandal, then it was my notion that a super-czar having a prestige similar to that of Judge Landis could do something for intercollegiate athletics. The income should, of necessity, be lucrative, say at least \$50,000 a year, and the conferences of the nation could pay this fee without any difficulty.

The czar, of course, would have commissioners of each conference under him and they would be subject entirely to his decisions. He would have the power to dismiss any athletic director or coach, or to declare any athlete ineligible for further participation. He would also set up the scholarship or stipend that each athlete could receive because different areas have different agreements for their conferences. Yet he would correlate all of these so that they would be compatible with each other. After this agreement of income was set up no athlete could receive any income from any source unless it came through the university channels. This would stop these secret subsidizations that have always caused so much trouble of one outfit raising the ante on the other.

This high commissioner would have the power to suspend an institution if they did not conform to the rulings. My notion was that no school would be forced into anything. It would be purely a voluntary matter on the part

of these schools entering such a scheme. I do not infer that there would be any coercion in the membership. It would be a purely voluntary proposition with each conference as to its membership, but it would be a superimposed restriction that they would agree to set this up just as the National Baseball Commission set their agreement up. After Judge Landis had the word "may" changed to "shall" before he accepted the high commissioner-ship of baseball, then he forced the magnates into forcing him to enforce their rules. There was no alternative.

The reason I suggest the large salary is to get the type of man who would be above reproach. The college conferences who were members of this working order would pay the salary of this czar according to the proportion of their student body membership.

I had hoped that this scheme could be presented to the American Association of University and College Presidents in such a way that they would want to do something with it. I realize it is only they who could initiate such a move. The large majority of presidents of colleges have not been overly enthusiastic the way the football business has gone, and basketball is just as bad proportionately. Track in some sections faces the same danger.

After the war we will have our stadia overflowing with spectators. Our colleges will be bulging with students returning from the war. And in my opinion this is the only way that we can clean up the nasty mess that we have gotten into. Then, and then only, can coaches show their true coaching skill. As it has been, it is merely the assembler of athletic talent that determines the winner. You will understand this is for all sports, not just football, but for everything in intercollegiate athletics. It is the policing of the entire program, just like our World Court is planned. There is enough power to smash at the recalcitrant individual or college that tries to break over so that orderly business should continue for some time. But it will cost money, but it will save thousands and thousands more than it costs. It would build up the weaker clubs and whittle down the stronger ones, and the income at the gate would be tremendous for everybody concerned. It would revive intercollegiate athletics all over the nation and would not determine the schools that have been successful because "big time" athletics, in the sense of buying football teams and other athletic talent, would be out.

If there is anything here that is not clear, I would be glad to have you interrogate me, and I will see if I cannot clear up the points for you.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

C

June 1, 1943.

Mr. Bill Cunningham,
Sports Editor,
The Boston Herald,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Bill:

Several of my friends over the country have mailed me your sports column as of Monday, May 24. I am sending you a copy of a speech that I delivered at the football banquet of the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941. Speaking upon trends at that time, I could see that we were getting deeper in the mire on subsidized and proselyted athletic teams, especially football and basketball.

Having coached football for a number of years and observed it for many more, I can see that the non-subsidized team has about as much chance against an opponent as Poland had against Hitler's panzer divisions.

I certainly want to agree with you that there would be no chance whatsoever to get all conferences in the United States under such a scheme as I propose. However, I looked at this situation from this angle - that since the lawyers had partly purged their profession of mal-practice through disbarment proceedings by their own members, and the medical profession had endeavored to raise their standard, I was hoping that enough leaders of the coaching profession would point to a way of better conditions in athletic participation. I realize that we will have no Utopia, and as stated before, I know that we cannot all get together under one banner because there are many more than two schools of thought on the best process of working this thing out.

My notion was that nobody would be forced into anything - that it would be purely a voluntary matter on the part of these schools entering such a scheme. I further thought that educators should welcome a plan that would make the whole matter more wholesome and that they would still be able to realize the positive value of education through play. I am quite sure that we could not change all bad situations, but we could improve them, undoubtedly. One big improvement would be that we could get the public to accept intercollegiate athletic practice as something other than chicanery which, in my opinion, a large part of the sporting public holds it to be.

If Judge Landis could stabilize the almost impossible baseball situation after the Black Sox scandal, then it was my notion that a super-czar having a prestige similar to that of Judge Landis could do something for intercollegiate athletics.

I had hoped that this scheme could be presented to the American Association of University and College Presidents in such a way that they would want to do something with it. I realize it is only they who could initiate such a move. The large majority of presidents of colleges have not been overly enthusiastic the way the football business has gone, and basketball is just as bad proportionately. Track in some sections faces the same danger. Would it not be possible to check this up to these college presidents in such a way that they could see their share in the responsibility of the thing? By their activating such a scheme it could at least be said that they were endeavoring to improve a bad situation.

My notion was that only schools that subscribe to this scheme of voluntary supervision would schedule games with teams who assumed a like supervision. You would at least accomplish this thing - that this type of school would be without the subsidizing evils that beset so many teams. My notion was that when this commissioner found many of these coaches or the faculty people responsible for infraction of the rules that he would have authority to fire them. This would relieve the college administration of many problems.

After Judge Landis had the word "may" changed to "must" before he accepted the high commissionership of baseball, then he forced the magnates into forcing him to enforce their rules. There was no alternative. Don't you believe that there is something to be gained by having a law enforcing officer from whom there is no appeal? And the reason I suggested the large salary was to get the type of man that would be above reproach and that no one would question his findings. The college conferences who were members of this working order would pay the salary of this "super-duper" official according to the proportion of their student body membership. A conference by paying this high commissioner would save more than the \$50,000 - the price they pay him - by doing away with much of the chicanery now practiced by paying a thousand dollars a piece per athlete for room, board, tuition, and so forth.

The following is off the record and I would not want to be quoted for obvious reasons. I am sending you a copy of the Rules and Regulations Governing Athletics in the Big Six. These rules are substantially the same as those of the Big Ten. On pages 12 and 13 especially are printed rules that are not observed by any conference member in either organization. When you or I read them it would make anyone laugh. If we could get a new deal, at least bring things up to present practice, and have people admit them, it would be a most wholesome thing for all of us.

The above paragraph is the only thing that I would not want to be quoted on, but it is self-evident to you.

I can see by such a scheme or some substitute scheme that I propose, that it would be much happier coaching on the part of all coaches, and a much more lucrative gate receipt for all colleges if we could have laws enforced as agreed upon. If we do not use a czar to fire and enforce, then we will have another group of agreements that will be broken as these in the past have been. You have had much more experience than I have in your research work endeavoring to find a solution to this problem.

I am hoping after this war that we will have some sort of an agreement that will do away, for a generation at least, of all the barnacles, encumbrances and hypocrisy that have grown up with athletics the past two decades. I would appreciate it if you could offer a more helpful prescription. Can't you put the ball in the end of the field for the university and college presidents, so they should play it?

I have no desire for a job of any kind. I am only interested in raising the administrative standard of athletics the same as other members of other professions have endeavored to do.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

12
May 1, 1943.

Mr. Bus Ham,
Associated Press,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bus:

You asked me for some data on the post-war planning concerning intercollegiate athletics. I told you that I had seen several years ahead when I made this speech at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in the fall of 1941. You will notice that I set up a scheme for a national czar of intercollegiate athletics. This would mean that this czar would have the same powers as Judge Landis, and my idea is that he would not be a commissioner or an athletic director, or anyone now connected with intercollegiate athletics. He would come entirely from the outside of any administrative work so that he would have no background or impediments or encumbrances.

He should be a lawyer, and preferably a judge who has already established himself for fearlessness in rendering decisions. He might be a dean of a law college, but he should have a national reputation for fairness and justice.

The income should of necessity be lucrative, say at least \$50,000 a year. The conferences of the nation could pay this fee without any difficulty.

He, of course, would have commissioners of each conference under him and they would be subject entirely to his decisions. He would have the power to dismiss any athletic director or coach, or to declare any athlete ineligible for further participation. He would also set up the scholarship or stipend that each athlete could receive because different areas have different agreements for their conferences. Yet he would correlate all of these so that they would be compatible with each other. After this agreement of income was set up no athlete could receive any income from any source unless it came through the university channels. This would stop these secret subsidizations that have always caused so much trouble of one outfit raising the ante on the other.

This high commissioner would have the power to suspend an institution if they did not conform to the rulings. The reason that I say this man should be a lawyer is because it would be absolutely necessary for him to set up just laws and exact just findings in case of a fracture of the rulings.

The American Association of University and College Presidents would of course be the ones to initiate this move. It is the only source from whom this power could come to such commissioner.

I told you when you asked me for this that I was not desirous of trying to initiate this move at all but I set out to the public a plan whereby confidence could again be restored in intercollegiate athletics. People now have no more confidence in the integrity of intercollegiate athletics than they had in professional baseball after the Black Sox scandal. And if athletics are to be put on a high plane, as they should be, it would of necessity take just such action as this.

After the war we will have our stadium overflowing with spectators. Our colleges will be bulging with students returning from the war. And in my opinion this is the only way that we can clean up the nasty mess that we have gotten into. Then, and then only, can coaches show their true coaching skill. As it has been, it is merely the assembler of athletic talent that determines the winner.

Remember, Bus, that the day of the coach who works three hours a day for three months is out. The American college president will smash this just as sure as you live. He is tired of the fellow drawing \$15,000 working two or three hours a day for three months. They will never come back.

Some schools are in the athletic business, some alumni are in the athletic business, and some gamblers have been getting into the college athletic business. Why not clean it all up and start anew? There will be enough bugs get into the new scheme of things after it has run a generation.

Now, Bus, I believe if you will read this article very carefully, practically everything in a skeletal form is there for the setting up of this program. But if there is anything in this paper or in my letter that is not clear, I would be glad to have you interrogate me on these different points and I will see if I can not clear them up for you before you write your article. You will understand this is for all sports, not just football, but for everything in intercollegiate athletics. It is the policing of the entire program, just like our World Court is planned. There is enough power to smash at the recalcitrant individual or college that tries to break over so that orderly business should continue for some time. But it will cost money, but it will save thousands and thousands more than it costs.

These small schools like Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State will be in the running with the Big Three. The people everywhere will come out to see their schools perform because a new deal is on and they for a while will believe they have an equal chance, whereas now there is too much money against them and nobody attends the games because they are underdogs. It would build up the weaker clubs and whittle down the stronger ones, and the income at the gate would be tremendous

for everybody concerned. It would revive intercollegiate athletics all over the nation and would not determine the schools that have been successful because "big time" athletics, in the sense of buying football teams and other athletic talent would be out. Don't you see this? If not, please state very frankly your viewpoint and I will endeavor to give you mine.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

PCA:AH
Enc.

p *

May 31, 1943.

Mr. Bus Ham,
Associated Press,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bus:

I am glad to have your letter of last week. I thought your story got a pretty good play. I have received a letter from a fellow in Providence sending me Bill Cunningham's full column write-up. Doubtless you have seen it. I am going to write Bill because I think he has some fine logic in his write-up. I think I can point out some things that might cause him to do a little crusading in that it will be necessary for the American Association of University and College Presidents to initiate this thing if it is to come to pass. They have their chance now, and if they do nothing about it then it could be charged up to administrative negligence.

The college administrators have often complained about the difficulty. Certainly everybody who is on the inside knows that the public has lost confidence in the wholesomeness of the administration of college athletics. It is not football alone, but the whole set up is tinctured with proselyting, subsidizing and chicanery.

You asked me what new angles I had. I don't know that there are any at all, but I think this is one thought that we could put out without reservation. It is this. Let's win the war first, and let's not put the winning of athletic teams as of paramount importance in this war time. And too, it is more important that we continue athletics in colleges for the morale of the boys in foreign service - not for the boys here on the home front. Their morale can be built up in many ways, but the boys who are overseas want to know regarding the athletic victories of their old school, and so forth.

Therefore, it is of primal importance that we carry on athletics on their account, and secondly on our account. Here's the other conviction that I have. It is much more important to carry on in interscholastic athletics with a full program than it is to carry on intercollegiate athletics with a full program. These boys coming up need to be toughened and hardened. There is practically a war college now on every campus, and these men are under military discipline. They are required to take their physical conditioning so many hours per week, and then there is a lot of marching and military administration that they are forced to take. So it is more important to the conditioning of the high school boys that we give them athletics and combatives and aquatics and gymnastics to build them up so that there will not be thirty-three and one-third per cent rejections as there has been up to the present time.

You and I both know that there are some coaches and athletic directors now that are out scouting, and in addition to that, using political machinery to get certain service men in their school so that they can use them on their athletic teams this year. This type of fellow ought to have the yellow ribbon for first place instead of the blue ribbon because he is still selfishly putting his athletics first and not the war effort first. He is a slacker in the sense that he is trying to build himself up rather than his country's forces. I know whereof I speak and I am not guessing, and you will find the coaches that have outstanding teams, by and large, are those that built them in the war years rather than to build physical conditioning for everyone.

Of course, there may be exceptions to the rule here and there, but generally speaking this will be very true.

Yes, I read your interview with Paul O'Leary. He is a very good friend of mine, and the O'Leary family are very fine friends of the Allen family. He is a very brilliant and intelligent fellow. His older brother, Dorman, was also a quarter miler, and Ted could have been one of the greatest but he went out for basketball and tennis.

You asked about Jack Engle. It was Verne Engle who was the basketball player. Jack, I think, was a track man. Give him my kindest regards, will you, please?

Now, you ask what is going to happen to Big Six football. They will play it but some of these schools are playing because they have an activity ticket and they can charge the students the full price of the activity ticket and they will pay the interest on the stadium and make a small down payment. Frankly, I think some of the boys, if it weren't for the Navy that is coming in, would cancel the football program.

Nebraska is weak and will be. Glenn Presnell and A. J. "Lew" Lewandowski have both signed up with the Navy as lieutenants, junior grade. That takes the entire staff. And Cy Sherman is one of the boys that is all out for the war first, and forget about athletics.

Kansas State will endeavor to carry on, but not very strongly. I look to see Oklahoma make an effort, but I do not believe they will win a championship. Iowa State will be strong on account of their veterinary medicine and agricultural deferments for the students. The Kansas Aggies may prove to be a dark horse from this angle. Missouri is the school that still has a coaching staff and boys in the Navy in emphatic numbers.

I am afraid Henry Shenk is not going to have enough material here to shout about. All of our basketball men are gone. In fact, they left the day after our last game. Many were called before. Oklahoma's Bruce Drake has McCurdy in the medical school, and Allie Paine in 4-F. I think his basketball will be strong, unless George Edwards may come up with something, and Louie Menze may surprise with his Aggies. As I said, I

wouldn't be surprised to see the Aggies come very strong in athletics on account of their agriculture. Our deferments are in chemistry, medicine and engineering, and only engineering will give enough students to university competition to amount to anything. It is like drawing numbers out of a hat. You may draw something, or you may draw a blank.

Now, Bus, I have given you about all that I can think of at the present time. We are up to our ears in this physical conditioning program - the three of us, and I have a 7:30 and 8:30 class every morning in physical conditioning, so you see I am starting the morning right.

I am glad you like Washington. I like it, too, and also like this little quip that someone gave me - "There is only one place in the country where the inmates run the asylum". I know it must be exciting, and during the war time it must be a parade. That merry-go-round would make me dizzy, in no time.

Lots of good luck.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Sunday night.

Dear Doctor Allen:

Am only now beginning to catch up on my correspondence after three whirlwind weeks here. I am out at the Capitol on the Senate side in addition to covering major sports events, whenever they come along.

Your letter enabled me to turn in my first story, and you may have seen it in one of the Missouri Valley papers.

I had an enjoyable interview with Paul O'Leary, former K. U. track star. He is in OPA. Another former Kansas man here is Jake Engle, on the AP regional desk. Wasn't he one of your stars?

What is going to happen in the Big Six in football, Doctor?

Tuesday, I have an assignment to cover a meeting between congressmen and war department officials on the proposed service ~~man~~ teams' championships. I would be interested in your reactions to this, or anything else that you see bobbing up in the national picture. I have always found that your observations are well ahead of others.

Washington has stolen my heart, as it does of almost everyone, I suppose. It is beautiful, fascinating, swift in developments, and there are so many interesting places to go that I find it difficult to decide on a certain one. But you probably have been here many times and know the town much better than I do.

It was kind of you to write so promptly, Doctor Allen, and I am most grateful to you. Your letter was like a ~~big~~ slap on the back right when I needed it. May I hear from you again soon?

Regards, *B. Hoffman*

E. *

June 1, 1943.

Mr. James H. Hammond, Lawyer,
6 Security Federal Building,
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Acknowledging your favor of the 25th ultimo, I am sending you a copy of a speech I made at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941, at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College.

Lawyers have had their disbarment proceedings for erring lawyers; the doctors have done likewise. I doubt if athletic coaches will become enough interested in their profession to accomplish such measures as the lawyers and physicians have accomplished. However, I do know that there are many athletic directors and coaches that would like to see a cleaner bill of health for athletics. Those on the inside know that a football team that is four-deep with powerful material is not accomplished by the matriculation of the ordinary student in such and such a college.

Different conferences have different practices. I realize that it would be a very difficult thing to get all the colleges in America to have uniform rules, but I did think that there were enough educators who would welcome a more wholesome participation in athletics in the colleges. The great value of education through play can be accomplished by doing away with hyper-proselyting that seems to have been in practice in the most emphatic degree just prior to our entry in the war.

I think I am safe in saying that no "big time" school in athletics is without its subsidizing and proselyting.

Judge Landis has done such a wonderful job in building the confidence of the public in organized baseball. This was accomplished after baseball had sunk to the lowest after the Black Sox scandal. I have a notion that some such measure should accomplish the thing for college athletics if the American Association of University and College Presidents should act on some scheme that would take the disciplining out of their hands and place it in a tribunal who would be above criticism and suspicion.

My notion was that this organization would be one of voluntary membership. No college or organization would be forced into it, but if conferences now organized, which are faculty controlled, should have a czar who would handle the matter as Judge Landis has handled organized baseball, then most of our proselyting and subsidizing would end because

the word "shall" would force the commissioner to do the things that the national baseball commission has forced Judge Landis to do. If it were optional, and the word "may" were used, then the whole power of the commissioner would be lost.

Of course, these schools would schedule games only with members in the organization, and any team not a member could only schedule with outsiders.

It was my idea that until we stopped the activity of the alumni and the coaches and athletic directors who are tied in closely with this chain system of athletic material procurement, then we will never improve a very bad situation.

My only desire in setting this idea out to the public was in the hope that the college presidents would see a way out. Of course, they would have to initiate it. No one else could. Certainly I am not looking for a job.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

JAMES H. HAMMOND
LAWYER
6 SECURITY FEDERAL BLDG.
COLUMBIA, S. C.

May 25, 1943

Doctor Forrest C. Allen
Department of Athletics
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doctor Allen:

I noticed in our local paper, "The State",
reference to your hope that we could get out of
the nasty mess of college athletics.

Having tried to do the same thing here in
South Carolina with our colleges, I would like
to find out if you have any particular data other
than what I see in the paper.

Something certainly has got to be done.

Very truly,


James H. Hammond

JHH: fs

Only those people who went into it voluntarily, willing to subscribe to this plan which they would harness upon themselves, and willing to take the discipline of a czar, would show that they were willing to clean the thing up. We would schedule games only with these people. If others wanted to stay outside and do their own schedule-making that would be all right, but this group would admit that they were willing at least to be supervised and willing to take the findings and decisions of the czar. They would establish so much confidence that the people would then say, "This is the thing; those people are willing to follow the rules and have someone call the decisions on them."

June 1, 1943.

Mr. John A. Griggs,
The Atlantic Refining Co.,
Hospital Trust Building,
Providence, R. I.

Dear John Anthony:

Thank you for your very good letter of the 25th ultimo. Yes, I had received copies from Columbia, S. C., and Boston, Mass., but I was indeed happy to hear from you. Mrs. Allen and I would like to have news concerning your mother. We have been back to Warrensburg only two or three times since we left there twenty-six years ago, but we always enjoy our visit when we meet our old friends. Tell us about the Army, and your wife.

I am sending you a copy of a speech I made at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941, at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College.

Lawyers have had their disbarment proceedings for erring lawyers; the doctors have done likewise. I doubt if athletic coaches will become enough interested in their profession to accomplish such measures as the lawyers and physicians have accomplished. However, I do know that there are many athletic directors and coaches that would like to see a cleaner bill of health for athletics. Those on the inside know that a football team that is four-deep with powerful material is not accomplished by the matriculation of the ordinary student in such and such a college.

Different conferences have different practices. I realize that it would be a very difficult thing to get all the colleges in America to have uniform rules, but I did think that there were enough educators who would welcome a more wholesome participation in athletics in the colleges. The great value of education through play can be accomplished by doing away with hyper-proselyting that seems to have been in practice in the most emphatic degree just prior to our entry in the war. I think I am safe in saying that no "big time" school in athletics is without its subsidizing and proselyting.

Judge Landis has done such a wonderful job in building the confidence of the public in organized baseball. This was accomplished after baseball had sunk to the lowest after the Black Sox scandal. I have a notion that some such measure should accomplish the thing for college athletics if the American Association of University and College Presidents should act on some scheme that would take the disciplining out of their hands and place it in a tribunal who would be above criticism and suspicion.

My notion was that this organization would be one of voluntary membership. No college or organization would be forced into it, but if conferences now organized, which are faculty controlled, should have a czar who would handle the matter as Judge Landis has handled organized baseball, then most of our proselyting and subsidizing would end because the word "shall" would force the commissioner to do the things that the national baseball commission has forced Judge Landis to do. If it were optional, and the word "may" were used, then the whole power of the commissioner would be lost.

Of course, these schools would schedule games only with members in the organization, and any team not a member could only schedule with outsiders.

It was my idea that until we stopped the activity of the alumni and the coaches and athletic directors who are tied in closely with this chain system of athletic material procurement, then we will never improve a very bad situation.

My only desire in setting this idea out to the public was in the hope that the college presidents would see a way out. Of course, they would have to initiate it. No one else could. Certainly I am not looking for a job.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

THE ATLANTIC REFINING COMPANY
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

HOSPITAL TRUST BUILDING
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

D. T. COLLEY
MANAGER OF SALES
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
WILLIAM KEEN
ASSISTANT MANAGER OF SALES
S. A. ROSE
MANAGER OF SALES PROMOTION

May 25, 1943

GM:R/G

Dr. F. C. Allen
Athletic Department
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

I noticed this column about you in the Boston Herald, and not knowing whether Bill Cunningham is syndicated out in God's Country, I thought I would send it along to you, thinking you might be interested in it.

As you can see by the letterhead, I am now with The Atlantic Refining Company in Providence, Rhode Island, and feel that I am sitting quite well.

I go back into the Army in June, leaving my wife and son which are new additions since you last saw me.

Please give my best to all your family.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,


John A. Griggs

JAG:dm
Enc.