

9.
January 20, 1939.

Mr. Vance Hall,
Downs, Kansas.

Dear Vance:

Your well-wisher and good friend, Mr. W. H. Harrison, vice president of the State Bank of Downs, has written me saying that you have practically decided on K. U. next fall. I want you to know how pleased I am that you have made your decision, and I want to congratulate you on picking a school that you will always be proud to have attended. Graduation, of course, is a foregone conclusion with a fellow of your habits and desires.

Many young boys in high school wonder if they have the ability to make their varsity letter at the University. I am sure that you will remember George Rody. He was our captain in 1922 and one of the greatest little players that we have ever had. Jim Arnold would have made his letter, but he gave up his basketball to make "A" grades. Jim is a fine boy and a grand student, but I was sorry to see him give up basketball. However, I did not dispute the question with him when he desired to spend all his time on his studies. The boy is making his own way and he has every right to his own decisions.

We do not place any undue stress on the importance of the game of basketball when we compare it to the more serious academic pursuits that a boy is supposed to follow. From what Mr. Harrison and Mr. Vernon Smith tell me of you I think you are a good student and you love the game of basketball. So I can just assure you that you will not have any difficulty in making the varsity squad because we do not cut our varsity squad. I also coach the freshmen myself so that I will know what fundamentals the boys need to absorb before they get on the varsity.

It might interest you to know that Bruce Voran, from Pretty Prairie, played a star game against Missouri the other night. He would have made his letter last year but an unfortunate burn on his shin kept him from going out for basketball last year. Bruce is a grand boy, a fine student, and an intelligent athlete. I would much rather have a boy from a small town to try out for my basketball team than some fellow who is a big shot and has been publicized in a big city. I grew up in a small town and like the small town boys because they have a burning desire to make a varsity letter and to make good at the University.