

Ralph's knee is bad, but his studies are worse. I am not letting any of the boys play if they are physically unable or if they are not passing in their work. Ralph was reported unsatisfactory in his physiology, and the dean's secretary called me to ask if I would have a talk with Ralph about it. Frankly, I think he could play basketball now so far as his knee is concerned, with the proper attention given to it, but my notion is that he will perhaps use the excuse of his knee being bad to cover up the real cause of why he could not play. The reason for exacting this rule is very plain. The boys are here to make progress toward graduation. If they fool along - just barely skim along in their studies - then that gives athletics a very bad name and they do themselves no good in their studies.

If, however, we exact a "C" grade for the non-conference games, then they study harder to bring their averages up, and in that way it is anti-flunk insurance. Then when the semester examinations come along they are not generally so nervous and afraid they are going to flunk, and they do better.

You will remember that last year all the starting freshmen were members of the National Honor Society, and Ralph was one of them. I exacted that rule last year and we kept the boys on the sideline who were low in their work. I am explaining these things to you, Betty Jeanne, so that you will have the real truth of the matter and will understand.

I am sending you a copy of the newsletter which we have sent out describing our clinic game here on December 3, when we will play Warrensburg Teachers. I thought perhaps you might want to come down to some of our games. If at any time you do, please let me know and we will have a ticket for you, but of course I expect Ralph will already have provided that. I just wanted you to know that you are always welcome.

Ralph was telling some of the boys that he perhaps won't go out until the second semester, meaning of course that the knee will not get ready until such time, but in my opinion the knee is not that bad. Perhaps I would be just like him - I would not want the public to know that it is the studies.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.