

February 11, 1943.

Mr. J. E. Kissell,
Portis, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I appreciate your letter written from Emporia. Max played a fine game at Olathe, and then I started him Saturday night against Iowa State here but he didn't go well at all. He seemed to be inhibited for some reason and I replaced him with Hoyt Baker, and he too had the stage fright, so I put in Sparky McSpadden. Sparky traveled in fine style.

Frankly, I do not know why Max is not playing better ball. He seems to be anxious to play but will not turn loose. I don't know why but he does not drive. I wish I knew the answer. I coach him, but he doesn't seem to take coaching. I tell him to bend his knees when he shoots and he looks his knees, if you know what I mean. When he shoots he seems to be standing too high and will not crouch. That, of course, makes him shoot with his arms rather than a coordinated move of thighs, legs, shoulders and body. A fellow cannot get a follow-through unless he bends his knees and crouches. That gives him the added advantage of faking a pass on a shot. But when he is too high the opponent knows that he is not going to dribble or pass by the position he assumes.

He seems to be a disillusioned boy. Now if you would ask me to explain all that I would have difficulty in doing so. I have talked with him and he doesn't seem to be the buoyant, happy chap. He seems to either lack confidence, or, as I say, he is disillusioned, for some reason that I do not know. I talk with him and he acts as if he wants to play, and when I put him in he doesn't nearly play to the full of his ability, and of course when you are trying to win a championship it takes everything that a fellow has in him to win because the other fellow is hard to beat.

We had a good heart to heart talk with the whole team Tuesday night and I told everyone what I thought was wrong with them. I am hoping it will do some good.

I want to assure you that I would do anything I can to help Max but I cannot get under his skin for some reason. I wanted you to know this and rest assured that I have his every interest at heart, but if he does not play his level best I cannot make him do it.

My kindest regards to Mrs. Kissell and to yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH