

December 22, 1941.

Dr. H. L. Kirkpatrick,
415 Mills Building,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Kirkpatrick:

Mr. Earl Falkenstien handed me your letter to read.

Yes, we started off pretty poorly. My purpose was not to point the team for the Denver game. I could have found out much about their style of play, but I wanted to see what versatility the boys, and see how we could meet their offense and defense - whatever they employed. I thought this method would be more beneficial, but I found out we weren't very versatile.

I thought it was a great thing that we were able to luck out a win under the conditions because it could very easily have been a defeat. That experience paid great dividends. We played against Bethel the next night, and although that was a different team the boys were perked up and really angry at themselves for playing so poorly against Denver.

After all, I guess Denver wasn't so bad as I thought they were because on Thursday night they beat Bradley Institute back home by ten points. I guess we weren't so good because the Denver coach, Ketchum, said we were the poorest team he had met. I rather found him to be a popper-off because he thought I was writing a sequel to one of my books when I was talking to the boys. When the game was over he came up and said, "Well, this is the first game I ever lost on a double dribble," - meaning Black made it, because he did. I said, "Well, I guess we are even, because when the ball was out of bounds on the south side it was Kansas' ball and our boys went up to receive it, which would have made it in their own front court, and the referee said it was Denver's ball. Well, it was in Denver's back court and it caught our boys flatfooted in that the ball did not have to be handled in the back court by Denver. Denver threw it down to their front court and it cost us two points. That makes us even, but we are still one point ahead, aren't we?"

I don't often use such tactics, but he was rather a smart aleck and I thought he had it coming to him. We were doggone lucky to win. I don't know whether it was good intelligence or sound policy to do what I did, especially if we should have lost the game.