

December 24, 1941.

Mr. Don Kellogg,
Sports Department,
The Lincoln Star,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Don:

I am sorry that I have not answered your inquiry of the 15th sooner. I intended to reply immediately when your letter came to my desk, but the rush of administrative duties has kept me from doing so.

There are several factors that interfere with our basketball schedule. One is Hoch Auditorium, the arena in which we play basketball, is built for concerts, lectures, vespers, and so forth. Prior to our game with Denver we had practice but four times in the auditorium since basketball season began.

We do most of our practicing in the gymnasium and when it is all added up, we play on a semi-foreign court in each of our home games, and on a foreign court, of course, in our visiting games. This situation of playing on a semi-foreign court for the home games is true only of Kansas in the Big Six.

The date that we played Denver was the only time that we could play any team coming to Lawrence before the students left on their vacation. We played Bethel at Newton the following night, which did not permit us to string our games out at all. Of course, I would have desired more early season games if it were practicable, but the availability of the court did not permit it.

Of course, I could have scheduled games away from home for Christmas vacation, and this is doubtless the thing that you want to know. If I had a young team or a team that needed drilling in fundamentals, I would much prefer to stay home during the Christmas vacation and teach these boys the necessary fundamentals than to go on a barnstorming trip with the hope that games against big name teams would improve the playing more than the benefit derived from drilling on fundamentals.

In other words, I regard the teaching that I endeavor to do on fundamentals more important than traveling and playing against scheduled opponents in different cities. The ideal situation, of course, would be to work on fundamentals and attempt to play as many non-conference games as possible before getting into the customary league play.