

A

October 18, 1941

Mr. John Kline
20 E. 1st St.
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your very nice letter of October 16.
It was fine of you to write as you did.

No boy who has ever come to the University has been more of a joy and a pleasure and as little trouble as you were, John. You were straightforward, aggressive, and dependable and when you spoke I always knew where you stood. You've had a fine bringing-up, John, and that's a great heritage for a boy. Yes, you will find that your four years at college will be the happiest of your life, and the memories will always be very dear to you I'm sure. You were a splendid student and a fine athlete and a real gentleman. I do not know what more parents could want for their possession.

I've been keeping pretty close tab on you and know that you have enlisted in the Naval Reserves. I know that you're to be at Northwestern on Jan. 22. We're to play DePaul University on Jan. 31, and I hope that you can arrange for the evening a leave if possible. We would be indeed happy to have you as our guest. At the present time I do not know where we'll stay, but you'll find that out I'm sure.

I am sending you a copy of our basketball schedule hoping that you will be able to visit Lawrence before you go to Chicago and see some of our games. By the way, Jane is married as you doubtless know. Her husband is Elwood Mons and they're living at the Marshall Field Garden Apartments, 1423 Hudson Ave. Apt. 3A Chicago. Her telephone number is Mohawk 7325. I know that she would be glad to say, "hello" to you.

We get letters from Bob and Eleanor quite often and they're extremely happy. They bought season tickets to the football games and they say that Pennsylvania has a real team.

They saw the Kansas-Temple game and enjoyed part of it. Ralph Miller's passing was superb. Bob's address is 44 Morris Hall, Philadelphia, and Eleanor's address is 415 Sergeant Hall, University of Penn. , Philadelphia. Eleanor is delighted with her school and Bob works from 8 in the morning till 5 in the evening without time out except for one hour for lunch. He's very happy, but says that a date their costs a minimum of \$5.00. Quite a difference from a show and coke date in Lawrence.

Give my kindest regards to your lovely family. With all good wishes for your continued success I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

Will S. Thompson-Kline Insurance Agency

WILL S. THOMPSON
N. N. KLINE

— INSURORS —

20 East First
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

October 16, 1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen,

Since this is the middle of October I imagine that you and the boys are well started with basketball practice. It sure seems strange that I am not in school and practicing right with the rest of the boys. I know that you are going to have a fine year, and I wish that I could be back on the team, but I guess everyone has to grow up sometime.

In writing this letter I want to thank you for all of the many things that you did for me while I was in school. I know that I couldn't have gone all the four years that I did without your fine and willing help. I want you to know that I really appreciated all of your assistance, and I hope that someday I may in part be able to repay some of the kindness and help that you gave to me. My four years in college were the greatest of my life so far, and I will keep the memories of them forever. The trips, the comradeships, the exciting games, the practical experiences, and above all others your wise council will always stay with me.

On the 13th of August I enlisted in the Naval Reserve, and I am to report for an officer's training school at Northwestern U. on January 22, 1942. Right now I am working for my father in the insurance business during the day. I am also filling in as temporary physical director at the local YMCA. Altogether I am putting in about 14 hours a day. It is quite interesting work as well as profitable, but my spare time comes few and far between.

Will you please give my regards to Mrs. Allen, all of your family, and to the boys on the team. Again I thank you for everything, and if at anytime I can help you, I would appreciate being able to do so.

Sincerely yours,

John Kline



B.

November 12, 1941

Mr. Karl Klooz
Bursar
Frank Strong Hall
Campus

Dear Karl,

I confess my shortcomings and the confession is in regard to my promise to you that I would call Professor OBrien and see that you were informed of the meeting of the education faculty when Fred Kelly spoke to them. I made the notation on a slip of paper and put it in my pocket and I was very sure that I was going to take note of this and phone Professor OBrien, but I failed to do it and this is why that doubtless you received a call. I am very sorry about it, but I want you to know that the reason you didn't hear about it was on my account of my failure to follow through.

Sincerely,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

C

October 23, 1941

Mr. J. E. Kissell
Portis, Kansas

Dear Mr. Kissell,

I'm sorry that I've failed to answer your good letter of the 15th instant. I've been so tied-up in drives, speech-making etc. that I've not been in my office long enough to complete any job.

I appreciate your writing regarding the All-Star basketball game in Chicago, Friday night Nov. 28. Of course, this is an advertising stunt just like the All-Star game, and the proceeds are supposed to go to charity. I believe the Chicago Tribune's charity on football is the Milk Fund, but the wise ones tell me that the fund is "milked" of all the cream before charity sees it.

Bob is in the medical school at Pennsylvania, Engleman is with Phillips, and Kline is with the Navy. They bring those boys to Chicago for two weeks training, but none of our boys are in a position to spend two weeks, taking the time from their education or business. I'm on the board to help select these All-Star college men, but I feel that it would be a reflection on a boy if he had two weeks to take out and do nothing but practice and play. A boy would have to be out of work to be able to accept a proposition of this kind. Since I'm on the board I will vote for a group of men and then they're going to boil it down to 18 to be voted on again. I'm doing it just because they asked me to and not because I have much enthusiasm for it. If you need any additional information I'll be glad to give it.

This is the general remark I make about Kemper. If the postman stopped to kick at every dog that barked he'd never get his mail delivered. I quite agree with you that when poor games are officiated, Kemper will officiate them.

I believe we were all disappointed in the Nebraska and Marquette games. We'll see what we can do against Iowa State and I'm hoping that Kansas will come out of the slump and play a bang-up game. We need it for the morale of the team and the morale of the students. There is a feeling on the part of some that Kansas will do just that. I hope it clears up so that we will have a good day. A good day means a good crowd and a good crowd means money which the Athletic Association could use very handily.

Now, I want to tell you a few things about Max. Max is a most improved basketball player -- the most improved of all the boys back

from last year. He's a dandy! and his passing is wonderful. His fundamentals are fine and he can hit. So, I'm expecting some things from that boy this year. He's going to be difficult to keep off the playing squad. If he continues to go as he's going and if he continues to improve he'll be right in with the first string. I'm happy indeed to see him make such strides and I know you and Mrs. Kissell will be happy. We hope that both of you can come up for some of our games.

Yes, Mrs. Allen and I have missed our children, but it's the law of life for these youngsters to get on their own and we're happy that they are able to do it. Being away from home is a fine thing for every youngster and we believe they'll make the adjustment away from home and be better for it. We received word that Bob was elected president of his medical class. There were 120 members of the freshman class, so we feel happy that Bob has made his place. And by the way, this past week Milton was elected president of the senior law class so of course the father is happy, but the mother is very very pleased. I didn't know that either one of my youngsters were politicians, but if either of them are, Bob would be the one that would be the last to ask for an office.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Kissell and tell her that we'll be looking for both of you to come up to some of the games. With all good wishes to you and to her I am

Sincerely,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

November 21, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

Thank you very much for your very good letter of the 17th; also for the clipping enclosed. It is very interesting.

I will not write you a lengthy letter, but I do want to tell you that I enjoy your letters very much and I hope to see you here Saturday for the Missouri game.

I could not see how Kansas State could lose, but in reviewing the case in my mind I can see how, as you say, Kansas State was "just right" for what happened. It was interesting about the way they boomed Jack Gardner for a field house, wasn't it? But if we hadn't been as luck as the mischief and as torrid as hot tar they would have licked us.

The last two years that we played Gardner out there at Manhattan our boys have done the impossible - almost. So some day if they catch us off our stride they are liable to lick us.

We should have a fairly good year in basketball. I am not rounding the boys any too rapidly, waiting for the coming of the men from the football squad before we go all out and in dead earnest this year. All of our boys are improved over last year, and I believe that Sollenberger is going to be a dandy. Of course, Evans and Miller will strengthen the squad perceptibly, and these other boys are coming along in good shape. Charlie Walker, John Buescher, Vance Hall, T. P. Hunter - all are improved over last year. And our freshmen of last year are coming along in good shape. Max is improving, comparatively speaking, although he is not up with some of last year's gang. But he is flashy, intelligent, aggressive, and he is an A No. 1 fighter. He gets a little over-anxious on certain play situations, but when he is out and on the court driving and fighting for that ball he is just as versatile as most any of them. He will make a great player for Kansas before he finishes. I will make that prediction to you.

I was interested in reading about the time you played with Kansas Wesleyan. That must have been in 1909 or 1910, was it not?

I am hoping that you will get up for the game between the freshmen and the varsity. I know that you will enjoy it because Max will get into the game and it has been a little while since you have seen him play.

With all good wishes to Mrs. Kissell and yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
November Seventeenth,
Nineteen Forty-One.

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Allen:

I have your letter returning the letter from Chicago as regards the Kansas boys. Thanks for same tho it was not very necessary to return it. I was glad they recognized the merits of the three Kansas men. I agree with you that I think the 'milk fund' is run thru the cream separator before the 'net' profit is arrived at.

I had been intending to drop you a line and send the enclosed clipping from an Arizona paper. We sent some representatives from Portis to Phoenix lately to a Water meeting and in the papers they brot back I ran onto this article by McGovern on football, or rather it is comment by the editor on what McG. said. It is very good and thot (in case you have not seen it) that you might like to read it.

Football will always be a problem as regards the injuries and that is the thing that worries me. I like a good football game and I think most anyone does but I think it should be controlled and the rules taken care of to avoid all possible serious injury. And the commercialism should be removed entirely if possible from all school, college and amateur sports.

I shuddered Saturday when I heard that "Evans is hurt" and so on. I feared that a fine career might be stopped or handicapped by a twisted knee or back or arm injury. By the way, the KU--Aggie game was as much of a thriller as I have heard in a long time. I was here at Portis and got it off and on via radio and I was first up, then down until the man finally said it is over and KU wins 20/16. It was a fine tonic for the school and I was glad for all of you and Gyn Henry and all of them. I wish more games could be like that and I was proud that it was all a Kansas affair and that likely nowhere in the nation was there a better show that day. I think maybe KU had some luck but at that the decisions as I could pick them up, seemed to go against Kansas, that is at crucial moments. And there near the end of the game when we thot there was but one play left and Kansas passed to a man in end zone and announcer first said, It looks good; then he said, No it fell out of his hands. I think it was a pass to the Swede Lindquist. My heart sank then as I thot it over and some fellows standing around (for KU) cussed. But then that final run by the little boy and we sat stone blind, deaf and dumb until the announcer had repeated it several times.

I had anticipated it in a way. Do you know those Kansas State people are the most gullible in the world. They can lose all and then win a game and they come out of it and you would think they would never lose again. I think the stage was just right for what happened. I recall they got Jack Gardner there for basketball and won a game and started boom for a million dollar field house and then they fell flat and did not get the house and lost a lot of boys and also a lot of games. But I guess it is no bad habit to be that way, thot this time I think they let over-confidence hurt them some.

F. C. Allen, page two, Nov. 17th, '41.

When I get started on the typewriter, Doc, I breathe heavily and will finish what I have in mind, and I might say that this is not to bother you for answer as I know you are busy about eight days a week. I just saw in paper you have lot of engagements and so on right away now.

I can't figure what you will do in basketball. I feel that to lose three men like Allen, Engleman and Kline would be a blow that you could not offset this season. I can't see anyone who will score like Engleman tho you might have two forwards who would score as much as the two last year, that is two high men. And you might be as strong at guard with Sollenberger having another year of experience, but granting you can replace Kline then I can't see how you can replace Allen at center. You might have a strong^{er} all-around team this year than last, but I hardly can see it now, tho of course I am guessing largely on just the names of men. I think when all of those new men get going say by next year, if they all stay, that you ought to go pretty good. For this year I will be satisfied if you can finish well up in the Six, that is third or second. I have not yet figured out who will be first or maybe second.

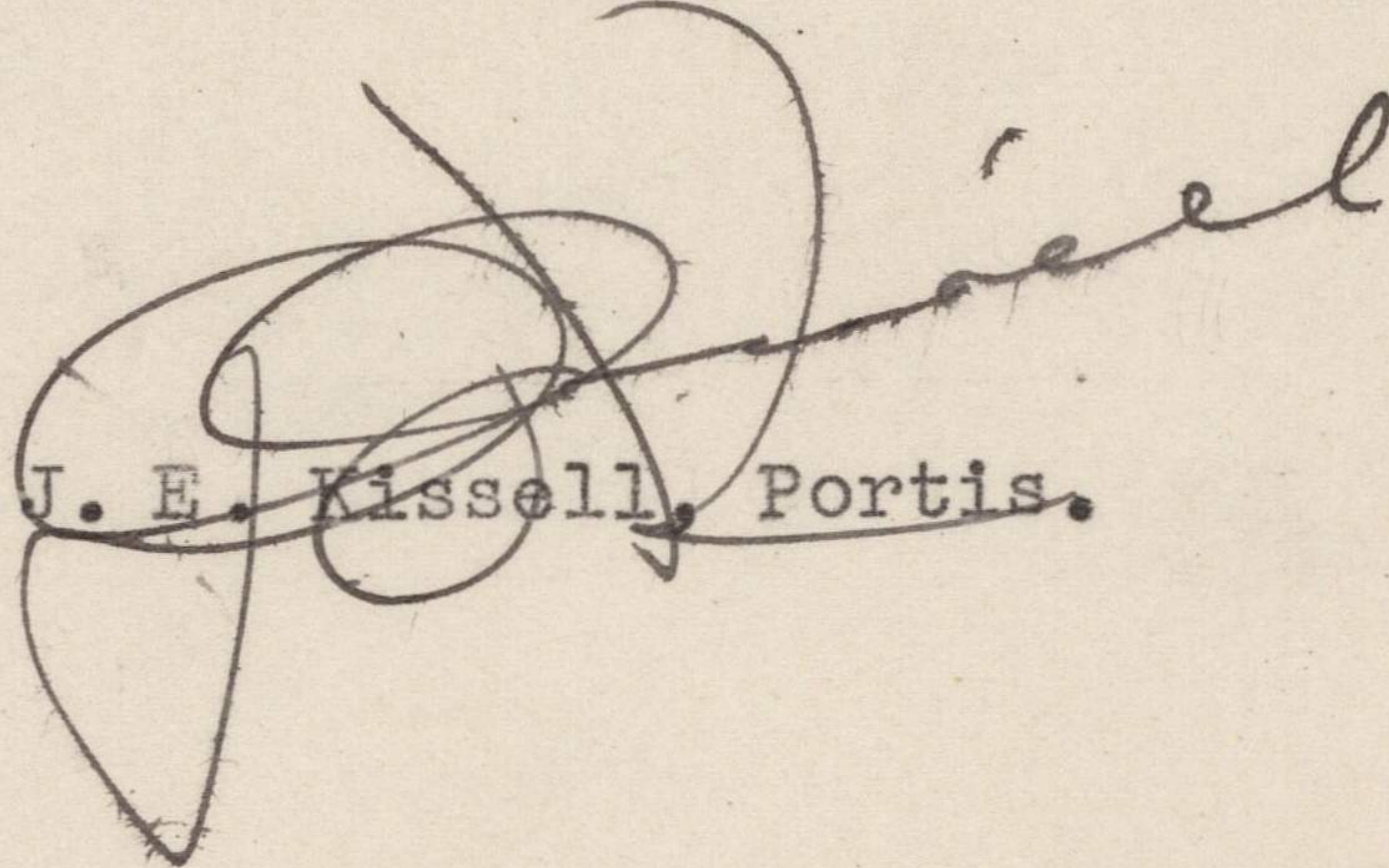
In a letter sometime back I noted what you said about Max and of course was glad and hope that he can make some sort of creditable record there. I know that he was a fine hi player but sometimes in college a boy does not go so well. I have been in basketball a long time, I guess about nearly 35 years in hi school, college and then the Dynamos for now 27 years. It would make a nice ending to basketball for me if Max could make a good average record there. Of course I will go ^{on} liking basketball after he leaves there and as long as I can I spose. Say, I played with Ks. Wesleyan against KU in the old Oakdale fair exhibition room in Salina when Tommy Johnson played. Tom made 18 that night and KWU also made 18 but other KU mne made 12 more so it was 30 to 18 for KU. Can't recall other Kansas players now and it seems maybe a fellow named Hamilton was coah or was in charge of them. I know we thot Johnson was a whiz.

Kindest regards and again let me say that this is not written to expect a reply and I may owe you apology for taking time even to run over this rambling.

Hope you go great in basketball and I will watch it close and may get down some time, tho it is a long trip. I had tickets for game there last Saturday but felt could not get away.

Regards to Mrs. Allen and all and again best wishes.

Sincerely,


J. E. Kissell, Portis.

November 14, 1941

Mr. J. E. Kissell
Portis, Kansas

Dear Mr. Kissell,

I am returning the letter which you so kindly lent me. I, of course, was quite interested in what Mr. Wilson had to say about the boys.

I will be expecting to see you the next time you come to Lawrence. Drop by the office.

Thank you. With all good wishes for you and Mrs. Kissell I am

Sincerely,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

THE PORTIS INDEPENDENT

J. E. KISSELL, EDITOR, OWNER AND PUBLISHER

PORTIS, OSBORN CO., KANSAS

October the Fifteenth,
Nineteen Hundred Forty-one.

DR. F. C. ALLEN,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir and Friend:

I frequently feel called upon to write you about one thing or another but generally get too busy to get a letter off.

Right now I have in mind the all-star basketball game in Chicago the night of Friday, November 28th; the contestants being an all-star group of 1941 college seniors and the champion, or so-called champion Detroit Eagles. I guess you know about it as I see by paper you are on some advisory committee in connection with it.

Are the KU senior boys, that is Bob Allen and Engleman, eligible for this game and if so, do they care to take part, so far as you know, if they were chosen--either of them? I read the Chicago papers and see a good deal in them about the game and that that if the Kansas boys were eligible and cared to take part, that some move might be made in their favor. I know a number of fellows there that I could at least suggest names to.

If you can give me some information on this, I will be glad.

I see that Gene Kemper devoted a column the other day to you and football and I was amused at some of the conclusions he drew. He evidently wants to make a big noise that sounds good to him but which will back-fire with some of his readers. You ought to have Kemper referee all of your basketball games and then maybe he could give you a boost????? You understand of course that I am joking on that because, though I have seen worse referees of basketball than Kemper, right now I can't recall where it was.

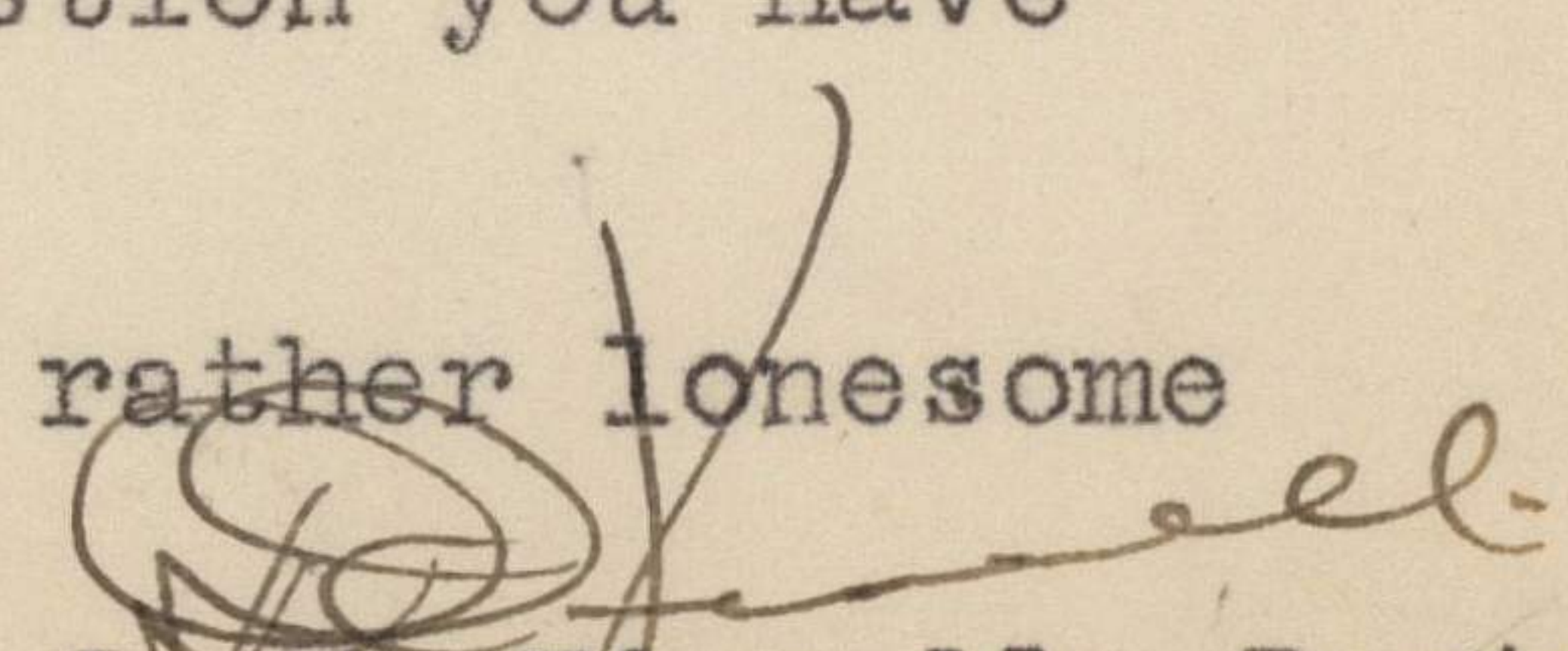
I was of course disappointed Saturday in the KU--NU game. From this rather long range, I wonder if maybe KU is not putting too much dependence in Miller's passing. I noticed a wise crack in some paper that Kansas had only Miller and a prayer and that Miller forgot part of the prayer. The Kans. running attack was not very strong and it seems to me they ought to develop a little more in the way of reserves with as many men as they have out. Of course I am just second guessing and at long range, and this is just confidential.

Fine fall weather here and flowers still pretty. Some volunteer wheat and barely has headed and if stays warm, might be cut, that is with mature grain, by last of month.

Clipping enclosed from Chicago paper and any suggestion you have will be appreciated.

Have been wondering if you and Mrs. Allen are not rather lonesome with the children all gone.

kindest regards,


J. E. Kissell, Portis

Greatest Cagers to Play o

CORK TIPS

By Jimmy Corcoran

Grid Greats of Today
Recall Heroic Feats
of Other Campaigns

Pupil Who Realizes
Dreams of Master
Produces 1941 Style

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

—By Ripley



on All-Star Team

'DREAM FIVE' TO FACE PROS

BY LEO FISCHER.

Did you ever see an All-American team of any kind actually in action?

Once again The Herald-American is going to present that opportunity to some 22,000 spectators on the night of November 28 when it stages its second annual All-Star basketball classic at the Chicago Stadium.

That the college squad which meets the world's champion Detroit Eagles will be an All-American team in the flesh becomes more and more apparent as one looks over the poll for places. The initial standing, announced yesterday, shows that the leaders are easily the answer to a basketball coach's prayer.

DREAM QUINTET.

How would you like, for instance, to have a team on which Joe Stampf of Chicago, Gene Englund of Wisconsin, George Glamack of North Carolina, Bob Richmond of Illinois and Frank Baumholtz of Ohio U. were in the starting lineup? And when you needed replacements you could call on Elmer Gainer of De Paul, Ossie Schectman of Long Island, Ed Riska of Notre Dame, Gus Broberg of Dartmouth, or a dozen others of equal ability?

It isn't certain, of course, that all of these boys will be on the squad—but at least, it gives you an idea of what sort of basketball team will be in action against the world's champs before a crowd which should set a new record for basketball attendance.

Leahy Rates Grid Teams

BY FRANK LEAHY,

Director of Athletics, University of Notre Dame.

Copr., 1941, King Features Syndicate, Inc.

NOTRE DAME, Ind. Oct. 13

Marc
trail

Leonard's Benders
Humble Coals, 11-8

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The eighteen men who will make up the collegiate delegation are being chosen by a board of sports writers and coaches who cover every section of the country. The initial standings in the poll are based on a point system in which 12 is awarded for first choice and the remainder are graded down to one for tenth position. The list is now going back to the members of the board, for a second tabulation, in which each member will select his first and second teams.

In the meantime—a word of warning. Tickets are going at an amazing rate, despite the fact that loop box offices will not be opened until some time this week. Mail orders are being accepted and are being filled in the order of receipt. Accompanied by check or money order, they should be sent NOW to Ticket Manager, All-Star Basketball Game, 326 W. Madison st., Chicago.

Don't wait too long! That's a straight tip.

Sam Chapman Off

for Air Game D

January 23, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

Thanks a million for your fine letter. Don't you worry a bit about Max. He is coming along swell. He has the fire and the fight and the intelligence, and I am very sure that he will make his letter this year because he has what it takes to add morale to a team. And he is going to get in a lot of ball games before the year is over. He plays more like Milton Allen than anyone I have ever seen. He is scrappingly aggressive and he is not afraid to take a chance.

If I am not badly mistaken he will break in the Kansas State game tomorrow night. I am also planning on taking him on the trip when we play the University of Iowa and DePaul at Chicago, and he will also be down at Wichita. I am hoping that these games will season him enough for some of our Big Six encounters that I am sure he will get into.

I wish I could write you a longer letter, but I know this part of the letter that I wanted to write you will please you immensely. I think a lot of Max and I think he has great possibilities. He will get better and better as the years go on. Next year I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see him my regular quarterback.

This Iowa State game is a long story and I will not bother you with it now because I am rushed for time, but confidentially I am sending you copy of a letter from George Veenker, the athletic director, and my reply to him. I believe this will give you most of the inside dope.

Thanks for your good wishes. I am hoping that we will have a chance to get together and discuss some of the confidential things real soon. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
January 22nd, 1942.

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir and Friend:

Been intending to write you long ago and advance some of my ideas on the basketball season, your team, the Tucker affair and so on, but just failed to get or 'take' the time.

The last day or two I have been getting mad over the reports of the actions of the Iowa State people and the kid stuff they pulled up there (according to reports I hear and read) and today I read in KC Star about some angle on Sollenberger that I had not yet heard and do not understand.

However, it seems they are all after Kansas and I feel we may yet beat the field tho at the present time my crystal ball would be a tie maybe between any two of KU - OU and Iowa or even a triple tie between the three.

Of course I fear now the game at OU next month as that will likely be a game 'of the ages' so to speak from the various angles chiefly the Tucker affair. I feel it will be almost impossible for Kansas to win it as they will win THAT game at all costs and any hazards. I hope that Iowa and OU will split and I will figure Kansas to win from Iowa at KU. That would make it a triple tie unless some lower team upsets which they may. I think KState may upset Iowa at Manhattan and also that Nebraska might win a game from either OU or Iowa.

Some way, too, I feel that KState may take us (KU) one game this year due to the law of averages and then it is an all-state game and they will be primed against Kansas as they always are. And don't take them lightly there on the Hill this week end. They have all to gain and nothing to lose and will go 'all Out.'

It is some race and I am getting more enthused daily and almost pray nights of games till I get a score. Something must have been wrong at Iowa. I have hoped Max would write me a little of the side gossip on the game but so far he has not written since then.

I guess Max thinks he has gotten into some pretty fast basketball and I don't know whether he will ever be able to imitate a good player. I hope he still tries hard as that is all I preach to him.

Tucker deal: I appreciate your stand, absolutely and I still think, Doc, that it has not been settled correctly. They handled it like a hot potato and tossed it around and finally KState said okay as far as they are concerned. However, Tucker actually did appear in game for OU the first semester and he and OU both certainly knew he was not eligible. Here is what I wonder: What is there to prevent some other big Six club protesting after while

Doctor Allen--page two.

or even next year or even in his senior year that he performed as an ineligible for OU in first semester of 1941 and then have another wrangle come up and have all facts dug up and him eventually declared entirely ineligible? That is an angle I was thinking of.

I do not feel badly at him personally, that he is somewhat big-feeling regards one - Tucker. But he is so good that we all want to see him play. And then too, a boy is a boy, and we must overlook his kiddish acts. He was wrongly informed. And too I'll guess you that somebody is putting something on the line and I think they had promised to do so at State. State lost him because the students there razed him for being a little swell-headed and too much for Tucker. And he got sore and left. I am sure that I know enough about it to say that to you confidentially. Gardner tried every means to keep him. Then too his uncle who is somewhat friendly told me most of the story and it sounded rather monetary. Then I had a letter from Gerald himself which I had intended to show you but I do not know where it ever got to. That letter was merely wanting me to have Max go to KState as he (Tucker) that it was greatest place in world to go to college. Nothing wrong with the latter except it indicated that Tucker is rather changeable. I think Gardner may have had Tucker do it.

I am going soon to Osborne to the annual 'frying of the fish' and think will be some there from your Hill. You recall I asked you once to come and sometime wish you could as it is a fine event but know you are too distant and too busy to do so. I will eat an extra trout or two for you. Guy Keeler will be there with some choice stories & spouse.

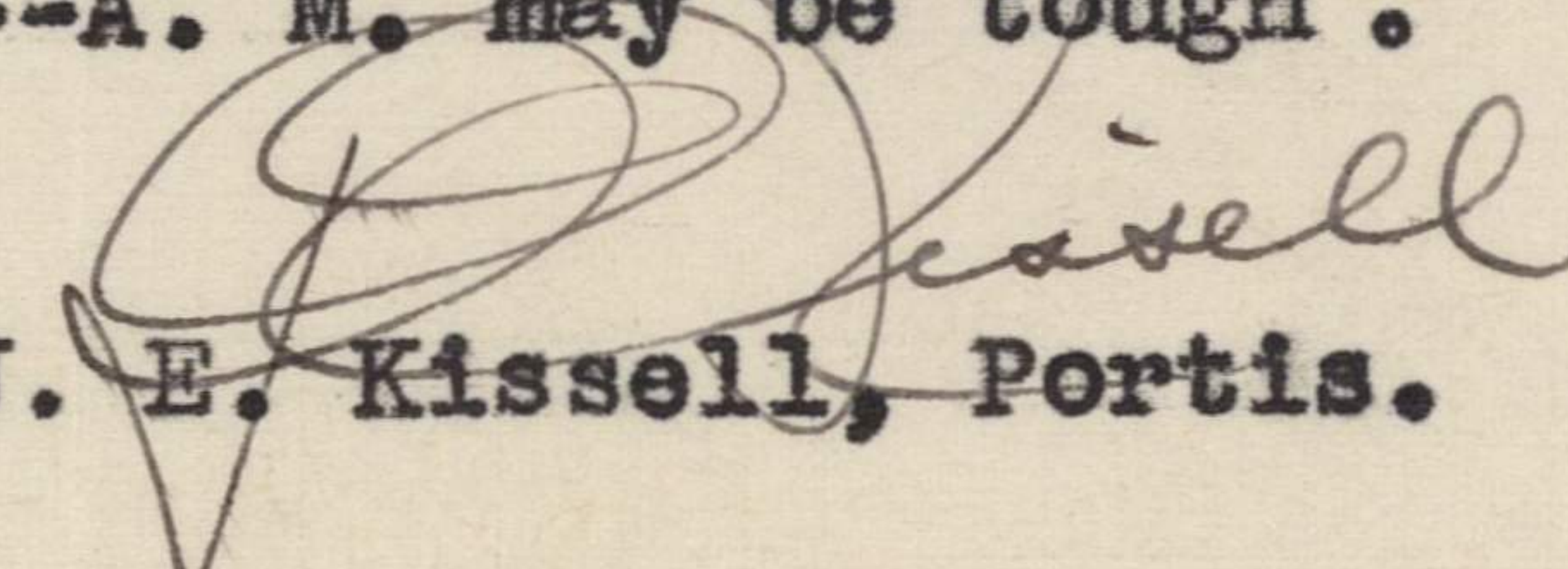
Say, I said this would be short and see it is now too long. I guess I am a poor judge of distance. I guess you heard what our Greta Garbo said to Hitler when she was in Germany a few years ago, namely: "I tank aye vill go home now." Well, that is what Hitler has just said to Joe Stalin. Don't mention it.

I think your team this year will be a fine one and I feel though that you lack a powerful scoring guard. As I get it, Sollb. is not a scorer, but good on defense. I never saw him play. I have been little disappointed in Evans but judge from what I read and hear that he will come along okay and be plenty good.

I was amused about Ettinger and wondered if he were on the pay-roll as a coach. He is just another big kid with wrong ideas. At times on the campus I rather like him, but he is a problem.

Must close with kindest regards and hope you have great luck from here out. For a while I had visions of the KC -- NCAA and still think it not impossible. Wish now we (KU) could win all remaining big six games. Creighton and Ok.--A. M. may be tough.

Very truly,


J. E. Kissell, Portis.

February 23, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I am sending you a copy of a letter in confidence that I have written to Max. He is staying up very late at night in these bull sessions at the Phi Psi house. He does not wear a hat, and catches cold easily. He is not taking as good care of himself as he should.

In other words, he is not putting all of himself in the two main things that should occupy most of his time -- his school work and if he has any time left, his basketball. The fact that he must work also takes some time away from his studies. Therefore, it behooves him to not dissipate his time or energy in bull sessions, which are needless. I say they are needless at this stage of the game because he needs the time for other more important things.

Please do not reveal to him the fact that I have sent you this letter. He is not improving as rapidly in basketball because he is spending his time and energy doing other things. Maybe he is a little bit discouraged because he hasn't gotten into some of the games more, but if he would bend every energy that he has toward the vital and necessary things he would break into a game more often.

Jack Ballard was highly discouraged and really very unhappy because he was not getting to play. I held out no more promise to him even with his exceptional height than I have to Max. Yet he was one of the deciding factors in our Oklahoma Aggie game, and his getting into the game was as much a surprise to him as it was to any of the spectators or his teammates there at the game. But he was in a position to accept the responsibility when he got the call. That is the position that I want Max to be in.

Now don't misunderstand me and think that I am displeased with Max. I am not. I am unsatisfied with his work to date because he can do better.

I want to assure you of my constant vigil in doing the very best that I can for your boy as well as the other boys on my squad.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

February 23, 1942.

Mr. Max Kissell,
1100 Indiana St.,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Max:

You cannot fly with the eagles in the day time and habitat with the owls at night and still have your equi-poise physically, mentally and emotionally.

Bull sessions are superfluous, intended only for rich men's sons, mezzanine hurdlers, drugstore cowboys and men of imaginative affairs.

An ounce of sleep is worth pounds of Energy. So Max, wait until your senior year to do this unnecessary aimless conversation that our little four-legged, long-tailed, ancient-cousined youngsters in the jungles delight in so much.

You are doing a swell job, Max, but now comes the time to criticise rather than to commend. You remember that you had trouble last year with your studies. You are out for basketball, you are working in the towel room, and your main business, after all, is still making grades and going to school. Therefore, put your most suprememeffort on this main business of yours. I have noticed that you have appeared sleepy and tired here of late and if you had been scrimmaging as much as the other boys I am afraid you would show the wear and tear even more than you do now. So let's get in the groove and get on the ball, athletically and academically.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
February the 26th,
nineteen hundred forty-two.

DR. F. C. ALLEN,
Lawrence, Kansas.
University Kansas:

DEAR DOCTOR ALLEN:

Your letter of a few days ago together with the copy of the letter to Max, came yesterday and it was read by me with considerable interest, and also a lot of sorrow. I guess the sad part of it to me was, that you had been forced to write to Max that way, and the sadder part was that to me it signalled his demise from the basketball stage and erased from view any dreams I might have had (and did have) as to him being a 'sometime' clever basketball player.

I had seen the hand-writing on the wall, though, for some time, even as far back as last year, when I felt he did not do much in Freshmen basketball, but of course I managed to try to think that he would some time hit a stride that would equal what I thought he might be able to do. Then after a visit there on the Hill recently and seeing Max on the court for the first time in about two years, I realized that he just did not have the stuff to play with your team or to ever make a player of Big Six caliber. The last picture I had in my mind of Max in connection with the game was that of a driving, feinting, fighting player who could get his hands right up around the goal to lay and cut them in there, and he seldom ever missed them more than a hair when he missed. It did not seem to me that it was the same fellow, though I'll admit I likely expected too much. I did not think he was fence post out on the floor, but he was not getting any of the results which he did out here the last two years in school. I know, too, that you will say--'That was high school out there and no competition; down here it is different.'

I was glad for your letter and also glad that you had written Max, and I hoped that you had also collared him personally on the subject, though I spose you have that sort of thing figured out the best way. I was greatly surprised, though, at the portion of the letters which referred to his negligence and lack of interest and lack of condition, and I JUST CAN'T figure it out. I never did go in for that sort of thing. I do not know what you mean by 'bullsessions' but take it to be 'a gathering of male animals.' If it is for tom-foolery, hell-raising, tobacco, beer or any of that stuff that goes with it, I am opposed to the whole thing. And I always thought that Max was too. Out here he was a good trainer and radiated all sorts of enthusiasm on the floor. There I thought he was rather slow and lagging and it seemed to me he never did raise himself off the floor. Also in taking the ball (3 men) across the floor, his passes were poor, and instead of hitting the waist-line, the other fellow had to reach for them, up, down, back or something. He seemed to be fumbling, while out here I thot he gathered them in like an octopus. On one of the nights, in the pre-game warm-up when your men would go under the goal for shots, they made I think over a hundred straight, except that Max missed some 7 or 8 of his in a row. He was letting loose of the ball low and I don't think he ever got up there and laid it with one hand as I have seen him do here regularly. Once he even splattered the ball up thru the netts from below. He might have been nervous or it might have been an off-night and I wished I might have seen a scrimmage session and I might have formed a different idea. Out here in pre-game warm-ups he would at times go thru without a single miss of any type of shot. And we thought he could pass and his eye for the goal was almost errorless, if such a thing can be said, without exaggeration.

I guess the difference is being at the head of the class in a small town and in a poor, ill-lighted, small, narrow, etc. court and at the foot of the class in a big University. I remember now what Gene Johnson (Salina) told me and as it turns out, he was exactly right in the case of Max, though I thought he was bluffing then, and still do, and it just happens that he hit it. I can't recall his words, but it was about this: "Max is a small-fry boy from a small town and he won't ever be able to do a good job of warming the bench at Kansas U. The spectators there pay to see their favorite sons play, and the spectators come from the cities." Then he went on to tell me what he could do for Max and offered him three jobs and said he would not have to work at any of them. So you can see what I thought of him. I'll say this, Allen, that when I wrote to you I really and honestly thought he could play ball and I was sincere in it and felt he could anywhere and play a good grade of ball with any college team. I now feel ashamed that that I talked too early and failed to consider the future.

It is peculiar how a fellow can let himself be affected by some such thing as that. I got the letter at noon and read it and tried to forget it that afternoon. That night was a weird, stormy one, and my people were all away and I went home and tried to reason a little with myself, but could not and I spent a waking night of horror. First I regretted that Max had become careless with his time and himself, but that was not the worst. The horror was that it was a night in which hope died within me that Max might make a record as a basketball player that would be reputable; but by morning I gave up and knew I had as well forget it. I wondered wherein I had been at fault as I am enough of a Fatalist to feel that maybe the Lord might be punishing me in some way. If the Lord is, I wish he would make it known to me. About that time it was early morning, and I turned the radio to get the result of your game at Stillwater. I heard it right away and that made me feel no better, though I had felt that KU might lose that one. But at that, the loss of game meant very little to me in comparison to the loss of a cherished hope.

On the Hill there, a while back, many of the boys would talk to me about Max and most of them would brag on him and two of the leading players confided to me that 'he was good enough to be playing.' It made me mad at them and I have not liked them so well since, for I was sure they were not telling the truth, and I wondered if they thought that I had no idea of what a good player looked like. I went on to make a little inquiry from three parties close to the team and asked them, individually, if Max showed any promise in the 'B' games he had played in. Here is about what they said: That he did not -- that he was hardly good enough for the B team -- and one said that he would never get any place there because he was very mediocre and likely on a given night there would not be a spectator in the crowd that would care, or be there to see him play. I felt they were sincere in what they said. Possibly they were wrong and while I thought they had a little nerve to tell me that, yet I had 'asked for it' and so maybe they complied.

And right along the same line, in the Kansan of the same date I noticed a little item which might have meant nothing to anyone else. It was regarding the reserve men and what they meant to the strength of the team. In mentioning them, I think all were named with the exception of Max, and I wondered if he was so far down the line that he was not worth mentioning and I could imagine that maybe he was just a hanger-on. I look the Kansan over and so far as I recall since the season opened, I have never seen his name mentioned, and I wished that some day he would make a lot of fouls in practice so they could refer to him in some way, if only as a ruffian or something.

Page three to F. C. A. February 26th:

I believe, Dr. Allen, that you can see what that all ads up to, to me.

You will think I am a pessimist, maybe, but I am not, normally, though possibly am now. And I wanted to get it all off my mind at one time.

I felt that you sent me the letter because you wanted me to read between the lines.

I hope that Max will finish out this year and try to do his best in practice, scrimmage or whatever you set him at. I write him frequently and always tell him to try hard and do what he is told to do and to conserve his time and get sleep, and so on and go on. I doubt if any boy's father writes the son more than I do him, and I don't think they give any better advice, unless I do not know what that is. If you feel he continues to be indolent and does not try to train, I guess you had as well dismiss him from the group. Am sure I do not need tell you what to do in a case of that kind.

I hope greatly that you win at Norman tomorrow night as I feel if you do that you might get the call to KC for the Ncaa. Or I guess you could lose and still get it, but I would like to see us beat those rebels down south.

Sorry this got so long and I hope it does not burden you. I'll again make some sort of apology for writing to you that Max could play ball as I do not want you to feel that I can't even recognize a player.

Thanks again for the letter and kindest regards to all,

Sincerely,



J. E. Kissell, Portis.

June 27, 1942.

Mr. Max Kissell,
1409 Eden Court,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Max:

Paul Carpenter came in yesterday afternoon and Ralph Miller came in this morning telling me that you had been stricken with pneumonia and that they had moved you to Topeka. Ralph just tells me that they took you to your sister's address, so I am dropping a note to wish you every possible success and a speedy recovery.

It is a tough break, Max, but a lot of things could be tougher. So stay in there and pitch and get well and get back on your job to earn money which will enable you to go through the University without spending too many hours working at 35¢ an hour. The completion of your education is, I am sure, your primal objective. And here's hoping that you effect a speedy recovery.

With all good wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

August 26, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I beg to acknowledge your very good letter of August 8th. The reason this has remained unanswered for some time is that my secretary has been out on vacation and I have been playing a lot more golf than I should have for prompt correspondence. However, I never apologize for those things because a fellow doesn't get too much in this life anyhow, and if he doesn't take care of himself no one else will do it for him. So I have been keeping in pretty good physical condition for the compulsory physical education program that is coming up.

I note that you are extremely busy with your rationing board and other heavy duties. I can appreciate how much criticism you get. Doubtless there is more than a basketball coach gets when things are not going to suit him.

I was very happy for Max to get his letter from the University of Kansas. I think it will serve as the right sort of a tonic for him. Max is a fine boy and I believe that he will show his wares this fall.

John Buescher has been drafted, but I do not believe that he will pass the physical. However, with the great demand for men he may be put in a limited service classification. They need men so badly that I believe they may use him at something, but he has spots on his lungs that will not permit him to do the heavy duty work of a soldier. While these patches are incapsulated and are not active, yet strenuous physical exercise would doubtless break them down and he would have trouble.

Max has got a good shot at that quarterback job this year and I am hoping that he fills the bill. I think he got a little discouraged last year, but he should not have. He was learning a lot of basketball, but playing on anybody's second team, of course, is no joy ride for a spirited, ambitious youngster. Max is saving his money and doing a good job.

Some time when you and I have an opportunity to talk I want to tell you something that transpired last year during spring practice. It showed a fine insight into Max's character. Well, I believe I will tell it to you now, but I would not want you to say anything to Max about it because these little delicacies that take place between a coach

and player many times are better off never repeated. But you have worried about Max a lot and I believe this will give you more confidence in his stability. It was during spring practice. We only had nine practice sessions and He hadn't been out too often although he was as diligent and as responsible as the other boys. I told everyone of the fellows that if they were behind in their studies I would not want them to come out. It was only the fellows who were up in their studies that I wanted to report. So Max did his full share as much as any of the other boys.

After practice was over I walked up to Max and said, "You little devil, you've been smoking, and this is spring practice, isn't it?" He blushed and seemed terribly embarrassed. He came in for an appointment later and this is what he told me. "Doc, when you called me down I never felt more embarrassed in all my life. Honestly, I never wanted to smoke. I wanted to train, but the two girls that I went with both smoked cigarettes and they made me feel like a piker if I didn't smoke, although I should have been strong enough to turn them down. I want you to know that this is the last and I am going to train."

So you see Max has a lot of character, and I believe that he will do a good job this year. He is a fine boy, has a good physique, and will fight, and too, he is very intelligent. So don't you worry about that boy - he is all right.

Now, regarding the service. This has been my policy with my own sons and with the boys on my team. I have never tried to get them into any branch of the service unless they made their own decisions. My son, Milton, has a daughter four years of age, and he says he is going to get in the Marines. We have here at the University the Army Reserve and the Navy Reserve, so I believe I would just let Max make the decision because nobody really knows which one a boy desires until he makes his own selection. I have talked with Max and advised him as best I could and told him to go over and talk to Dr. Lawrence Woodruff, who is the military coordinator for the University. Woodruff is a fine gentleman. He is highly intelligent, and I think we are especially fortunate to have a man such as Woodruff in the Registrar's Office advising young men. He played center on the varsity football team along in 1923-24 and '25, so he is a two-fisted, red-blooded gentleman, and I know he will advise Max correctly.

I am sending you a schedule of our games which is complete and authentic. We have had to revise dates here and there, but I believe our revisions are finished. I believe we will have a pretty good team because Jack Ballard, Ray Evans and Charlie Black have enlisted in the various services, and we will have Schnellbacher, possibly Bill Brill, not sure about Armand Dixon - he may or may not return - doubtful about Vance Hall and Sollenberger, but we will have Paul Turner, George Dick, and Sparky McSpadden, formerly of Eldorado, Kenny Thompson and Bob Dole, Bill Forsyth from Medicine Lodge, and others we are not sure of but I believe we will have a nice team.

Sparky McSpadden, Kenny Thompson and Max look to be my quarterbacks.

I am writing the boys a team letter and I will send you one when I have it completed within the next week.

You mention Warren Zimmerman. Yes, I know his son and I know of him only indirectly, but I am told that he does not pay very high wages. I think a man who paid that much to the government would pay his help a little more. I would rather give part of it to the individuals and part of it to the government. We would have a finer citizenry and a better government if it worked out that way.

I would like to see your tomatoes - in fact, I would like to get into your patch for about twenty minutes, and especially if you cannot sell them. I would guarantee to reduce your production somewhat.

Regarding the Colorado game, it was just one of those things. Had John Buescher shot instead of back passing to Sollenberger who should have been expecting it and was not, the game would have gone the right way anyhow. I never cry much over spilt milk, but I believe most any night in the week would could give them a very good argument. But that is neither here nor there. We will have our chance when we meet them some time again.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Kissell, and assuring you that I have confidence in Max, I am

Very cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Portis, Kansas,
August the Eighth,
Nineteen Forty - Two.

DR. F. C. ALLEN,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Allen:

Have been intending for some time to write you about various situations, but as usual, have been delayed by work or folks wanting tires or ladies wanting sugar rationed to them. If you have never been on a ration board, you have missed something. It represents the acme of criticism.

Also have thought I would see you in person and have been in and thru Lawrence a few times since I last saw you, but either did not find you or else did not have time to wait long enough to connect with you. I guess maybe it was at the end of basketball season in March that I last saw you, though maybe I saw you one day at the end of the college year.

Aside from wanting to discuss the war and politics and golf and minor activities, I wanted to thank you for the basketball letter that Max was granted from KU athletic association, and also to thank you for being instrumental in getting him employment out at the Ordnance Works east of Lawrence.

knows So far as I know Max is getting along well out there and the work ought to keep him in good physical trim, as it is open-air and quite strenuous, *and* I think he knows when the day is done that he has been somewhere. Last I heard he was classified as some sort of compressed tool operator. I am not very eager about the Union angle but guess that is the only way that a chap like him can get into that sort of work. I feel that organized labor, if allowed to assume too great control, will be a menace after the war is over; or as a matter of fact, it is already a problem.

As regards the basketball letter, I was some surprised as I was not aware of demands by the department in order that a boy be granted a letter and had not that Max was in action enough to warrant such. But guess he might have been more active than I assumed, and so am glad as I have always felt that a letter from KU in basketball really meant something to a boy. I once had the desire to go there myself, but could not as my father died when I was a little fellow and so I had to work a good deal and I was fortunate in being able to go to Kansas Wesleyan. Later I played lots of basketball here with the Portis Dynamos in their early days of 1914 upto about the time Max was born in 1922. I think it is a great game and am proud to have a son that could even hold the water jug at Kansas University, and sorry that he was not able to do more towards helping the team in general.

Page two -- Dr. Allen, August 8th:

I do not know just now what Max plans to do in the way of enlistment in service. He is not twenty yet but will be soon and it will be necessary to decide. I hardly know what is best as I am not familiar with those various branches but he talked of the Marines -- Candidates' Class and he might get in that or in some of the V-branches. If you have any suggestions, I would be glad for them, that is you could make them to him direct as is still there at Eleven Hundred Indiana, except when working. Some have told me that boys should finish school, that is, that some of them ought to, as they will be needed badly in other fields a little later.

Have been noticing lately that you are lining up games for the coming season and that you will play various service teams. Soon as a schedule is available, I would like to have it and also like to know what you will have for a club the coming season. Have noted from time to time that this boy and that one would be missing until I wondered if you will have a creditable starting line-up.

A man from your town, Warren Zimmerman, who once lived here, was here recently and is now writing a story for me to print about his visit and early day Portis recollections. He is quite a character. He said he was required to pay \$65,000. income tax last year on his Color Press there at Lawrence and that the government is getting so critical of his various endeavors and needs that he will likely be forced to quit. That is confidential. You may not have met him. I think the same will apply to me here as the little business is being pushed out of the way. It is a battle to keep the bank here going as government demands make it impossible to make any money from the business.

I have fine tomatoes this year and also fine potatoes but now that we have a good many of them, we cannot sell them, that is for any kind of price.

Am chairman of the USO drive here and we are now finishing it up and also am on a Bond selling committee that has the job of selling Three--Fourths Million Dollars in War Bonds by end of the year. In case You want the whole amount, just let me know and we can dismiss the committee.

I had some talk with some fellows in Kansas City, and they said they were sorry that Kansas and Colorado were not kept apart in that play-off in March, in the hope that both would have won the first night and then met the last night. I fully believe that would have been best and that it would have gotten a good deal more money and also that Kansas would have beaten Colorado on any other night. But the game is over so must look forward to the coming season.

I will not start on the war and politics as I have only a dozen or so sheets of paper left, and that would not be enough.

I can hardly keep tab of your family people, but regards to them wherever they are, and same to yourself, and all, and I will see you some of these times, maybe. Always glad to hear from you when you have a moment's time.

Sincerely,

J. E. Russell, Portis, Kansas.