

LEE P. BENTON  
37 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS

REPRESENTING  
HALLMARK CARDS

February 14, 1943

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Athletic Dep't.  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Phog:

You will probably be surprised to hear from me but I've been intending to write you for some time to ask your advice on a matter and also to congratulate you on your fine basketball team this year.

I was in Kansas City at Christmas time, but for the first time since I graduated in 1931 I did not make the trip over to Lawrence to see my old friends there. I had intended to get over, but when I read that you were on a trip to Buffalo and New York City I decided not to make the trip. I did want to see the book presented to you on your 25th anniversary and also wanted to get a glimpse of your team. Is there a chance that you will be playing again in New York in March in the Invitation Tournament? If so, I would appreciate it if you would let me know. Boston being a poor basketball town the only news I get on this sport is from the occasional Kansas City paper sent to me by my mother or the occasional New York Times I buy.

I had a complete nervous breakdown last year about this time which the doctors at the Lahey Clinic here said was brought on by a number of things, such as overwork, late hours, living alone, irregular meals, irregular sexual intercourse, etc. My weight went down from 190 to 159 pounds. The doctors also said they thought I should try to keep active in some sport the year 'round inasmuch as I had always been so active in all sorts of athletics in high school and college. Of course I am a golf bug in the summer, but have not taken up any sport the rest of the year until last spring after my illness. I used to bowl a lot in Kansas City, but they bowl only the candle pins here which do not appeal to me. After a month in Florida to recuperate last year I returned to Boston and joined the Y.M.C.A. The exercise did wonders for me, and after a summer of golf I completely regained my physical health and I now weigh 202 pounds, the most I've ever weighed in my life. Do you need a good tackle at K. U. next fall?

This fall I again joined the Y.M.C.A. and one night while shooting baskets the basketball director walked up to me and asked me where I had played. He had heard of you and asked me if I wouldn't play on one of their league teams. I have played in several of their games and get a big kick out of it--in fact caged 9 baskets in about 15 minutes one night recently. However, a couple of doctors have strongly advised me to give this up as they say at 35 I am too old for such strenuous exercise as basketball as played today. Of course I have refused to play more than 15 minutes at a time, but they seem to think that is even too much. In a recent physical checkup I was found to be perfect in every way. The other players in this league are all under 30, most of them being 17 to 24 years of age. What would be your advice on this? I know you will tell it to me straight.