

A

May 1, 1940.

Mr. Max Kissell,
Portis, Kansas.

Dear Max:

I am very happy to have your letter of the 15th ultimo, and regret that it was impossible for you to come to Lawrence for a little basket shooting the morning of the Kansas Relays. We had a great group of boys here and they seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

I want you to know that it was a pleasure to have you with us for the Indiana game, although that one game was a nightmare to us. Our boys played the poorest game of the year against Indiana that night, and Indiana was sizzling hot. I am sending you a carbon copy of a letter that Mr. Floyd Rowe, chairman of the Rules Committee, wrote me after he had charted the Indiana-Kansas game. I thought some of the angles that he discovered might prove interesting to you.

I want to congratulate you on a very exceptional basketball season. It was a personal triumph for you and I am sure that you will have a fine record in college wherever you go. I know that your parents have had a very difficult and trying experience the past few years, and that it will be necessary for you to obtain work wherever you go. I am sure that with the parents you have you will view life philosophically and know that through struggle and sacrifice the greatest joys are obtained. Being in the environment that you are I know how very much you appreciate an education.

I am wondering if you have made up your mind as to what you will study when you go away to college - what you expect to specialize in. It will be a very great pleasure for me to help you in any way that I possibly can, for I feel very definitely certain that you expect to dig into your academic work in the same manner that you have gone into your athletic work. Athletics are a fine thing to introduce a fellow favorably to business and society, but they are a poor thing to depend on as the number one incentive in a business life.

I remember hearing Chancellor Malott in his inaugural address here at the University outline three goals of education. "The aims of education," he said, "are, first, scholarship; second, a free university; third, preservation of fine traditions of the university." And

then he mentioned, "fourthly, keen athletics and clean sportsmanship." He quoted from William Allen White's book, "A Puritan in Babylon", he said, "No one knows just what education is", and then quoting President Coolidge's definition of education, he said, "Education is, after all, the process by which the individual creates his own universe and determines the dimensions."

The very thing that you receive from professors is inspiration and knowledge and it is well to achieve intellectual superiority. And any coach who emphasizes the undue value of athletics is not giving the boy the right perspective.

Team morale is had when the boy shows as much energy in his work toward obtaining a profession as he puts into athletics when he endeavors to learn fundamentals and win a ball game.

Lots of good luck to you, Max, wherever you go, and may you rest assured that if we should be fortunate enough to have you choose the University of Kansas we will be very happy.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

Portis, Kansas
April 15, 1940

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Education
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have your letter of April 10th asking that I come to Lawrence for the Relays next week end. I had intended writing you anyway and so I will cover everything in one letter.

I want to especially thank you for the ticket for your game with Indiana in Kansas City. We surely enjoyed it and I hardly know how I can repay you for the courtesy. I had hoped K.U. would win but I guess fate was against you that night. Indiana is good but I think your boys would have played a much closer game and possibly have won on any other night.

As to the Relays. I had hoped during the year to attend them and see some of the fine performers. However, our Portis track team is entered in a meet out in this section April 20, and since we have been entered for some time, it will be just about impossible for me to get away. I am interested in track and want to qualify for the state meet if I can. I participate in the shot, discus and javelin.

The past basketball season was a great one I thought, and I enjoyed it from all angles. I saw your team play the games at Topeka and that last one.

I want to thank you for the invitation to the Relays and wish that I could attend but feel sure it will be impossible.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely

Max Kissell.

Max Kissell

May 1, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I have just written Max a letter and I did not want to impress upon him the fact that we are endeavoring to proselyte him or that we are trying to make any undue advanced toward him in his selection of a school. However, I do want you to know this, Mr. Kissell, that we would be glad to have Max here and we would be glad to give him a job that will help him in his quest for an education. I told you that when I was in Osborne last fall.

Max is a fine boy and will make a fine basketball player, but there is a lot of difference between high school basketball and college basketball. The competition naturally gets keener and the coach who spends a great deal of his time developing the fundamentals in a boy will see his team get better as the season progresses. The coach who endeavors to attract the outstanding star players to his school and who does not spend the very necessary time developing fundamentals and the proper morale that is so necessary among these star athletes then will find himself in a group of stars all twinkling in their own firmament.

I would be glad to have Max here at the University of Kansas, but I do not want it to appear that I am putting an emphasis on athletics. The boy should choose his school for the great value that the school can give him, and not for what he can give the school. A good many years have to elapse before a boy or a graduate can give back to the school the debt that he owes that school. When I see great scientists here at the University who have worked for a small salary very patiently through the years, then I draw a comparison between this great scientists who has given so much to humanity through his labors, and the boy who feels that he is going to give the school a big break should he enroll at the University. Then I can see why so many of the faculty members are so dead set and prejudiced against athletics. I do not say that all boys have that idea, but coaches and the general lay members of society do create a false premise that athletics are more important than the academic idea and education received in college halls. I say then I can see how these prejudiced, narrow-minded faculty members so resent the encouragement of athletics in the curriculum, and I find myself sometimes agreeing in part, not in whole, with their attitude.

You and I both know that the boy has got to have something more than mere athletic ability to be the hero that he should be, even though he is one of the greatest athletes in the world. I have in mind now so many stars - college athletes - that were "busts" when they got out of school because they thought that the whole world would continue to cheer for them just because they had physical excellence on the athletic arena.

The other night I had dinner with Waldo Bowman over at the home of Professor W. S. Johnson, head of the English Department here at the University. Waldo Bowman was a little, frail slip of a chap here from Linwood, a little town about 15 miles from Lawrence. He was not a good basketball player, but he had a wonderful brain. In his first year he did not make the team and barely made the squad. During one of my summer coaching schools here he came up to me, very impatient, and said, "Just what is the matter with me anyhow?" I didn't tell him that he had a very fragile physique, but what I did say was, "Well, Waldo, about everything. You will bounce the ball to the floor when it is not necessary. You pivot when it is unnecessary, and generally you pivot into your man without looking when you should always pivot to the sideline, because the guard plays between you and the basket, and if you would pivot toward the sideline you would always have possession of the ball. Then if you were careful enough to look before you bounced the ball or passed it you would be in position to make a good pass. You are jittery, jumpy, you do not have control of the faculties that will either make you a good player or a poor one." And then I showed him some other things, and all the while he searched me with his intense eagerness. I was of the opinion that he was resenting the things that I was saying to him, and maybe he was, but he paid rapt attention, and every day after that I saw the boy in the gymnasium by himself working these things out patiently and laboriously, but definitely.

The sequel to this story is that Waldo Bowman played on the ever-victorious team of 1923. He went in as a substitute in one of the most crucial games in a series at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his sparkling and intelligent play in that game that turned the tide to victory. The most the boy ever weighed in college was 127 pounds.

The other night I sat in his presence and I was thrilled at his leadership and intelligence. At present he is editor of the Engineering News Record of New York City. Every big engineering project in the United States comes under his scrutiny for write-up and criticism. He is still a very young man, but he is just as modest as he was the day he graduated from this University. He is now on a tour of the United States, calling on the big engineers of the country, and I say big engineers. His word carries much weight in councils of engineering.

Al Smith made a statement when he took over the Empire State Building that they could moor a zeppelin to the Empire State. Bowman, in his writings, challenged the fallacy of such a statement in his Engineering News Record, and showed why that was an untruth. Smith called Bowman up and told him that he had no right to make statements such as that. Bowman told Smith that his statements were founded upon truth

and accuracy and engineering acumen, and he defied Smith to show him otherwise. Smith said, "Well, you should have at least called me up before you made that statement." Bowman said, "In our business we are not in the habit of calling people up. We are in the habit of investigating matters and reporting our findings for the benefit of the public and our patrons."

And then I think of Paul Endacott, who was captain of this 1923 team, now executive vice president of the Phillips Petroleum Company; of Tusten Ackerman, who has one of the finest jobs with the Equitable Life of New York; of John Bunn, Dean of Men at Stanford University; of "Dutch" Lonborg, at Northwestern; "Frosty" Cox, Glenn Cunningham, and a great group of athletic men who have a fine physical body - but more than that, they had intelligence and they directed that intelligence along lines that kept them modest while they possessed an assurance that they wanted to be somebody.

It is so easy to let the athletic virus so take hold of a fellow that he is thinking about being a world champion in athletics and not being a world champion in other lines of endeavor that are so durable and so necessary to our continued peace and happiness. With this competence life can truly be a success.

I would like to work with Max and see Max out along with the leaders not only in basketball and track, but in the great game of life for which he is so well endowed.

Please give Mrs. Kissell my kindest regards. It was a great pleasure to visit with her.

Mrs. Allen left Saturday morning for Louisville to visit our daughter and her three children, then she and Mrs. Allen will drive on to New York for a couple of weeks to see some good shows and visit the Fair. I think it is a splendid thing that mother and daughter can get out together the same as father and son. There is a companionship and congeniality there that is beyond words.

I hope that this general rain has visited your part of the country and that you get some of the blessings which you people so much deserve. I am to speak at the Hill City high school commencement on May 15th, and if you and Max are interested in talking about school I will be glad to stop by. It will be no imposition on me, I assure you.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
April the 13th,
Nineteen Hundred Forty.

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

Dear Dr. A.:

I do not want to pile up letters onto you and take your time since I know you are about the No. One busy man, but that I should write you a little. First, when I paid my telegraph for last month I noted the wire you sent me had been paid there. This I felt, should not have been as it was on me and you had done more than I could hardly expect in getting the press seats and also the other fine seats. Our party had a fine trip and we of course enjoyed the game greatly.

I am attaching a one-bill to take care of the wire and I assume that will be enough to do it. And thanks again for all of us,

It is warm to hot here today and almost too much so to talk basketball but must play that game over a little. I thot it was a case of Indiana being at their very best or top and Kansas perhaps off form some after the strenuous games of the weeks preceding. Of course, I do think that Ind. had a fine club. The game was hard for me to figure. I thot Miller was not up to par the first half and figured he would come back the last half to lead a good rally, but when he fouled out, I practically lost hope. For a brief time in the last half I thot Kansas might beat back but those Hoosiers were hitting too many unconscious shot. I doubt that they could ever hit so many in another game.

Be that as it may your team surely made a grand record this year and I talked to many, many people at KC and other places who were liberal in their praise for you and the part you had in cutting the event over.

I was glad too, and know you must have been mighty proud that Bob did so well in the KC games and was named on the ALL team. He deserved it, tho I saw only that last game at KC. Thot the Ku band was fine and also that Naismith memorial and the whole set-up.

We came home that night and got here in time for nap, breakfast, and then church and Sunday School.

Fine weather here but need rain and don't know what crops will do. Considerable doubt as to the wheat outlook and only regular rain will save or make it.

Max is out for track now and in two meets has placed in all of the three events in each meet he has tried and at one of them won three firsts. He is in shot, discus and javelin. He is not outstanding in any of them but very good in all of them. He throws disc 130 to 135 ft. Shot 40 ft. and Jave. about 140. He would be a good hi school decathlon if such a thing were run off. By the way, is there any part of the track work that would hurt his basketball playing in any way, that is any particular muscles or general agility.

Must close and get this on the car train.

Kindest regards to all and thanks again for the past favors, particularly the tickets at Kc.

Most sincerely,

J. E. Kissel, Portis.



May 25, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I find upon my return from a great many commencement addresses that I have failed to answer your kind letter of May 3rd. I thought I might see you when I went through to speak at Hill City, but as usual I always get away from the University so late that I have little time to stop to visit. And too, you thought you might be out of town so I did not drop by to see you.

I note that you state there seems to be terrific pressure being brought on Max to go to Kansas State. Well, Mr. Kissell, I would not have much to say about that, only I have always been unalterably opposed to anyone putting pressure on a boy.

The University of Kansas is the pinnacle of education in the state and it is not a local college either in the east or the west end of the state. It is a university - a group of colleges; just as Manhattan is the agricultural college, the University is the aggregation of the best group of colleges in the state. If it were not that, it would not be the University.

You asked about certain boys being lined up for Kansas State. Well, I can tell you right now that they are not. I know whereof I speak, but I am not making a boast as to where the boys will go. It is my understanding that Gerald Tucker has no intention of enrolling at Kansas State. And of course I would not make a statement that he has any intention of enrolling at the University.

Mr. Kissell, I have never endeavored to promise a boy great trips and so forth. I have rather impressed him with the fact that he is going to college to endeavor to learn from teachers and the way to make a success out of his life -- not a successful athletic life, but a life that when he is sixty or seventy years of age he can still have his competence that will bring him dividends socially and economically. The athletic competence is fine for boys while they are in college, and I believe that I could, with a degree of modesty, say that our teams have been as successful as any basketball teams in the country. Yet I never look with great pride on the accomplishments of boys that I have coached who are now playing independent or professional ball. When I think of Raul Endacott, the executive vice president of the Phillips Petroleum Company, of Waldo Bowman, the editor of the Engineering News Record of McGraw-Hill and Company, and many other young men

who have gone far in the field of finance, business, and the professions, then I am by far more proud of their athletic achievements made in college than if they were the world's best basketball players in their day and had not amounted to a great deal when they got out.

You know, I have always believed that the men with the most intelligence and best leadership generally are the best athletes, and in turn are the best business men, because they can apply their capabilities to the utmost in business and the professions just as they applied their capabilities in athletics on the field of friendly strife.

I have often been attracted to these words of Major Keller, which are cut in stone above the gymnasium at the United States Military Academy at West Point: "Upon the field of friendly strife are sown the seeds that upon other fields on other days are borne the fruits of victory".

You know, J. E., I would like to see Max come to the University because we are going to have some pretty good teams in the future, and I know Max can make it. A university man comes in contact with the doctors, lawyers, editors, engineers, pharmacists, geologists, business administrators, artists, musicians, and so forth. It is truly a representation of cross sections of the entire business, professional and vocational life of our state. Of course, you want to let Max make up his own mind. Yet an older head sometimes can give a young man something to think about. We will give him all the work he needs - but I always tell a boy to work commensurate with his desire and ability. If I tell you anything you can bank on it, but I never over-promise. And I believe that is what you can appreciate.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
May the Third,
Nineteen Forty.

DR. F. C. ALLEN
LAWRENCE -- KANSAS.

Dear FC, Sir and Friend:

I received your fine and very welcome letter today, and was glad you could spare the time to write me so much of interest. I'll say at once, Allen, that it was different than many of the letters I get, that is in reference to college and Max.

I just happen to have time to get this on the mail and that would answer to advise you about the stop you mentioned on Hill City trip. If you happen thru here, it will be perfectly agreeable for you to stop but at present I expect to be gone that day (15th Inst I think you said) and believe the hi school has their river dinner. Since we have talked to you I do not know that there is much more to say just now. The thing stands like this. Max has not decided what he will take and I have not decided what I think he should take, hence we are at a standstill till I get some more "dope" from some places. Of course, I guess there is plenty for him to pick from at KU, at least all most any school of the state or middle West could offer. However, if you happen thru it might be that some of us would be here and would be glad to talk with you a while. I may be in Hill City that day but not that night. I assume your address is at night.

There is a lot (seems to me a terrible lot) of pressure being brot on Max and myself for Max to go to KState and we get letters frequently and men are here to see Max and last evening two men were here for quite a while. I judge our coach, A KStater, has made a semi-promise that he would steer Max there. I see various accounts in papers all around as to where Max and other boys will go, but I do not know where they get the news. Largely guess-work I believe. I see some papers have a group of supposed-to-be good hi boys lined up to go somewhere together but they do not seem to know where. I have some letters as to Max from some persons I do not know and they seem to be wanting to find out if he would promise to go to some school if he were assured that several other good boys would be there to thus somewhat assure that school of a good team in year or two. I was careful in answering such letters and may have at least a little fun out of it. I am writing Gerald Tucker today as his name was mentioned and I may get something from him in person which would be only confidential correspondence. Has he ever indicated, that you know of, that he would attend KU?

About train time and must close. I thot I read a good deal between the lines in your letter. Max said he had letter too from you and he said, "Doc Allen sure writes and talks differently than some of them do." Just the other day a coach was here and offered Max everything under the sun to go there, that is full expense for four years, trips to Mexico, Mad. Sq. Garden, Canada and I guess maybe to Mars and Jupiter. I am trying to let Max figure things out for himself some and have been waiting for him to say flatly where he wants to go to college. I know that he has always thot that you are the ideal in coaches and he really thinks ~~maybe~~ you can make a good player out of a fence post. I told him he could not depend too much on the coach; that he would have to pick up the ball himself occasionally. More later when time permits.

Sincerely,

Kissell, Portis.

(COPY)

UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CLARA
Santa Clara, California

*Original was
returned to
Mr. Kissell*

Board of Athletic Control

June 24, 1940

Mr. J. E. Kissell
The Portis Independent
Portis, Osborn Co., Kansas

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I am sorry too delay answering your letter of sometime ago but have been out of town for over a month.

Your son Max has an enviable record in athletics and we at Santa Clara our extremely interested in having him attend our school.

We have a few Alumni Scholarships that we give out to basketball prospects. These Scholarships are submitted too the school by a group of wealthy alumni. They include a boys room, board, laundry, tuition, fees, books. All it coast the boy to attend is for his spending money and cloths. If Max accepts one of these scholarships he does not have too wait tables or do any other work around the campus. This alumni board feels that if the boy does a good job in his studies and basketball that is about all he has time for. The alumni board wants the athlete too fulfill three requirements in order too maintain this scholarship: - 1) Satisfy the Dean of Discipline, 2) Satisfy the Dean of Studies, 3) Do a good job athletically. By the later I mean that he has to be of some help to the squad.

I wish that you would have Max fill out the enclosed application blank and also send in a copy of his official transcript of record, which has to go from one registrar to another. I would like to have the above information sent as soon as possible as the time is drawing nearer to registration, which takes place on the 16th of August to the 20th of August.

Thanking you kindly for your cooperation and with best wishes to you and Max, I am

Sincerely,

(Signed) GEORGE A. BARSİ

July 10, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter, and as usual, I was happy to hear from you. I am sending you the carbon copy of the letter that I wrote you on June 22nd. I do not understand why you did not receive it, but even Jim Farley fails to deliver the mail sometimes. Am I right?

I am also returning to you the letter written by George A. Barsi, of the University of Santa Clara in California. It is not becoming to criticise a contemporary. But if I were a high school boy and should receive a letter from a man in a collegiate position wherein the king's English is butchered beyond description, I would think that perhaps the fellow was born short, then cut short of any opportunities that he might have had to improve himself. I am sure you noticed the greivous errors in construction and spelling that would discount any promises a man might make.

What chance would a boy have should he get ill or be injured when he has nothing to fall back on, only promises?

You will remember when I was at Osborne I told you that I would give Max a job that would net him 35¢ an hour. He can work two hours a day every day, and if his Saturdays are free he can get those in, also. A boy can earn about \$20.00 a month if he works, but of course he is paid only for the time that he works. If he doesn't work that is his own fault because the work is there for him. But oftentimes a boy thinks he has to study and for some reason or other does not get his work done. Two hours a day is 70¢ a day, and we find a boy can earn about \$20.00 a month. Some months he may fall a little shy of that on account of Christmas and holidays, but the other months will run over if he really does the job. The difficulty is too many boys figure that you have promised them work to that amount and it is up to you to worry about them working. But we don't do that - we are concerned with the boy making 35¢ an hour if he works, and if he works enough he gets \$20.00 a month.

When a school plans an outline of studies, the outline is made to take up the major portion of a student's time. With the student carrying a full load and working two hours a day and competing in some competitive sport, that is a full job for any boy. If Max is brilliant enough to work more hours than that a day, then we can give him the additional work, but we find it is a very poor practice to start a boy out on more time than that because he must orient himself to his new environment, and that is not always dead easy.

Sometimes a boy wants to join a fraternity and they tell him that they will give him work in the house to pay part of his tuition. This generally brings on grief because the boy cannot do a full job of working two hours a day, besides studying, and then working for the fraternity for additional time. He doesn't have time to study, and he generally flunks out. I would rather go slower the first year in making working contacts, because a full load of studying here is not an easy task.

Mr. Kissell, I have written you very frankly, as I have always talked with you, and I trust that you will see fit to have Max enroll at the University of Kansas. I pledge you my full cooperation and exceptional interest in Max in endeavoring to not only bring him many happy returns, but to also see that he has a full, buoyant, and successful life at the University of Kansas.

I assure you it would be a pleasure to have Max at the University, and I wish that you and Mrs. Kissell might move to Lawrence so that you and she could enjoy the fellowship of your only and youngest son when he participates and competes for the University. I have no doubt of his ability, both as a student and an athlete, and it would be a real pleasure if the Kissell family could live so close to their daughter, to have the connections at the State House, and yet live in a college town which would prove both wholesome and edifying.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

THE PORTIS INDEPENDENT

J. E. KISSELL, EDITOR, OWNER AND PUBLISHER

PORTIS, OSBORN CO., KANSAS

June The Twenty-Ninth,
Nineteen Hundred Forty.

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

When we last saw you there week ago, I told you I might get hold of something in regard to Gerald Tucker and whether he considers KU at all. So far I have not been able to do it, as he has been away from home some, but I think that I may get something soon; that is whether, or not, he will consider the University. If I get anything of interest, I will get in touch with you. I have heard, indirectly, that Tucker will go to Oklahoma U. but that he is as yet not fully decided. By the way, I have letter from Bruce Drake about Max. He had heard we might be interested in Petroleum Engineering and so wrote. His letter, tho, is very nice and not at all out-of-place and he wants Max to come down and see him. He said in letter he had assumed Max would stay in Kansas, but that he would be welcome at OU.

Before I forget, I wanted to say a word about some boys that you might be interested in. At least I promised them or some of their folks that I would. Don Dougherty who has been at Washburn two years, is I hear transferring to KU. He has a year of eligibility and is a nice ball player; I do not know what happened at Washburn. Then a friend of mine, Wint Smith of Topeka, asked me to mention his nephew, Max Smith, of Randall who likely wants to go to KU but needs help. He is a good basketball player and Max and he have played against each other the past two years. Both made the all-Regional team at Concordia. Smith is a lean, lanky boy and of good character. Another boy from same territory is Ernest Nelson of Kackley. He is a corking scorer and a two-hand shot something like John Cooper of Missouri used to be. He scored heavily last season. Nice boy but I think has no money at all; also good student and fine on track and I believe now has the state pole vault record and he runs the half mile not too slow. Now these boys may lack stamina to stay with it but I mention them because I had promised to do so.

I wish you would tell me this, Allen. About what can any boy, such as Max or any other, realize there from his labors in the course of a year if he makes grades and is good enough to help the team he is on? That may be a direct question, but it is one that confronts me as I must be making some definite plans for Max before long.

I told you about some of the "big" offers Max had from some Kansas coaches and I was going to write you about one or two from out of state but will instead send the enclosed letter which you can look over. Now I do not "take for granted" all those offers, but some of them are okay I am sure, provided Max makes grades and is a gentleman and can help the team. Santa Clara had a man here to see Max play and there is a sportsman who offers to take care of his expense. But he will not take it, I am sure, since it is a long ways off and besides is a Catholic

next page.

*June 22 (7)
date of your letter to him*

Doc Allen---page two.

school largely. That might not make a lot of difference but since we are not of that faith, perhaps it would be better for him to not go there. A man named Martin will be thru here in July and will want Max to go back West with him to look the school over. No doubt you know Barsi and of Santa C. They are going out strong after athletes and they tell me will have one of the nation's best football teams this coming fall, and are lining up a fine basketball outfit for the next several years. They claim, too, that last year they were practically as good as Southern Cal. *in Bball.*

Max has a number of offers like that, some of which we do not consider at all, but some are I think/sound. One real good school makes just the same offer but he would be required to work as much as he could to apply on the favors granted.

I do not know what to think, Allen, about a boy (or any student) working too much while in school. Not that I am opposed to work or not that Max would not work, but it costs so much to go and there are so many things there that a student could (and should) take in, that I can't make myself believe that I ought to have Max working a lot at a small wage when the time could be spent in a way that would produce a bigger dividend. I would feel that the time might be spent in hearing lectures and programs, some music or choir work, dramatics (Max likes that) and doing some church work. I think you understand me on that. I feel it would be better to arrange some way for what money the boy would earn and let him be free to get all he could out of the life at the U. That of course, depends upon the boy, as if he loafed it away, he had better be working. And I also think that some work or responsibility is a good thing for the student.

That is the reason I asked about what a boy would be able to make in working there, and what time he would need to spend daily, and if it would tie him up so that he would miss some good activities? Such information as you might offer will be appreciated.

We all enjoyed a lot our visit with you the other day and was sorry that we perhaps kept you away from business longer than we should have. I think Max has some doubts relative to fraternities and he was going to mention that to you, but other things came up and he did not. I guess a dozen different fellows have told him that many things pro and con relative to fraternities.

You mentioned writing to me the other day, but I failed to note the letter when I got home. I mention it only because you may have said something that I should know. If not, perhaps our talk covered the field anyway.

The newspaper man I went to see there, reduced his price two thousand dollars that day but it does not look very good to me because it is a democratic paper and I am not a democrat. I may call on him again.

Very, very dry here and we need rain terribly bad. Some good wheat ~~but~~ acreage small. Gardens, potatoes and other stuff is gone due to lack of moisture. Our Solomon river here is dry right now and this is only June.

Kindest regards to you and your people. Did Bob get the grass mowed alright? Tell him if he wants to go to KState, that I will try to get him in and maybe? he could make the basketball team up there.

(Barsi letter is confidential; please return it.) Sincerely,

J. A. Kimmel
J. A. Kimmel.

May 1, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I have just written Max a letter and I did not want to impress upon him the fact that we are endeavoring to proselyte him or that we are trying to make any undue advanced toward him in his selection of a school. However, I do want you to know this, Mr. Kissell, that we would be glad to have Max here and we would be glad to give him a job that will help him in his quest for an education. I told you that when I was in Osborne last fall.

Max is a fine boy and will make a fine basketball player, but there is a lot of difference between high school basketball and college basketball. The competition naturally gets keener and the coach who spends a great deal of his time developing the fundamentals in a boy will see his team get better as the season progresses. The coach who endeavors to attract the outstanding star players to his school and who does not spend the very necessary time developing fundamentals and the proper morale that is so necessary among these star athletes then will find himself in a group of stars all twinkling in their own firmament.

I would be glad to have Max here at the University of Kansas, but I do not want it to appear that I am putting an emphasis on athletics. The boy should choose his school for the great value that the school can give him, and not for what he can give the school. A good many years have to elapse before a boy or a graduate can give back to the school the debt that he owes the school. When I see great scientists here at the University who have worked for a small salary very patiently through the years, then I draw a comparison between this great scientists who has given so much to humanity through his labors, and the boy who feels that he is going to give the school a big break should he enroll at the University. Then I can see why so many of the faculty members are so dead set and prejudiced against athletics. I do not say that all boys have that idea, but coaches and the general lay members of society do create a false premise that athletics are more important than the academic idea and education received in college halls. I say then I can see how these prejudiced, narrow-minded faculty members so resent the encouragement of athletics in the curriculum, and I find myself sometimes agreeing in part, not in whole, with their attitude.

You and I both know that the boy has got to have something more than mere athletic ability to be the hero that he should be, even though he is one of the greatest athletes in the world. I have in mind now so many stars - college athletes - that were "busts" when they got out of school because they thought that the whole world would continue to cheer for them just because they had physical excellence on the athletic arena.

The other night I had dinner with Waldo Bowman over at the home of Professor W. S. Johnson, head of the English Department here at the University. Waldo Bowman was a little, frail slip of a chap here from Linwood, a little town about 15 miles from Lawrence. He was not a good basketball player, but he had a wonderful brain. In his first year he did not make the team and barely made the squad. During one of my summer coaching schools here he came up to me, very impatient, and said, "Just what is the matter with me anyhow?" I didn't tell him that he had a very fragile physique, but what I did say was, "Well, Waldo, about everything. You will bounce the ball to the floor when it is not necessary. You pivot when it is unnecessary, and generally you pivot into your man without looking when you should always pivot to the sideline, because the guard plays between you and the basket, and if you would pivot toward the sideline you would always have possession of the ball. Then if you were careful enough to look before you bounced the ball or passed it you would be in position to make a good pass. You are jittery, jumpy, you do not have control of the faculties that will either make you a good player or a poor one." And then I showed him some other things, and all the while he searched me with his intense eagerness. I was of the opinion that he was resentful of the things that I was saying to him, and maybe he was, but he paid rapt attention, and every day after that I saw the boy in the gymnasium by himself working these things out patiently and laboriously, but definitely.

The sequel to this story is that Waldo Bowman played on the ever-victorious team of 1923. He went in as a substitute in one of the most crucial games in a series at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his sparkling and intelligent play in that game that turned the tide to victory. The most the boy ever weighed in college was 127 pounds.

The other night I sat in his presence and I was thrilled at his leadership and intelligence. At present he is editor of the Engineering News Record of New York City. Every big engineering project in the United States comes under his scrutiny for write-up and criticism. He is still a very young man, but he is just as modest as he was the day he graduated from this University. He is now on a tour of the United States, calling on the big engineers of the country, and I say big engineers. His word carries much weight in councils of engineering.

Al Smith made a statement when he took over the Empire State Building that they could moor a zeppelin to the Empire State. Bowman, in his writings, challenged the fallacy of such a statement in his Engineering News Record, and showed why that was an untruth. Smith called Bowman up and told him that he had no right to make statements such as that. Bowman told Smith that his statements were founded upon truth

and accuracy and engineering acumen, and he defied Smith to show him otherwise. Smith said, "Well, you should have at least called me up before you made that statement." Bowman said, "In our business we are not in the habit of calling people up. We are in the habit of investigating matters and reporting our findings for the benefit of the public and our patrons."

And then I think of Paul Endacott, who was captain of this 1923 team, now executive vice president of the Phillips Petroleum Company; of Tusten Ackerman, who has one of the finest jobs with the Equitable Life of New York; of John Bunn, Dean of Men at Stanford University; of "Dutch" Lonborg, at Northwester; "Frosty" Cox, Glenn Cunningham, and a great group of athletic men who have a fine physical body - but more than that, they had intelligence and they directed that intelligence along lines that kept them modest while they possessed an assurance that they wanted to be somebody.

It is so easy to let the athletic virus so take hold of a fellow that he is thinking about being a world champion in athletics and not being a world champion in other lines of endeavor that are so durable and so necessary to our continued peace and happiness. With this competence life can truly be a success.

I would like to work with Max and see Max out along with the leaders not only in basketball and track, but in the great game of life for which he is so well endowed.

Please give Mrs. Kissell my kindest regards. It was a great pleasure to visit with her.

Mrs. Allen left Saturday morning for Louisville to visit our daughter and her three children, then she and Mrs. Allen will drive on to New York for a couple of weeks to see some good shows and visit the Fair. I think it is a splendid thing that mother and daughter can get out together the same as father and son. There is a champaignship and congeniality there that is beyond words.

I hope that this general rain has visited your part of the country and that you get some of the blessings which you people so much deserve. I am to speak at the Hill City high school commencement on May 15th, and if you and Max are interested in talking about school I will be glad to stop by. It will be no imposition on me, I assure you.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Portis, Kansas,
May the Twenty-fifth,
Nineteen Forty.

DR. F. C. Allen,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Allen:

I am writing you to clear up a matter I mentioned some time recently as regards getting some information about certain boys going to college. I did not get a great deal but rather think a strong group of K State alums were trying to get a whole group of good senior boys at State this year.

I did not learn anything definite about Tucker's plans but he would seem to favor KState as I guess he has a course there in mind. No^w you may not care for this much and on the other hand maybe Tucker has been there or you have talked to him and he is headed to KU but I was offering it for any value it might be. I think he needs some help and also that he has many offers, etc.

Max is in Topeka and he wrote me that they (someone) told him at Manhattan that Tucker was a cinch to go there. Someone also told him that if would enroll there that he would get to be in the group with Tucker, Evans of K. City and some other good boys. I had heard that Evans would go to KU or to Benedicts.

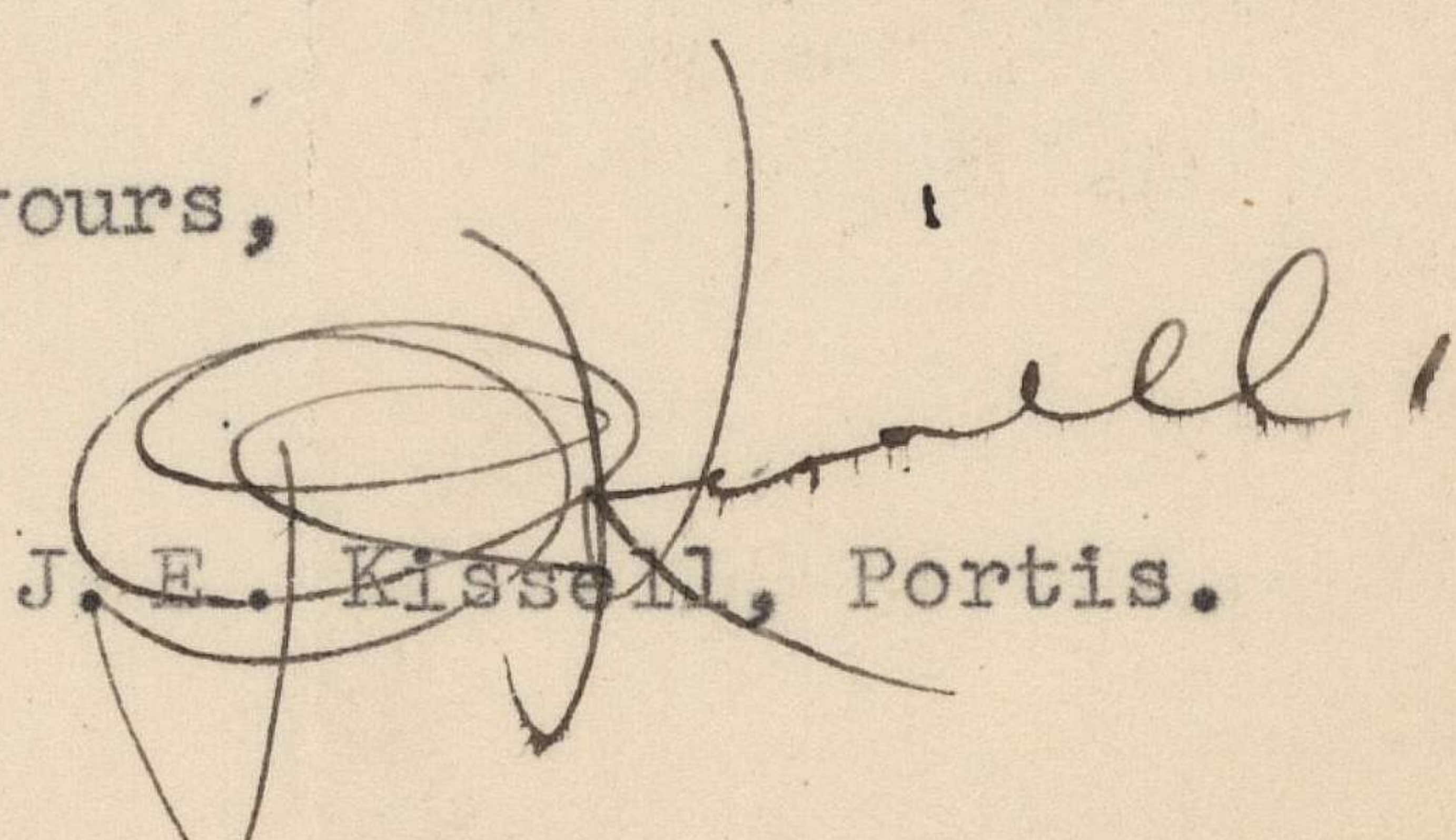
When Max left the other day, it was about the hardest day of my life, because it brot me face to face with the fact that he had grown and was gone from home for good. We went in the house and I could not say a word for an hour. His room looked bleak and bare and things stared at me. He is the last child and I was tied up to him in almost every way and he was a great pal. It was just the thot that actually he was leaving home practically for all time. I guess I am too big a sissy for Mr. Hitler to send out into France.

I might see you sometime soon as a friend of mine there, Warren Zimmerman, wants me to come there to look into buying some paper that may be for sale. If I come I will look you up and may also bring Max down. He may be in Lawrence any day now and call on you.

Must close for now and get this on the cars. Things look fair here but the war shadows everything and God only knows what will happen over there. I can't conceive of a justice that (in the end) will let Hitler win. He can't do it but may do a lot of damage before fate catches him.

Kindest regards to you and yours,

Sincerely,


J. E. Kissell, Portis.

(COPY)

UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CLARA
Santa Clara, California

Board of Athletic Control

June 25, 1940

Mr. J. E. Kissell
The Portis Independent
Portis, Osborn Co., Kansas

Dear Mr. Kissell:

I am sorry too delay answering your letter of sometime ago but have been out of town for over a month.

Your son Max has an enviable record in athletics and we at Santa Clara our extremely interested in having him attend our school.

We have a few Alumni Scholarships that we give out to basketball prospects. These Scholarships are submitted too the school by a group of wealthy alumni. They include a boys room, board, laundry, tuition, fees, books. All it coast the boy to attend is for his spending money and cloths. If Max accepts one of these scholarships he does not have too wait tables or do any other work around the campus. This alumni board feels that if the boy does a good job in his studies and basketball that is about all he has time for. The alumni board ~~wants the athlete to fulfill three require-~~ments in order to maintain this scholarship: - 1) Satisfy the Dean of Discipline, 2) Satisfy the Dean of Studies, 3) Do a good job athletically. By the later I mean that he has to be of some help to the squad.

I wish that you would have Max fill out the enclosed application blank and also send in a copy of his official transcript of record, which has to go from one registrar to another. I would like to have the above information sent as soon as possible as the time is drawing nearer to registration, which takes place on the 16th of August to the 20th of August.

Thanking you kindly for your cooperation and with best wishes to you and Max, I am

Sincerely,

(Signed) GEORGE A. BARS I

B

July 6, 1940.

Mr. Harold Keith,
Director of Publicity,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Harold:

I haven't the heart to press you on this basketball article when I learn that you are on the last chapter of your sports book. Gee, what a chore you have! I well remember how frayed your nerves are when you get to this point. And yet these people are pounding me on the back to get that article in because they write me they have everything else in except the material from our district.

Dan Partner is to write the Western and National play-offs in Kansas City. But I would be disappointed if you did not recall the incidents of our Big Six play-off and the Fifth District play-off, because Partner will make no mention of that. And since our team went much further than any of the other district teams in getting to their position I think we should be missing something if we did not follow on and give the Western as well as the National play-off attention in the Big Six write up.

You see, Indiana had no tie nor did they have a play-off like we had with Oklahoma A. & M. In fact, we were the only team in the eight N.C.A.A. districts that had a play-off with another conference member. Southern California has their conference divided into the northern and the southern, but it is still a conference play-off, and our district is the only one that has two major conferences that have a play-off for the district title. All others are picked by declaring the conference winner. I think there is quite a point there.

Now, in addition to that, most of the schools' schedules had been finished and they had an opportunity to rest before these play-offs came. Kansas played Kansas State on February 20th at Manhattan, Nebraska on the 24th at Lincoln, Iowa State on the 26th at Ames, Missouri at Lawrence on March 1, Creighton on March 4th at Omaha, and Oklahoma on March 8th at Norman. Five of our last six games were away from home. Then we were forced to play Oklahoma on March 12th at Wichita, Oklahoma A. & M. the 16th at Oklahoma City, and then, of course, Rice and Southern California in Kansas City on the 22nd and 23rd. That was certainly a tremendous load for the "pony express" to pull. And too, we had very few reserves, who were also small.

Yes, I will be glad to give you the dope on all strategy we did use. Here's one very interesting item. From the last game that we played with Oklahoma at Norman on March 8th until the final game with Indiana on March 30th, our team or squad did not practice but one day in all this time. They were so dog-tired from driving through our schedule that our time was spent in mental and physical conditioning of the boys, and the only time they did come to the gymnasium would be for the trainer to work on them. My psychology was to tell the boys that they have their fundamentals down well, that they knew all the basketball that was necessary for them to know, and since they had missed time away from their studies on these trips in the last swing around the conference, for them to forget basketball entirely and get to their books. This they did with remarkable alacrity. Three of the boys on the team were honor students - Engleman, Voran and Bob Allen.

Kansas had the best team academically that she has had since the team of 1923 with Hindacott, Bowman, Ackerman, Wolf and that group. Engleman was elected president of the School of Business, which is quite an honor. Bob is a pre-medic and is getting all of his medic prerequisites out of the way. He will be a senior next year, taking his A. B. degree, and then he will go into four years of medicine.

I will tell you about the belt dressing first. Years ago before basketball had courts exclusively for the sport, we were forced to play on many dance floors which had been waxed. This belt dressing is a heavy gelatinous mixture of tar and other products which melts at a very high degree of heat Fahrenheit. It is used to put on belts to make them adhere to the rollers and keep them from slipping off. When floors were so sleek in the early days we had to melt this belt glue or adherent. It is more of an adherent than it is a dressing, but they called it a belt dressing. We would melt this and put on the bottom of the shoes, and this would enable the boys to keep their feet on the sleek floor. When rosin and shellac applied to the soles of the shoes failed, we used the belt dressing.

So I went back some twenty years and remembered this adjunct to early day better basketball. We went to one of the supply houses and got these big rolls about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and about 12 inches long, then we bought tallow candles, and would heat this belt dressing and have the boys hold their feet up and we would apply it while it was warm. We went down to the Forum in the afternoon before we played Oklahoma that night. Previously we had seen how Missouri and Oklahoma slipped around on the floor, but we knew there was something we had to do to keep our feet. While we were doing this an oil field roustabout came in and said that was old-fashioned - the stuff now comes in liquid form. So we went down to one of the oil supply houses and bought some liquid belt dressing and got varnish brushes and painted the soles of the shoes. This naturally helped the boys in their traction. However, that was just one secret.

We spent a good deal of time on rebounding and position on rebounding. When a ball was shot to a goal each one of the fellows makes a definite effort, through practice assignments, to cover certain areas of the court, and position play has much to do on rebounding of the ball. Ford had played such a marvelous game at Missouri that we planned to play him in a flange sort of a scheme. Harp was the boy assigned to him on the post. He played on his inside. Harp and Bob Allen arranged among themselves to play him, one inside and one to his off-side. Then we had another man arrange with Bob to take care of his man in certain positions, and another boy to take care of him if he got into other territory. In other words, we played the principle of the zone, but not a straight zone defense. We played man to man, and only when Ford got into unusually dangerous positions did we double on him. It was a rather complicated plan, but we used the same thing on most of our talled opponents. The big Indian, Renick, down at Oklahoma A. & M., came in for the same sort of plan.

Harold, we do not pay so much attention to the particular individual, but we pay more attention to the type of team we are playing. Rice had this big boy Kinney who was enough to try any coach's soul, and the whole Rice team played a tough, rough game under the basket. We stepped up our shooting on Rice, knowing that Rice was off. When we found a team that shot a lot and were pretty hot, then we increased the tempo of our attacks on the basket. We were expecting Southern California to come down the floor to take us as Indiana took us. But Southern California did not do it. After the game, Sam Barry said to me, "You were expecting us to go down the floor and take you, weren't you?", and I said, "Yes, and we were ready for it." He laughed and said, "We knew it - that is why we didn't do it."

Well, Indiana came down the floor and took us, but they did not keep us from scoring 42 points on Indiana, the same number of points that we averaged the entire season in our conference and non-conference games. Our average there was 42 points. So we got as many points against Indiana as we did in our average play for the year, but Indiana had 36% of their shots and we had but 18%, which was far below our shooting average.

In the first ten minutes of the game in Kansas City we had Indiana 10 to 4, and Indiana could not get into the basket at all and we were working right through the Indiana defense. Then they started shooting long ones - someone said they shot one from the North Kansas City bridge. I have never seen a team any hotter, unless it was the team of Drake, Churchill, Holt, et al., in 1929 at the opening of the field house in Norman. I believe that outfit averaged more than 36% of their shots. But Indiana was sizzling, red hot and couldn't miss, and it didn't make any difference whether they were one-hand shots, two-hand shots, or jump shots or underhand - they would literally crawl up from under the

rim, bounce around and fall in.

I tried to arrange home and home games with Indiana this year immediately after the tournament, but they said their schedule had been completed. I really would like to meet them again, because I don't believe any team could be that hot two nights in succession, or twice in a year, I might say.

Personally, I thought the University of Southern California team had everything that any basketball team should have - they had finesse, height, speed, age, courage, power. A certain coach had this to say about U.S.C. - "They play just hard enough to win. In my opinion they can beat any team in the country if they go after them at the start and keep it up through the game, but they play just hard enough to win."

That was the sermon that I preached to our boys - "This California team plays just hard enough to win, and I believe that they will underestimate your sticking power. They will think they have you down and they will ease up because they play just hard enough to win. If you can have a sustained fight and drive, never letting up once even though you think they have got you down, then you will bounce back at them and you might surprise them." Personally, I believe that is just what happened. On five or six different occasions California had us down from 8 to 10 points, and then they would ease up and just about that time this indefatigable energy and dogged determination of this plucky little Kansas outfit that refused to stay whipped would come back and exert itself in an emphatic fashion.

I remember when Ford beat us at Norman, our boys could not restrain themselves from shooting shots way out on the floor and Ford would tip them in. But from that defeat we learned definitely one thing - to maneuver the ball around to the side and get Ford out of position, and then work the ball in. Of course, it takes a lot more work and more perseverance to do this job, to continue to work this ball at pressing points, but if you have good fundamentals plus the patience, then you will build up more energy but you will still break through the opposing defense, and this is what we did. Time after time other teams would have quit, but Kansas persevered, and it was the peculiar make-up of these boys, fine students with no special consideration for their athletic ability in the way of easy jobs. The kids came to the University for an education and they had the superior understanding that the fellow who was looking for a job on account of his athletic ability does not have. It was just a bunch of thoroughbreds, Harold, that could understand what hard-driving and stick-to-it-iveness meant.

And then the going got tough at Kansas City, as you noticed. At Wichita it was rough and tough with a big experienced Oklahoma team turning on the steam. And the thing that made me proud of them more

than anything else was that Kansas would match that experience and extra weight with an unquenchable fire that would cause frailer boys heretofore to quake and fade out. The fact that the Kansas boys played in Wichita, and not on home grounds, so to speak because the Wichita group heretofore had been very hostile toward Kansas, was an added factor. A few years ago Kansas and Wichita U. played a game of football, and perhaps the most rancid feeling of any town toward the state university was shown at that time. However, the basketball game with Kansas winning the Big Six play-off seemed to catch the fancy of this town, and today I am told that those basketball games did more for the University than anything that has happened there in quite some time. The verdict was that the Kansas boys could take it.

Now, for the Oklahoma A. & M. game. The tables were reversed. We were playing in Oklahoma City, which was strictly a partisan crowd, and many Oklahomans, like Tom Stidham in your group were for us, but the average Oklahoman was dead against us and the Aggies were double tough from a partisan standpoint. There was a tendency to let down after the final drive at Wichita. The fact that I was chairman of the committee caused partisan newspapers to proclaim that I was trying to fix the Aggies in a bad spot by making them play on the 16th. The only reason the Aggies went to New York was to make \$2,000, but they projected the other side - that big-bad wolf Allen wanted to gobble up the Oklahoma A. & M. lambs. So we didn't have any the better of it in the way of publicity or politics. And of course the fact that I had to handle the Wichita play-off as well as the Oklahoma A. & M. play-off was an added burden which took me away from my boys most of the time.

The matter of selection of officials for the Wichita game was left to Bruce Drake and George Edwards. For the A. & M. game I called Henry Iba at the Picadilly Hotel in New York and asked him what officials he desired, which caused added time. And then the Kansas City play-off was coming and we had to order tickets and make arrangements for handling that ahead of this other game.

Kansas was tied at the half at Oklahoma City and tied at the end of the game, and the kids came through just as they came through against Southern California. But our law of averages, which had worked so beautifully, swung to its norm when we met Indiana. Indiana won the game in the last six minutes of the first half. They scored 12 points and although we went out and played the second half more than even, we could not pick up that shooting drive that they put on in those six minutes of the first half.

While this Kansas team may not have been the greatest Kansas team that ever played for the University, we won more basketball fame for the University than any other, by far. People who never paid any attention to Kansas basketball adopted Kansas as their team on account of the courageous fight of these little fellows who refused to be whipped by bigger opponents. Thanks to the radio, old people past 70 would hang on to that radio when Kansas would play a game, just as these old people who had been Kansas co-eds in early days.

I have never seen anything like it. And so we say good-by to a great bunch of boys. Practically all of them are marvelous students and relatively obscure chaps who do not expect the world to give them a living, but rather who took their athletics incidentally and not as the real purpose for which they had enrolled at the University. There was no wild celebration and no debauching and jousting after the season was over. They didn't have to get on a drunk to celebrate their victories and they did not have to show their medals. This is the very thing that made me very proud of them.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FGA:AH

Dear Coach:

I am on the last chapter of my sports book and will start on that basketball review the minute I finish ~~the~~ the book.

When the start is made, I would like to have some information ready to go on:

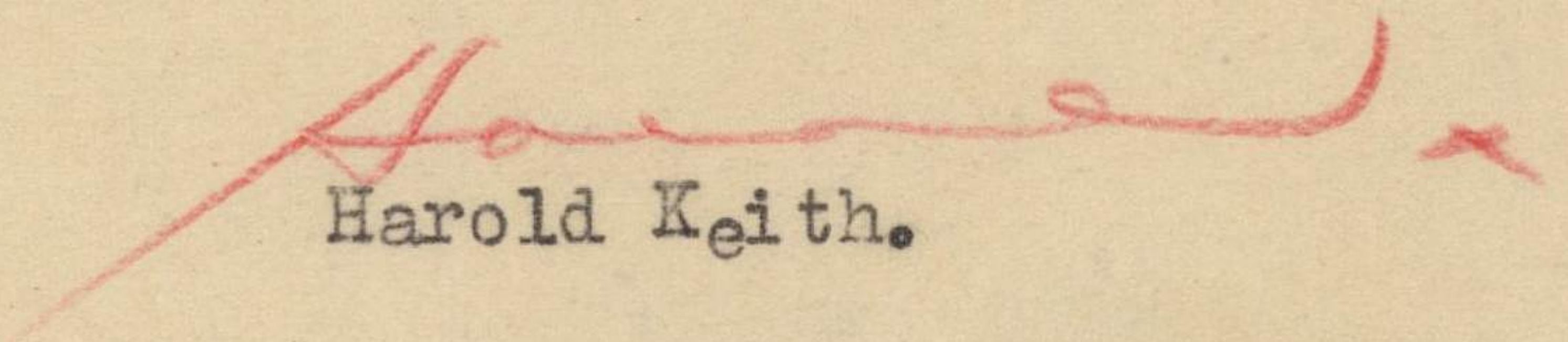
(1) What ~~tourney~~ ^{NCAA} tourney will be held in Kansas City next year and what are the dates? Is it the Western Regional again, and also the NCAA finals? Will any national coaches' meetings be held?

(2) I want to ~~write~~ boom your feat of beating Oklahoma, Oklahoma A. and M., Rice and Southern California with such a small team. The only game I saw was your licking of us at Wichita. Can you tell me a little about each of those four games? I won't let on where I got the dope and it will be in this review.

I have box scores, stories etc. but what I would like to have you tell me, in confidence, is your coaching strategy (or as much of it as you can reveal) in each of those four games. How you beat taller teams. Which of your players were assigned to the enemy hot shots, such as Ford of Oklahoma, Slade, Rennick and Eggleston of Oklahoma A and M, the Rice hotshot and Vaughn and that sweet center from Southern California. Also how about that belt grease at Wichita? Is that straight goods? Your boys got 25 more shots at the goal than we did that night and we had all the height.

I am not trying to pry into any of your ~~best~~ secrets. Just wanted some stuff the basketball stories don't carry. It doesn't need to be long. Just a paragraph on each of the four games. I imagine the Kansas-Indiana finale will be covered thoroughly by someone else.

Sincerely,


Harold Keith.

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Lawrence, Kansas
July 15, 1940

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe,
Chairman, National Basketball Committee,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Floyd:

Last night I took home the Journal of School Health and the mimeographed copy of "Health Service Problems in Basketball", by Charles H. Keene, M. D., director of health and physical education at the University of Buffalo.

I was very much interested in this criticism because I have always opposed the elimination of the center jump. But you know we go along with the majority, even though we do not agree. I am saying something to you, Floyd, now in extreme confidence, and I would not want to have you pass this on because there is always an opportunity for a fellow to speak out of turn. I have always inately felt that the center jump was sold down the river for a consideration not of money but of political sectional athletic good will and vicarious athletic game trading.

I am not endeavoring to restore the center jump to basketball by using these dissatisfied people as a medium. Even though they have very good grounds and justification for bringing this up, as a member of the Committee I will play one hundred per cent with you before anything is broached.

Again this year I suggested the possibility of rotation of the center jump, the same as we have the batting order in basketball; that the coach should declare his jumping order with the rival coach at the time the line-up is given; that we should have this rotation of the center jump to break the almost hysterical spell that we find our spectators in after one of these games.

Actually, I am telling you the chancellor of our University and a great many professors have told me that they cannot stand the present-day basketball game. They love the game, but they find themselves in such a nervous state after a game of this sort that they are forced to stay away to guard their health.

Certainly, if this is true of the spectators, it has many wearing qualities on the players, and I am heartily in accord with Dr. Keene's criticism. We may not be able to put our finger on the trouble as far as the physical breakdown is concerned.

I am sending you a copy of some work done by one of our physical education people here this past year - Ernst A. Uhrlaub, who was captain of my basketball team in 1921. He has had many years of experience in teaching and coaching in the Kansas high schools, and returned to the University this past year to take his master's degree in physical education. This study of his, which is being sent under separate cover, largely refutes the charge the physicians complain of, but when we have eminent medical authorities who are protesting the possible injury to the youngsters of our nation, then it is high time that we intelligently cooperate with them and show them that we are willing to present all of our data. Then if there is any finding that is detrimental to the health of the youngsters we should hasten to recognize an emergency and change the rules to be compatible with our beliefs, so far as possible.

Certainly from the standpoint of education we had better slow up the game and get the good will of these people by having them remove their criticism and then by patiently working with medical authorities doubtless it would be possible to reach out and incorporate some additional rules that would give us the thing desired in the game without antagonizing the medical officers of the schools and universities.

You will recall that Mr. St. John has always worked for unification on the Rules body, but I would go far enough to say that in the high school rules it is thinkable to me that we could have separate and distinct rulings in the same book. Wherever possible make all rules uniform, and then note the exceptions between college and high school.

I have not had an opportunity to dictate a letter to Dr. Keene, but will send you a carbon copy of the letter that I write to him. Of course, I will not send Dr. Keene a carbon copy of this letter that I have written you, but I will tell him in my letter of certain points that I believe in which I have expressed to you, without mentioning the delicate ones.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

December 7, 1940

Dr. Charles H. Keene
Director of Health and Physical Education
University of Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Dear Dr. Keene:

Your mimeographed sheets entitled "Health Service Problems in Basketball" were delivered to me last spring by Mr. Floyd A. Rowe, Chairman of the National Basketball Rules Committee, Cleveland, Ohio, together with the May issue of the "Journal of School Health."

I wrote Mr. Rowe, as of July 15, stating that I would write you a letter touching upon the points that I considered very important from a high school standpoint, but my administrative work after returning from my vacation has been exceptionally heavy and it has prevented me from writing sooner. However, since this is the beginning of the basketball season, doubtless this communication regarding basketball will be quite apropos at the present time.

May I state that Mr. John Bunn, at present Dean of Men at Stanford University, played on my Varsity team back in 1919-20. Later he was my assistant coach after which he went to Stanford University as Director of Basketball.

Personally, I have very definitely opposed the elimination of the center jump, but as a member of the Rules Body I have always believed in the democratic way of doing things, that of registering a protest, but if you are out-voted to go along in good faith with the majority. I believe it would be a very difficult thing to restore the center jump in basketball. Several years have passed now with the elimination of the jump and it would of necessity require some modification or some change to have it restored.

I protested vehemently against the elimination of the center jump because the pause that it took for the official to put the ball in play again gave the spectators a mental breathing spell as well as the somewhat exhausted players. I thought it was a good thing for the game to have this let-up, from all angles concerned. Personally, I view the game as a shuttle-game as it is now played, entailing much greater strain on the heart and emotions and adding several minutes to the playing time, because the rules, as they were played formerly, did not provide for a time-out when the referee retrieved the ball and brought it to the center of the court for a toss-up.

At the end of last year's basketball season I suggested the possibility of rotating the center jump in the same manner as we have the batting order in baseball. Before the game the coach would list the jumping order of the players, just as the coach gives the batting order of the baseball team, and after every field goal by either side the ball would be tossed up at the center circle. The free-throw could be handled in one of either two ways; either the ball could be out-of-bounds and given to the opponents or it could follow the same rule as the field goal. By such a plan we would break the almost hysterical spell that we find our spectators in after one of these games.

Our Chancellor of the University as well as a great number of business men and some professors told me that they cannot stand the emotional present-day strain of a basketball game. They love the game but they find themselves in such a nervous state after a game of this sort that they resolve to stay away from the next one to guard their health. Certainly if this is true to spectators it is bound to have many fatiguing qualities on the players and I am in very hearty accord with your criticism, especially when we consider the intermediate, the junior high school and the high school youth.

However, I am not so sure that the restoration of the center jump would eliminate all the troubles, when we endeavor to put our fingers on the cause of the physical breakdown in youth.

I am sending you a copy of some work done by one of our Physical Education students the past year, Ernst A. Uhrlaub, who was captain of the basketball team in 1921. He has had many years of experience in teaching and coaching in the Kansas High Schools and last year returned to the University to take his Master's Degree in Physical Education. This study of his, which is being sent under separate cover, largely refutes the charge that physicians complain of, but on the other hand, we have eminent medical authorities who are emphasizing the possible injury to the youngsters of our nation.

I agree with you that it is high time that we intelligently cooperate with each other, and that all of us willingly present our data for serious study. I am very glad to cooperate fully in endeavoring to find anything in our game that is detrimental to the health of our youngsters, and so far as I am concerned, I for one would be glad to hasten to recognize such an emergency and change the rules to the point that there could be no criticism. Our games should be health builders not destroyers.

While I am not a member of the High School Basketball Rules Committee, I do see a much greater danger to the growing youth in the high school game than occurs to a more mature individual in a collegiate game.

There has been a great desire toward unification of rules in our Joint Basketball Rules Committee. This Joint Committee comprises the National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, Young Men's Christian Association, Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union and the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association. I see no reason why the fundamental rules could not be followed with certain modifications for the high school youngsters who need all their vitality to mature their bodies.

I am of the opinion that junior high school youngsters should not have interscholastic competition. The intramural games, it seems to me, are sufficient to stimulate the best in them in the way of body building and in the way of self-denial without the strain of out-of-town trips and interscholastic competition. The emotional strain is too severe on the growing boy. Personally, I am in favor of a limitation in the number of games that the youth of our high schools should play in any one year.

Assuring you of my interest and of my full cooperation and thanking you for your communication, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

cc: Floyd Rowe

CLEVELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 29, 1940

To: MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

Gentlemen:

Under other cover I am mailing you two exhibits. One is a copy of The Journal of School Health, Vol. X, No. 5, May 1940, directing your attention to the editorial beginning at the bottom of Page 165.

Following the reading of this editorial I wrote to Dr. Keene and, after some correspondence, received from him a copy of the paper which he delivered in regard to the subject of the editorial. This paper constitutes the second exhibit sent you.

At your convenience, will you kindly take the time to read both the editorial and Dr. Keene's paper. While they represent the thinking of one man only, still this one man, Charles H. Keene, M.D., is, I believe, qualified and fair-minded. Were it not for these reasons, I would not be taking up your time by asking you to read this material.

Prior to sending the material to you, I wrote to Dr. Keene and asked permission to send the material out, indicating that he might get some correspondence from committee members in regard to it. Dr. Keene replied that this was all right with him, but from June 15 to September 1, he would be without stenographic assistance and, therefore, could not answer any great volume of correspondence until after September 1st.

After you have gone over this material, if you do feel the urge to write to Dr. Keene, I should be glad to have you forward me a copy of your letter to him, in order that I may see what your reaction is to the situation.

With personal regards, and trusting you have a good summer season,
I am

Sincerely yours

FLOYD A. ROWE

Chairman

FAR:McG

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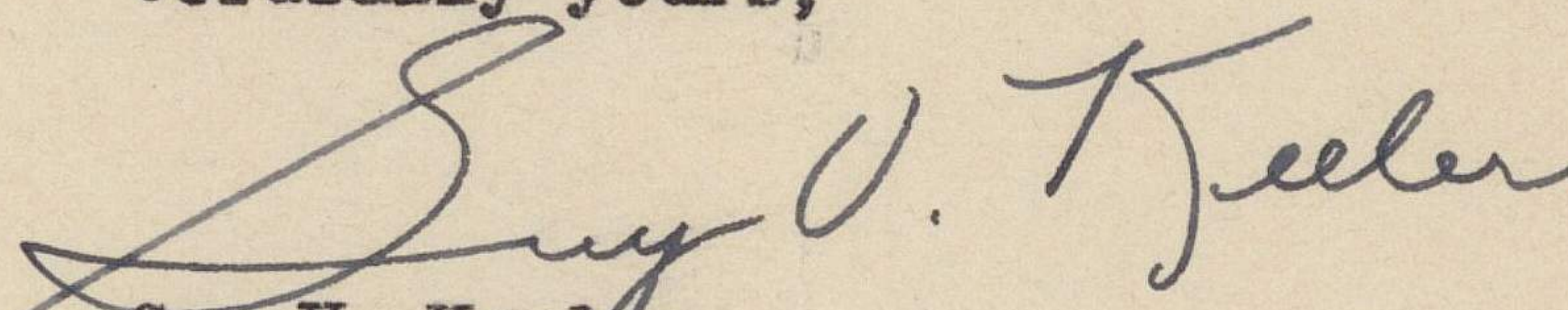
July 18, 1940

Dr. F. C. Allen
105 Robinson
Campus

Dear "Doc":

They say a good thing is worth waiting for but I think you have waited long enough for my appreciation of your cooperation in the golf tournament during Commencement week. You did a splendid job and I think it was well worth the effort.

Cordially yours,


Guy V. Keeler
Assistant Director

GVK:mle

July 19, 1940.

Mr. Bill Koester,
Summer Session Kansan,
University of Kansas.

Dear Bill:

You had a fine story on the Oklahoma A. & M. basketball games, but your facts were not correct.

Oklahoma A. & M. beat us but once last year and that by two points in a very close and hair-raising battle at Stillwater. Then we defeated them here and defeated them again at Oklahoma City, not Wichita. Doubtless you were thinking of the year before when we dedicated their field house. They beat us in two close games, then we defeated them here at Lawrence.

The game in Wichita was with the University of Oklahoma in the Big Six play-off.

I know that you will agree with me that when these facts are distorted the value of the story is killed.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH