

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 Paul 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