

J A Y H A W K R E B O U N D S

May 26, 1945

No. 16

Dear Fellow Jayhawkers:

In our Jayhawk Rebounds issue No. 15 last month I promised that I would reprint the story of "Listening For a Droning Plane", and the fight that Bill Johnson waged on that memorable night back in 1932 when Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma were fighting it out for first place in the Big Six championship basketball race.

Back in 1924 when I wrote "My Basketball Bible", I wrote a story about the big game - that Kansas-Missouri epic struggle back in 1923, describing the ever-victorious team when they conquered the Tigers twice in a single year. My purpose in writing this story was to try to impress the coaches and readers that inspirational coaching plays a great part in victories. It is just as valuable for a coach to recognize the psychology of coaching as it is for him to know plays, formations and also to understand the physical structure of the boys who are playing on the team.

In the present book, "Better Basketball", I have enlarged that section under the heading, Tales of the Yesteryears. There are seven yarns that I have gotten together and all of them are based on fact. This story of Bill Johnson is as definitely a part of my teaching of basketball as are the fundamentals contained in my text.

Listening For A Droning Plane

For I dipt into the future, far as  
Human eye could see,  
Saw the Vision of the world, and all  
The wonder that would be;  
Saw the heavens fill with commerce,  
Argesies of magic sails,  
Pilots of the purple twilight dropping  
Down with costly bales;  
. . . . .  
Heard the heavens fill with shouting,  
And there rained a ghastly dew  
From the nation's airy navies grappling  
In the central blue.

--Tennyson.

In his lone flight from America to France, Charles A. Lindbergh, in 1927, hooked up the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower, and thus further materialized this poet's prophetic dream of almost a century before.

In lesser degree, in his own smaller world in the middle west, Bill Johnson, phenomenal Kansas center of 1932, electrified basketball followers by a heroic flight from his family's grave lot in the cemetery at Oklahoma City, Okla., to the basketball court on Mount Oread at the University of Kansas.

On this particular Saturday night, the universities of Missouri, Okla-