

6680 Ohio Street,  
Omaha, Nebraska,  
December 10, 1940.

Mr. F. C. Allen,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

My Dear Sir:

Your recent attack against college football has been of great interest to me because it has given me the long awaited opportunity to write to you personally and to state some of my reasons for the poor showing of K.U. football teams for the past seasons.

The writer, a former resident of the state of Kansas is an ardent football enthusiast, especially for all of the teams in the Big Six. However being now a resident of the great football-minded state of Nebraska, I must confess that I am somewhat of a booster for the Cornhuskers now that they are riding the crest of a great wave of popularity on account of what will go down in history as one of their greatest seasons. However, normally I always root for the Jayhawker's against Nebraska because I still have a lot of loyalty for my native state and that K.U. is the under dog.

I wish to protest vigorously against your recent statement in regard to college football and I am sure that you will find many football fans in accord with me, including the vast majority of the leading sports writers. The past season has been a very humiliating one for Kansas football enthusiasts, especially for those K.U. supporters that have immigrated to the surrounding states whose team have so consistently walloped the Jayhawkers every Saturday.

Kansas with a half million more population than Nebraska, should be able to do much better than during the past few years. Lets go back to the turn of the century and we will see great Jayhawker football teams that were on a par with any team in the middle west. And then a few years later in 1907-8 with the great Tommy Johnson. Then the total of wins and losses with the Huskers were even. And in the past thirty years, K.U. has won one game. The largest stadium in the Big Six there at Lawrence is practically empty at your games, and only a few miles from a metropolitan area with a population of over a half million and twice that of Lincoln where they have an attendance at one of their lesser games of more than the total for all games at K.U.

And here Mr. Allen, you have a complete picture of how the "soft sissy Sunday school game", of basket-ball is killing the once much respected and feared Jayhawker gridster of yesterday. The term "Jayhawker" is an old tradition in the Midlands football circles and the numerous football fans in the great state of Kansas and elsewhere have a right to ask for a new deal for their game at K.U. ; one that will put football before the "sissy" basket ball. Under the present set-up, K.U. is becoming nationally known as a haven for the parlor and Sunday school boys who play basket ball, while the football players go to other schools outside the state. The writer loves to journey down to Lawrence at least once every fall and see the delightful surroundings and see a good game but I would'nt go across the street to see the "sissy game of basket-ball. Mr. Allen, I hope your blast will prove a boomerang that will create a state-wide interest in K.U. football so that the Jayhawker will again come to life as in the days of the great Tommy Johnson.

Yours sincerely

*H. P. Johnson*