

Confidential

February 3, 1940.

Major L. McC. Jones,
Director of Athletics,
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Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Biff:

I have been reading a good deal of late regarding the unfortunate fact that certain newspapers break into print criticizing the showing of the basketball team at Nebraska. Certainly the injuries to Fitz and Pitcaithley have played havoc with the Nebraska team, and my prediction is that tonight at Lincoln if Fitz is in the ball game Missouri will have a very difficult time of winning. I just have a hunch that if Fitz and Pitcaithley are in there that the Huskers have a surprise for the Tibers.

A basketball team is no different from any other type of team - they have good years and then bad years, and sometimes we may have a lot of heft on the football team and they will be set up to go places and then they fail to click. How much altitude there is on the basketball team is not always a sure thing that they will beat everybody they play. I have had such experiences and I know how unsympathetic the public is when they are expecting a kill.

So I want you to know that it would be the last thing that I would do to give credence to such newspaper criticism. I have been in similar positions many times that Harold finds himself. But I do want to write you concerning a matter that I would appreciate if you would keep very confidential.

Three years ago when certain incidents happened here I had decided that I would not stay. My son, Bob, who was a freshman, said, "Dad, I always wanted to play on your team, and I hope you won't quit until I have finished school." He was a pre-medic and there were certain situations that transpired that I promised him I would coach here until he had finished. I would not be interested in anything at all for next year because I expect to stay here until Bob has been graduated. After that, if you should think of giving Brownie a full time job with the football team and his physical education work there, then I would be at least interested in discussing the situation with you.