

November 14, 1938

Mr. C. E. McBride,
Sports Editor,
Kansas City Star,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I wrote you Saturday about being called to see Ernie Quigley. I want to give you a report on him, but of course I desire that it be kept confidential. I am just telling you for your own information.

Mrs. Allen and I drove up Saturday afternoon, and I found that Quig had a very severe case of phlebitis, inflammation of the femoral vein. You know, that is what Rockne had and it is what was the cause of Forrest, Jr.'s, death. The danger, of course, is in the blood clot in the thigh getting loose in the blood stream and lodging either in the heart or the brain. Either one of these lodgments generally proves fatal or produces paralysis.

As soon as I saw his condition I advised Mrs. Quigley privately what I feared and asked her to call the best specialist that she could get. Of course the thigh cannot be manipulated on account of loosening the embolus, but I did treat him very gently and gave attention to the sacro-iliac joint where one of the predisposing causes generally lies.

I told Mrs. Quigley to call me at one o'clock Sunday afternoon and let me know what the finding of the specialist was. I ordered them to put a chair upside down in the bed and put pillows over the back of it and have him elevate his leg so that the drainage would be encouraged in the thigh and leg. Specialists differ whether to use an ice pack or heat in treatment.

The two days previous to this swelling which came on very suddenly Friday night, Ern had been up around the house working at his desk. Doubtless he got the foot cold and also caught some cold, which gave rise to this sudden swelling. Instead of his foot being broken, as it was reported, x-rays showed no break whatsoever, but the foot had not been mending and when he went to the American Royal he got wet and took pneumonia. He was in the hospital for a few weeks with pneumonia and this low grade fever that he had doubtless contributed to this femoral vein trouble. The congestion in his lungs is not entirely cleared up and this would cause a sluggish condition of circulation and would be a fertile field for phlebitis to get started in. I am speaking of the circulatory apparatus of his system.