

February 7, 1945.

Mr. Jim Morley,
Sports Editor,
University Daily Kansan.

Dear Jim:

I have noticed through your "Sportorials" that you have been making a strong plea for track, with which I am highly in sympathy. However, I believe that you have been taking an improper position in criticizing football and basketball while endeavoring to build up your case for track. I do not believe that you ever build up interest in any one thing by crying down the other.

Track is the oldest competitive game in the world, dating back to the time the cavemen chased each other in games of war, or during the time the male pursued the female. That was the primitive way of mating, when the stronger male was able to pursue and capture the female. The games of "Hare and Hounds", and "Hide and Seek", - all came from this primitive life. The throwing of the javelin came from use of the spear, the discus from hurling rocks from the mountainside. There is nothing new in track.

Therefore, if track, the oldest game in the world, cannot attract an enthusiastic following there is something wrong, and one of those things is that track is not a team game but an individual sport. They call it a team game, but as you pointed out in your column, a fellow competes either against himself or an individual, and it becomes an individual sport. When a teammate on a team loses, the whole team loses, even though one man may play such an outstanding game that if he were in track he would be a champion, but he loses with his gang and that is the great impelling power that draws spectators to the ringside or to the stadium, - because there is a mass struggle.

Through the hundreds and thousands of years that the masses have been struggling, a team game appeals to the mass more than an individual contest. You remember the Greek who won the Marathon and fell dead after delivering the message. Of course it was a message of victory in war, if I am correct in my memory. So distance running has always appealed, even before the Marathon.

Now, just why does not track draw? Because, as I said, it is an individual game. The only teamwork in track is relays, and the baton put teamwork in footracing. If coaches were extremely wise they would have a series of relays, and sandwich in the individual events as sideshows. I was quick to see this back in 1923 when we founded the Kansas Relays. It