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August 10, 1942.

Mr. Jack Mitchell,
Arkansas City, Kansas.

Dear Jack:

Sparky McSpadden spoke to me regarding the possibility of your attending the University of Kansas. I do not know what profession you are expecting to follow or what course you desire to take during your college career. However, I want you to know that if you should decide upon the University of Kansas we will be delighted to have you here and we will be able to help you with a job if you are in need of work.

Sparky can tell you as other University students can tell you that we do help our athletes, but we help them help themselves. We do not help them because they are athletes but because of the fact that they are athletes and students who are making progress toward graduation. I am not especially interested in a fellow because he is a sterling athlete and he looks at his athletics as an end. Athletics are good for only two things, or possibly three -- to introduce you favorably to business and to society; to give you pleasure in your achievement during your academic career; and further, to instill a pride in your physical fitness that you will not desecrate or tear down a fine body machine in the way of dissipation.

America and England are the only two nations that have used the team game idea in business and society. We say "play the game" and that means that you will cooperate, that you will train, that you will sacrifice for the other fellow, and that you will actually throw yourself away to win the team's game. That is the thing that has made America great. But we are losing the war so far, and I am looking at the world situation more than I am at our athletic situation. I realize that millions of our younger boys are going to be called upon to stem the German tide, and I would advise a boy to prepare himself for the conflict and not think of life at the present as a place where a man can go to school to play ball and have fun. There is a challenge infinitely greater than this that confronts you and all of our young men.

I will be happy to hear from you if you are interested in the University of Kansas, and assure you my full friendship and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH