

You speak of the loss of Dick Harp, Don, and Bruce, and of our possible weekend defense. I know and appreciate their talents and praise their exceptional abilities. Yet we lost the championship the year before. You saw Dick during his junior year play perhaps the sourest basketball imaginable. His fault was not physical. It was mental. Since I have the job of coaching the team, why not leave these problems of coaching entirely up to me, realizing that for 22 years at Kansas I have been faced with such similar problems.

What I most desire is your loyalty to the extent that you will realize that I know my business well enough to reshape both the offense and the defense to meet this exceptional situation. And I will do it, I assure you. "Yours is not to reason, 'Why?' Yours is but to do or die."

Your grades are not good enough for a boy who has as much intelligence as you have. You should now have better than a B average. Ralph, I do feel deeply the failure that you have made so far in college-- the failure to make the great mass of athletes and athletic followers admire you. You felt this absence of admiration enough last football season to speak to Gwinn Henry about it. The basketball season did not offer the same embarrassments in your personal relationships, but the bare facts are that you have not been a leader either on or off the campus. Emphatically, I have desired this very very much for you.

I have said things very plainly. So that you will not misunderstand me. I admire you very much for the same straightforwardness expressed in your letter. You have been honest. When you come back, I want to sit in a room with you and tell you some things which are awkward on paper. They will deal with the proper conceptions of training, conditioning, loyalties, friendships, dating, and your possible ultimate success. When I return to Lawrence, about September 8th, I hope to have this friendly and important conference.

Sincerely,

P.S. The very next day after our luncheon together in Topeka, I called on J. V. Hamilton and Miss Anne Laughlin at the N.Y.A. Headquarters re. Fred Harris. I do not lose many opportunities in endeavoring to put one of our boys over. I thank you for again calling my attention to this.