

May 7th, 1941

Mr. John Baun  
Dean of Men  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear John:

I just received your good letter of the second instant and I assure you that I regretted more than you know, missing you when you were in Lawrence about ten days ago. I certainly would have enjoyed a "bull fest" with you and George.

Yes, I have taken on baseball because I was vain enough to listen to the supplications of some orphan baseball players. Two years ago, Ralph Conger, freshman coach of football, was asked to coach baseball. Conger had never played the game. He left to coach Wentowrth Military Academy. Last year, Mike Getto was given the baseball team to coach and he had never played the game. Mike left last year to coach the Brooklyn Dodgers.

So, I was asked by the boys and Dean Stockton, member of the board, if I would take over the baseball team. Three years ago, the Varsity boys came in to me and asked me to coach the team. I told them that was up to the Director of Athletics.

Last year they again came to me and asked me to coach and I gave them the same answer and told them if they wanted me to take the team the Director of Athletics should ask me.

Gwinn came into my office and asked me if I would take the team, stating that there was no additional money for coaching it and that he didn't want to ask me to assume extra duties with no extra pay. He rather thought it would be asking too much of me. But frankly, Johnnie, I felt sorry for the youngsters. The fact that most of the players knew a lot more than the coach made a most embarrassing situation and the crowd would sit and laugh at the antics of the ball.

Baseball has not been encouraged here for several years and as a consequence, things have run "down at the heels" in this sport. You can appreciate this when I tell you that my entire infield on the Varsity had never played a game of Varsity and Freshman baseball for Kansas. You may not remember Johnny Krum, Virgil Wise, and Elmo Maiden, but all these little fellows were in that Twilight Junior League that you, Doctor Bice and I coached.

Bobbie Allen has not played any baseball since he graduated from the Junior League and has played very little Ban Johnson Ball, but we have him playing first base and serving as relief pitcher. Bob has been very busy preparing for his entrance to the Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania, and incidentally, winning a Phi Beta Kappa key. So, he has not been out for baseball until this spring and that was after a very strenuous basketball season.

We played some good games but we have had only eight days of practice. I have never seen such rainy weather. Oklahoma beat us two to one, at Norman. The second game was rained out. Then, no practice until we went to Ames, beat Iowa State, 8 to 7. The next day we had a track meet, losing to Iowa State, 23 to 6. Yesterday,