

June 23, 1943.

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

Dear Mac:

I got a lot of enjoyment reading your Sporting Comment regarding Little Bill Miller. Last Sunday I read what I imagine Ernie Mehl had written about Little Bill on his "lack of tension" emphasis.

Last winter in the Satevepost I read quite an article telling what Little Bill was going to do for the Oklahoma Sooners. In the Post it showed the Oklahoma varsity basketball players going through the exercises and relaxation methods that Little Bill was teaching there. As a background in the field house were the athletic murals.

When I read this I was scared to death of Oklahoma. I thought Little Bill would sure give them a championship because they had Gerald Tucker and all the rest of the material to make Little Bill's theory work out. After the season was over I wondered how it happened that Little Bill didn't do the work with the Sooners, but I figured he just relaxed them too much.

Of course, when Little Bill had his Diamond D-X Oilers he had Chuck Hyatt and the rest of the gang that without relaxation could win a championship.

Now, understand I do not want to be sarcastic about Little Bill's theory of relaxation. I think every coach that has ever coached any sport has used this theory. But up springs Bill with an old idea as if it were a new thing. I have long used this in coaching my boys, "Pause for poise". I had a long conference with George Huff, the old Illinois baseball coach when I signed up in 1916. Mr. Huff was then coaching baseball and was athletic director. I said to him, "Mr. Huff, you have the greatest record of any college baseball coach in America. I would like to know your secret of success." "Well", he said, "you want to be sure to get a good catcher, a good pitcher, a good second baseman and a good center fielder. And then if you can teach the boys to relax they will make fewer errors and will get more hits."

As I say, every coach that I have talked to will tell you to keep your eye on the ball and relax. So I guess that Bill has got a new idea of telling the boys to relax, and then he mentions of course Joe Louis, Bill Tilden, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, and many others. And I might add Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney. Any fellow who is a champion has learned to relax. If he did not he could not hit with his fists so