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April 28, 1941

Mr. C. E. McBride  
Sports Editor  
Kansas City Star  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mac:

Mrs. Allen asked me when I returned Sunday morning at 2:00 A.M. if we had had trouble in any of our baseball games. I said, "Well, the only trouble that I know of that we have had was the difficulty we encountered in getting Iowa State out at bat. It seems as if we had more difficulty getting Iowa State out than any other trouble that I know of." She said, "Well, there is a copy of Mr. McBride's sports page and he must have heard something." She was greatly worried, so to sooth her fears and to ease any misapprehension that you might have I thought it best perhaps to write you the full facts of the case.

When I was asked to take charge of baseball here I called the baseball candidates together and made this statement, "Boys, we are playing college baseball and if any of you heretofore have had any idea of charging the umpire or running out toward him on any decisions, then I want to say here and now that all that stuff is out. We are a college baseball team and we are going to play strictly college baseball and none of the semi-pro stuff, imitative of the belligerent baseball barnstormers." Not only have I said this to the players, but a number of people wrote in to me congratulating me on taking the team, and in each letter I stated to them that our baseball material and morale was at a very low ebb and we were going to have a scrappy, aggressive team, but we were going to put our fight into the game and not at the umpire.

And we have followed that to the letter. We played three baseball games, one at Oklahoma and two at Ames, and I would be very pleased indeed if you could grapevine Mr. Harold Keith or Professor Jap Haskell or Professor Louis Menze or L. C. "Cap" Timm, baseball coach at Iowa State, and find out if we have ever been belligerent or have fallen in the evil way of the umpire charging habits of a baseball manager.

Coach Haskell had his assistant, Coach Jack Baer, on the coaching line for the first seven innings at Norman. I politely walked over to Jap and said, "Jap, isn't there some rule in the Big-Six code among baseball coaches that the Big-Six coaches shall remain off the coaching line?" Jap said, "I don't know, Phog, is there?" I said, "I think there is, Jap, is there not?" And with a friendly slap on the shoulder to subdue the bickerings from the Sooner rooters, I walked back to my bench and sat down. The approach was most pleasant, the conversation cordial and all the actions on my part were a friendly gesture. The Sooner rooters could not tell whether I was batting a lame baseball shoulder for Jap, or inviting him out to dinner. But the barrage was the same. In the next inning, Coach Baer kept his position on the bench and Coach Haskell sent a player out to do coaching on the third base.