

June 8, 1943.

Mr. Lloyd Blomstrom,  
288 - Winner, So. Dakota.

Dear Mr. Blomstrom:

Your letter has been referred to me for reply. I notice that you are preparing a speech for your local Rotary Club, and since I am president-elect of the Lawrence Rotary Club I will be happy to comply with your request.

The men at the University of Kansas who were physically handicapped were Tommy Johnson, Kansas greatest all-round athlete, Everett Bradley, who was an Olympic track athlete, and Glenn Cunningham. So much has been written about Glenn that doubtless you would be more interested in him than any of the others. However, I will tell you about Tommy Johnson and Everett Bradley.

Everett Bradley was a very weak and sick boy and was bothered with chorea (St. Vitus' dance) as a youngster. His physicians ordered him to stay out of school, which he did for five years. They told him to play, to climb trees and to conduct all of his activities in the great outdoors.

During the three years that Everett Bradley was in school he averaged  $17 \frac{2}{3}$  points in every meet that he was in. These were the Drake Relays, the Kansas Relays, and the Penn Relays, as well as all dual track meets and the Big Six indoor and outdoor meet. He won the pentathlon in Pennsylvania in 1921 and he was on the Olympic track team in 1924 and was one of Uncle Sam's outstanding performers.

Everett Bradley had said many times that if it were not for athletics he would have never established his health nor would he have accomplished the things in business life that he had. He is a commercial geologist at Wichita, Kansas, and one of the outstanding men in the field. As a point winner here he has had no peer. He was a high jumper, a broad jumper, a pole vaulter, a sprinter, a 440-yard man, and both high and low hurdler, and he would win first place in many of these in almost every meet.

Tommy Johnson was a sick boy at twelve years of age. He had tuberculosis of the kidney. The doctors advised him to drop out of school which he did for a period of three or four years, but he went down to old McCook Field where the Kansas gridiron heroes practice, and like Hawthorne's Great Stone Face, these men served as an ideal - as an aim for him to accomplish something great. He began to want to be like one of these gridiron gladiators. He trained, he practiced all the time with an innate hope that some day he would be a football player at Kansas.