

B

January 22, 1941

Mr. Dan Partner
The Kansas City Star
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your good letter of January 21. I think you had a swell story on Ted and Bob. It was awfully well handled and I know that friends of both boys here in Lawrence and elsewhere will be delighted. Again it shows the fine influence that a great athlete has on the younger generation.

I am still old fashioned enough to believe that these are the durable things that we should salvage from the athletic madhouse that is now going on. When coaches tell boys it is all right to smoke if they do not smoke out in public, and when they promise a young, immature boy everything that makes him a loafer and not a doer, then I still say that we have lost the real value of intercollegiate athletics, so far as their connection with education is concerned.

I want to thank you for your fine sentiments expressed regarding the N.C.A.A. Playoff. By way of explanation, I want to tell you that this has been an old old feud between Chet Brewer and me. When he was athletic director he accepted the chairmanship of the basketball committee from this district just to keep me out of it. I have known for eight years that Chet Brewer and Don Farrout have been trying to get George Edwards in the picture.

Four years Artie Eilers was Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the N.C.A.A. from this district. After he had received letters from all of the coaches of the Missouri Valley Conference and all but one from the Big-Six, and that was Missouri, stating that they desired me as their district representative on the Rules Committee, Professor French of Ohio State University, chairman of the Committee on Committees, nominated Mr. Edwards of Missouri. Mr. Eilers protested and quite a scene was caused in the meeting. Professor French stated that they desired a chance, and it was necessary for Mr. Eilers to get the letters and show them that this was not true. After much confusion I was named. So it was no surprise to me that the change came this time.

You can see now, Dan, why I would not want any part to do with the Tournament under those conditions. It will be up to Mr. Brewer and his nominee to put the thing over. I certainly will be glad to help out in all matters when it comes to cooperating, but I do not expect to do any work nor do I want to serve on the committee.