

28 February, 1946
High School
Great Bend. Kansas.

Dr. F.C. Allen
Director of Physical Education
Basketball Coach
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

I should like to express my heartiest congratulations for the renewal on the Big Six basketball championship which the Jayhawkers recently tucked away. I know it must feel good to have that crown back in the right place even though it has been gone such a short time.

I had the privilege of seeing your boys play four games early in the season, soon after my return from overseas, and I was sure then that you had them coming along. Doubtlessly, the addition of Ray Evans and Otto Schnellbacher along with Jack Ballard has helped considerably.

Like many other Kansas University basketball fans all over this state, I am anxiously waiting to hear that some worthwhile post-season situation will develop for your champions. More than anything else I would like to see you knock off those Aggies from Oklahoma which I am equally sure you know your lads can do.

I had no definite plans when I last saw you just before Christmas, but since then I came out to Great Bend to finish the last semester in purely a teaching capacity. I was a little late to coach this fine basketball team which they have here this year. Allen Burns from K-State is the coach and he has turned out a fine club. Unquestionably it is the best court team Great Bend has ever had. The squad isn't too big, but they handle the ball well and shoot from almost every conceivable spot and position. Four of the first team are seniors, but the second team made up entirely of underclassmen didn't lose a single game this season.

I have talked to some of the seniors and I am sure that Don McIlrath, a fine guard is coming to the University next fall. He is an exceptionally fine chap and has an excellent family background. I am sure that Don is the type of boy you like to have around. He stands about 5'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", is still growing and weighs about 165 pounds. He is an excellent jumper and gets more than his share of the rebounds which is a prime requisite in your type of ball. He should grow another inch or possibly more. He has no bad habits and is a competitor of the highest caliber.

The other possibility here is Bill Mullin, the team captain and the leading scorer of the Southwest Kansas League, of which the Great Bend team is champion. He is 6' even and tips