

A *

March 6, 1942.

Mr. Harold Keith,
Sports Publicity Director,
Athletic Department,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Harold:

To me you have long been known as the fairest sportsman at the University of Oklahoma. Therefore, I write you to endeavor to correct some abuses that annually haunt us when we play at your institution. I would like to refer you to the minutes of the Big Six basketball coaches association as of December 9, 1941. The minutes show that Coach Bruce Drake was present at this meeting. In fact, he was the author of the motion that reads - "it was also agreed that two good basketballs of the type used by the home team should be available for the visiting team".

This suggestion was necessary because each of the different schools use a different brand of basketball -- some are molded and some are stitched. Therefore, Bruce suggested that two good balls be available for the visiting team.

When Oklahoma played at Lawrence the balls were placed near the Oklahoma bench and Coach Drake asked for them so that his team might practice with them. They were immediately handed to Coach Drake and they made use of them. Since we use a Spalding laceless stitched ball and since Oklahoma uses a Rawlings lastbuilt molded ball, when we played at Norman and the practice balls were not forthcoming I made a request for them. A young man who apparently was one of the student managers brought me an old, scarred, unwashed, dirty ball. I told him that I wanted two good balls and that Bruce Drake had requested them at our place and had received them, and we wanted the same courtesy. Coach Drake then showed up and said they did not have any on hand and he was sorry. I told him that he had received the courtesy at Lawrence and naturally we expected the same courtesy at Norman. He said he was very sorry. And we were forced, of course, to do without the practice balls.

Now, the second infraction which was even more severe than the first -- we have a rule in the basketball coaches association that no photographer with flashlights shall operate on the court except at the end near the corner, and no flashlight pictures shall be taken at any time if they interfere with the play of the teams.