

March 9, 1942.

Governor Payne H. Ratner,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Governor Ratner:

You doubtless saw that during the game at Norman I walked to the officials' bench twice during the first half. This was to kindly ask Mr. Harold Keith, the sports publicity director, who seems to be the best sportsman at the University of Oklahoma, to remove the photographer from directly in front of our bench. This photographer constantly shot flashlight bulbs in our faces. He was not photographing the players on the court, but rather trying to catch us in some pose that he had his own ideas about.

This was in direct violation of the coaches' agreement and preferring not to go to Coach Drake to ask anything of this nature I went to the publicity man. Being unsuccessful in my first two attempts during the first half, I took time out of the few minutes in between halves in my dressing room which should have been given to the boys, and wrote a letter to Harold Keith telling him that this was in direct violation of the coaches' agreement. I told him that the photographer was insolent and discourteous, and asked in the name of sportsmanship and fairness that he be removed from directly in front of our bench. This was done.

Coach Bruce Drake knew the rules both in regard to the practice ball and the photographers, because it was the coaches of our conference who made the rules. Bruce Drake was cognizant of both of these infractions of the rule.

I thought perhaps you would wonder why I was going to the desk, perhaps to protest a decision. When these lights were flashed on in the players' eyes it makes them blind for a few minutes and any player going in to substitute is rendered less efficient than if courteous rules were followed.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.