

January 25, 1938.

Coach John W. Bunn,
Department of Athletics,
Stanford University,
Palo Alto, California.

Dear Johnny:

I am sending you copy of the letter that I have received from Val Lentz, and my reply to him. I do not believe that he has anything definite in mind for his research committee, and it is so late now that unless he has something assigned it would be impossible to get anything worth while. I am sending you a copy of the letter I wrote him so that you can see what we have definitely planned for our research in this section. Are you doing any special research on any specific thing in basketball?

By the way, I read the article in Time, and several of your Lawrence friends commented on it, among them Professor W. W. Davis, Mr. Endacott, and some of the basketball fans.

John, there is another matter that I want to ask your opinion about. Do you think these cross-country trips have anything to do with taking the edge off the interest of the boys in their conference play? I see that the teams that generally make those trips generally lose their early conference games. Minnesota, Nebraska, and in your case, - and I am wondering if you think the trip back East had anything to do with losing to U.S.C. and to Cal.

I have always had a notion that too much traveling in the pre-conference schedule takes something out of the boys, either from their staying at home and working on their fundamentals, or from having seen so much on a sight-seeing excursion that they do not take their championship play as intensely serious as they would if they had not been around so much so early in the season.

I am asking this from a very selfish reason because I have always held back from a lot of barnstorming with that idea in mind. We did not take any trips this year because we wanted to stay at home and work on fundamentals. Of course we did go to Des Moines, Iowa, for three days, lost that ball game up there, and then on the first game of the conference season we dropped one to Oklahoma. We had an 8 point lead with $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to go, and the boys just threw the ball game away.