

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

January 14, 1943.

Big Six Basketball Coaches:

I am writing you regarding our very difficult trip to Norman, Oklahoma, from Oklahoma City last Saturday, January 9th. Coach Drake asked his athletic director and his business manager for permission to start the game at Norman at 7:30 p.m. They refused, stating that the crowd coming on the trolley from Oklahoma City to Norman would not arrive in time to permit a 7:30 game.

This seems to me a very selfish attitude for the Oklahoma athletic director and business manager to take. It closes the door to the visiting teams, making their connection on the Santa Fe back for the north. The highway is patrolled from Norman to Oklahoma City and any driver who exceeds the 35 mile an hour speed limit is picked up and his gasoline rationing card is confiscated. The Office of Defense Transportation insists that the railroads not hold more than the allotted 20 minutes.

Had the Oklahoma authorities been working on the theory that the cars could make the old speed before the war regulations hampered them, then it might be a justifiable situation. But to me it shows an utter disregard not only for the convenience but for the monetary expenditure to these traveling teams when they are forced to act according to these arbitrary rulings. It is utterly impossible to make the connections under the present arrangements.

If the game starts promptly at 7:45, it takes an hour and 15 minutes as a minimum to play the game. The game should then be over by 9 o'clock, which it wasn't because the Oklahoma between-halves entertainment ran five minutes over. We retired to our dressing room after having been called to the court, and waited for the entertainment to cease. We left Norman at 9:40. With any kind of luck you should plan to leave Norman at 9:30, and then it will be a close squeak if you catch the train.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH