

Now immediately you will rebut this statement with "What about Pralle?" Mrs. Reid, Pralle is one of the most lovable, most responsive boys that I have coached. Anyone that is interested in Pralle can do wonders with him. He has what some people call "A rough-neck streak" in him. He is a fighter, and he does a lot of reckless things off the basketball court. But I have never failed in getting the best responses from Pralle each time on the many occasions that I have talked with him. I imagine I have had fifty conferences with him and for a week or ten days Fred Pralle will just break his neck for you, then he gets a little careless and it is necessary to have another conference.

Fundamentally, that boy does not have a deceptive bone in his body. He is a St. Louis boy who has seen a lot of things and knows his way around in almost any company. He got the habit of smoking in high school, and when he gets out with boys he breaks over.

Bruce is a fine bargainer, but a quiet one. I have spent many, many hours trying to figure out how I could do Bruce the most good. He is a great player, and if you will have confidence in me in handling Bruce I predict that he will be one of the great players at the University before he has finished his intercollegiate competition. However, I feel that Bruce represents to you that he does everything that he could do, and that he leaves no obstacle unturned to put his best foot forward on each occasion.

I have been coaching basketball exactly 30 years this year, and I have coached a good many boys. I believe I know the right prescription for Bruce. You would not be the fine mother you are unless you believed everything that Bruce told you. Yet I am afraid in his discouragement and disappointment some times in not making the regular team he is disposed to paint his picture as traveling over a rougher road than he really is journeying over.

I spoke very candidly to Herman Engel, and I am speaking very candidly to you. I want you to believe me that I want to see Bruce Reid play regularly for Kansas. But I want him to give something to the team that he has not yet given - that is his wholehearted, unqualified support to the project that he wants to participate in. When he does that he will learn a lesson that he has not wholly learned before. He must sacrifice more than he has sacrificed yet.

The only way we ever win championships is to exact of the boys more than the opposing coach exacts of his. Athletic competition is pretty nearly equal everywhere, and you cannot win championships by alone getting the best players. You win championships when you get the players - good ones, just as good as the others are, to pay a price that the other fellows have never known. You will win about fifty per cent of the games under the other method - by getting fine players - but the inspired teams who go on mowing the opposition down do that thing of defeating the leaders by doing the things that causes the other teams to fail.