

I want you to know that I am definitely counting on you as one of the main cogs in our varsity team this fall and winter. You are husky, you are intelligent, you are a very clever basketball player, and you have the will to do. I never will forget the fine display of basketball ability that you showed at Oklahoma and at Nebraska. Now, Bruce, I can't help you make a varsity letter - you just make it yourself. And remember, any game that you stay out of on the Kansas varsity is because you really take yourself out of the game. You will remember how tired you got at Oklahoma and at Nebraska. I had to take you out at Oklahoma to rest you because your flesh would not take you places that your will ordered you to go.

Now, let's get into good physical condition. Let's cut out smoking, let's come back on the hill with the resolve that nobody can beat you out of that place.

I won't discuss this with you. That is just the story between you and yourself.

I am awfully sorry to learn that your father lost his position when Shell closed the refinery in Ark City. I had not thought of the fact that he was working for Shell, but since I came to think of it I do remember that. It is tough going, Bruce, when a dad loses his position and his life's partner also takes a substantial cut in salary. I am hoping that the time will soon come when the mill will restore the full salary to your mother, and I am also hoping that something will break for your dad.

I know you really needed the money, but, Bruce, you will gain something by doing this thing that you would not have gained under the other program. In fact, you would have been doing the heroic thing to have worked all the hours you could and made as many academic hours but you would come up "sucking the hind teat". That is an old colonial expression. If you will observe a litter of pigs you will find the runt is always sucking the hind teat. That is because the big, aggressive ones hurry in and the little runt is pushed off and that is the best he can do. So it is literally and figuratively true that when you are behind you are a weakling in two ways.

Now, Bruce, this is no ten cent sermon. I didn't mean it to be that. I just want you to know that I am strong for you one hundred per cent and you will find me pitching for you. But I do want to help you help yourself. There are a lot of things that a fellow can do for the other fellow, but when he does too much he weakens his friend.

With every good wish to you, your wonderful mother and your dad,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.