

February 16, 1943.

Mr. Cy Sherman,
Sports Editor,
Lincoln Star,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Cy:

One of our mutual friends told me of the story that you wrote anent one F. C. "Phog" Allen some few days prior to the Kansas-Nebraska basketball game. As our mutual friend described the lines to me it was to the effect that "Phog" Allen would come to town, rave about the unsportsman-like attitude of the Nebraska crowd, and leave town.

Ordinarily I would not pay any attention to these articles of yours because I have gotten accustomed to them from time to time. However, I did tell our mutual friend of the time more than twenty years ago when the University of Nebraska withdrew from the Missouri Valley Conference because the Conference would not permit Nebraska to play her football games at Omaha. All of the conference schools, with the exception of Kansas, abrogated their contracts with Nebraska on account of Nebraska's withdrawal.

It was a fact that the University of Kansas had a contract which called for one year of intercollegiate football with Nebraska. We kept the contract to the letter. I remember full well how Dean Byers of Iowa State and Dr. Manley of Missouri and other members of that conference then, who are now living, came to me and said, "Phog, what would you do if the conference told you that you had to abrogate the contract with Nebraska?"

I said, "Well, if they told me I had to do it, and I really had to do it, I guess there would be no alternative, but I hope none of you gentlemen will tell me such a thing."

Kansas kept her contract with Nebraska, the only one in the conference, and I remember what a great hero and friend I was to the University of Nebraska, in Cy Sherman's eyes. When I came to Lincoln it was one Cy Sherman who ushered me up to the president's office at the University of Nebraska and I was told in glowing terms what a great fellow I was.

Then something I did, did not please Nebrasks so well, but the thing that I had done displeased the other conference members so much that I never recovered certain friendships for befriending Nebraska. But that did not bother me in the least any more than your writings bother me. If I think a crowd is rowdy, I say so, and I will continue to do so.