

September 8, 1941.

Mr. Gene Sullivan,
Sports Editor,
St. Joseph News-Press,
St. Joseph, Missouri.

Dear Gene:

On September 3rd I had occasion to go with a group to deliver a young chronic alcoholic to Hospital No. 2 at St. Joseph. While at the hospital I picked up a copy of your publication of September 2 in which you referred to the unfortunate bad manners of the Omaha people in connection with Bug Ward's fine exhibition. I was interested in what you had to say regarding all sports, and in the comparisons that you made.

Gene, the plea that I make is that these college boys are amateurs, or should be, at least, and that we have adopted professional tactics in the treatment of these college boys. Basketball is the only sport in college where these boys are subjected to the indignities of a highly emotional fandom.

In golf most of these professionals come up from the caddy stage and they are hard-nosed and hard-boiled, generally speaking, and razzing doesn't hurt many of them. The college boy is a student primarily, or at least the majority of them are, and it is for this better class that I say should be protected from the blatant rowdyism that obtains in professional baseball, wrestling, and so forth.

I am still trying to keep my boys amateur in the strict sense of the word and I am endeavoring to have them conduct themselves as gentlemen.

I am not living in a fool's paradise and I realize that basketball has become professional the same as has football and most of the college sports. But there are still exceptions to that rule and I hope there always will be some.

I wanted you to know that I enjoyed your article and had I not had other people with me who had to get back to Kansas City I would have dropped in for a short chat. You have