

March 11, 1941

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Simons
General Delivery
Tucson, Arizona

Dear Friends:

I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing me from Mineral Wells, Texas. Frankly, I am very happy that we lost, under the conditions, it released the boys from a terrific strain.

All of them, of course, wanted to go on and try for the regional championship. My statement sounds paradoxical I know, but I have been so tired of seeing those little fellows matched against those altitudinous giants on the opposition that it really hurt me to see the amount of energy that they would expend to arrive at a victory or near victory. And then they were so afraid for the games coming up.

Howard Engleman, Bobby Allen and T.P. Hunter, 3 boys weighing but 157 pounds against those opponents really made me feel as if I was torturing them, and yet they wanted to play and it was the best we had under the conditions. So for them to win a tied championship and get their gold championship basketballs just the same as if they had won the championship outright makes me very happy.

Next year we will have bigger men and I believe the shoe will be on the other foot. Some of my opponents will know how it seems to battle height and weight opposition and maybe I can relax a little bit. At least I will not feel as if the boys have given their last ounce of energy and devotion for that indefinable something we call school spirit, and their love to play.

When you state that you regret we did not win the championship, of course, you mean a championship outright. Iowa State and Kansas are tied for the championship and that is glory enough. And too, I am so fond of Louis Menze, one of my old boys, that I know of no team that I would rather have share it with us than Menze's Iowa State Team.

I am sorry, Mrs. Simons, that you do not see any pronounced improvement yet but I believe with the warm sunshine and the change of general conditions you will see some improvement. At least I am sincerely hoping that that will be the case. And with your good physician and expert monsieur (W.C.), I am sure he will see to it that you get the best "what is".