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May 9, 1938.

Mr. H. C. Severin,
Secretary, N.C.I.A.C.,
South Dakota State College,
Brookings, S. D.

Dear Mr. Severin:

I am happy to have your letter of May 6th, but I am sorry that you are opposed to using credits that a student may use to become eligible, because I feel that any academic credits honestly obtained should not be viewed prejudicially in behalf of any young man who wishes to use them.

So long as a young man is making progress toward graduation I do not believe that we should discriminate against a boy because he is an athlete. Just because the boy chooses to expend this extra reserve energy in athletics is, in my opinion, no reason to make it more difficult on him. If a boy is not in athletics no impediments are put upon him and he can go his way, flunk his courses, and still stay just within the bounds of the regulations so that he may stay in school.

Personally, I think the eligibility requirements are too high. By that I mean that they are requiring too many hours. On the other hand, I think that they should require fewer hours but more grade points, at least a C average for 20 or 24 hours the two preceding semesters. In that way the boy would be making progress toward graduation, and after all that is the motive that should impel them.

Please do not misunderstand me. I think that there are some forms of athletics that are more of a racket than anything else at the present time. Certain forms of sport are "big business" and not sports any longer, and the coaches who are coaching certain sports are not particularly interested in the boy getting an education. They are more interested in the boy getting eligible so he may play in a particular sport.

Personally, I think the day of the professional coach should be numbered, but that will be up to the American Association of University Professors and Presidents. The reason such things will not come to pass sooner is because the presidents are afraid of the powerful alumni who are pop-eyed on certain sports.