

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

August 7, 1941.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

To the Kansas Varsity Basketball Men who have passed their academic work satisfactorily and are eligible to play for Kansas under the Big Six Conference requirements for the 1941-42 basketball season:*

Bob Abrams
Jack Ballard
Jack Beck
Don Blair
George Dick
Kenneth Dugan
Gordon Durna
Don Ettlinger
Bob Fitzpatrick
Vance Hall
John Hallberg
T. P. Hunter

Bob Johnson
Warren Israel
Dick Keene
Bill Mathews
Dick Miller
Ralph Miller
Ted Moser
Browder Richmond
Marvin Sollenberger
Paul Turner
Charles Walker
Virgil Wise

* Those taking Correspondence Study in order to be eligible by fall:

Charles Black
John Buescher
Ray Evans
Max Kissell

Dear

We are enclosing the basketball schedule for Kansas for the 1941-42 season as arranged by the Big Six Conference. In addition to our conference schedule you will also see listed games with Denver University, Bethel College at Newton for the dedication of their new field house, Iowa University, DePaul, Wichita and Creighton Universities. There are two games yet to be arranged--probably with Oklahoma A. and M. or with a Southwest Conference team here at Lawrence.

Today is August 4th. In the evening the blackbirds are flitting from the north on their trek to the southland. The dew is heavy at night and the evenings are cool, presaging the coming of fall. When fall comes the tang is in the air. The leaves turn brown and the wind gives an ominous warning that winter is coming. And when frost, snow and sleet come Old Man Winter with his hoary locks and his frigid breath will make you like this indoor game they call round-ball, basketball, or casababall, call it what you will, the main idea is to get that little ball through the hoop--the game that Dr. Naismith originated fifty years ago. He said, "Basketball is a game easy to play but difficult to master". And how true that epic statement is.

Personally, I declare to you that I am more enthusiastic this year about the record that we hope to make than perhaps any other year that I have coached. The year of 1941-42 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of my coaching Kansas basketball teams. Physically we perhaps have some of the finest talent that we have had for years. Some of our men are giants in stature, some can handle the ball like a monkey handles a coconut, but as I run over the roster of this fine material there is not one single man in the group but what I can find glaring faults in some of the execution of his fundamentals. Some can shoot and play a fine offensive game, but they

are weak on defense. Others are good defensive men, but they cannot score. Others are tall, powerful and rangy, but they do not get out of themselves the wonderful latent possibilities that they possess. Others have a combination of fine physique and excellent technique, but fail to observe training rules, which is the most essential ingredient to morale and eventual success.

May I quote Maude Royden, the great English woman sociologist, who said, "You cannot break Nature's laws, but you can break yourself against Nature's laws." Is it not thinkable that a boy who has such a fine physique and who loves the game so well will pass up other things which are sure to interfere with his success and keep his training rules? But does he?

The only excuse that that fine outfit of young Kansas mustangs had for winning the past three years was the fact that they just wouldn't be whipped. You just couldn't keep them down after you had them down!

Many of the people have picked Kansas to win the championship this year and I am frank to tell you that if we win it we are going to have to show a lot more stuff than we showed in spring practice, or what our returning regulars showed from last year's playing season.

But I am counting on putting out more energy and even more coaching technique than ever before. Our regular varsity basketball practice will start by October first, if not a week before. We will practice three times a week and we are going to learn our fundamentals, both offensively and defensively, so well that when Homecoming time comes we will play the freshmen for the entertainment of the Homecomers the evening prior to the Kansas-Missouri football game at Lawrence. So begin to think basketball and think in terms of training, conditioning and team play that will set this Kansas team out as one of the really great Kansas teams of all time. You can do it, but you can't do it by wishful thinking. The educator says, "we learn by doing". What are you doing?

I have been here at the University during the entire eight weeks Summer Session and I have written to the different boys, some of whom needed Correspondence Study but did not take it. One fellow in particular was in the Engineering School and needed but one hour to be eligible. I wrote him and he made no response. So far as I am concerned I do not care because if a fellow is no more interested in his sport than that he would not exercise himself to the point of getting one hour then I do not want to be bothered with him on my squad. If a boy does not want to play strongly enough that he will give up some things to achieve the more worthwhile things, then I am not interested in him. Personally, I will promise to work harder than any man on the squad, and if you don't believe it, challenge me once.

But I want to say to you very frankly that I have no time for twiddlers or twaddlers, and alibis won't be worth a dime with me. I will deliver and I will expect you to do likewise.

I am leaving on August 16th for Boone, Iowa, to coach in the Iowa High School Athletic Association Coaching and Officials Clinic, in which Clark D. Shaughnessy with his T formation from Stanford, Bernie Bierman with his Minnesota Shift, and Hank Iba with his "shiftless" Oklahomans, and I will endeavor to instruct the coaches who will assemble there during the week of August 18 to 23. Then I am coming back here to get things in

tip-top readiness for one of the most strenuous campaigns that we have ever faced.

Oklahoma is quietly passing the grapevine around that they will have the greatest team they have ever had. This past week I worked on a crippled Missouri Tiger basketeer who came to Lawrence for repairs, the injury being a bad knee, and he tells me that George Edwards thinks he will have one of the best teams that Missouri has ever had. Nebraska is sweating blood over the double defeat administered by us, and they are smarting under criticism of the rowdy tactics they displayed here and at Lincoln, and they have passed the word out through Elwyn Dees, the trainer, that Kansas had better look to her laurels this year. Jack Gardner, of Southern California fame, still lives at Manhattan, and the burning thought lives within him that the first time he licks Kansas will be an epochal chapter in his Kansas Aggie debut. You remember Louie Menze is supposed to have the best team that he has had at Iowa State because he lost but DeCoster and the big boy, Nicholas. Louie tells me that he has a fine bunch of big boys coming up. So if you can find any soft spots, you pick them for me. I can't find them.

Then we are playing the University of Iowa at Iowa City, and Rollie Williams is supposed to have a great club in the making there. We are playing Iowa at Lawrence the following year because I have long refused to play a Big Ten team unless they promise to return to Lawrence on a home and home basis.

So you now have our year's forecast. You can help make it a great and glorious season if you will knuckle down and with a sense of blind loyalty follow where other great champions have trod.

With great anticipations and much hope and a deal of confidence in your ability, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and
Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Encl.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
1941-'42

Big Six Conference Games

January 6	Oklahoma at Lawrence
January 14	Missouri at Columbia
January 17	Nebraska at Lincoln
January 19	Iowa State at Ames
January 24	Kansas State at Lawrence
February 14	Nebraska at Lawrence
February 16	Iowa State at Lawrence
February 27	Oklahoma at Norman
March 3	Kansas State at Manhattan
March 6	Missouri at Lawrence

Non-Conference Games

December 17	Denver University
December 18	Bethel College at Newton
January 29	Iowa University at Iowa City
January 31	DePaul University at Chicago
February 2	Wichita University at Wichita
February 10	Creighton University at Lawrence

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

August 29, 1942.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Dear Paul:

The academic year of 1942-'43 takes on a more serious and a more sinister meaning for us all. We are now fast realizing that we are in a death struggle with three international gangsters - the square-heads, the slit-eyes, and the spaghetti-benders - who are bent upon our utter destruction. To destroy them is our purpose at present.

College days heretofore meant friendships and fellowships, success in the professions or business, marriage and desires for a happy home life with children. All of this has been changed and now the word SERVICE confronts all of us, of all ages. The reason that you are being deferred temporarily, to allow you to obtain an education that will permit you to serve in a greater capacity as an officer, is because of the experience that Uncle Sam has had in training officer material. He has found that when he took volunteer enlistments for the training camps for officer material about 43% failed, due to deficiencies not here mentioned. But when Uncle Sam permitted these boys to go to college and obtain a degree then only about 5% of them failed.

Therefore, you are in the upper strata and your Uncle feels that it is a good investment to permit you to return to college and complete your education so that you will be a better officer to handle the men under you. You will be more capable and you will save more lives, and you will win the war in a shorter time than had you immediately gone into the service without this extra training.

This interlude of a few years was not given you to return to the campus and carry on in the ways of previous college days. It will be a more serious group this year, and while athletics will have their place in the great scheme of things, the real purpose will be to develop a finer fighting morale and a more splendid esprit de corps for the men of Mount Oread.

Frankly, I am not interested in athletics for their own sake at this time, but rather I am hoping that we can be the means of developing a finer sense of obligation to duty, whether it be on the basketball court or in the other walks of life here on Mount Oread.

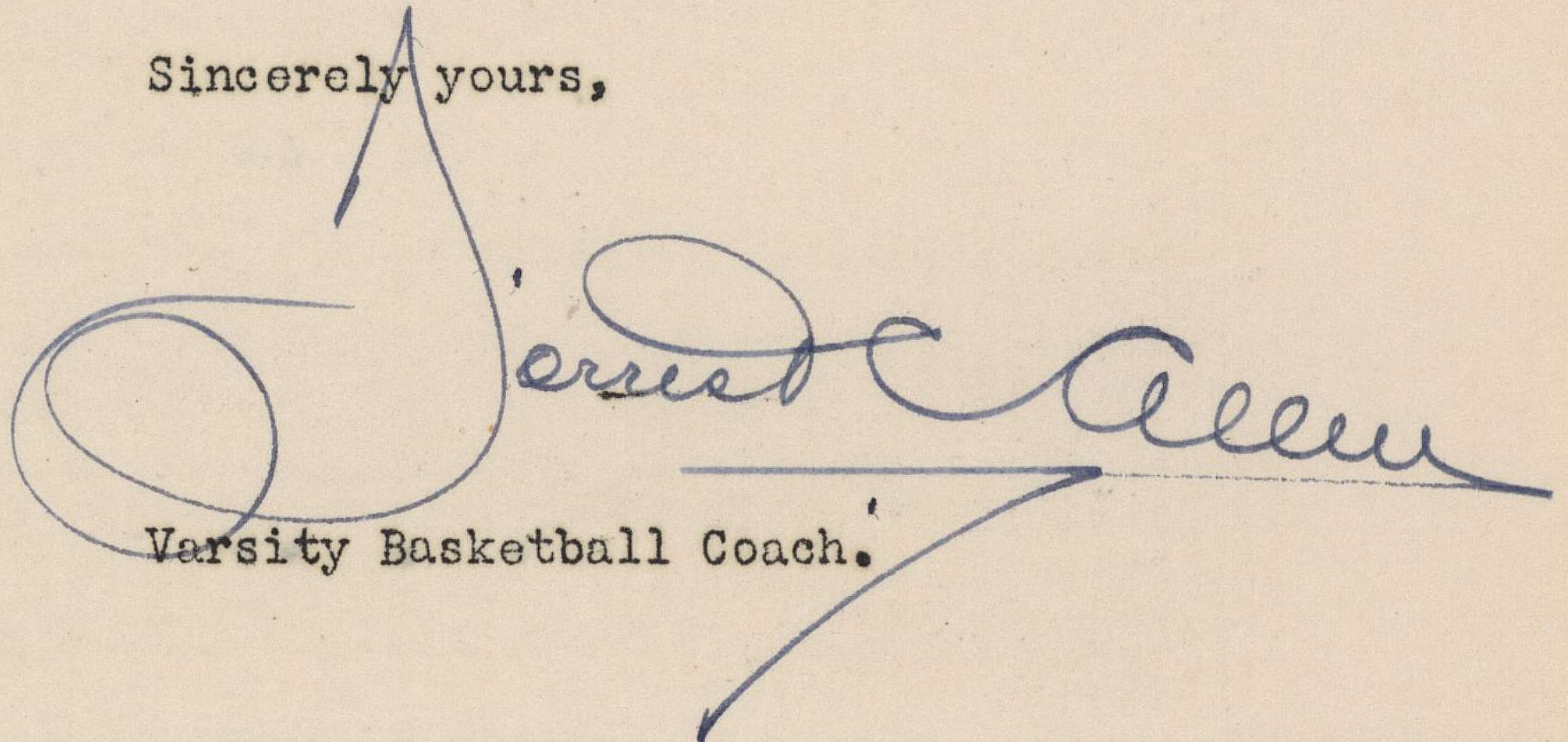
I have spent the summer getting into better physical condition and I am hoping to train with you so that we can all make better progress. Of course, we hope to have a fighting basketball team, but all the adjectives that heretofore have been used to describe athletic teams will now be used to describe the fighting heart of our boys in the thousands of battle areas where our K.U. boys will be found.

Many of the boys who left the campus last spring will never come back. This will be true also of the boys who will leave this year. So let us not return to the campus with the thoughts of a joy-ride uppermost in our minds, nor with thoughts of riding in automobiles hither and yon, but rather let us get on our feet and use our legs so that we will actually be in better physical condition right from the start and up to the finish.

I am sending you a copy of our basketball schedule and I am listing the personnel of the men. John Buescher has already been inducted and left for Beardstown for his physical examination and induction. Many of the other boys have joined the Army and the Navy reserve. In fact, practically all of our boys on the campus this fall will be in the SERVICE at the opening of school. There are one or two of the boys on the squad that are not in physical condition. We will not admit certain members of the squad to basketball practice until they have reduced to a minimum weight. You fellows who are overweight will know what I mean. And when we emphasize training we mean the spirit and practice of training.

Trusting that you have had a fine summer and that you will be able to return with a fighting heart, I am

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

1942-'43

(Conference and Non-Conference)

- December 5 - Gardner, Kansas, Naval Aviation School - at Kansas City
- December 11 - Rockhurst College - at Kansas City
- December 15 - Creighton University - at Omaha
- December 21 - University of Iowa - at Lawrence
- December 26 - St. Bonaventure - at Buffalo, N.Y.
- December 28 - Fordham University - at New York City
- January 4 - Gardner, Kansas, Naval Aviation School - at Lawrence
- *January 6 - University of Missouri - at Lawrence
- *January 9 - University of Oklahoma - at Norman
- January 13 - Oklahoma A. & M. - at Lawrence
- *January 20 - Kansas State - at Manhattan
- January 29 - Iowa Naval Aviation Pre-Flight School - at Kansas City
- January 30 - Great Lakes Naval Training School - at Kansas City
- February 3 - Gardner, Kansas, Naval Aviation School - at Gardner
- *February 6 - Iowa State College - at Lawrence
- *February 13 - University of Nebraska - at Lincoln
- *February 15 - Iowa State College - at Ames
- February 17 - Oklahoma A. & M. College - at Stillwater
- *February 23 - University of Nebraska - at Lawrence
- *February 26 - University of Oklahoma - at Lawrence
- *March 2 - University of Missouri - at Columbia
- March 4 - Creighton University - at Lawrence
- *March 6 - Kansas State College - at Lawrence

*Big Six Conference Games.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL SQUAD 1942-'43

(Conference and Non-Conference)

Hoyt Baker	Bob Heaston
Jack Ballard	Curtis Hinshaw
Bill Bauer	Warren Israel
Charles Black	Herbert Kauffman
Donald Blair	Max Kissell
Bill Brill	Harold McSpadden
John Buescher	Dick Miller
Paul Carpenter	Bill Palmer
Dick Channel	Junius Penny
Bob Corder	Jim Roderick
George Dick	Otto Schnellbacher
Armand Dixon	John Short
Bob Dole	Bob Siddons
Ray Evans	Bud Smith
Bob Fitzpatrick	Marvin Sollenberger
Bill Forsyth	Lawrence Stream
Vance Hall	Kenneth Thompson
Stanley Heaston	Paul Turner

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
University of Kansas

April 1, 1941

Dear Varsity and Freshman Basketball Players:

Re: Kansas Relays. We have invited a great group of outstanding basketball players in Kansas high schools to come up to the University the morning of the Kansas Relays, April 19, and shoot some goals with our Varsity and Freshman players. A large number of these high school boys have enthusiastically responded to be present here Saturday morning, April 19, at 10:00.

Doubtless some of you will be busy the morning of the Kansas Relays, but we would like to have as many of you as possible come up to the gym and work out with these high school visitors. It would be well for you to be here about 9:30 so you would be suited up and ready before the high school boys arrive.

I am appointing each of you as a committee of one to introduce yourselves and make these high school boys feel at home. The Varsity and Freshmen will wear Varsity uniforms and we will just work out with these high school boys.

Re: Varsity Pictures. Also, the Varsity Basketball picture will be taken Sunday, April 6, at 12:00 noon, at the Lawrence Studio. Dean will be here at the gymnasium at 11:30 to check out your equipment. You will dress here in the gym and all of us will go down to the Studio together in cars.

If there is any reason why you cannot be here Sunday for the picture, please leave word with my secretary, Miss Laretta Gerstenberger.

Correction: Previously I wrote to you and stated that the Kansas City Relays Club of Kansas City, Missouri, was giving a banquet for our Varsity Basketball Team and the Freshmen living in or near Kansas City. I find now that this will be an after dinner get-together instead of a banquet, so it will be necessary for you to eat at home before leaving. Coach Gwinn Henry and the football staff are also going down. They suggested that we leave about a quarter of seven. However, if any basketball players are playing baseball, we perhaps could take one car and start a few minutes later, say 7:00, which will give us a little more time to dress. The get-together will be held at the University Club, 918 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. Coaches Henry, Hurt, Lansing, and Poplogel will drive cars. Please let Miss Gerstenberger know whether or not you plan to attend this get-together.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

To All Varsity

For your O.T.

~~To the attached list of names, O.K. to send
this list now about 10:00 AM.~~

Dear Varsity Basketball Member:

On Thursday, March 20, the Cooperative Club of Lawrence is giving a dinner in honor of the Kansas University Basketball Team at 6:30 at the Eldridge Hotel.

^{this}
There will be a short meeting, but the Cooperative Club has been generous in asking us every year and we want you to be there without fail.

I recognize that Howard Engleman and John Kline are going to Denver and may not be able to be with us. Although we hope they are not beaten, we also will miss them terribly if they are still in Denver.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

Dr. Allen: Is this O.K.?

The last 7 can be omitted in letters to the Freshmen.

Should just the lettermen be included? *Bill Mathews?*

April 1, 1941

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To Varsity & Freshmen

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omit for Freshmen

If there is any reason why you cannot be here Sunday for the picture, please leave word with my secretary, Miss Lauretta Gerstenberger.

Sincerely yours,

4 or 5 spaces

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

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6 Freshmen

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Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including a large bracket and some illegible text.

March 15, 1941

Mr. Bob Allen
801 Louisiana Street
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Bob:

On Thursday, March 20, the Cooperative Club of Lawrence is giving a dinner in honor of the Kansas University Basketball Team at 6:30 at the Eldridge Hotel.

This will be a short meeting, but the Cooperative Club has been generous in asking us every year and we want you to be there without fail.

I recognize that Howard Engleman and John Kline are going to Denver and may not be able to be with us. Although we hope they are not beaten, we also will miss them terribly if they are still in Denver.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Rec.
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

FCA:og

*Sent to all Varsity men
Dean Nesmith, Bob Meredith
✓ Gordon Gray*

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Emergency

To the Eligible Varsity Men:

Robert E. Allen
Harlan Altman
Harley Anderson
James Arnold
John Buescher
Kenneth Dunn
Howard Engleman
Max Gray
Vance Hall
John Hallberg

Bill Hogben
T. P. Hunter
Bob Johnson
John Kline
John Krum
Bill Mathews
Bob Meredith
Clarence Miller

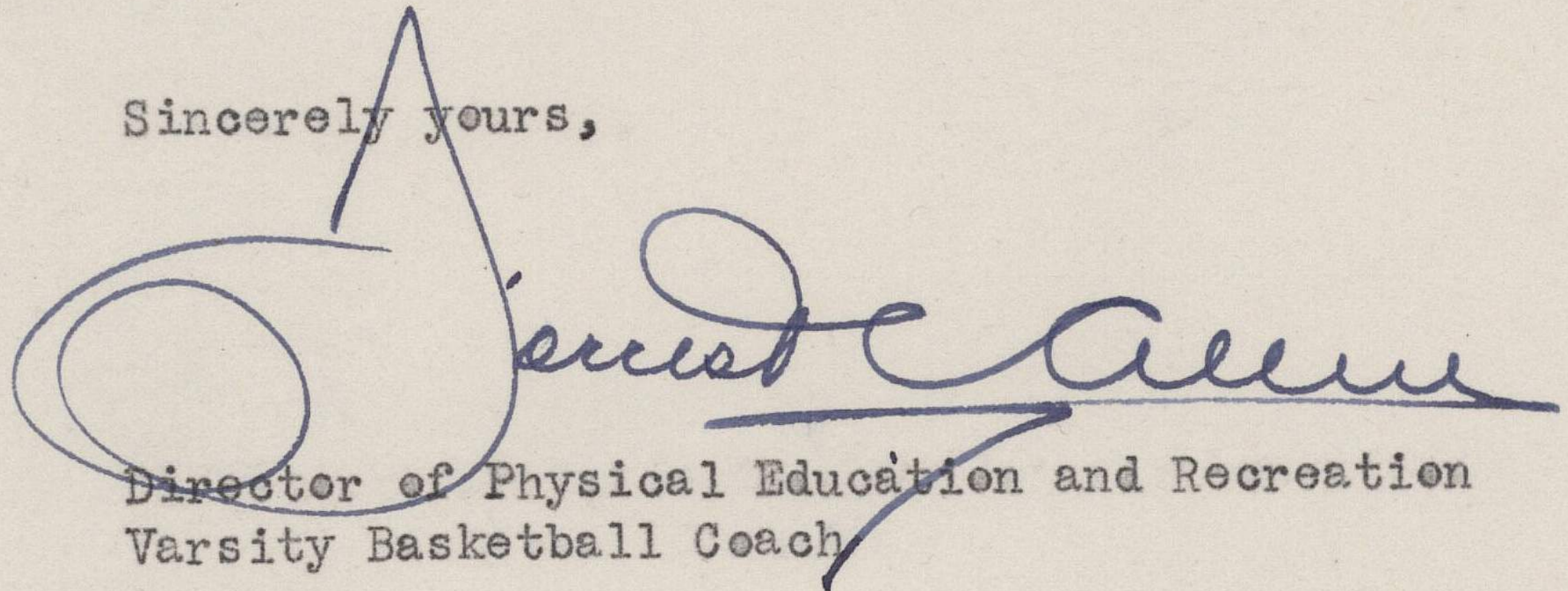
Richard Miller
Ted Moser
Allen Nipper
Dewitt Potter
Browder Richmond
Norman Sanneman
Walter Sheridan
Marvin Sollenberger
Charles Walker
Bob Woodward

Ye Battlers for the 1941-42 Big-Six Crown:

An emergency exists and the Varsity Basketball Team will practice on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 3:30 P.M. each week, the first practice to begin Monday, September 23.

The first day will be taken up with checking out equipment, foot care and light drills. After that heavy duty on fundamentals and scrimmage to follow soon.

Sincerely yours,


Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

~~Robert E. Allen~~
~~Harlan Altman~~
~~Harley Anderson~~
~~James Arnold~~

~~John Buescher~~

TKE

~~Kenneth Dunn~~ (1541 Jenn.) 348 #

~~Howard Engleman~~

BETA
Phi Psi
BETA

~~Max Gray~~

Vance Hall

~~John Hallberg~~ 284 ✓

Bill Hogben

~~T. P. Hunter~~

~~Bob Johnson~~

~~John Kline~~

Laurene

~~John Krum~~ 1032R #

PIKA

Bill Mathews - 565 ✓

~~Bob Meredith~~ #

~~Clarence Miller~~

~~Ralph Miller~~

~~Richard Miller~~

~~Ted Moser~~

1222 Miss.

2062 #

~~Allen Nipper~~

Laurene

~~Dewitt Potter~~ - 2786W #

~~Browder Richmond~~

1325 W. Campus #

4
145

~~Norman Sanneman~~

1537 1/2 Jenn. #

~~Walter Sheridan~~

Phi Psi

~~Marvin Sollenberger~~ ✓

Phi Delta

~~Charles Walker~~ - 444 959 ✓

BETA

Bob Woodward - 552

January 22, 1941

Dear Members of the Varsity Squad:

Bob Allen
Jim Arnold
Don Blair
John Buescher
Howard Engleman
Vance Hall
Bill Hogben

T.P. Hunter
John Kline
Bill Mathews
Dick Miller
Norman Sanneman
Marvin Sollenberger
Charles Walker

Virgil Wise

Realizing the great demand on your time preparing you for your final examinations, I desire that you come to the Varsity room during the afternoon, at a time most suited to you, and check out a warm-up suit, put a towel around your neck, go upstairs and spend not over fifteen minutes on the floor.

The whole time consumed from the time you come into the gym until you get out should not require more than a half hour, unless Dean desires to do some special manipulating work on you. Start with the west basket, dropping the ball through the hoop, and then work to the south on a running jog, scoring goals on those two baskets, close in, and work on to the east basket, on to the north ones, and to the west basket, and on around again for about five or six trips.

Scoring goals on these six baskets should provide good perspiration and keep your legs and your wind in good enough shape so that when you get your shower bath you not only will be better off physically but you will be in good shape to study.

Please do not feel that you do not have this short time to keep yourselves in shape. You have. And you will make by it if you will rigorously follow this outline. I will appreciate your cooperation and assure you that I will leave no stone unturned to see that Kansas forges on and maintains her fine record, if possible, down the Big-Six Championship highway.

It is going to be a terrific struggle and there will be many who will say we cannot do it. But let us put everything into your studies now and then everything into this next great achievement coming up.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach