

know the purpose of this - to strengthen the tissues of the wrists and fingers so that you do not sprain your thumbs and fingers during the basketball season. A sprained thumb is a "dead horse" in basketball. And snappy fingers execute unerring shots with more power and poise than do "dish-rag" fingers which constantly slop over the ball.

I can hear you say that you certainly want to win the championship in the Big Six this year and maybe a national championship. Well, let's see you begin now, and when the first day of basketball practice rolls around you should report in tip-top physical condition.

Now, you want to know when we are going to start. Well, it will be before the first of October, and the first day of school is on September 21. So you can see how many days we are going to loaf before we start actual practice three times a week, and by the middle of October we will practice four times a week. Remember, we are meeting Oklahoma A. and M. on December 5th at Lawrence, and while there is still a moot discussion as to when the Thanksgiving football game will be played between Kansas and Missouri, really it is just the day after school begins after the Thanksgiving holidays that we play Oklahoma A. and M.

For one year, at least, I feel better when I say that we are not champions of the Big Six. We have been defending champions too long. A defensive army never won a war in its life. It is the offensive army that wins. You boys who played on the team last year and went through the debacle at Missouri have not forgotten that, nor will you ever forget it. But you can satisfy yourselves by coming back and showing those Missourians at Columbia on January 18, 1940, that Kansas men don't put on exhibitions the like of which were shown at Columbia on March 2nd. Wasn't that a headache? All right, let's see what we are going to do about it.

I imagine most of you will not forget the game at Iowa State when we really presented the Cyclones with the ball game. But you know I never was a fellow to cry over spilled milk. I believe in going out and getting 'em, and this year is the year to do it. Last year I remember this line in the letter I sent you: "Remember this, a sophomore team has never yet won the championship of the Big Six Conference." Well, we are not sophomores any more, we are a year older, and I know that we will have a different morale than was encountered during a part of last year.

I told you I had a small bunch of fighting Georgia lads down there and those North Georgia boys just out-fought those South Georgia boys and won the ball game. Well, I am expecting that of you Kansas boys because in every game you play in the Big Six Conference, or most every game, you are going to be out-reached, out-weighted, and everything but out-fought. Well, here's your only chance -- better ball handling, more finesse and more fight. We won a lot of games last year in the last two minutes of play. Those games could have gone either way, but most of them went our way. The law of averages would cause us to feel that we might fall short on some of those scores this year unless you make it happen the way that you will it. I still remember Alexander Dumas' Three Musketeers -