

You can see what a great opportunity you men of the Kansas basketball team will have. This will be the first year in the history of basketball that it has been possible to declare a legitimate national collegiate champion. This championship play-off will take place immediately after our Big Six championship play. So you can see that this means more to you men than to any other group that has ever represented Kansas in basketball.

I have been staying here on the job every day working out this schedule so that you would have a fine Christmas trip, and also so that we would be in condition to meet the Oklahoma Aggies and the rest of our conference teams who are going to challenge us severely for the Big Six basketball honor.

I am really more enthusiastic this year about the kind of a team that we will have, combined with what we do with that team, than I have ever been in my life. When you have the wolf pack on your shoulders you've got to fight for an existence. And this is exactly our predicament this year. Southern Methodist University is captained by Billy Dewell, the great Dodge City, Kansas, star of a few years ago. They think they have great prospects. For Texas, I am quoting from Eddie Breitz' column which you perhaps saw a few weeks ago -

"Texas basketball fans think Promoter Ned Irish will be making a mistake if he doesn't include the Texas Longhorns in his visiting list for Madison Square Garden next winter . . . Coach Jack Gray can start an entire line-up of ex-John Tarleton boys, and John Tarleton, if you remember, is the school which won eighty-four in a row before hitting the well-known dust late last season."

For Henry Iba and the Oklahoma Aggies, it is needless for me to say much about that because you know that Iba never has a poor team and those games at Stillwater will be the dedicatory games inaugurating basketball play in their new field house, which has a maximum seating capacity of nine thousand. Carleton College is coached by Marshall Diebold, a great Wisconsin star, whose team annually knocks off Big Ten teams. So you can see there is not a "set-up" in any game, but a tough ride from beginning to end.

Truly, the Kansas basketball team can go places if you men will train, and when I say train - I really mean train. We have men on the basketball team who will train, and the fellows who will not, or do not, are in for a lonesome existence this year.

Now, I do not want you to take your basketball too seriously. Of course your studies come first. But every man, whether athlete or non-athlete, should have a justifiable pride in his own splendid physique and in the knowledge of being physically fit. So take care