

April 8, 1944.

Mr. Alex Eych,  
219 So. 8th St.,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Alex:

It was a pleasure to see you last Thursday noon at the Kiwanis banquet honoring your city and district championship basketball team. I promised you that I would write regarding your intercollegiate future if you signed up to play professional baseball.

Personally, I would advise against any young man not graduating from a high school or even college to sign up for professional baseball. Here is the reason. When you are a professional you no longer can participate in amateur athletics in high school or college. This bars you from all interscholastic or intercollegiate athletics, and as I explained briefly in my talk of Thursday, the moment that a man's competitive school athletics are taken away from him the ardor of college dims somewhat.

You will remember the case of Mr. John Carlson who became president of the Board of Education in Kansas City, Kansas, and one of her outstanding citizens. I do not know whether you remember the funeral of Mr. Carlson. It was held in the auditorium of your high school there. He was a boy that had many struggles and had it not been for his athletics he would not have attained the high position of respect and leadership that he held in your city. I see just as great possibilities for you, Alex, if you will retain your amateur standing.

When you compete in high school and college athletics you stimulate the interest of your friends and followers in your community. When you go into professional athletics, that is a business. You are playing for the money that is in it, and the moment that you receive an injury then your lucrative days are past and your business is a failure, so to speak. But when you get your education in high school or college and participate you are playing for the fun of it, but you are getting a far greater benefit because you are getting an education - the thing that insures your success for forty or fifty years after you quit your athletics. And you make friends that stay with you all through your life.

To be perfectly frank, Alex, you are worth much more money, so far as your sale and your salary is concerned with the professional baseball club, if you do not sign too early. If you make a fine reputation in high school and college as a pitcher or as a ball player, the measure of your worth is enhanced with the professionals on account of the fine showing that you make in intercollegiate athletics.