

You doubtless can get a fine job with an industrial concern for the summer and you really can make more money playing independent baseball and working than you can by signing up with a professional ball club. Of course, one of the big leagues will sign you, but you will be farmed out and you will have to pay your own expenses while you are living in the city of the home club. This amounts to a great deal when you consider board and room at the present time. They will pay your expenses while you are on the road, but when you get through, figuring even six months employment, you will not have much left. Whereas if you lived at home you would be earning a fine salary and you would be increasing your baseball knowledge, but more than that you would be getting your diploma from your high school.

Then when the war is over it will be so much easier to go to college because you will still have your amateur athletics to aid you and they will introduce you very favorably because you are not only a wonderful basketball player but a splendid baseball player. You can legitimately use these two in sending you through college, and then if you want to play professional baseball you will be worth very much more money than if you sign up at the present time.

If you would ask my advice I would strongly advise against anything but your continuing in high school until you get your diploma. Your superintendent, your principal, your coach and all your teammates in the high school want you to do this thing for your own good, - not for their benefit, but for yours.

I always believe it is wise to take the advice of your superiors there in school because through their many years of dealing with young men they have learned pretty expertly how to give advice.

A young fellow will reason thus: Yes, I know it is all right for the other fellow, but I cannot be as successful as So-and-So. Well, you can, Alex, because your coach told me that you are one of the finest athletes and one of the finest workers when it came to observing the rules and the spirit of the game. Your coach said if it was necessary for you to practice all day you were that conscientious in getting the job done.

For that reason I am writing you advising you to continue until you get your high school diploma. The draft board will defer you until you graduate. But if you quit school then of course you are apt to get into the service at once.

Perhaps I have not understood your case fully, but from my conversation with you and conversation with your friends, I believe I have the facts in the case straight. If I have not, or if you desire to talk with me concerning any other point, won't you drop me a line? I go through Kansas City quite often and I would be glad to talk further with you, or