

August 25, 1941.

Mr. Jack Kline,  
Miller, Kansas.

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your good letter concerning Jack Dean, of Harveyville. The Aggies are making a concerted drive on basketball and baseball men and if a fellow wants to choose Kansas State and play Ban Johnson baseball I do not know of anything that I can do about it. I appreciate your interest and I wish that there was something that you could do when you see Jack on September 2nd.

I am wondering if you could not see him and tell him that the Aggies have been in the basketball cellar for so long that of course they have become desparate and promise much to boys, I am told, that they have not been able to keep. However, that is none of my affair. If Jack Dean wants a job we will be willing to give him a job, but we are not putting it on a competitive basis. I think you know me well enough to know that we will keep any promise that we make, but we are pretty careful to promise a boy a job if he will go to school.

To my way of thinking an education is much more desirable than an athletic career. Some boys never think of the paramount question, and that is "What school should I choose to get the vocation or profession that I desire?", but rather if some coach will offer them a job they will choose any school and study anything that is in keeping with that school's curriculum. I think you get what I mean.

Of course, I like to coach basketball but I would not want to change a boy's future just to get him on my athletic team. And the inverse is also true. If a boy is willing to go to any school just to get a little better job then he is not apt to be the fellow that will develop as he goes along. When these coaches promise boys jobs at which they can make money, rather than jobs to help them get through school, then we find much dissatisfaction in those camps and the morale is always lower than it would be where all promises are kept.