

February 20, 1941

Dr. W.C. Jessen
Peabody, Kansas

Dear Dr. Jessen:

I acknowledge with deep gratitude your very good letter of February 18 regarding Hoyt Baker. I assure you you never have bothered me and I appreciate your kindly insistence that we take more interest than we have shown in this fine boy.

I want to be perfectly frank and honest with you. There is not a member of our basketball team that has been given any special consideration from me aside from work. This goes for my twenty-five years of coaching experience here at the University. The fact that Frosty Cox and Bruce Drake and these other coaches offer staggering propositions to these boys makes it much more difficult for us to keep our boys here in the State.

I want to assure you that I would rather have Hoyt Baker on my team than most any boy that I know. This applies to the crop in the high school in the State of Kansas at the present time.

Steve Hinshaw has not been with the University for some five or six years and there has been no effort to get basketball players to attend the University. The only ones that come here are boys who come for an education or who simply desire to play on the team. There has been no special inducement offered the boys.

But I do want you to know that I am tremendously interested in Hoyt Baker and I will make arrangements to have his brother drop in to see me. I told Hoyt and his folks that we would give him a job, but you can see how difficult it is when someone tells me that he can get a \$750.00 scholarship at Notre Dame.

I plan, sometime when it is convenient, to drop out and see you and have a good talk with you. I also want to see Hoyt's parents because I do want to interest them in an education for Hoyt and not merely a basketball scholarship or a berth where a fellow can take things easy because he is an athlete.

I readily understand the Baker family's problem. The fact that they have five children to educate makes for a real financial problem. I do know, however, that this is his State University and we would be mighty happy to have him here, and I believe it would mean more to him in his own State University than it would if he went some place where he and the family are not known. After all, it is the benefits and the satisfaction that a fellow gets from an education rather than the money that is offered.