

May 31st, 1941

Dr. W. C. Jesson
Peabody, Kansas

Dear Dr. Jesson:

Thank you for your hurried note as of Wednesday, May 29th, regarding Hoyt Baker.

Your letter arrived in my absence. I was speaking to the Rotary Club at Parsons, Kansas. And, since yesterday was Memorial Day, your letter did not come to my attention until this morning.

However, I did confer with Vic Hurt and Wayne Replogle, and they gave me the information regarding Bruce Drake and Adams, in Gardner.

Roy Bennett, the President of the Rotary Club at Parsons was one of my old Varsity Players back in 1920. He was Bruce Drake's coach at Central Highschool in Oklahoma City. Bennett told me Thursday that Bruce was on his way up to talk with Hoyt Baker.

Dr. Jessen, you and I have talked often enough so that I'm sure you will understand my attitude in this Baker situation. If Hoyt is shopping around, endeavoring to get the best offer, financially, or if his mother or someone else is causing him to be dissatisfied because someone is not offering him enough money, then I'm of the positive opinion that we can not interest him here at the University.

I have always looked at athletics as something that should not have money made out of it unless you are a professional player or a coach. And, I have always looked at an educational institution as a place where a boy goes to receive an education and an inspiration that will make his life more productive and pleasant. A fellow gets out of a proposition exactly what he puts in it.

If Hoyt is looking for money, Oklahoma is his best bet. It's pretty evident that it's necessary for Oklahoma to make this type of an offer to induce boys of Hoyt's type to attend their school. I have said and done everything in keeping with the traditions and the real work of the University of Kansas. I shall not lower her standards to meet the apparent type of competition that's being placed before some boy.

If Hoyt desires to attend the University of Kansas, we'll do everything we can for him legitimately and keep with the best ideals of a splendid institution. And, if he chooses some other institution, he will do so with my blessing.

I appreciate your wholehearted interest, but you and I both know that if you want money, you go to a bank; if you want pills, you go to a drug store, and if you want education, you go to a first-class educational institution.

Very cordially yours,