

COPY

University of Missouri,
Columbia, Missouri.

March 5, 1940.

Dear Dr. Allen:

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The main purpose of this letter is to offer my sincere congratulations for your victory over us. I know how sweet it must have been to you and your players, and realize how proud you must be of a team that has done so well. I thought that the officials did a fine job. We had the chances and couldn't take advantage of them. Consequently, my hand goes out to you and your boys for a swell performance. Please let them know of our high regard and respect for them as players and as gentlemen.

As far as I am concerned only one minor incident spoils an otherwise perfect set-up, and in mentioning it there is no desire to rob you or the Kansas boys of any of the joy of the victory. Since, however, a similar situation might afford you some embarrassment I feel it best to tell you about it.

Our boys followed the score as posted on the front of the balcony. The score keeper there did some wishful thinking whenever a foul was called on Missouri, and posted the successful throw before the attempt was made. From the bench I saw what was happening and made mental correction in his score, but the players state that they were confused by his act. Perhaps you recall that in the closing minutes the score was 40-40 and a foul was called on us. Immediately, the balcony scorekeeper posted a 41 for Kansas, and our team called time to check the score. I appreciate the hopes of your attendant that by calling Ebling's shot he was helping his schoolmate psychologically, but feel that the move was unwise and unfair to your opponents.

Please don't think I am quibbling nor attempting to offer any alibi. My thought is that, sooner or later, such premature scoring may cause violent complaint by some opponent who may feel that he was forced to an unnecessary change in tactics. I hope you understand that this is a suggestion for the future, and not a complaint dealing with the past; that I feel in our case it was not of importance, but might readily be the cause of preventable friction.

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Yours truly,

(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDS

Basketball Coach.