

October 5, 1949

Mrs. Don A. Freeman
Route 3 Treetops
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Grayce:

I have just received your letter written Sunday.

Last Friday Lawrence High School played Topeka and won, but during the game, Topeka made a high punt which John went out to catch. While he had his hands in the air to catch the high ball, a Topeka player slugged him with both fists in the mouth. The assault was not called by the referee, but it was shown by the pictures of the game and was seen by a number of spectators the blow might easily have broken his neck. But he has a particularly strong neck. He fell as if he were shot, but a few moments later he walked to the sidelines where he was given medical attention. Later it was found he had suffered a slight concussion, and he knew nothing that happened between the time when he had his hands up for the ball and when he came to himself later on the sidelines.

Fortunately there was no permanent injury unless it will be a slight scar on his chin. It cut his lower lip vertically on one side and also cut it crosswise underneath where it had contact with his teeth. He was given immediate medical attention and later was checked by surgeons, an oculist and dentist. Yesterday he was suited up and back on the field but not taking the usual rough and tumble because he says that even a slight jar hurts the injured parts. Under the circumstances, he got off very luckily.

Everyone is well. Mary Beth is getting along nicely in school but I understand worries her parents a bit because she would like to drop out and get married. Although the young man seems to be a fine young fellow, I think it would be a mistake for them to get married until she has completed her education and he is more thoroughly established himself. He has a job in Kansas City.