

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 6, 1952

Mr. Shelby W. Blatterman
Route 1
May's Lick, Kentucky

My dear Mr. Blatterman:

I was surprised and somewhat amazed to receive your letter complaining of the manner in which the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Athletics Association had handled the Bill Spivey case. I believe if you knew all the facts you would not feel as you do. Since you are an intelligent and responsible citizen, I am going to take the time to furnish you with such facts as I have and I trust that you will study them carefully.

Since last October I would estimate that I have spent approximately 25 percent of my time dealing with the basketball scandal. I have endeavored to furnish every citizen who wanted more information on this subject the facts I have that he might have a better understanding of the problem. This has taken time.

The University of Kentucky was deeply humiliated by this unfortunate and tragic occurrence. I am enclosing the first statement I made to the press which indicates my attitude toward the scandal and particularly my attitude toward the boys. I have from the beginning maintained that the gamblers slipped up on young men who had little experience in such affairs and took advantage of them. Nevertheless, these boys were old enough to know right from wrong and the University cannot overlook their behavior even though it can forgive them personally.

Three of the boys confessed their crime immediately. Three others (and there were only six ever involved) refused to go to New York and testify relative to their part in this unsavory deal. They took advantage of the fact that they had committed no crime in New York even though they had accepted bribes for point shaving in other states, including Kentucky.