

B"H

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Dear "Coach",

It doesn't seem possible that nearly fifty four years have gone by since we first met!

I never considered myself an athlete but wanted try out for one of the intercollegiate sports at YU. Realizing that fencing was the only possibility, I arranged to meet with you. You said that there were several requirements for being on the team. One was to faithfully attend practices in order to be in proper shape and to learn the necessary skills. The second was to maintain good grades; in other words, to try to excel academically.

I don't think any other coach in the world emphasized the latter. That is because they were concerned with their students as players who helped them win games or matches, while you were concerned with us as people.

When asked which professors influenced me the most, you consistently are at the top of the list. Throughout the years, those requirements have stood me in good stead, both as a US Army Chaplain and a pulpit Rabbi.

I can never thank you enough for the profound influence you have had on my life.

Now, for an apology.....I know that the 1958 team could be a little difficult. It is not often that several members of a team "kidnap" their coach. The occasion, if you remember, was a biting cold night, when you tried to drop us off at the dorm after a victory in Queens. We refused to get out of the car and insisted that you take us to your home in New Jersey for hot chocolate. After quite a battle, you agreed with the proviso that we would have to take a bus back to New York. The warmth of the chocolate and your home felt so good and the time passed so quickly, that we missed the last bus. To us this was no problem. We could all sleep in the living room!

That threat was a little too much and, with love on our part and I don't know what on yours, you "grumblingly" took us back to the dorm.

For any aggravation I may have caused you, I sincerely apologize!

I thank you for being who and what you are and for the good fortune of having had you as my teacher and my friend.

I wish you good health.

With Berachot from Jerusalem,