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January 18, 1946

Mr. G. Herbert Smith, President
Willamette High School
Salem, Oregon

Dear President Smith:

I owe you my humble apology. I took your letter with me on our Christmas basketball tour and fully expected to answer it immediately. As is the case with most of these good intentions, I did not do it due to the fact that your communication was laid aside, among others, due to excess outside pressure that I did not anticipate.

Upon returning to my office the mail on my desk was very heavy and I neglected to place my Christmas mail ahead of the other letters. I am dictating this letter just prior to our game with the University of Oklahoma tonight.

I am happy indeed to recommend Mr. Elmer H. Schaake as a young man of most excellent character. He is not only one of the finest and cleanest young men that I know, but he is an excellent coach. He leads his men by the power of his clean life and sympathetic understanding.

He was my assistant varsity basketball coach while at the University. He was also first assistant to our head football coach, Henry Shenk, in that sport. I had Elmer Schaake on my varsity basketball team for three years and while Director of Athletics I came very closely in contact with him on the football trips. I felt him at all times to be a gentleman in the finest sense of the word. He was a Lawrence, Kansas, boy and I had ample opportunity to observe his actions and his conduct. Never did he disappoint me.

He is a man of family, having a lovely wife and two healthy and wonderful children. Mrs. Schaake is one of the most beautiful and lovely women that I know. She is a splendid homemaker and Mr. Schaake is a fine family man.

I am happy to recommend him without reservation or evasion.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:MF