

January 11, 1945.

Dean O. C. Schwiering,
College of Education,
University of Wyoming,
Laramie, Wyoming.

Dear Dean Schwiering:

I sent you the wire yesterday afternoon and immediately went to basketball practice. I was ready to dictate the letter regarding Elmer Schaake this morning when your phone message came in. However, I still feel that you might want to know more concerning him than you gleaned from our telephone conversation.

Schaake is married, and has a lovely wife and two children. The past two years he has assisted Coach Henry Shenk with our varsity football team, and this year is assisting me with basketball. While the University had an ASTP unit here, Schaake taught full time in their physical training program. At the present he teaches the civilian classes in physical conditioning.

While at the University of Kansas as a student, Elmer Schaake was a star athlete. In his three years of football at Kansas, he was a member of the Big Six Champions in 1930, 1931 and 1932 he played quarterback, and in 1932 he was captain and all-Big Six selection for this position. He was a member of our championship basketball teams, playing at guard position. The year after he graduated he assisted me with spring practice in basketball, and assisted Coach Lindsay in his spring practice in football. I have found few men who possess the innate fundamental athletic ability that Schaake possesses.

After his graduation he played one year of professional football under Coach George "Potsy" Clark, when Clark was coaching the Detroit Lions. He was one of the outstanding players in the professional league that year. He played but one year of professional ball so as to enable him to clear up his college debt. After his professional debut, he coached at Bethany College at Lindsborg, Kansas, where he had unusually fine success. Bethany, being a small denominational school, had difficulty in meeting her financial responsibilities, and Schaake came back to the Lawrence High School where he had a most enviable record, winning a great number of championships before he came to the University as a member of our department when our program was enlarged.