THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Jan. 9/39.

Dear Doc:-

Thanks you for my share in that attractive guest book which came with your fine Christmas wishes. Mrs. Davis is as enthusiastic as I am — and will write you.

Among the best things in life, Doc, are good friends. Your thought is deeply appreciated.

Faithfully yours

W. W. Davis.

January 3, 1940.

Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Davis,
706 West 12th Street,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Friends:

You good people left town before it was possible to deliver our Christmas greeting to you.

Knowing of no home in Lawrence, Kansas, that has more hospitality in it to the square inch than the Davis's, I am sending along a guest register for your convenience and recollections.

Someone has wisecracked that we have just had the "dirty thirties", with the "fat forties", we hope, coming up. (Of course, we are speaking in a vein financially and not adiposically.)

I trust for you and yours a very happy and prosperous New Year of 1940.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 12, 1939

Dr. Forest C. Allen
Robinson Gymnasium
University of Kansas

Dear Doc:

Thank you for your letter of October 7 relative to the skiing situation and enclosing a letter from Mr. Haynes. I am returning the Haynes letter enclosed. I appreciate more than I can tell your thoughtful interest in me.

With best wishes I am

Faithfully yours,

W. W. Davis

WWD:wr

October 23, 1939.

Professor W. W. Davis,
Department of History,
University of Kansas.

Dear Friend W. W.:

I promised you some time ago to give you a resume of the modus operandi of proselyting systems over the country as it applies to football subsidizing.

I will not go into the minutia of the details. I will reserve that for conversation with you later on, if you care to have it.

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Rockne told me that Conrad H. Mann, of Kansas City, was the big Catholic in this area and that Dr. D. M. Migro, the Italian practicing physician in Kansas City, a Notre Dame alumnus, is the man who selects the four boys in this area.

University of Pittsburgh. The system there in vogue was $90.00 a month with theater tickets, baseball tickets to the National League games, and entertainment such as the boys desired. This was taken care of by the athletic set-up. The recent flare in the papers regarding Dr. Sutherland's resignation and the Rose Bowl episode a few years ago when the players struck is just a symptom of the dissatisfaction on the part of the boys who desired more spending money than they received. They figured that if Pittsburgh could get that much money from the Rose Bowl they could raise the ante a little.

Carnegie Tech. You doubtless read the statement of the president of Carnegie Tech where he said they wanted superior football players the same as they wanted superior students, and they were paying for them. Dick Sklar played at Carnegie Tech one year and told me what they were giving him. They gave him everything, and he was a Jewish boy from Monongahela, Pennsylvania, who came into money and theater tickets and spending orgies that was too much for him, so he flunked out, hitchhiked out here and started his academic rise on Mount Oread. He told me a good many things about the system that I have not repeated to anyone, but would tell you more. It is the same set-up as with Pitt, only they pay a little more because Pitt had the reputation and Carnegie Tech had to build one.

Wisconsin. Harry Stuhldreher, the athletic director and head football coach at Wisconsin, former All-American quarterback under Rockne, took a page from Notre Dame's procedure. Since his going to Wisconsin arrangements have been made for the University of Wisconsin to give a legislative scholarship to each select athlete they may choose. This scholarship carries tuition, incidental fees and books. There is a collaborating committee to take care of the room and board, but not on the one grant. Stuhldreher makes the nominations for the senators and representatives. You can see how many athletes they take care of. Remember, these are not for Wisconsin boys, but for any boy in the United States that goes to Wisconsin.

They got a boy named Black who went to Topeka three years and then to Southwest High School. He was one of the best basketball players in the state and one of the best track men. They also got Greenwood, a great tackle from Southwest High School, Kansas City, Missouri. I talked to Black's father, and since he was the father of five or six children he could not afford to send his son to Kansas, although he desired to very much. Mr. Black and Dr. Robert Taft attended college together and the Tafts were quite anxious that Black come here. But everything was too much for Black to resist. Black graduated from Southwest High School, having attended there his senior year.

L.S.U. took two or three good men from the state; U.S.C. took several; Tulane took one; Purdue took two; Colorado took five or six by offering them board, room, books, tuition and so forth. So you can see when these proselyting agencies get in the state only the boys who are sold one hundred per cent or more on the University of Kansas will ever come here.

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U.S.C. Bill Hunter, the athletic director, is a glorified personnel man who does a better job of getting the athletes than the traveling representatives of U.S.C. It is alleged that they use receipts directly taken in at football games to subsidize athletes. A part of this money is set aside for advertising and otherwise, and is paid directly to the boys. The movie actors and other large directors turn in fabulous sums.

Tulane, L.S.U., Alabama and the other southern schools - some have either a $90.00 or $125.00 monthly stipend which they pay the boys. There are no bones about it. When I was down at Atlanta this summer I talked to these high school boys, all-star fellows who had just graduated from high school and they were playing in this all-star football and all-star basketball game. I talked to a big fellow, Richardson, from a small town in Georgia, who is going to U.S.C. He told me that he was to get $125 a month, and told me just as openly as a boy that would get a job with any firm. He was one of the most beautiful specimens of humanity that I have ever seen. He weighed 206 pounds, a perfect Adonis, and built as symmetrically and beautifully - well, I started to say as Bill Bunsen, but a lot better. He was a magnificent specimen to gaze upon and he was a member of the National Honor Society. He was clean, handsome, intelligent, and intensely appealing to any man who loved human flesh at its best. The boys down there expect a contract and they consider this an honorable arrangement.

Kentucky. A few years ago the University of Kentucky started out to build up their athletics and they took $10,000 from the athletic fund and charged it to advertising. They used this $10,000 to hire football, basketball and baseball players at $90.00 a month. That is the price at Kentucky.

The Big Ten. There is one assistant athletic director in an institution in the environs of Chicago that operates much like Mr. Hunter. He hires the boys, keeps them in hotels or otherwise, pays their bills and checks on their eligibility. But of course the director of this institution knows nothing about what the assistant director is doing. I talked to Major Griffith this last spring and he said that the Big Ten worked out a system to correct proselyting. When the boys come to the college as freshmen the athletic director interviews these boys and if propositions have been made to them by scouts from schools in this territory, then he will refuse to sched-

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I might mention that Dr. Mal Stevens, who played three years for Yale, played against our Kansas team here in 1920 on the Washburn team. If my memory serves correctly he played three years at Washburn College and then later played three years for Yale. There is very little check on a western athlete when he goes east. Dr. Pete Hyle who was a Kansas quarter back in 1909 - '10 - '11 went to the University of Pittsburgh and played three years at Pitt. Of course, Pete was always famous for those things. Dr. Ammons, George Cowell, Bill Crowell and a great number of fellows played here at Kansas and then when their eligibilities were over they went to Pitt.

You doubtless remember that Albie Booth, the Yale immortal a few years ago was publicized quite extensively. He was the son of a poor laborer who picked up scraps of paper and refuse by angling it with a stick with a nail attached to it. He got $125.00 a month by playing football at Yale and many of the national magazines publicized him on that account. Well, he was only one of the many boys that play on the Ivy League teams who got this amount of money. It has long been a known fact that the wealthy men at these three institutions see practically all the athletes through.

Oklahoma. Last week I spoke at Osborne, Kansas, at the County Teachers Association convention and luncheon. After I finished at Osborne I drove to Ellinwood to visit my son, Milton, and his wife and daughter, where Milton is employed by the Stanolind Oil Corporation, which is the producing company for Standard. Sunday I played golf with Milton and two of the Standard executives there. Mr. Kern, who is the production man for Stanolind, and the rest of our group were discussing Big Six football. When Oklahoma was mentioned he told me the name of a fellow down in Oklahoma, the president or a big executive of a large oil company there who said that he had gone

to U.S.C. to get this Oklahoma boy who is starring now for U.S.C., back to Oklahoma. He said, "I have offered this guy everything I could think of except my private plane. I am going back and offer him that and see if we can't get him back into the state." The boy is now at U.S.C. A chap who is now starring for Oklahoma was out there, but failed or something happened and Oklahoma got him back. But the real star at U.S.C. is the Oklahoma boy. Oklahoma is now in the midst of an oil boom in that they have the large oil executives interested in their football team, and they are really paying the money for them. If you are interested in the name of the man who handles the cash for Oklahoma I can give it to you, but he is in no way directly connected with the institution.

Nebraska. There is a big banker in Lincoln, named Clark, I believe, who handles the money, and the boys are paid their room, tuition and books for football, basketball and track. This is not a new procedure, but has been going on for years for football and a few top athletes, but I understand on good authority this is done now for the three sports at Nebraska. Of course, Dean Thompson knows nothing about it. This practice reached its peak the last few years of Dana Bible's reign there.

Missouri. I had a young man in my home, Frank Watkins, who is an insurance broker in Kansas City. He told us that they were having a definitely organized system at Missouri. Every alumnus in Kansas City and over the state had been asked to give according to his ability to pay. Watkins, a recent graduate, is giving $5.00 and he mentioned men in Kansas City giving up to $500 a piece. There are no tickets or other considerations given; merely the alumnus makes his contribution and expects nothing but a winning team. This applies to the major sports at Missouri, but they are stressing football especially. This statement was prior to the Ohio State game, and Watkins was betting that Missouri would beat Ohio State by seven to ten points. You can imagine the repercussions that are going on down at Missouri at the present time against the head man in football.

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With such a resume you are wondering if there are any schools anywhere that are not using some form of subsidy. Frankly, I can say from personal experience that there has been less done here than most any place that I know of. I trust this will give you the information that you desire.

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FCA:AH

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Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Lawrence, Kansas
October 31,
1939.

Mr. Dudley Doolittle,
President, College of Emporia,
Emporia, Kansas.

Dear President Doolittle:

I acknowledge with gratitude your letter of October 30th in regard to the Council of Church Colleges' opinion of the strenuous nature of the basketball rules.

May I say that your organization is not alone in that belief. I am this day communicating the Council's resolution to each member of the Rules Committee of the United States and Canada so they may put this along with other protests on their agenda for very definite consideration.

Thanking you for your letter, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, Fifth District, N.C.A.A.

October 31, 1939.

THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA

EMPORIA, KANSAS

DEGREES OFFERED

BACHELOR OF ARTS
BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF MUSIC

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
October 30, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Chairman of the Rules Committee on Basketball
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As secretary of the Council of Church Colleges and by direction of said Council at its meeting held a few days ago at Bethel College, Newton, I am communicating to you the resolution adopted by the Council concerning Basketball rules. Here it is:

> "It was the formal opinion of the Council that Basketball rules be amended in order that the game may be slowed down somewhat. A feeling was expressed that the game as played under the present rules constitutes a menace to the health of the players. President Mossman, at his request, was recorded as voting against this resolution. The Secretary was directed to send a copy of the resolution to Chairman of the rules committee on basketball, Dr. Forrest Allen."

With expressions of esteem, I am

Cordially,

Dudley Doolittle
Secretary

DD:GGW

Lawrence, Kansas
November 3, 1939

H. H. Salmon, Jr.,
John W. Dunn
H. V. Porter
Gerald Tower.

Dear Sirs:

The enclosed copy of a letter was recently received in regard to the strenuous nature of the basketball rules.

There seems to be a general opinion among the church school and community teams that the game is too fast. I am sending this communication to you so that it may be included with other protests along this line, and so that it may receive consideration on your agenda.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman, 5th District, K.C.A.A.

C

January 26, 1940.

Mr. Bruce Drake,
Basketball Coach,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bruce:

Before you will receive this letter you will have already set sail for Lincoln and Columbia, but I have a vague recollection of a little visit that you, Chuck Hyatt and I had in Chicago where you made a wager of a real red, red, inflaming necktie, to the effect that the Santa Fe Railway did not run into Tulsa.

Since it was such a burning discussion for the moment, I cannot forget that red necktie. I am wondering if you have forgotten it. Bruce, I want a real red necktie.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

January 30, 1940.

Mr. Bruce Drake,
Basketball Coach,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bruce:

Congratulations on your wonderful victory over the Tigers last night!

I thought you did especially well at Lincoln to take care of those giant Huskers, but when you mowed them down a la Charlie McCarthy at Columbia, I say the laurels belong to the kid coach who coaches the Boy Scatters - those little fellows, you know.

Well, it looks like you and Mr. Henry Iba are going to battle it out for the right to represent the Fifth District in the N.C.A.A. championship go, and if you two do win your respective championship flights, then the game at Oklahoma City should really take on a battle of some significance.

This letter is just merely to congratulate you on doing a splendid job. Of course, we are going to give you a fight, but I am afraid before March 8th the championship will have been settled.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

February 12, 1940.

Mr. Bruce Drake,
Basketball Coach,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your good letter regarding that red, red flaming red necktie. Doggone! Won't that be something! If I get it before March 8th, darned if I don't wear it down there and get burned up!

While you are worrying and shuddering about that March 8th date, I hope they don't mistake your tremors for delirium tremens! Boy, I'll bet you are scared!

I wrote Henry Iba a note and told him that I certainly did not leave him out of the picture in the Big Six play-off. I did state that in my opinion it would be an all-Oklahoma attraction, and I haven't changed my idea one iota. However, we are going to give you the best we've got, but I realize that you hit Gardner when his team was crippled, and it looks as if they will all be gunning for us at Manhattan and Lincoln, as well as Ames, when we play them. Of course, you've got Ames up there, and I think they are going to be tough.

Anyhow, Bruce, it will be just another good old fight. I like the competitive spirit of the Big Six coaches very much. They can fight like the dickens, but still be very good friends. Of course, we are all trying to win, and we wouldn't respect each other if we were not doing just that thing.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Feb. 4, 1940

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MEN

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Basketball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:-

No I haven't forgotten the red necktie but to be real frank I had until you prodded me about it. And since Hyatt worked our Kansas State game Friday nite he also confirmed your belief that I had lost it fairly and squarly so I might as well start looking for one of those fire sales and get you a good $2.00. I too am fond of red neckties so I think I can do right by you on my choice selection.

Thanks for the kind letter of congratulations but after the way you treated me at Lawrence makes me even shudder to even think of what might be at stake March 8th. I appreciate these roses even right in the middle of the season but you know as well as I do that your ball club is right in there 100% and are in a good spot. I'll grant you that we knocked Missouri in at Columbia and felt ~~xxxx~~ at the time was a strategic blow for us but I also know that anything can happen in Basketball and I'm not even thinking in terms of the games in March but playing the immediate game that confronts us now, Nebraska.

The story that came out of Norman (Special) with the Canery feathers remarks concerning your remarks about the smooth Oklahoma Team out of Kansas City was doped up somewhat by our correspondant. Gardner's team played a whale of a ball game here in Norman and deserves a lot of credit with the material he has this year. I'm afraid they won't be in very good shape for Missouri Monday nite for Seelye, Robertson and Reid received slight injuries in our game here Friday nite. Be on the lookout for a box and good luck to you in all but one of your remaining games.

Sincerely,

Bruce Drake

P. S. My steno. is out on Sunday-any mistakes were purely accidential.

March 6, 1940.

Mr. Bruce Drake,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bruce:

Thank you very much for your fine letter congratulating us on our victory over Missouri. I was sure that Oklahoma would be pulling for us one hundred per cent in this game.

I, too, listened to the broadcast after the game and at times I really got frightened. I was afraid they might beat us even though I had witnessed the game previous to the broadcast.

Yes, I remember that both you and I agreed to play both of our games in quarters and for that reason I want that we shall play this game in quarters as we did the first one. I do not see that it will affect Carroll and O'Sullivan the least bit whether the game is played in quarters or in halves.

The fact that we played in quarters as you and I both agreed would give two extra times out and would also add interest from the spectators' standpoint. For these reasons and for the fact that we had agreed to play both games in quarters, it is only logical that I should want to carry out our agreement to play in quarters.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MEN

March 4, 1940

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Basketball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Congratulations on your fine victory over Missouri. That was one game, "Believe It or Not", that Oklahoma was pulling for you 100%. We were enroute to Ames Friday night and heard your game rebroadcasted over WREN and had we not known the final score before hearing the broadcast, I am sure that my boys and I too would have been worn out before that final gun.

At our last Big Six meeting, you and I agreed to give the quarter game a trial in our two games to be played this season. Due to the fact that so much hinges on this one game I would like to play this as we have played the rest of our games, in the regulation halves. I know that Carroll and O'Sullivan have not officiated in more than one or two games played in quarters this year and I know that both of us are already satisfied that playing the game in quarters would not only give the boys two extra time-outs but would also add interest from the spectator stand point. If it is agreeable with you let's keep this game regulation twenty minute halves as we have in our last eight Conference games.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Drake
Basketball Coach

BD:ds

July 26, 1940.

Mr. Bruce Drake,
Basketball Coach,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bruce:

I hope that you got all of those fish Harold Keith told me you were going to get.

Now, don't begin crying on my shoulder, young man, with Mr. Ford and the rest of that aggressive help that you have and with the competition that you are getting in Oklahoma. I am pretty sure that you have enlarged your circumference radius beyond the Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas boundaries. Before long I expect to be reading of Bruce Drake visiting California, Oregon, Washington, and the Dominion of Canada! As competition gets tougher the tentacles of aggression reach out further.

When I get that flaming red necktie I will take back most of this. It hasn't arrived as yet.

Bartlesville is a good town in Oklahoma, and the pioneer Santa Fe railway discovered that early.

Thank you for changing to March 7th. We hope the crowd will be large and the intake and output financially in proportion.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MEN

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Basketball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:-

I have just returned from Colorado and found your letter concerning our date at Lawrence. If you are sure that your crowd will be bigger on Friday nite I would much prefer playing it on Saturday nite for the sound drubbings you have handed me there would make it less embarrissing if we played it in the old gym at midnight.

March the 7th. will be satisfactory. With the Sophmores I have coming I think I would be just as well off playing all my conference games during the Christmas holidays when the student body was at home. This would ease my headache and maby I could get back to Normal by the time the regular playing season was over.

I feel mean in not sending you an honest bet lost but at this mailing I'm sending you that flaming red tie. May you wear it with memories of the Santa Fe that does run thru Bartlesville. I know you are enjoying a pleasant summer with the thoughts of that Senior ball club coming up and I know you will drink less water next season than you have for some years.

Sincerely,

Bruce

OK with Clause 7/26/40

August 26, 1940

Mr. Bruce Drake
Basketball Coach
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Bruce:

I am emphatically sure that I acknowledged receipt of the gift of that not too flaming red tie, or at least I told Mrs. Hulteen, my secretary at that time, to do so, and I rather formed the wording of the body of the letter. Well anyhow, Bruce, I want you to know that I do thank you for it, but it was not as red a red as I wanted. Anyway I am wearing it and you know I like. It is a very lovely and beautiful tie.

We were on our way through to Austin, Texas, to the coaching school, and when we drove through Norman had we not been late I would have called you and had a short visit, but Mrs. Allen and our grandson were with me and there was not much time to visit. Yes, the Norman Courts were lovely.

Regarding the new all steel backboard, I would go along with you one hundred percent on all of us buying the Medart goal. In that way we would have them uniform in the conference, and it seems to me that we would have an indestructible board and a permanent and satisfactory one. You may count on my vote now and I am wondering if you would be kind enough to write each one of the coaches and get it down from your angle rather than have me get into it. If I were you, I would not even say you had written me, but write each one of them as you have written me, making it a personal letter and letting the initiative come from you. When you get the job done, if you will write me the findings, I will greatly appreciate it.

I am leaving for Louisville in the morning to visit my married daughter and my grandchildren there. From there I plan to go to Chicago on the 6th and 7th of September to meet with the Executive Committee of the N.C.A.A. regarding the fair distribution to the colleges in the tournament. After that I expect to return to Lawrence, sometime around the 8th of 9th, but any communication you send will be forwarded to me and will receive prompt attention.

Congratulations on your acquisition of Gerald Tucker. Hank Iba and I had a good laugh over the possibility of basketball being forced into the same position as football by subsidizing the boys with board,

room, tuition, fraternity initiation and dues, plus other stipulations that should be only whispered. Phi Delta Theta plus O.G. and E., I am afraid, are setting some bad examples for the other brothers to shoot at. That is more money than the head of a house can earn making an honest living. Now laugh that off, Bruce.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Aug. 24, 1940

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Ed.
Varsity Basketbal Coach
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:-

I haven't heard from you since I paid off my two year debt. and thought no doubt that the neckwear wasen't red enough. I also knew that Bob would like it if you diden't and I could send you a darker shade.

I'm sorry that I missed you when you passed thru Norman. I heard that you looked over the Norman courts. Have you ever seen anything quite so nice? (K. U. 46 -O. U. 26) Yes I guess you have on second thought.

I have just received from Fred Medart Co. a picture of the new all steel backboard. I see no reason why we all can't start out with this new backboard this season. The price of these are $36.00, goals not included. I would rather get this type all thru the conference than for each of us to take the different boards we now have and cut them down. Do you think it would be possible for us to all get lined up so that we could get them in right away? This would eliminate all the supports behind the baskets here at Norman for I plan to hang them from the beams and brace them.

If competition gets any tougher I'm afraid the tentacles of aggression would have a hard time getting by the guards. We do not have a squadron of planes yet nor a home guard as strong as some or our competitors but with a little better organization in the Big Six I'm sure the directors would vote appropriations to buy a plane and allow each school four weeks each summer to its use.

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a pleasant summer. My sincere regards to your wife and son.

Sincerely,

Bruce Drake

Bruce Drake, Basketball Coach

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