

IN REPLY  
REFER TO.....

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION

RICHMOND, FLORIDA

Address:  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Air Station

*Richmond*

December 24, 1943

Dear Doc:

Just a few lines to let you know that I had not completely forgotten you. For the last several weeks they have had me on several jobs and they all require a lot of extra work. The athletic officer is on leave and since I am the leading chief all his work has fallen on my shoulders along with the newspaper editorship and coaching the basketball team. This later job is the one that I want to write to you about.

I have several good boys on the team but find it very difficult to get them all out at the same time due to their having to perform their military duties first and then play secondary.

One man in particular is sure to be of interest to you in a long way around. He is Charles Welchel who was one of Melvin Griffin's pupils while out in Long Beach Jr. College. You will remember that Griff was ~~Mitts~~ coach as well as several of the old Lawrence High boys. What got me was the way he handled himself. Every fundamental exercise that I gave he would say that he had done the same thing while in school so I finally asked him where he went to school. After he told me I knew that Griff had been giving the old KU system in coaching his teams.

*Cook -  
Mitt  
Fred*

We are building a portable basketball floor in one of the hangars and we should be able to boast that we have the largest basketball areana in the world. I will let you know what we do in the way of victories when we get started. I expect to be playing right after the first of the year.

Will close for now and enclose a copy of the Richmond News for your approval. Be sure and read the sport page about the basketball team. The sports editor really fixed me up.

*P.S. My commission has been  
accepted but am awaiting  
orders to be sworn  
in. Don't know the  
rank but think it will be Ensign. More later.*

Yours truly,

*J. Fred Harris*  
J. Fred Harris