

A

December 30, 1937.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I promised you a long time ago that I was going to write you a letter because certain things have troubled me quite a bit. I never could understand when you asked me certain things about the Stanford proposition. I thought it was Harold Kuhn, but after my meeting with John Bunn at Chautauque many things were clarified. And now I can understand why you asked certain questions, whether I had been offered the job at Stanford or not.

I have no malice and am not the least bit irked, but I want to tell you some things which may or may not surprise you. I was amazed to hear John Bunn say to me the things he did. Not that they hurt me, but they amazed me. It was John's honest opinion that I had never been offered the job, but when I told him certain things about Pop Warner wanting me to come to Stanford, then his eyes opened.

It is not with any idea of lambasting John, or trying to disabuse him of anything he erroneously thought, but I want you to know the truth of the matter, and after I have written you this then you can tear it up, because it is only my desire for you to know the truth that I am writing.

When Pop Warner and I were working together in our coaching schools, Pop asked me if I would be interested in coming to Stanford. I told him that I didn't believe I would like it because the Pacific Coast is too far away from everything. Pop had an ailing hip along in 1927-28-29. He was very lame, and at our coaching schools he would have me work on him and relieve his suffering. He called it rheumatism, but I found a sprained sacro-iliac articulation - that joint between the flat of the spine and the hip. After Pop and I had been together at Utah State, at Wittenberg College, at Superior, Wisconsin, and several other places, Pop seemed rather anxious in my going to Stanford. Then a professor out there wrote me asking if I would consider the position at Stanford as basketball coach, stating that the salary would not be a consideration. I do not even remember the professor's name, but it occurs to me that his name was something like Runquist or Lunquist.



The letter is somewhere back in the files stored away with other correspondence. Mrs. Webster, who is secretary to Mr. Gwinn Henry, and who was my secretary at that time, well remembers the communication. I wrote this fellow that I was not interested in the job, but that I did have a young man here named John Bunn who had shown exceptional promise in basketball and that he was my assistant varsity coach and freshman coach. I told him that I would recommend him without reservation or evasion, that he was energetic, loyal, intelligent and forceful, and that any school that secured the services of John Bunn would be fortunate.

A little later I received a letter from Dr. Storey regarding John Bunn. I wrote Dr. Storey a most exceptional letter concerning John. I further advised John to see you, to see Jack Grover, and to see Harold Kuhn, as Kuhn was a Stanford man and a member of Beta Theta Pi, as was John Bunn. I wrote John one of the finest recommendations that I have ever written for any one. Bunn got the job and I was as happy as I could be because I thought I had helped him.

Then, too, there were certain men out over the state who had been former football players here at the University during Bunn's time that were bitter against him and there was much criticism of his being my stool pigeon. I thought by getting him a fine job everybody would be happier, under the circumstances.

Now, may I tell you some of the instances that led up to our conversation in Chanute, Kansas, this past August. This concerns Ralph Miller, John Bunn and myself.

One day, when my son, Robert Allen, was playing on the Lawrence Junior High School team he came home and said they had played against the finest basketball player he had ever seen. His name was Ralph Miller, from Chanute Junior High School. Bob said Ralph told him that he was going to attend K. U. when he graduated from Chanute High.

Each year, for five years, Bob played against Ralph Miller. I had never seen Miller play up to the time he played in the state tournament at Topeka, three years ago, and that was the only time that I ever saw him play. Mrs. Allen and I had driven to Topeka to see Bobby play with the Lawrence High School team against Abilene.

During the progress of the evenings play, Ralph Miller was injured in the first game. Chanute was playing the St. Joseph High School of Hays, Kansas. Miller was taken out after a bad fall, having injured his hip, and St. Joseph ran up a ten-point lead in the first half.



Seeing that Miller could not go back, E. A. Thomas, executive secretary of the Kansas State High School Athletic Association, came up in the balcony and asked me if I would go down in the dressing room and work on Ralph Miller, that he was injured badly. I had been sitting with Mrs. Allen and had not mingled with the high school boys in the dressing room. I gladly went down there and was able to fix Miller up so that he went in to the second half and scored 26 points against the Hays team, to win for Chanute.

After Chanute won the state championship, the Chanute Chamber of Commerce invited me down as a special guest, but I had a date to go to New York to attend the national rules meeting, and could not be present.

I knew that many schools were angling for Miller's services, but I did not use my advantage to endeavor to entice him to K. U.

Year before last I was down at Pittsburg, Kansas, speaking at a banquet at Pittsburg Teachers College. George Nettels was in attendance, and we came upon E. A. Thomas and Mr. Harold Miller, the father of Ralph, down at the Besse Hotel at Pittsburg. Mr. Miller stated to me then that he expected to send Ralph to K.U. and I told him I greatly appreciated it.

From every angle I learned that Ralph expected to go to K.U. It was authoritatively stated this past spring and summer that Tulane, the University of Southern California, Stanford, Northwestern, and George Washington University had made him exceptional offers. Ralph's father told me that John Bunn had personally paid his fee out there at Stanford to keep him eligible for entrance. Every student has to pay a certain entrance fee to be eligible for enrollment in the fall. Miller did not pay it, but John paid it to keep him eligible.

One of John's boys from Topeka named Page, a practicing attorney, this summer came down to Chanute and asked Ralph where he was going. Ralph told him he was going to Kansas. Page said, "Well, if you could go to Stanford it wouldn't cost you a penny, and you could still make money on the side." Ralph told him he definitely decided on Kansas.

Then a fellow named Butts, a very wealthy Stanford man from Wichita, drove over from Wichita and told Ralph that there was a very wealthy judge out at Oakland, California, that handled the money for the Stanford boys, and all the tuition, books and everything would be paid, and that Ralph could get a job in John Bunn's office for spending money, and all transportation to California and back to look over the place would be provided Miller if he would but make the trip.



Previously, Miller had gone up to Northwestern and had taken his girl along, with money furnished by the Northwestern alumni. This was right after the Kansas Relays that Miller took the trip to Northwestern, and he saved \$18 on the expense money allowed him to take his girl and himself up to Chicago to look over the Northwestern campus.

Miller gave up his job in the summer, went out to L. S. Angeles for three days, and then was taken to Palo Alto and spent several days in John Bum's home. Miller's father advised Ralph not to go to California unless he bought a round-trip ticket. After he had been in John Bum's home three days, playing golf and being entertained there, John drove him back to Kansas City where John was to shoot the picture with the rest of us in the basketball movie-talkie.

I might add here that I coached Harold Miller's brother and Ralph's uncle, Howard Miller, when he played on my 1920 Kansas varsity, so I had a good acquaintance with the Miller household, as Harold was a K man here at the University just prior to Howard's attendance at K.U.

George Nettels was on the Pacific Coast this past summer and visited John at his home in Palo Alto. George told me he said to Bum, "John, listen, you lay off of Miller. He is going to K.U. I know all the particulars." And John said, "I am not even trying for him, because we haven't a chance."

However, just at this time, Mr. Butts from Wichita, attended a wedding out on the coast and he had a conference with John, and it was after this conference that Bum made the trip to Chanute. John told him about the judge that fixed the boys up with money. But Butts furnished the money for Ralph to make the trip.

I ask you, Mac, what chance has a young boy in high school of being sane and unassuming when they will not even let a fellow alone when he tells them he has decided on a school. Tulane sent Miller a check for \$90.00 for him to make the trip to New Orleans this past summer. Miller sent it back. Then Tulane sent a man to Chanute to talk with him.

It is said that Miller is really better as a football player than as a basketball player. He is a triple-threat player, runner, kicker, passer. So it was for football that lots of them were interested in him. However, neither Ad Lindsey nor Gwinn Henry thought he was much good as a football player, I am told. They told me so. After Miller played on the freshman team here I said, "Gwinn, they tell me you can tell by looking at a boy whether he is a football player or not." And Gwinn laughed and said, "Well, that boy certainly fooled me. He looked like he was a thin-chested fellow; but I will take all back that I said. He really can play football."



Now, back to this past summer. I had a coaching school at Lake Okoboji, and the family was quartered on Lake Maxinkuckee, with Bobby at Culver. Mrs. Allen, Jane, Eleanor and I were living in a cottage on the lake and enjoying ourselves immensely. I thought that everything was all set, and there was nothing to worry about so far as Miller was concerned.

One night when I was at Culver I received a phone call from Clyde Reed, Jr., of Parsons, and Fred Harris, Jr., at Chanute saying that Bum had Ralph out on the coast and that he had decided on staying. I put in a long distance call for Harold Miller, Ralph's father. I said, "Harold, I am calling up because you told me that Ralph was going to Kansas, and I am just merely asking the parent of the boy what it is all about."

He said, "Well, Doc, I will tell you honestly that Bum took Ralph out there and Bum put the pressure on him, and it looks like he is going to Stanford."

I said, "Harold, I want to ask you a question. Do you prefer Ralph to go to Stanford instead of Kansas?"

"No", Harold said, "my preference is Kansas, but I would not want to stand in the way. However, I think that Bum put the bee on him after he had him out there, and has high-pressured him so now he thinks he wants to go to Stanford."

I said, "Well, now, Harold, since Ralph decided on Kansas, and you and Mrs. Miller desire him to go to Kansas, I am not going to give up without a fight because I played the game squarely and I am not afraid to show my hand even if something unsavory comes of it."

He said, "That is all right. Go to it!"

I called Earl Falkenstein, our financial secretary, and asked him to see Gwinn Henry and ask Gwinn if he would go down and see Ralph Miller's father and present my case to him, stating that I had promises from both the father and son that the boy was to go to Kansas and that I thought some one had taken unfair advantage of him. At least, I would like a hearing before Ralph definitely decided to go to Stanford. I stated to Earl that I would not come to Lawrence nor would I go to Chanute, because it would look like I was afraid of an issue, but I was willing that this thing be settled in open court, not publicly, but privately.

Harold Miller had said to me that Ralph wanted to see that all-star game in Chicago, and he understood the coaches from Kansas were going up there. He also said, "If there is a way for him to see that game I think he would like to run up there because Bum is coming back Sunday to take him back to Stanford."

Gwinn Henry drove down to Chanute to talk to the father but did not talk to Ralph.



The Chanute boys bought a ticket from Chanute, Kansas, to Lawrence, and sent Ralph to Lawrence. Ad, Mike and Bill took him in the University Ford to Chicago for the all-star game. Ralph bought a ticket from Chicago to Plymouth, Indiana with his own money and Bob Allen drove over from Culver, 16 miles away, to get him. Bob, Jane, Ralph and I, together with the Allen family, visited on the lake for a couple of days, and then Eleanor and Mrs. Allen drove home in Mrs. Allen's Oldsmobile, and Jane, Bob, Ralph and his girl, who came up on a pass from Chanute, spent the day in Chicago and took in the all-star game.

The next morning we left Chicago and drove to Lawrence, arriving about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I called up Ralph's father and told him that Ralph was here in Lawrence. The father said, "Well, John is here at the house and has been here for two days waiting for Ralph to return."

I said, "I'll let you speak to Ralph", and Ralph told his father he had definitely decided on Kansas, and Ralph asked his father if he would tell Bunn. Ralph's father said, "Is this your own decision, Ralph?" And he stated that it was. Then he asked that Bunn be put on the phone and he told Bunn the same thing. Bunn asked if it was his own decision, and Ralph said that it was.

After he had hung up I immediately put in another call for Ralph's father and told him that from the questions he asked Ralph I was afraid that it might be misconstrued by them that I was putting undue pressure on Ralph. I told him that since John had waited two days at the Miller house I would drive down with Ralph and meet John in the presence of the Miller family with Ralph. He said he wished I would do that, and so in less than an hour we were on our way.

George Hedrick, the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce here, who formerly was secretary of the Chanute Chamber of Commerce, called the home just at that time, saying that he heard Ralph Miller was in town. The Millers and Hedricks were very close friends in Chanute, and he wanted to invite Ralph out to his home to stay until school began. I told him of our anticipated plans to drive to Chanute and told him that I would like for him to go along if he cared to.

So Ralph Miller, George Hedrick, and I set out for Chanute to meet John. We arrived about supper time and immediately entered into a conversation with Bunn concerning the whole proposition. When the thing got into the definitely discussional stage I told Bunn that I thought it was hardly sporting for him and Frosty Cox to come into the State of Kansas and have Stanford men try to persuade Ralph to leave the state. I told Bunn about Frosty Cox taking one of my freshmen, Jimmie Schwartz, of Salina, whom Frosty coached on the freshman team, out to Colorado with him. In fact, Frosty inveigled him to go.



It was then that John told me he didn't owe me anything. That I had never been offered the job at Stanford anyhow, and that I had nothing to do with his getting the job at Stanford. He told me the proper way to get a job at Stanford was never to apply but get someone to present your name and have the Stanford authorities ask you. I told him that apparently was exactly what was done, because Pop Warner had talked to me about this man who had written me, and then his eyes popped wide open for once in his life.

I said to John, "You are right, John, I never did do a thing for you. I have heard a lot of people say these things about you, but I never believed them. That is fine, John, you don't owe me anything, but I never would have believed it if I hadn't heard it from your own mouth."

I said, "Do you remember Dr. Storey writing me about you, and about my writing the letter concerning you?" And he said, "Yes, you did write me a nice letter." Then I said, "John, that is great. That is a wonderful confession from you - to say that I wrote you a nice letter."

I said, "John, you have been telling Ralph on the way back from California what prestige Stanford has. If Stanford had such wonderful basketball prestige how did it happen that they did not hire a Stanford man to coach basketball, and how did it happen that they hired a Kansas man to coach basketball?"

I am pretty frank to say that I didn't handle him very easy in the last few minutes. Then I told him about some things that were pretty close to his inside. I told him about the time here when the Chancellor had agreed with me to arrange for Bunn to act as my assistant when he was teaching in the Engineering school and was to get so much money for assisting me in freshman basketball. For some reason the raise was not granted by the Chancellor and John came to me and said, "Well, Doc, you promised it to me." I said, "Yes, John, but those things are all contingent upon the Chancellor's recommendation." John said, "Well, I made my budget out accordingly and I counted on this money." I said, "Well, John, the only way you could get it would be for me to pay it out of my own salary, and if you feel that I should do this, I will." He thought it would be right, so I paid him the difference in what I wanted him to have and what the Chancellor promised he would have, but the budget was not O.K.'d.

This really made him wince, and he said that he didn't remember. Then I said, "John, perhaps you and I had better go out on the front porch so I can be a little more plain with you." We did this. I then told him more definitely things about Pop Warner, and finally he did remember the above-mentioned incident, but it seemed like he had difficulty in recalling it. I told him I could excuse him on that because he was a hard worker and wanted to get ahead financially, and since the boss promised him that regardless of what the Chancellor failed to approve, that the boss should make it good.



Ralph Miller came out and said, "Well, John, I have decided definitely, of my own free will, to stay at Kansas. This is the place I want to go to school."

John congratulated Ralph, and I congratulated the mother. I thought, after all, it was the mother that perhaps turned the scales in our favor.

We all walked up town to eat dinner together because the dinner hour had been consumed by our arguments in the parlor. These were the men present: George Hedrick, John Bunn, Harold Miller, the father of Ralph, and I.

On the way to town John said, "Doc, I made a damned fool of myself. I am sorry." I said, "That is all right, John. Forget it." And while I have not forgotten it, and I imagine I never will, I assure you I have no rancor, because in my mind John has missed something in the way of family life. He has no children and his wife is an invalid. And his first love is his ambition. I can understand that, when no children come to a home.

John has had a tough existence. His early family life and his married life have been full of struggles.

I wrote him a very nice letter of congratulation on the advent of his appointment to the deanship of men at Stanford. I think John will make a fine dean and the young men will like him very much. He is intelligent, forceful, dynamic, and if he is not too kind at times it is because he has no great softening influence in his life. He is ambitious and will do some splendid work.

At the time of the freshman-varsity football game I asked the Miller family - Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Richard, the young brother of Ralph, Ralph's girl, and all of them up to our house for dinner. At the time of the Iowa State game they came again, and we had a good visit. Harold Miller told me of an incident regarding John when he was going to take Ralph and his chum back to Stanford with him in his car. When Ralph decided to go Harold said John walked over to Harold and asked him for the unused railway ticket that Ralph had failed to use because he rode back in John's car. The money was furnished by the judge on this occasion, not by John, but John asked for the ticket. Harold told John that he had told Ralph to turn in the ticket for a refund before he left for Chicago and that it had been turned in to the railway company, but that he, Harold, would send John the money as soon as the check arrived from the railway company.

John also walked over to the boy that he was going to take back with Ralph and told him that his own mother and sister were going to be picked up by John at Preston, Kansas, and he would not have room to take the boy back to California with him as he had promised.



At the Ames game Harold told me that he had got another letter from John asking for the refund for that ticket, and that he, Harold, had received it by that time and sent it on to John.

Doubtless you have heard some runblings of this situation, and I am telling it to you frankly without pulling any punches, or without making myself look too good or too bad. What prompted the writing of this letter more than anything else was the many times that you have asked me if I had been offered the Stanford job, and I decided that somebody must have been telling you things that were causing you to doubt, or at least to question it, and I wanted you to know that I had no motive in telling you I had been offered the job unless I actually had received a letter and promptly turned it down, and just as promptly hurried to promote the job for John Burn. I am as honest in that as I can be, and without any desire to build myself up in any way.

I want to tell you that nothing gave me more pleasure than to at least make myself believe I was getting this job for John.

And in closing let me say that I wanted to get this last ticket off before the old year was finished, so that it could be as promptly forgotten.

Some people may think that the year 1937 was an unlucky year for me, but I want to assure you that such is not the case. I am very happy in my new work, and I wonder often what strange philosophy I had that I should be as contented to believe that a man should be penalized to the extent I was for the kind of a job I had. I would not accept a job like I had for twice the money, because by contrast I can now see how pressure was put on by people who desired only to injure, and not to help. My work is very pleasant now, and I have altogether different reactions than I had before. It was a high-pressure, fighting, begging job trying to defend many people that should not be defended by the administration. And every athletic director under the big time, high pressure setup is in that identical spot.

I didn't know what I was missing, and how happy I am now in missing that stuff called the directorship; sordid, sated and inane followers of some of the so-called big time sports - nothing but a phobia that subjects athletic directors to things that for the amount of money received pay but a very small portion of the ills they are forced to bear.

I trust that you and Mrs. McBride and the family are very happy, which I am sure you are. And I assure you that I am happier than at any time during the past twenty years.

Sincerely yours,

Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Director of Physical Education.



January 5, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
c/o Mrs. Warren Boole,  
300 Ascot Road,  
Hillsborough, San Mateo, Calif.

Dear Mac:

I was down with Ernie and Joe last Friday to collaborate with them in their broadcast, and for the first time I learned about the series of operations on Junior. We have been staying so close at home of late that I had not learned of his difficulty.

However, I called Mrs. McBride and she told me that Junior was well on his way to recovery and that if he continued to improve she hoped to go west to spend the time with Mary Mil. I trust by now that all that has been consummated, and that Junior is well again and on his way to Urbana, and that Mrs. C. E. McB. is on her way to the coast to enjoy the Boole and McBride get-together.

Mrs. McBride told me that Jane was just a short distance, 25 or 30 miles, from San Mateo, and that Jane should run over and see Mary Mil. I am writing Jane today giving her Mary Mil's address, and some time after the rush of things is over for her I hope that she will call up Mary Mil, or at least run down to see her.

Jane was home for the holidays and Mrs. Allen and she had a great visit. Of course, we played Drake at Des Moines on December 29 but we went up there the 27th, so I did not get to visit with her as long as I had hoped. Mary Elizabeth and her family did not come up from Louisville, but Jane, Bobby, Eleanor, together with Mrs. Allen and me, enjoyed many happy hours together.

Mac, I wrote a long epistle that I told you I was going to write, and I thought during some of the hours between Christmas and New Years I would get it to you. I now find that I have finished it and am sending it to you out on the coast so that in one of your lazy hours, or half days, or weeks, you may read it. I am also sending you some correspondence that I had with John concerning his selection for the deanship and also some of the correspondence we had regarding a possible game with Stanford.



This is entirely confidential, but I wanted you to know that John and I get along fine and that there is no hard feelings, although there is a lot of repartee occasionally.

I trust that you and Mrs. McBride have a great visit on the coast. Give our love and best wishes to Mary Mil and her good family.

Cordially yours,

FCA:AH  
Enc.

Director of Physical Education.



Junior Mrs. Bride

Biltmore Hotel until January 3.

Mrs. Franen Boole, 300 Ascut road,  
Hillsborough, ~~San~~ San Mateo, Calif.

until January 12.

Hotel del Coronado, San Diego,  
Calif., until January 20.



COPY

December 13, 1937.

Mr. John Burn,  
Dean of Men,  
Stanford University,  
Palo Alto, California.

Dear John:

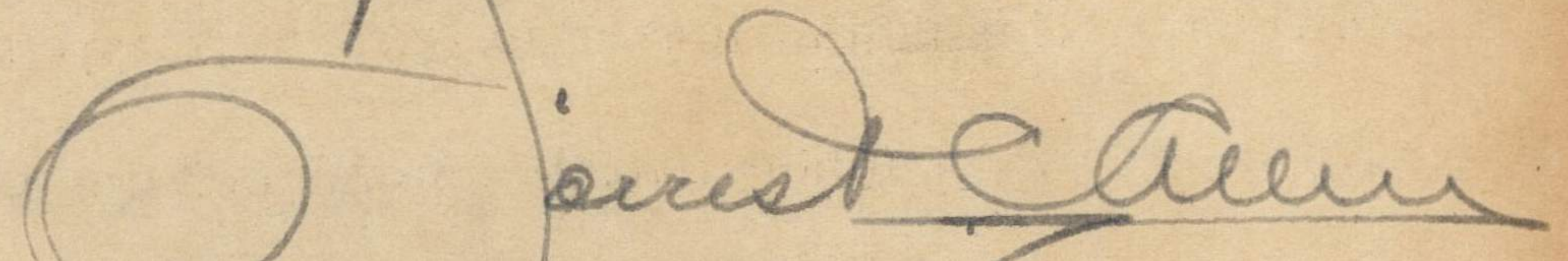
Permit me to offer my fulsome  
congratulations to you upon your selection as dean or  
adviser of men at Stanford.

This is a rare honor that comes  
to few men. Not many men are qualified, and of those,  
few are picked.

So my heartiest congratulations  
to you.

With every good wish for the Yule-  
tide season, I am

Sincerely yours,



Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Director of Physical Education.

FCA:AH



COPY

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

December 17, 1937.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doctor Allen:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 13. I assure you I feel quite honored for the opportunity that has been given me here. The job as dean of men, due to the organization of the University, is quite a considerable task here at Stanford. Eventually, it will be necessary for me to give my full time to this job. In a way I am somewhat reluctant to give up my active coaching activities within a few years. However, I think this new opportunity affords me a much wider field of endeavor. Consequently, I am grateful for the chance. Thank you again and with best wishes for the Christmas season, I am

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) JOHN W. BUNN



COPY

December 2, 1937.

Mr. John W. Bunn,  
Basketball Coach,  
Stanford University,  
Palo Alto, California.

Dear Johnny:

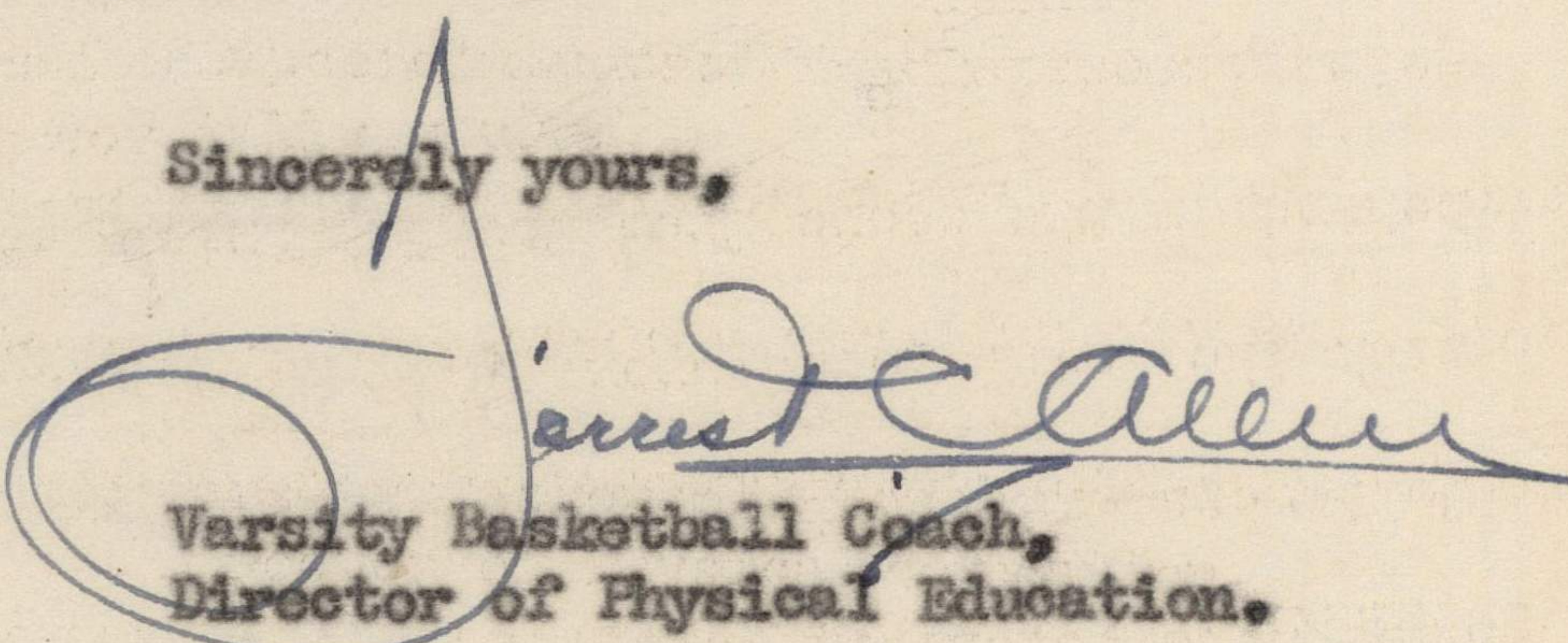
Since I am not Director of Athletics any longer I feel free to promote basketball under my own power, and for that reason I am wondering if you would be interested in a series of home and home games for the future. I believe both of us could make some money and the boys could be provided with a nice trip.

My idea would be to play three games. Would this strike you favorably? We could play a two-year contract at a reciprocal guarantee with options.

I have never heard from any one on the National Basketball Coaches' setup, so presume the appointments were not as you suggested. I think we have several interesting research possibilities on the new rules that I am figuring on reducing to more concrete things. I will write you when we get out first preliminary arrangements out of the way.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Director of Physical Education.

FCA:AH



COPY

BOARD OF ATHLETIC CONTROL  
Stanford University  
California

December 17, 1937

Mr. Forrest C. Allen  
Varsity Basketball Coach  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

This will acknowledge your inquiry of December 2nd.

First, the committee assignments for the National Association of Basketball Coaches and particularly for the Research Committee were made exactly as I sent them to you. I am enclosing herewith a letterhead of the Association so that you may see the set-up for this year. Evidently the chairman of your committee is not very active or he would have contacted you before this time. I am somewhat concerned about this turn of events.

Second, with respect to your proposed home and home series of basketball games. It would not be possible for us to consider any such arrangement for two years as we have already made our plans for 1939 and 1940. We would, however, be glad to consider games for 1941. I do not believe that we would be interested in a home and home arrangement, but we would be glad to give you a return engagement here for our visit to Kansas in 1932 and under the same arrangements that were made for our game there. There is not much possibility of obtaining a good gate here over the holidays; however, we will be glad to guarantee you the same amount that we received back there, namely \$364.93.

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) JOHN W. BUNN

Director of Basketball



COPY

December 30, 1937,

Mr. John W. Burn,  
Director of Basketball,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear John:

Thank you for sending me a page of the stationery of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which gives the officers and chairmen of the various committees.

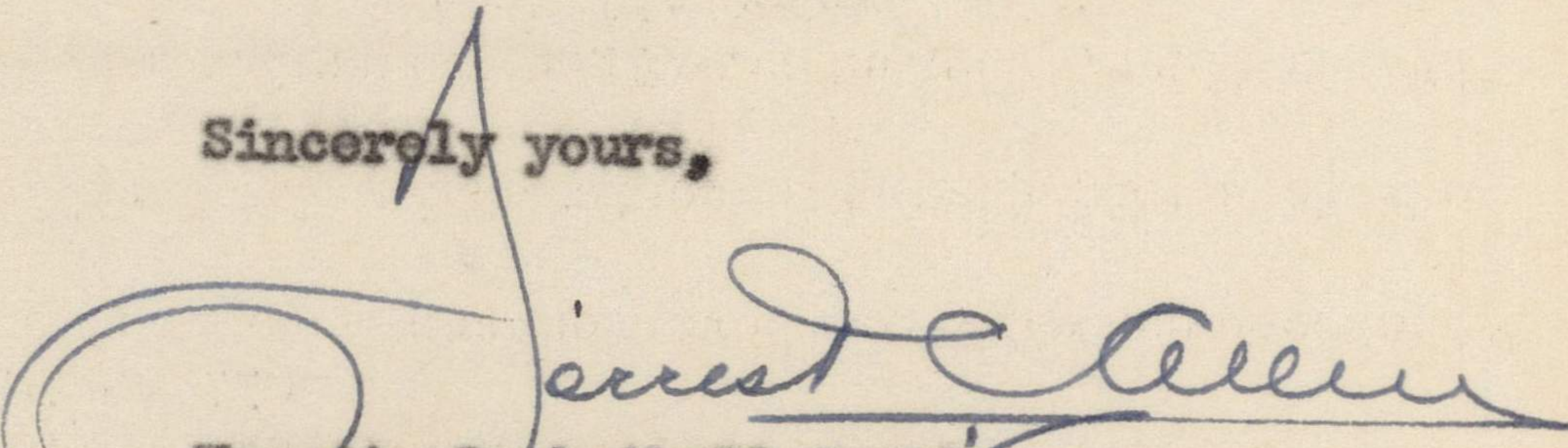
In regard to the possible meeting of Kansas and Stanford, I would not have brought it up only for the fact that Ralph Miller came into my office and stated that on your way back from California when you were bringing Ralph home you stated that you wanted to meet Kansas in basketball, and he came in and asked me to write you.

I quite agree that both of us are pretty well besieged for games for the future, and neither of us would be especially free until 1941. Suppose we treat this '41 series in an expectant manner.

It will be entirely agreeable to us, if we can get together on a date, for us to receive the same guarantee as you received back here, namely \$364. Let's make it even money - we would not want the 93¢.

With every good wish for a happy and prosperous New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Ernest Allen

Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Director of Physical Education.

FCA:AH



July 28, 1938.

Personal

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

My dear Mac:

It looks as if Ole Nesmith is going to get the job as athletic director and coach at Bethany College at Lindsborg, Kansas. The announcement should come out some time this week. Ole is very earnest and enthusiastic about his work, and I wondered if you could dig up his picture from the morgue there at the Star desk so when the announcement comes in you could give him a little break by running his picture along with the article.

Of course, you are acquainted with him, I am sure, having officiated when he played. He was captain in 1934 and played on the varsity in 1932, 1933 and 1934, making three letters at the halfback position. Ole's home is in Belleville, Kansas. He is a graduate of the University. He has had rather tough sledding in getting through the University, coming from a home where funds were not too plentiful.

Dean Nesmith played three years here, and perhaps may be the trainer for the varsity to take the place of Elwyn Does who goes to Oklahoma A. and M. on August first.

I would appreciate your doing this for Ole, as I am trying to boost him along the old rugged pathway. I find that he needs some help. I believe that he will make an excellent coach as he has worlds of enthusiasm and is a very talented young man if he will use all of his native and acquired ability. He was a better basketball player in high school than he was a football player, but he was not able to come out for the varsity because football and work took the major portion of his time. However, I am helping him on basketball and I believe that he will handle this work in good shape, as he is coach of all major sports, athletic director and director of physical education in a small college for a small salary.



Bethany College has had quite a few Kansas men as football coach and athletic director -- Benny Owen, Ad Lindsey, Elmer Schaake, and if this announcement comes through Ole Nesmith will be the fourth to pile up the Swedes.

With appreciation of your kindness, which I know Ole will also appreciate and about which he will write you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



E

July 28, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Gee, I know that it has been a doggone imposition to ask you to do this. That was the very reason that I asked Joe Knack to do it before - to keep from putting the burden upon you.

But I'll tell you, Mac, if you will be good enough to write the story next year I will greatly appreciate it. The only reason I am asking you so far ahead is because you explained that when your football stories came up you kept the details throughout the season so that you would have the necessary mass material to go over for the next year. And I would appreciate it if you would write the story for next year.

You have certainly done a swell job, and I appreciate your hitting in the pinches for us. You can appreciate that I didn't want to ask certain other people to write it. In fact, would not; but I did want the prestige of a sports authority, and you are all of that.

Mrs. Allen, Jane and Eleanor are in New York. Bobby and I are bachelors here until Bobby gets through the Summer School on August 3rd. He is taking chemistry toward his pre-medical course, and he is doing a fine job of it. He works like a Trojan, studies hard, listens in on the ball games each afternoon or evening while he is still poring over his chemistry, and so forth. He remembered the kind offer that you made to him to come up and see a ball game, but the fact of the matter is he wanted to go awfully bad but has been studying on chemistry until 1 or 1:30 every night so that he could master its reactions. Many of the boys fail in their chemistry exams their first year. A lot of them who are in his class are taking it for the second time, and Bob is going to try to get an "A" out of it. As soon as school is over we are really going to come in and see some games, and I want you to know it is nice of you to offer the tickets for the two of us. We are really going to take advantage of your kind offer.

Back to Jane and Mrs. Allen. Jane went to New York to try to get a job with a dress design outfit. She did well at the University, having made a very fine record with Miss Ketcham, head of



the department, who said she really thought Jane could go to New York and make a go of it. This past year she went to Stanford and continued her major in design. She had charge of designing and costuming all the people in the Palo Alto Theater, which Stanford of course subsidized. Mrs. Green, at Stanford, said that they really will hear from Jane.

Now, of course, that sounds like a lot of justifiable boosting from the old man, but frankly I don't know whether Jane is going to work or whether she is going to get married. New York is a swell place to go to find out. I think you know about as much about it as I do right now, but it is her own life and I am in favor of letting her choose what activities she wants.

Mrs. Allen and the girls stopped by Louisville over night to visit with Mary and her family. They have moved out to Anchorage, a suburb about 10 or 15 miles out. They have a lovely home and it is near a fine school house, so they seem well pleased with their new location.

Gosh, Mrs. McBride and you are demons for punishment! Just think of a house of that size and for a week every bed in the house occupied! Boy, if that isn't a record that is almost a catastrophe for the host and hostess. Really, Mac, I got darn anxious, not seeing your sporting comment. I was on the verge of calling to see if old man Griffith got you down, but your good letter assured me that was not the case and I am happy about that. You really do a lot of pitching and kicking. That is both baseball and football combined, isn't it? Well, my hope is that you will be doing it for many, many moons.

As I told you, I mailed a check to Joe for twenty at the Southland Hotel. I told him if he was in trouble to let me hear from him, but I have heard nothing since, so I imagine doubtless he will learn a lot from the grave mistake that he made. But after all, Mac, maybe Joe was smart enough to learn a lesson. I am just a little bit afraid when a fellow bets on the ponies and hits the old bottle that perhaps that is a combination which is too tough for any one man to emerge from permanently unscathed. Somehow I felt when I was sending it to him that I sent it to a fellow who was really down and out, a fellow who really needed a pick up. I didn't think of the \$20 as much as I thought of this fact - that by sending it to him he would feel that everybody had not quit him.

Of course, frankly, he brought it on himself and I felt exactly like you did about it, but he had double-crossed you and he had not double-crossed me. I felt that he had been kind to me on many occasions and this was the chance to show him just because he was down and out I, when he had not injured, should reciprocate his kindnesses to me. And too I felt that maybe a lot of might go for liquor, but we are all gamblers and I just took a chance hoping that wouldn't be so.



We play S.M.U. at Dallas on December 19 and 20, and if Joe is there at that time I will have a visit with him and let you know the result. I simply can't figure a fellow out who had as many things done for him as you have done for Joe, and who had been treated like you treated him. I just can't see what in the world got a hold of him. But I am not going to try to figure it out. I just want to let you know that I think you were a swell gentleman to give Joe the great break that he had. Maybe it was just too big for him and he couldn't master it.

Give the Mrs. our kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



Sunday--At Home

Dear Phog:Am sending this stuff to you for verification, correction and any additions you may wish to make. Make 'em, please.

I am not at all satisfied with the story. I lacked too many details of information. I knew enough of the race and history to write a sports editorial but was not sufficiently familiar with all details to write a good chronological history of the season.

In football when I know I am going to write the Guide stories I keep the details through the season so when the time comes I have a mass of material to go over.

Any<sup>way</sup> I've done the best I could with what I had...and any changes or additions you make will be more than O.K. with me.

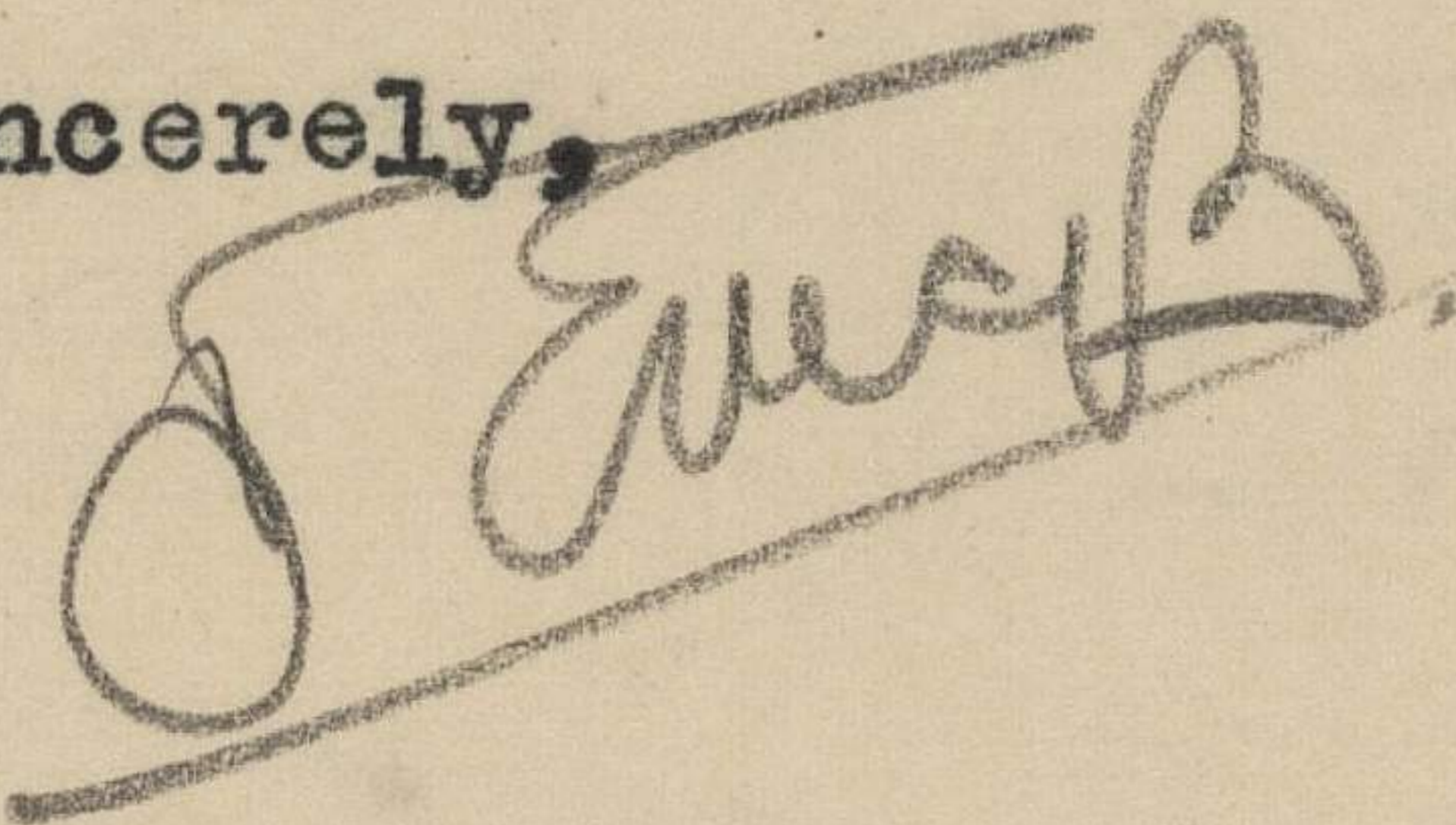
Come in and see the ball games when ever you like. Will always have whatever tickets you may want.

We've been having a lot of company--for a week we had every bed in the house occupied...and that's some record. Sure been busy...but what of it? I'm still kicking right lively like.

No one around our office has had any word from Joe.

Come in when you can,

Sincerely,



PRESIDENT  
W. E. SMITH

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
W. E. SMITH

VICE-PRESIDENT  
J. E. SMITH

PRESS MESSAGE  
WESTERN UNION



# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Come in when you can

No one should only office has had and would show you

What of this, in fact, looking at the things like

In the house occupied... and that, a some records, they been made... and

We, we been making a lot of company--for a week we had every day  
whatever things you may want.

Come in and see the rest of the things when ever you like. With things made  
of conditions you make will be more than O.K. with me.

And as I, we done the best I could with what I had... and any changes  
to be made.

The details through the season so when the time comes I have a mass of material

In contrast when I know I am going to write the guide stories I keep  
chronological records of the season.

But was not sufficiently familiar with all details to write a good  
of information. I knew enough of the race and records to write a good editorial

I am not at all satisfied with the story. I lacked too many details  
and conditions you may want to make. Make, please.

Best regards: am sending this article to you for verification, correction and

Yours truly,  
J. C. Willever



July 14, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I just received a letter from Joe and am sending you a copy of it. I mailed him a check for \$20, telling him he doesn't owe me anything. I don't want it to be a loan, I want it as a gift.

I felt he was in a pretty tough spot right now and this might help him over the road. I have seen a lot of fellows make bad mistakes and come out of it. I am hopeful for Joe if he will give up the ponies and the stimuli.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



May 19, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Some day soon I am coming in to have a good visit with you. I believe it has been about a year since we have had an opportunity to sit down and relax. There is nothing urgent on my mind, except I want to chew the fat with you.

Last night I noticed the all-round championship of the Kansas Conference, which was won by Ottawa University, coached by Dick Godlove. It was publicized in your sport page. The thought occurred to me that I was the pioneer in that so-called all-round championship, which we termed the "pentathlon championship", where first place is counted number one, high, and the winners of course have the lowest scores and the losers the highest. That is the pentathlon method of rating.

Along in '23 and '24 I started that scoring for the Missouri Valley Conference to get greater teamwork among the major coaches. Potsey Clarke was here at that time, and Karl Schledeman in track and John Bum in baseball. We wanted to develop teamwork in the major sports, so we divided the sports then into major and minor championships. Later we put the majors and minors together and counted it an all-sports championship.

Then it was picked up by the Big Six, and the teams that did not compete in any sport took last place in the conference rating. That gave an actual estimate on where the school stands in all-round championship. Oklahoma has been the champion most of the time in the all-round championship, but Nebraska has generally rated first in the major.

Just by way of pardonable boasting, I got a kick out of the thing because it was in my extremity in trying to develop teamwork in the major sports that I set up this system, but now it looks like most of the schools are using that rating method.

Another thing about which I want to pass on a friendly boast is the matter of playing those basketball games in big halls. While they give Ned Irish, the "Horatio Alger boy" from New York, credit for putting basketball on in a big time way, I want to remind you that in '29 and '30 we were playing the University of California a series of three games in Convention Hall, and in Oakland, California, just across the bay from Berkeley, in the early



days, and not only did we pay out but we made money. And then you know we played Dr. Carlson's University of Pittsburgh team a series when Ted O'Leary was playing with me, in Convention Hall. When we got to thriving unduly the Big Six stepped in and said, "Nay, nay, Phog Allen. Too much big time stuff." Yet they permitted the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas to play their annual game at Dallas each year, the other exception being Nebraska playing at Portland, and many other so-called infractions of the Big Six rule of prohibiting conference teams from playing off the campus gridiron, or court, or track. They did finally break up the Kansas-Missouri dual track meet in Convention Hall.

Just another gentle reminder of big time basketball in the Hall was back in March, 1905, when I was manager of the Kansas City Athletic Club, and we played the Buffalo Germans in Convention Hall three games, and made a lot of money and a lot of noise. That was the first time, you remember, that basketball had been put on on a big time basis, but of course that was between two athletic clubs, or athletic organizations which were not connected with colleges.

So you see basketball has been promoted in a big time way before Ned Irish came on with his double headers. However, in March, 1905, we arranged a series of three games to be played as curtain raisers between Central and Manual High School. Also, when we played the Pittsburgh-California series we always had high school teams play the game as the other half of the double header. However, Ned Irish would pick four college teams and use them as double-headers, while we used only main attractions until a few years ago when the University of Southern California and Kansas played, and the University of Missouri and Kansas State played the first game. Then the winner, Kansas, played the winner, Kansas State, in Convention Hall the second round. However, the first round was played over in Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas.

This is not intended to be a "do you remember way back when-", but just a line or two of reminiscences which were stimulated when we read your sport pages and it reminded us of earlier days.

I noticed in your column where Jack Grover will be at Lincoln. We certainly will be happy to see him. I am glad that he is able to travel. I saw him at Columbia at the Schulte affair, but just like I saw you - it was a wave of the hand, a handshake, and everybody milled on. Tonight I am going to Onaga, Kansas, to make a commencement address, and then will go on to Lincoln for the Big Six meet. I hope to see you and have a little visit with you if you are still playing golf, and if you are not maybe it might be a ball game, or just a little quiet thirty-minute spaghetti luncheon chat.



I just don't want to forego our pleasant contacts that we have had, but which through a rather strenuous existence seem to be crowded out by other things. I have always appreciated your kindly and steadfast friendly attitude.

With every good wish to the family, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



h.

March 21, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Desk,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I am very much interested in the success of Glenn Catman, who served as captain of the Kansas Golf Team for two years - last year and the year before - and who now is coaching the Kansas varsity golf team. Glenn, you know, won the Missouri Open last year.

He is such a fine fellow and had such a struggle to get his education that I am wondering if you would give him a nice little line on his golf ability. Glenn comes from parents who have had a very great struggle to give him an education. I have given him work through his four or five years in college here, and he is a wonderful little fellow. Three or four years ago he took ill with heart trouble and was in bed most of the year. He is a frail little fellow, and doesn't have much health, but he has made such a fine attempt that I would appreciate it if you could help him.

He graduated from the School of Business at K.U. in 1937. He has an invalid mother who has been bedridden for a year now. I got him a job with Lowe and Campbell last fall. When his mother had a stroke he drove back and forth from Lawrence to Kansas City every day so that he could be at the bedside of his mother. His father is ill, and receives a very small pension. So they are in rather straitened circumstances.

I thought a little boost from you would certainly help him a lot in his golf wars and in introducing him favorably to business and society. Mr. Aylsworth, in Thornton Cooke's bank, has promised him a job, but with the depression on he just hasn't been able to make connections. Business has not been good enough to warrant Mr. Aylsworth taking him on. I am trying to help him, and if you will give him a break I will certainly appreciate it.

I assure you my motive is entirely an unselfish one. I am not Director of Athletics, and have nothing to do with Glenn Catman, only he has been so fine with helping us with our University golf links, and he supervises and offers us the counsel of



his experience and wisdom, that I would like to see the boy get ahead. When he was in Kansas City with Lowe and Campbell I asked him to drop in and get acquainted with you - say hello and let you see him. You have been so good to the youngsters coming on that I felt you would give this boy a break if you knew of his great worth. I am enclosing a small photo of him, so that if you can use it in your very popular column any time both he and I will appreciate it.

With every good wish to you and your family, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



June 28, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Mac:

I certainly enjoyed the splendid visit I had with you Sunday. I want to thank you for your kindness extended to Bobby and me.

Mac, there was one thing that I did not get to talk about to you Sunday. I have been asking Joe Knack to write the basketball article on the Big Six for the Basketball Guide. I would have asked you but I knew better than to bother you with it because you had so many things to do, yet I wanted your paper in on the write up. I still want that, and I am wondering if I would get our Professor W. A. Bill to do a lot of the writing if you would re-edit it and write anything you please, but this would take the curse off of having you dig into it and make work out of it.

I am wondering if, under the conditions, you would write under your by-line this basketball article for the Basketball Guide. I will promise to do all the work that is necessary to keep you from working hard, yet I want you to write the article for the prestige that it will give. I don't want to ask other newspaper men to do it. But I have to get someone, and I want you. Will you kindly write me and let me know if you will extend this favor to me? I will greatly appreciate it.

It was mighty fine to see Mary Mil and the McBride family cloistered in your beautiful home. I also enjoyed the visit with Jack and Mrs. Grover. That little grandchild of your is beautiful. She is a charm. I am sorry that I hadn't an opportunity to visit longer with Junior and with Jack. The McBride clan looked mighty good to me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



July 12, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I dislike to bother you with this detail during the hot month of July, but I am sending you some statistics on the final standings for the season 1937-38.

This scoring ratio that Mr. Dill has worked out is a very interesting thing. In other words, it shows that for this year, 1937-38, Kansas scored 1.24 points to her opponents' 1 point.

I asked Mr. Dill to jot down some stuff that you might scan over and which might be interesting to you. It is not necessary to write out any dope for you, but the conference always runs the teams and I thought this offense ratio would really be a good point to bring out. Oklahoma is almost invariably the high-scoring team, but their opponents also score points on them, and the offense ratio looks exactly o.k. as far as the Big Six scores are concerned. Even in the non-conference games the offense ratio worked in good shape.

It is not necessary to refresh your memory in regard to the outstanding teams in the conference last year. Nebraska had four seniors and really were doped to win the championship. Kansas and Oklahoma were not supposed to be in the race as far as first honors were concerned, but Missouri and Kansas State returned a good many veterans and some of them thought these two teams would be somewhere near the top. Iowa State, with a green team, was not supposed to rate very high.

The attendance records for the Big Six were second only to the boom years, 1927 and 1928.

Use any of this stuff that you want, Mac. I knew that you are entirely sufficient to write your own story, because not only do you always keep the proverbial journalistic finger upon athletics in general, but also always on the various sports. No matter whether you see them or not, you know what is going on.



About two pages of the Basketball Rules Guide is what the Honorable John T. Doyle allows us, the Big Six. I wrote John T. a letter the other day telling him that this stuff would be along and I told the Honorable Mr. Doyle that I was going to endeavor to prevail upon the kindness of C. E. McB. to do the stuff. So I imagine he will get an added thrill at seeing your name at the top of the column.

I certainly appreciate your doing this, Mac. It is hot as the mischief here, and I imagine it is the same way at 18th and Grand, but I know it is not that way at the C. E. McBride manor out in Indian Hills or out near Blue Springs.

Mrs. Allen, Jane and Eleanor are going to drive to New York via Louisville the first of next week. Bobby and I are going to stay here at school and do the heavy for a while, then we may drive up to Culver and meet them on the way back. Bob doesn't get out of summer school until after the first of August, so we may avail ourselves of your generosity and run up and see the Blues play some time. I still like the Blues, even though some of the boys cry when they don't win all the ball games. I will be seeing you some time soon, old fellow. I trust you are not working yourself to death with the heavy duties that you have taken on since Joe left.

By the way, Mac, I told you of course that Joe had sent me a wire collect and asked for the forty and added parenthetically "letter follows". I waited for the letter to arrive before I would send him any money, and it never showed up. So I wrote him a letter in care of the Southland Hotel, without any check in it, telling him that I was waiting for his letter and assuring him of my helpful cooperation as soon as I received the letter. I have not received the letter as yet, so I have not send him the money. I thought I might send him a twenty spot and tell him that this was not a loan, but something to help him over his difficult hill. So I haven't done anything, and maybe it is just as well because he may have been on a bender. When a fellow is going down hill he never stops to look or listen.

Kindest regards to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH  
Enc.

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

P.S. Mac, after you have finished with these statistics I shall appreciate it if you will kindly return them to me.

F.C.A.



May 23, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Last Thursday night when I was at Onaga, Kansas, to deliver the high school commencement address, I met Dr. Thomas C. Hinkle, who gave the benediction. I believe he is an Episcopalian minister. Many very complimentary remarks passed between us regarding our amiable friend, C. E. McBride.

When I see you Wednesday I want you to tell me who Dr. Hinkle is. I know he is an author, but I don't know what books he wrote. I didn't want to appear any dumber than I am, so did not ask him.

He seems to know you quite well, and I would like for you to tell me something of him.

It will be a pleasure to see you Wednesday.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



March 10, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Desk,  
Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I wrote you a letter this afternoon regarding Sylvester Schmidt, quarterback on the basketball team. He and some of the boys want to see the game tonight. The reason I am writing this is that George Goldman will probably get the letter at the hall tonight and you wouldn't get to see it.

I have checked with the boys and find that some of them want to go Friday night and some Saturday night. I will let you know later. We greatly appreciate this kindness.

I expect to be in Kansas City tomorrow with Mrs. Allen and we will get in touch with you. Hope you and Mrs. McBride can have dinner with us. I imagine, however, that you will be busy, but we will be glad to take the widow.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



March 10, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Mr. George Goldman,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Sylvester Schmidt and three other varsity boys are coming to the games tonight. I have checked with the boys and find that some of them want to go Friday night and some Saturday night.

The Junior Prom here Friday night will interfere with some of them going on that night, but I will give you a letter setting out the names of those who can go.

I want to be there Friday night, and if possible Saturday night, with Mrs. Allen.

Thanking you for your kindness, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



March 14, 1938.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Desk,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

It seems that I am always indebted to you, writing you appreciative and thank you letters. Again you extended me more than ordinary courtesy and kindness in paying me the tribute that you did in your sporting comment of Sunday in the Kansas City Star.

I appreciate this tribute very much, Mac, and trust that some time in the future I may reciprocate many of your kindnesses.

Now that the basketball season is over we are hoping to have you and Mrs. McBride down to Lawrence, the first time in many, many years. I appreciate that you have so many demands upon your time, especially in the evening, because of your multitudinous connections in so many forms of the sport angle, but we are very sincere in wanting you and Mrs. McBride for a real old-time chat.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH