

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHÉ
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

APO 924
C/O Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

18 October 1944

Mr. Forest Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

*Mr H - Pls return to
my desk for reply
& other attn
Jca*

My dear Fog:

I have been seeing the football contests in Melbourne over a considerable period, and each time have thought of you wondering if you would be interested in perhaps a study of football as it is played in this State according to the rules which are quite different from Rugby and other types played in some other parts of Australia.

Mr. McBrien, the Secretary, is a good friend, and has had me as honor guest at most of the larger games. I am enclosing his card, "A Primer of Australian Rules Football" and the folder for the final game which was played on September 30th.

The war being on, the teams are not quite as good as would normally be expected, but an attendance of 30,000 at the games is not unusual. There is something doing every moment of the game. It is by far the best football game I have seen from the standpoint of spectators' interest. The scores, of course, run very high, frequently one team or both scoring more than 100 points. To me, it might be styled as foot-basketball since the ball is everything. The quibbling and delays so common in our game are not present in this, and it seems to me to have great value as a game which can be participated in by a large number of players. Our ball is not exactly suited to the game. The Australian ball, I believe, is slightly heavier than ours, and much more rounded at the ends. I thought you would like to look this folder and Primer over and perhaps study them over a bit. I am sure Mr. McBrien would be glad to hear from you.

I was certainly glad to see you and my other friends in Lawrence. I have no idea when I will be back there again, but I hope everyone will carry on and keep the University well on the map. I know you will do your part splendidly.

I am going out for my 25th Rotary talk next week.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely

Karl F. Baldwin

KARL F. BALDWIN