

April 17, 1939.

Mr. George L. Rider,
Director of Athletics,
Miami University,
Oxford, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rider:

This will acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 14th concerning Ray Parkins.

In my letter regarding Andy McDonald and Ray Parkins I write you without reservation of any kind. Long ago I found that when a man tries to oversell an individual he always does both parties harm. For that reason I did not overstress any of the fine points, nor did I repress any of the unfavorable items about either of the young men.

I do not know whether you are acquainted with Louis E. Menze, of Iowa State College, or not. He was one of my boys at Central Missouri State Teachers College at the same time Ray Parkins was there. Personally, I do not believe there is a finer young man coaching athletics today than Louis Menze, of Iowa State College. And by the same token I do not believe that Louis Menze is one iota better in any way than is Ray Parkins.

Ray Parkins was my right-handed quarterback and Louis Menze was my left-handed quarterback in football. In basketball both boys played forward. In baseball, Louis Menze was my left-handed pitcher and Ray Parkins was my first baseman. Never have I met two finer, cleaner gentlemen and two better athletes, and also two better students. They were both A plus students, very serious and very genuine.

Both entered the World War, and Ray went overseas as a Lieutenant. When Ray came back he married a fine young girl and they had one child. His wife contracted sleeping sickness and was an invalid and is now. Last year at the meeting of the Central District Physical Education Association in Minneapolis I visited Ray in his home and saw his wife whom I have known for many years. She was a courageous little soul, but confined to the house, yet very cheery. Their little eleven-year-old girl is the focal point around which the home revolves.

Ray was an artist while in school and did a lot of designing and cartooning for me. He officiates games in a radius of Minneapolis and has quite an income from that. He is a member of