

A

July 1, 1939.

Mr. Fred Pralle,
Phillips Petroleum Co.,
Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Dear Freddie:

I am very happy to have your good letter of the 23rd ultimo, in which you enclose a copy of the letter that you sent to Mr. M. F. Ahearn, of Kansas State, applying for the position as basketball coach.

Fred, you can count on my helping you in every way that I possibly can. Doubtless you saw where Graham, the old football and basketball star who is now coaching at Indiana, is applying for the job at Kansas State. Also Frank Groves is applying. I imagine that they will get a fellow who can coach basketball and help with football.

You see, the colleges now are turning out physical education majors who specialize in that department, and the woods are full of coaches looking for jobs. I do not know how the Aggies will feel about appointing a Kansas graduate, but if there is anything that I can do for you, you can bet your life that I will go one hundred per cent strong for you.

Fred, please do not put the information out around Phillips that you are applying for a job at Kansas State. Doubtless some of the people would think that you were not interested in your work as much as you should be if you want to change jobs. However, I know how interested you are in athletics, but you will remember, Fred, that I talked with you a number of times and told you that the athletic game was not only a pretty precarious one, but when a fellow gets older in life he is gambling pretty much on a coaching job. If you were a physical education major and were qualified so that you could go into the physical education department when the coaching job gets tough, that is so much the better. I am just concerned that the Phillips people will not feel that you want to get away from them.

Now, for the job, boy, if you can get it tell me how I can help you.

Our love to you and Mrs. Pralle. We are always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely, your friend,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

June 23, 1939
Friday,

COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

ROY E. PARR,
COMPTROLLER

BARTON E. WITCHELL,

WILLIAM A. HENSLEY,
ASST. COMPTROLLERS

Dear Doctor Allen —

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have sent to M. F. Ahearn at Kansas State. An opportunity such as this would give me something that I really want to do. Doc, this is a chance of a lifetime for me and I'd work until hell freezes over to make good. I am passing a copy of the letter on to you in hopes that you could help me in anyway possible.

Hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer. Best regards to Mrs. Allen and the family. —

Respectfully,
Fred Tralle



C
O
P
Y

June 23, 1939

Mr. M.F. Ahearn
Athletic Director
Kansas State College
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Big Six Basketball lost one of its pioneer boosters in the resigning of Frank Root as basketball coach. Frank Root was an untiring worker, well liked by his boys and his opponents, but was unfortunate in not being able to produce a really successful team. In all fairness I will say that Aggie basketball teams in the past have lacked the proper fundamentals required for a winning team. Mr. Ahearn, I feel that I, as successor to Mr. Root, could teach these necessary fundamentals and bring Aggie basketball fans a winning team.

My inexperience in the coaching profession will undoubtedly be considered a hindrance, but after four years under Doctor F. C. Allen, I think I know enough basketball to produce. My youth and inexperience cannot be wholly classed as a drawback, but in some ways an asset because after getting the confidence of the players, we could work hard together and develop an unbeatable spirit. My youthfulness gives me the desire to work harder and to win, and I will drill this same spirit into a team.

I am now employed by the Phillips Petroleum Company here in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but

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#2
M.F.Ahearn
June 23, 1939

would like very much to get into the coaching field. During my last year at the University of Kansas I assisted in coaching the Freshman team. Last year I gained an invaluable amount of experience with the Phillips "66" team. As reference to my character and basketball knowledge, I will give Dr. F. C. Allen, University of Kansas.

Yours very truly,

Fred J. Pralle
c/o Phillips Petroleum Co.
Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

FJP:F

B

June 24, 1939.

Mr. J. Percy Page, Coach,
Commercial Graduates Basketball Club,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Dear Mr. Page:

Your very good letter of June 6th arrived at my desk during my temporary absence from town, and at the time of our graduation at the University of Kansas as well as our enrollment for the Summer Session. When I got back to my desk I glanced at your letter and read the first page, but did not have time to finish the letter, and in my haste made off again and failed to read your kindly request that I drop you a line before the date that you wished - June 15, so that you might have it for your annual meeting.

I regret this more than you know, as it would have been a great pleasure to have written you and expressed the fine sentiment that I feel toward your teaching and your coaching. You have made an exceptional success and there is no one in the world that has made as fine a record as you have. I would have been happy to have attested to this exceptional performance.

I want to again congratulate you and the wonderful girls that you have trained into such splendid leaders. Words are inadequate for my to carry on in this vein, so I will again say, "Congratulations, World's Champions!"

For one year we failed to win the championship. Our game with Missouri at Columbia, Missouri, decided whether we should win or lose, and we lost. But frankly, I believe it was a good thing because we have gotten to rather an impasse in our basketball. I find that many of the coaches who personally are very good friends are not so enthusiastic about our winning the championship too often. We are in a conference, and I find that the wives and relatives of these coaches are not too enthusiastic about my interfering with the other fellow's bread and butter, and you know if you do not win somebody is apt to find some fault.

This is no alibi, but I want you to know that our star player, Ralph Miller, who was supposed to be the greatest basketball player developed in the state for some time, sustained a very serious knee injury in football, and he never recovered in time to be used as our key man in basketball. He is going to play football next fall

but we believe his knee will be thoroughly healed by that time and we are praying and hoping that he will come through without an injury so we will have our full strength in basketball. We will have very tough competition this coming year and we will be fortunate if we can pull through.

I read with a great deal of interest of your difficulty and it reminds me of some that I have experienced along the line of march. By the way, I want you to send us that edition of the "Grad" record book when you get it out.

I am mailing you a copy of my new book published by McGraw-Hill Company, "Better Basketball". The book, as you can see by the inside cover, sells for \$4.00. You can mail me a check at your convenience. I am sending it by parcel post, duly autographed.

I am just rushing down town to a board of directors meeting, so I will save the other matter regarding your coaching difficulties and our zone man-to-man defense until a later time. I think that will deserve rather a lengthy treatment, and for that reason I want to write you fully, and I will answer that detail next week. I am very sure that you have done everything that you could to insure a one hundred per cent performance with your girls. I always remember this little admonition - "If a postman stopped to kick at every dog that barked at him he would never get his mail delivered." So I would apply that to your case with these folks that know more than the old-timers.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Commercial Graduates Basketball Club

Canadian, International and World Champions

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

June 6, 1939

Dr. Forrest Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Some time ago I received a circular from a publishing firm advertising a new book which you have brought out. I intended to order one at the time, but either mislaid or destroyed the circular and haven't the address of the company. Perhaps you have some of the books on hand; if so, will you mail me one as soon as convenient and enclose the invoice. I shall remit by return mail.

I did not hear how your conference came out this year, but I imagine you are still carrying on the good work. We have also done well; we played 20 games (three against men), and won 16. We lost a game to the provincial intermediate men's champions by a single point, and another to the University of Alberta intermediate men by four points. We defeated another men's team by 12 points. I might add--in case you are shocked--that we do not play men's teams except under unusual conditions. In the three instances mentioned above, each game was played for charity.

We lost two games to girls' teams--one by a single point, and the other by two. (St. Louis and Chicago) However, we won each series of games played, and retain all the titles which we have held for so many years. A little later on, we expect to bring out another edition of our "Grad" record book, and I shall send you a copy. This will give a complete summary of all games played this season.

I have run up against a little trouble which hasn't made things any too pleasant for the past year. In order to make my job a little easier (I was trying to coach four teams as well as look after my school), I induced our School Board to secure the services of a teacher who was a former member of the University of British Columbia men's team which won the Canadian title. He was a good player, and I thought he would also be a good coach. Unfortunately, our ideas clashed from the outset. I have always used a fast-breaking style of offense and a shifting man-to-man defense, while he is a strong advocate of a delayed offense and a zone defense. The result has been that players coming up to the senior squads from the junior have to change their style, with the inevitable confusion which you would expect.

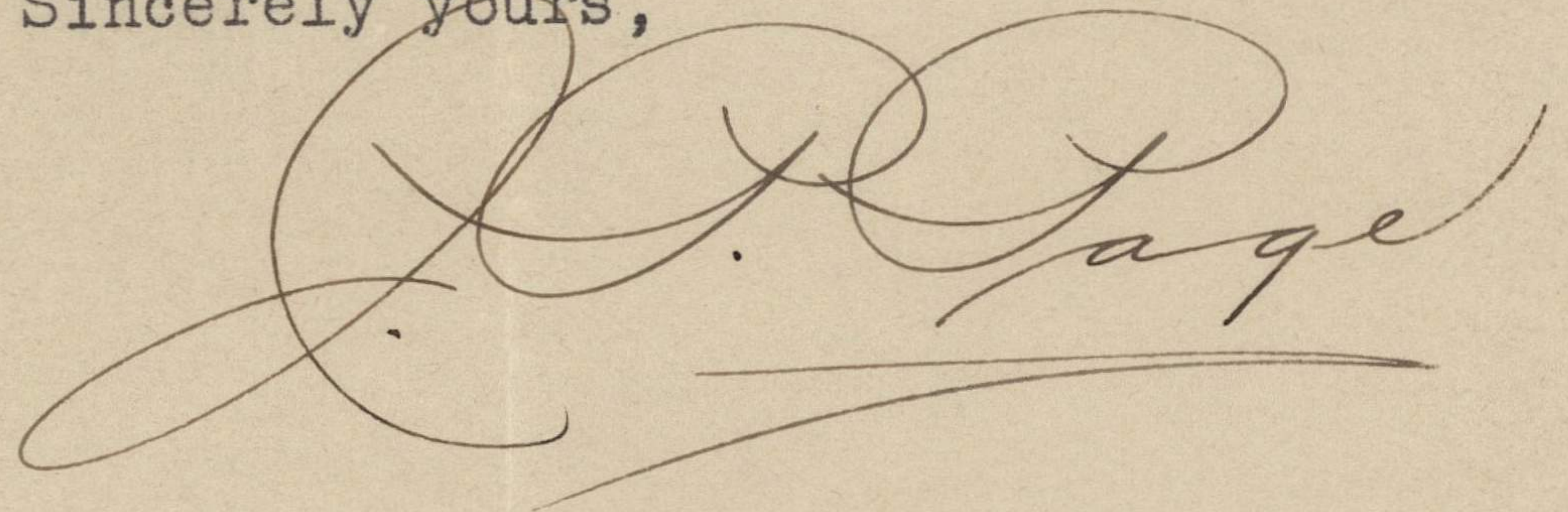
Over a period of 24 years, the "Grads" have won 482 games and lost but 20 (official contests); included in our losses are six against men's teams. I therefore feel that there can't be much wrong with the methods I have been using, but I am sorry to say that I can detect among my players a feeling that I am terribly old-fashioned in my plays. Naturally, unless one's players are "sold" 100% on the coach's ability, there is sure to be a falling off in efficiency.

For many years--in fact, ever since it was my good fortune to meet you--I have spoken of your remarkable work as something to be admired, and the thought occurred to me that it would help to restore any confidence which has been lost if I knew that your team, for instance, specialized on the fast-breaking attack, and a man-to-man defense. Perhaps you don't--in which case I shall be glad to know that, too.

In the current issue of the Athletic Journal, I checked through the account of every state tournament, and it is safe to say that the vast majority of teams reported upon are using the style of play which I am teaching here. For instance, in the report of the South Carolina tournament (page 9), I note this comment: "Our offense was fast, short-passing and quick breaks. I believe this style of play makes a better game, and certainly a more interesting one." Those are my ideas exactly.

We are having our annual meeting on Thursday, June 15, and if you can find time to drop me a line before that time I shall be most grateful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. P. Page". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely yours,". It features large, flowing loops and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

B

November 1, 1938.

Mr. J. P. Page, Coach,
Commercial Graduates Basketball Club,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Dear Coach Page:

Congratulations and best wishes on your annual birthday party! The Edmonton "Grads" have a long and wonderful record that no team, either male or female, can equal. My heartiest congratulations to you on your sterling group of players over the past twenty-three years.

I remember very distinctly when Dr. Naismith and I officiated the series of three games in Oklahoma. It has been a good many years ago, and I have forgotten the exact year, but I well remember the fine womanly qualities that those Canadian girls showed both on and off the basketball court. They made a very deep and lasting impression upon me.

So long as athletics are maintained at this especially high level, nothing but great good can come from them.

And to the splendid coach of the Edmonton "Grads", the least I could wish for him is another twenty three years of such happy association.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Commercial Graduates Basketball Club

Canadian, International and World Champions

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Dear Friend:

Our annual birthday party -- our twenty-third -- will be held in the banquet room of the Corona Hotel on Wednesday, November 16. Dinner will be served at exactly 6.30 p.m. A splendid program is in preparation.

The cost of tickets will be 75¢ each, with the club assuming all expenses not covered by this amount. Those of you who have attended these parties in the past will recall that the seating space in the banquet room is limited to exactly 100, and this makes it necessary for us to know well in advance of the date just who will be present so that the seats may be arranged accordingly.

Will you please be good enough to secure your tickets from Helen Northup, c-o Willson's Stationery Store, or, in case it is not convenient to do so, telephone her and have your tickets set aside. You may then secure them at the hotel on the night of the banquet. Failing to hear from you, we shall assume that you will not be present.

This invitation is being sent to many of our friends who, by reason of the long distance between their homes and Edmonton, cannot possibly attend. If you should be one of these, perhaps you would be good enough to send a few lines of greeting to the Club. All such letters will be read during the evening.

Please remember the time: Wednesday, November 16; dinner at 6.30 p.m. sharp.

Sincerely yours,

Edmonton "Grads"

*Best wishes for a good season.
E. P. Gage*

699 Main St.,
Buffalo, N. Y.
Dec 3/38

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Basket Ball Coach,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kan.

My dear Dr.:-

I am wondering if you can clear me up on a point which we who use the man to man defense are not familiar with.

I thought your book might offer the solution; but after reading it carefully I did not find what I am looking for.

Out in ^{your} section several clubs use a type of defense in which a very tall man is stationed under the basket to knock down or catch all shots from out in front. The Oilers - Denver Safeways use it I believe.

What I want to know is what do they do with the other four men, where are they stationed

and what are these assignments. Any light you
can give me will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours.

Art Powell.

Basket Ball Coach
University of Buffalo.

E.

December 6, 1938.

Mr. Fred Pralle,
Phillips Petroleum Co.,
Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Dear Freddie:

I want you to know how swell it was of you to come up and make the evening of December 3 a wonderful success. You were your same old self and everybody took you in with open arms. I again thank you and Sylvester Schmidt for doing a swell job.

And by the way, Freddie, I want to congratulate you on the step that you are about to take. That is exactly what you need to make a great success of life. You have the enthusiasm and the personality and the ability to do the job. What you need is some one to encourage and to hold you to one spot long enough for you to accomplish that great purpose. And how I think you have made a wonderful selection in Miss Felice Wood. You remember I met her and I want to extend reciprocal congratulations to you both.

I am awfully shocked to learn that Miss Wood has diphtheria. I trust it is in its lightest form and will not cause any great inconvenience.

You will remember that I met Miss Wood in front of Carl's just previous to the Kansas-Nebraska football game.

Again, thank you very much for your usual fine response to our urgent request.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

F
January 16, 1939.

Rev. Edwin F. Price,
1209 Tennessee St.,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Friend Edwin:

We drove back from Lincoln after the game Saturday night and got home at 6 o'clock in the morning after a rough, tough ride. I got to bed at 20 minutes of 7, and it looks like I am going to have a rough ride with this basketball team all the second semester.

This next semester I have the National Association of Basketball Coaches meeting, the National Rules Body meeting; I am on the board of the 5th District of the National Collegiate play-off; I have meetings to attend of the State Health and Physical Education Association, the sectional meeting at Sioux City, Iowa, and the national meeting at San Francisco. My Rules Body meeting takes me to Chicago and New York, and the Coaches Association meetings are held in Chicago or New York. So with the speaking dates that I have already accepted it will give me no time to breathe.

So I believe, Ed, that I would just like to be excused from the Sunday morning gathering at 9:30, because I do not get enough time to relax. When a fellow gets past 53 years of age it is about time he is slowing up a little, rather than putting on extra pressures, so I am going to ask if you won't kindly excuse me.

I find that it will be impossible for me to make all these appointments that I have listed and I am going to have to cut some of them out. In the winter time when colds are prevalent and flu is imminent, I think that I had better take better care of myself. I have no assistant coach, either for the varsity or the freshmen, so if I should get ill during that time it would have to be some coach outside of basketball that I would have to call upon to take the trip with the boys.

Assuring you of my hearty support of your work, and appreciation for the kindness shown me, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND
THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Jan. 14, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
Lawrence,
Kansas.

Dear friend Phog:

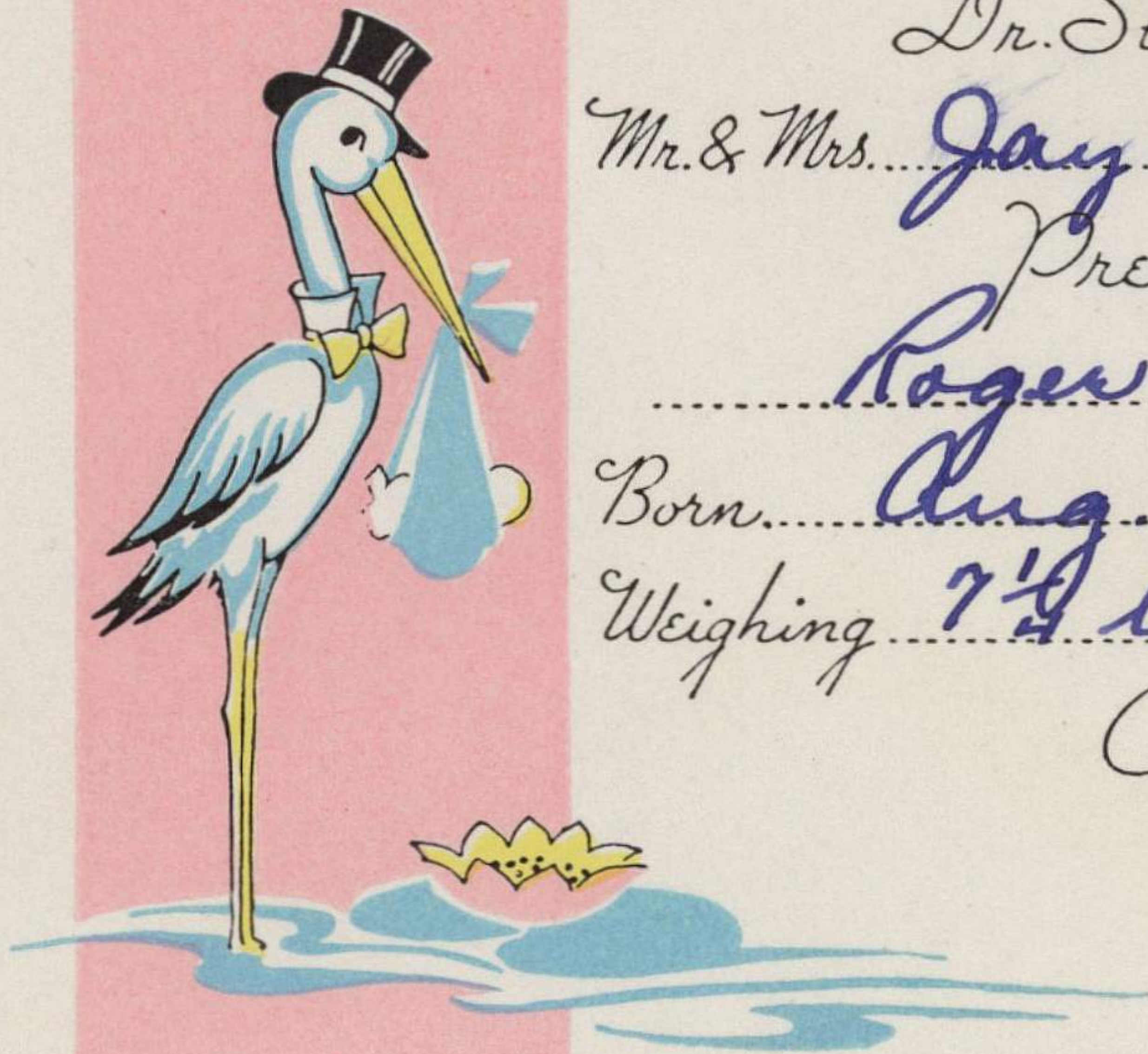
I am wondering if you know by now the dates when you will be away the fore part of the second semester. We would appreciate knowing these so that we may make plans for the Sunday School class. The new group will start Sunday February 12th. We will indeed be very glad to have you carry this on the Sundays you will be here, and we will arrange for the other Sundays.

Thanking you for this favor, and with every good wish, I am

Cordially,

1209 Tennessee.

Edwin F. Price



Dr. Stork and
Mr. & Mrs. Jay A. Plumley

Present
Roger Keene

Born Aug. 5, 1939

Weighing $7\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Come see us!

February 20, 1939.

Mr. Ray Parkins, Coach,
Edison High School,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Ray:

I am sending you confidentially a copy of a letter that Andy Kerr wrote me. You are not supposed to know about it, but I wanted you to be forewarned if anything should come up. You will notice that I have mentioned Andrew McDonald along with you.

I should like for you to sit down and write me all of your qualifications because I may have some other inquiries and I remember that you wanted a college job.

I am also sending you a copy of a letter that I have just received from George L. Rider, Director of Athletics at Miami University. Rider is a grand man, as is Andy Kerr. I knew Rider when he was Director of Athletics at Washington University, St. Louis.

I believe either one of these two jobs should interest you somewhat.

Give my love to your good wife and your youngster.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

February 23, 1939.

Mr. Yeoman PeLong,
Department of Physical Education,
Western State Teachers College,
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dear Mr. PeLong:

I have your letter of the 22nd instant, and beg to state that we have no vacancy here in the position of custodian or locker-room attendant. Our present custodian is doing fine work, and we do not anticipate a vacancy in the near future.

However, I am glad to know of your qualifications and desire for a change, and if anything opens up we shall let you know.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

WESTERN STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

February 22, 1939.

Mr. Forest C. Allan,
Director of Athletics,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Kindly consider my application for a position at your school as custodian of athletic equipment and caretaker of any other physical education equipment or locker-rooms.

During four of my five years of experience in a college system I had complete charge of all athletic equipment and locker-rooms. I also had charge of all general physical education locker-room facilities. I know how to organize and mark equipment with stencils; how to check easily and record distribution of this equipment. I know how to repair shoes and how to operate light sewing machines. I know how to chart locker-rooms to insure the most use of the locker facilities available.

At present I am employed at Western State Teachers College; Kalamazoo, Michigan (largest teachers college in the United States) from which I recently received my A.B. degree. However, I am employed only a few hours each afternoon because of insufficient funds to pay for a full-time man.

If there is a possibility of a position now or at a later date at your school, please advise me concerning the same.

Sincerely,

Yeoman Pe Long
Yeoman PeLong

DON CARLOS PEETE, M. D.

531 ARGYLE BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

February 4, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thanks very much for writing
about Dick Harp; I will be glad to have
him come in any time for an examination
and I will write you a note after seeing
him and give you our opinion.

Thank you for your kindness to
Mrs. Peete and me when we were in Lawrence.
I hope that you will have continued success
with the team.

Sincerely yours,

Don Carlos Peete, M.D.

Don Carlos Peete, M.D.

DCP:F

March 3, 1939.

Phi Kappa Psi,
1100 Indiana St.,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and
loyalty in wiring the Kansas basketball team at Columbia.

Six words describe it best -- they couldn't miss,
we couldn't hit. John Kline, Ralph Miller and Bob Allen,
your representatives, showed themselves very worthy on the
basketball court, but it just seemed that the team couldn't
click.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

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SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LC=Deferred Cable

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Ship Radiogram

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AAJ241 12=LAWRENCE KANS 2 746P

KANSAS BASKETBALL TEAM=

1939 MAR 2 PM 8 31

KEEP ON DRIVING KANSAS KU IS LISTENING AND WERE ALL BEHIND

YOU=

THE PHI PSI'S.

February 14, 1939.

Mr. L. R. Perry,
Liberty Memorial High School,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear "Dad":

This is a belated, but most sincere note of thanks to you for your fine cooperation with the members of our staff in presenting our radio programs, "Physical Education for Health". Your contribution has been very much worth while, and very greatly appreciated.

If at any time we can serve you I know you will feel free to call upon us.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

A.G. Spalding & Bros.

DIVISION OF SPALDING SALES CORPORATION



ATHLETIC OUTFITTERS

1012 GRAND AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MO.
February 23, 1939

Dr. Forest C. Allen, Dir. of Physical Educ.

University of Kansas
Lawrence
Kansas

Dear Doc:

Thanks ever so much for giving me permission to use George Golay on my team for the coming Naismith League Invitational Tournament Saturday and Sunday.

I most certainly did not want to use the boy without your permission, and I certainly appreciate your efforts in helping me out as I believe he will help my team considerably in the coming tournament.

Any way that I can return the favor at any time please do not fail to call on me.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the fine game your boys put up against Nebraska which I saw a week or so ago, and also I want to wish you the best of luck in the Oklahoma game Saturday, and I am certainly pulling for you and the boys to knock them off.

Sincerely yours

A.G. SPALDING & BROS. DIV.
SPALDING SALES CORPORATION

By *Bill Powell*

BP:CR

March 15, 1939.

Mr. Henry L. Prichard, Coach,
Beallsville Village High School,
Beallsville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Prichard:

I am sorry for the delay in answering your good letter of the 3rd instant. It will be a pleasure to autograph for you both "My Basketball Bible" and "Better Basketball".

I am very happy that you liked the films. About the only advice that I could give you would be to suggest that you write to Mr. Edwards or Mr. Maddox of the Eastman Kodak Company, the firm that shot the silent film, and write to Chuck Taylor of Wilson Company, Chicago. Taylor could give you the name of the Kansas City, Missouri, firm that shot the movie talkie. I think the firm was Forrest Calvin Company. I am sorry that I do not have the address. Converse, Wilson Company, and the Phillips Petroleum Company shared in the expense.

I spend about 20 to 30 minutes each day on practice drills as diagrammed in the book. I use the slow break much more than the fast break. In my opinion a team should never attempt to fast break unless they have mastered the fundamentals of ball handling. The diagrams are for developing a slow break offense - either high school or college.

If there are any other questions that you desire to ask please do not hesitate to write me.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

BEALLSVILLE VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
H. L. PRICHARD, COACH
BEALLSVILLE, OHIO

3/3/39

Dr. F. C. Allen
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

In 1927 I purchased a copy of My Basketball Bible and last year a copy of Better Basketball. Both books are masterpieces! If I mail the books to you will you autograph them?

Recently our high school squad saw the silent film Modern Basketball Fundamentals, and Basketball, a sound film. They are both worthwhile and very helpful. What type camera, film, lens, light etc would be necessary to get successful pictures of my own boys in action?

What use do you make of the Practice Drills diagrammed in your books? Are they of any value to a team not using the fast-break? Will they be helpful in developing a slow-break system for high school teams?

BEALLSVILLE VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
H. L. PRICHARD, COACH
BEALLSVILLE, OHIO

How much time daily do you
advise devoting to practise Drills as
diagrammed in your books?

I shall greatly appreciate
any information or advice you
may be able to give me.

Sincerely yours
Henry L. Prichard