

Dear Doctor Allen:

I've run upon some information that I think may be of interest to you in connection with the Oklahoma University situation.

First of all I must say that whatever I tell you must be considered confidential as to source. Unfortunately I am not in a position to become engaged in a controversy that now has here in Wichita developed into more or less of a means for two sports editors of rival local newspapers to take before the public their dislike for each other. One in particular is definitely unsympathetic to K.U. I'm obliged to stay here of course and carry on my profession so can't afford to be misquoted and the target of insinuations even though it does seem to reflect a lack of something.

A few days ago I chanced to meet a fellow by the name of "Dutch" Scheufler. He is more or less of a tramp or hanger-on of Wichita athletics ever since the old Henry's basketball days. He works around any current sport as a trainer or at whatever he can get. Some believe in him but I think he is a tramp. Maybe you know him.

I asked him about the situation of Wichita athletes going to O.U. and found out that he is the one who has been taking them down to O.U. to get acquainted. That would be all right with me if he wanted to do it but he told me he is being paid his expenses and a little more, too, by the O.U. athletic department, or at least Jap Haskell. He just recently took a bunch of North High boys down there and was paid by Haskell for doing it.



He told me about having sounded out Lester Layton of Wichita North for the Boston Red Sox scout during the Kansas State semi-pro tournament and sending or taking him, I forget which, to O.U. to see Jap, and having him tell him (Dutch) later that he had been "fixed up". It seems that money for tuition and fees, etc., arrive for these boys from some source and that being minors they have a gentleman's agreement with the Red Sox scout for the boys to go to O.U. with the above paid and a job furnished and that after completing school they will sign up with Boston. All this was told me by Dutch who said it applied to a lot of the O.U. ball players past and present, including "Pete" Scheffler formerly of Wichita and O.U. and now under contract with Boston, as I understand. This is an entirely different man than Dutch S. who gave me all this information. I'm not sure of the spelling of these names. "Pete" or Herb, as he is called, is a long, tall rather chinless person who played a lot of ball around here for a long time.

Another angle that is of interest is that Jap's brother lives here in Wichita nearby to North High and takes a lot of interest in these boys. Layton and he were very friendly according to Dutch, prior to and incident to the Red Sox scout wanting him and Jap wanting him and his being "fixed up" at O.U. with Red Sox "backing" and a job there.

It seems O.U. also has a way of taking care of men who are not baseball players.

My conversation with Dutch disclosed that he had been called over to Jap's brother's house here in Wichita during a tennis tournament to take care of a knee injury to the Tucker boy who later went to the Aggies and subsequently succumbed to the O.U. lure. I don't know how the tuition and fee money was put up or where it originated but maybe it came from the same source as the money paid Tucker for playing nurse maid to the Bruce Drake children. It seems that this was his job for a time, at least.



I can't prove any of these statements but they look genuine to me and I'm confident Dutch was telling me these things just as they happened. He is one of these fellows who always like to brag and seem important and have connections with men who are in the places of importance in the athletic world.

I enjoyed seeing you and the boys. I hope to see them go again before the season is over.

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# Oklahoma A and M Track Star 'Swiped'

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★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

## Sooners Are At It Again

By **CHUCK ELLIOTT**  
Kansan Sports Editor

Oklahoma has done it again! Seemingly not content with the Sooners supply of athletic talent on the Norman campus the Oklahoma athletic officials have gone recruiting again and this time they have come up with

probably the outstanding track prospect of last year's high school crop.

The star in question is Burton Cossey, a freshman in the School of Engineering at Oklahoma A. and M., Stillwater, during the past semester. Last year he attended high school at Centerview, Okla., and gained All-American rating as a result of his

track efforts. He high jumped six feet four and one-half inches and this leap was the best in the nation. The jump also set a new Oklahoma record and was recorded during the state interscholastic meet. Besides being a high jumping expert, Cossey starred in the broadjump and the hop-step and jump events.

### Sooner Athletes Persuaded Cossey

The Centerview star enrolled at Stillwater this fall and impressed the officials there very favorably. Not only was he in the upper third of his class in engineering and on the dean's honor roll but he was popular with schoolmates in A. and M.'s big Cordell hall and performed well his campus job which provided him with room and board.

Everything was going along smoothly for Cossey and for the Aggie authorities until last Saturday. The track star was already re-enrolled in school and seemed set for this semester until Dick Smethers, Sooner track star, and Bob Seymour, former Sooner football ace, dropped in at Stillwater to see Cossey. Within a few hours the three of them were on their way to Norman where Cossey enrolled in the School of Aeronautical Engineering.

### No Official Action Yet

Feeling on the Aggie campus at Stillwater was running quite high this week although no official action had been taken as yet by Henry Iba, director of athletics at the Aggie school. Reason for no action as yet is that Iba left Stillwater late Tuesday with his basketball squad on a swing to the North where they faced Drake University at Des Moines Wednesday night and Creighton University at Omaha last night.

Before leaving on the trip Iba stated "I believe this will be worked out without trouble for the boy. I will have a conference with Jap Haskell (Oklahoma's athletic director) early next week when we are to meet in Oklahoma City about some other matters. I am sure that when we have all the information before us, this can be settled."

### Only Cossey Was Talkative

On the Norman campus athletic officials refused to become excited about the affair. Haskell was not too talkative but did remark that the transfer of the athlete was regular. John Jacobs, Sooner track coach, was another who offered no comment.

Cossey however was entirely different. He seemed willing to talk on both campuses but with conflicting statements. While at Stillwater he objected to the many letters, phone calls, and visitors whom he was re-

(continued to page seven)

## O. U. Being Unfair

(The following article appeared in the Wednesday edition of The Daily O'Collegian, official student paper of Oklahoma A. and M. College, as an open editorial on the front page. It was written by Don Boydston, editor of the O'Collegian and a famous track star in his own right. Two years ago in an indoor meet he high jumped 6 feet 8 7-8 inches.—Sports Editor's Note).

Oklahoma University is going too far in open subsidization of athletes.

We aren't calling anyone names, we are not stating the opinion of anyone but this writer's, and we aren't whining, but from all indications the policy of the University of Oklahoma in obtaining their athletes is unfair and dishonest.

Perhaps the best way to let you know about this little debacle is to give you the facts and let you decide for yourself to see if it was A. and M. that was Tuckered out this time.

Last year Burton Cossey, a limber-limbed lad hailing from Center View, Oklahoma, a whistle-stop near Prague, leaped six foot four and one-half inches in the state interscholastic meet, setting a new state high school record and also earning an All American rating as one of the best high school jumpers in the nation.

He also excelled in the broad jump and the hop-step and jump.

He was a fine student, valedictorian of his class and wanted to come to Oklahoma A. and M. and study engineering.

He enrolled here last fall and made high enough grades this last semester to make the dean's honor roll.

In the early season practice session he jumped far enough in the hop-step-and-jump to give Coach Ralph Higgins the vision of a national A.A.U. championship in the event.

Then the O.U. athletic department evidently decided that he was a bit too accomplished and started a subtle campaign.

They wrote him letters, called him long distance, came to see him and just generally made life miserable.

A week ago Burton told some of his team-mates that he wished the O.U. bunch would leave him alone and that Jap Haskell, athletic director at Oklahoma university, had called him the night before.

Then last Saturday night Dick Smethers, distance man at the University and Bob Seymour, former football player for the Sooners, came to Stillwater to see Cossey.

Evidently they put the pressure on the lad because three hours after they blew in, they had Burton in his room helping him to pack his bags for the trip to Norman.

A friend of Burton's, Wendell Wilson, tried to walk into the victim's room for a visit but the door was abruptly slammed in his face and the Norman visitors went on with their preparation.

If what Cossey has said is true, and if the University of Oklahoma had the gall to come on the A. and M. campus and pack a boy's clothes and transport him to Norman after he had already enrolled and attended classes here this semester then, its a pretty lousy deal.

Of course the kid is somewhat to blame. He shouldn't allow stories of sugar plums and a clock-winding job to turn his head, but then too, high-pressuring a kid is sometimes pretty easy.

From personal experience we remember how O.U. promised everything within reason and more too, but on our arrival there it was found that we didn't even have a place to sleep.

That's about all we have to say.

You can draw your own conclusions from the above statement of facts. As we said before, we think their actions unfair and dishonest.



March 9, 1942.

Professor W. W. Davis,  
University of Kansas.

Dear Professor Davis:

I am enclosing a copy of a statement I have prepared concerning Judge Landis's announcement regarding sub-rosa contracts with college baseball players.

If you wish to use any or all of it, you have my permission.

What action are you and Walter Kraft preparing to take?

Very sincerely yours,

FCA: AH  
Enc.

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

baseball

In order to clarify the college amateur rules but not to open up old wounds we quote High Commissioner Keenan Mountain Landis as follows, "Secret base ball contracts - The kind in which a college baseball player usually gets financial assistance for promising to join the paying club after graduation, are legally worthless." Says Judge Landis "Players, publicly receiving such financial aid, <sup>either</sup> directly or by their parents, customarily are declared ineligible for further <sup>college</sup> competition as was Lou Bodreau, now manager of the Cleveland Indians by the University of Illinois." Judge Landis pointed out that sub-rosa deals made it impossible for his office to check the number of players controlled by the professional clubs and often enabled those clubs to violate the player limit.

Reference is made to the incident concerning Athletics Director ~~and~~ head base ball coach Lawrence "Pop" Haskell and Jimmy Lawrence Layton former Wichita, Ks. North High School base ball star, <sup>both</sup> of the University of Oklahoma, in which it is alleged that Layton has such a sub rosa contract with the Boston Red Sox. It is also alleged that Haskell is <sup>in</sup> the employ of the Boston Red Sox <sup>as a scout</sup> in addition to his duties at the University of Oklahoma. Landis made the ruling in a case involving Anthony Ravich and the New York Yankees of the American League.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
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outfielder  
Lester Layton  
2 yrs ago  
strong pitcher  
2 yrs ago  
Nick North

Dutch  
Herb  
Schreffler  
Trainer  
Dummo

Herb  
Jack Schreffler  
Burr Baeer  
Joe Berline  
Springfield, Ill.  
Cap Basketball

National Tennis Tournament



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(2)

The Commissioner said there had been suggestions that such secret documents as the scouts agreement to pay Ranch \$1000<sup>00</sup> for his promise to sign a yankee farm contract upon graduation be filed confidentially with his office to enable the student to continue his college career. "That of course, is inconceivable" Landis ~~said~~ added "as it would include the entire base ball organization in the false pretense, in which the player and the club have engaged, that the player is honestly complying with college athletic eligibility rules, which in fact, are being deliberately violated." "The obvious impropriety of that situation is in no wise diminished by the fact that college athletic officials often are fully cognizant of that violation and are participants in them."

The high commissioner declared <sup>that in</sup> the future ~~that~~ clubs and affiliates which signed undergraduate to secret contracts would be fined.

Herb Penneck of the Boston Red Sox denied that Lester Layton had been signed by the Red Sox. It is pointed out that Jimmy Strang a star pitcher from Wichita, Ks. North High, attended the University of Oklahoma two years ago and after one year there signed a Boston Red Sox farm contract. Other Oklahoma athletes signing a Boston Red Sox farm contract are Buster Mills, Jack Baer the Sooners freshman coach and "Herb" Scheffler, a Sooner star in <sup>both</sup> basketball and base ball.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(3)

The practice of college ~~and~~ base ball coaches ~~figuratively signing~~ ~~to sign~~ their athletes up to unwritten clandestine agreements in cooperation with major league base ball scouts is not an uncommon thing. This ~~illegal~~ <sup>unlawful</sup> practice insures the athlete expense money to go through college and also provides the coach with additional income as the coach is paid handsomely for each recruit accepted by the major league.

As Judge Landis pointed out this is an illegal act breaking both the law in organized base ball and being a clear violation of the eligibility rules of the college concerning subsidization by a professional base ball club.

The administration of <sup>professional</sup> baseball merits the confidence of the nation because of the fair and fearless control of the sport by this great jurist ~~Judge Landis~~ and baseball czar, Judge Landis.

Intercollegiate athletics are in sore need of such a ~~straightforward~~ ~~and~~ ~~perfect~~ person.



In order to clarify the college amateur baseball rules, but not to open up old wounds, we quote High Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis as follows: "Secret baseball contracts, the kind in which a college baseball player usually gets financial assistance for promising to join the paying club after graduation, are legally worthless." Says Judge Landis, "Players publicly receiving such financial aid either directly or by their parents, customarily are declared ineligible for further college competition as was Lou Bodreau, now manager of the Cleveland Indians by the University of Illinois." Judge Landis pointed out that sub-rosa pacts made it impossible for his office to check the number of players controlled by the professional clubs and often enabled those clubs to violate the player limit.

Reference is made to the incident concerning Athletic Director and head baseball coach, Lawrence "Jap" Haskell and Lawrence Layton, former Wichita, Kansas, North High School baseball star, both of the University of Oklahoma, in which it is alleged that Layton has such a sub-rosa contract with the Boston Red Sox. It is also alleged that Haskell is in the employ of the Boston Red Sox as a baseball scout in addition to his duties at the University of Oklahoma.

Landis made the ruling in a case involving Anthony Rarick and the New York Yankees of the American League. The Commissioner said there had been suggestions that such secret documents as the scout's agreement to pay Rarick \$1000.00 for his promise to sign a Yankee farm contract upon graduation be filed confidentially with his office to enable the student to continue his college career. "That, of course, is inconceivable," Landis added, "as it would include the entire baseball organization in the false pretense, in which the player and the club have engaged, that the player is honestly complying with college athletic eligibility rules, which in fact, are being deliberately violated." "The obvious impropriety of that situation is in no wise diminished by the fact that college athletic officials often are fully cognizant of that violation and are participants in them."

The high commissioner declared that in the future clubs and affiliates which signed undergraduates to secret contracts would be fined.

Herb Pemrock of the Boston Red Sox denied that Lester Layton had been signed by the Red Sox. It is pointed out that Jimmy Strong, a star pitcher from Wichita, Kansas, North High, attended the University of Oklahoma two years ago and after one year there signed a Boston Red Sox farm contract. Other Oklahoma athletes signing a Boston Red Sox



farm contract are Buster Mills, Jack Baer, the Sooner's freshman coach, and "Herb" Scheffler, a Sooner star in both basketball and baseball. The practice of college baseball coaches figuratively signing their athletes up to unwritten clandestine agreements in cooperation with major league baseball scouts is not an uncommon thing. This unlawful practice insures the athlete expense money to go through college and also provides the coach with additional income as the coach is paid handsomely for each recruit accepted by the major league.

As Judge Landis pointed out, this is an illegal act breaking both the law in organized baseball and being a clear violation of the eligibility rules of the college concerning subsidization by a professional baseball club.

The administration of professional baseball merits the confidence of the nation because of the fair and fearless control of the sport by this great jurist and baseball czar, Judge Landis.

Intercollegiate athletics are in sore need of such a peerless person.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

Intercollegiate Athletics

March 17, 1942

Dr. F. C. Allen  
Basketball Coach  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Coach:

Thanks a great deal for your fine letter of March 6. I appreciate the nice things you said very much.

Jap helped me straighten out the photographers between halves and I am going to talk to John Cronley, Daily Oklahoman sports editor, about keeping them in a corner for next year's games. I am sure we can work it out satisfactorily and if they want some special shots of you, I don't see why we can't shoot them before the game starts.

I passed your suggestions concerning the two-ball rule on to Bruce and you shouldn't have any trouble on that score hereafter. Naturally this is entirely out of my province but I showed it to Bruce anyhow and meanwhile he had received the carbon of your letter to me.

Good luck tonight in your game against the Aggies. We know you will do a swell job of representing the Big Six in the N.C.A.A. tournament like you did two years ago. It seems to me you have even more to work with this season than you had then. Better rebounding with Black in there. He is a corker.

Some of our people were bitter about not getting a chance in the playoff but the same rule clipped you last year so it looks like turn about is fair play.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harold Keith,  
Director Sports Publicity

HK:djk



March 24, 1942.

Mr. Reaves Peters,  
342 So. Chelsea,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter I wrote to Harold Keith concerning the Oklahoma situation when we played there on February 27th. I am also sending you a copy of Harold's reply to me. I thought you would be interested in this correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

ENC.



March 16, 1942.

Mr. George Edwards,  
University of Missouri,  
Columbia, Mo.

Dear George:

I am sending you a copy of a letter that I wrote  
Harold Keith regarding the basketball situation when we  
played at Oklahoma.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH  
Enc.



March 6, 1942.

Mr. Harold Keith,  
Sports Publicity Director,  
Athletic Department,  
University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Harold:

To me you have long been known as the fairest sportsman at the University of Oklahoma. Therefore, I write you to endeavor to correct some abuses that annually haunt us when we play at your institution. I would like to refer you to the minutes of the Big Six basketball coaches association as of December 9, 1941. The minutes show that Coach Bruce Drake was present at this meeting. In fact, he was the author of the motion that reads - "it was also agreed that two good basketballs of the type used by the home team should be available for the visiting team".

This suggestion was necessary because each of the different schools use a different brand of basketball -- some are molded and some are stitched. Therefore, Bruce suggested that two good balls be available for the visiting team.

When Oklahoma played at Lawrence the balls were placed near the Oklahoma bench and Coach Drake asked for them so that his team might practice with them. They were immediately handed to Coach Drake and they made use of them. Since we use a Spalding laceless stitched ball and since Oklahoma uses a Rawlings lastbilt molded ball, when we played at Norman and the practice balls were not forthcoming I made a request for them. A young man who apparently was one of the student managers brought me an old, scarred, unashed, dirty ball. I told him that I wanted two good balls and that Bruce Drake had requested them at our place and had received them, and we wanted the same courtesy. Coach Drake then showed up and said they did not have any on hand and he was sorry. I told him that he had received the courtesy at Lawrence and naturally we expected the same courtesy at Norman. He said he was very sorry. And we were forced, of course, to do without the practice balls.

Now, the second infraction which was even more severe than the first -- we have a rule in the basketball coaches association that no photographer with flashlights shall operate on the court except at the end near the corner, and no flashlight pictures shall be taken at any time if they interfere with the play of the teams.



To refresh your memory, I believe there were eight flashlight photographers on the court that night. Two at either end on either side of the basket and two at each sideline and near the corner. One of these photographer who was a very insolent individual stationed himself directly in front of me, and instead of taking pictures of the players, stationed himself with an assistant of his - perhaps a bodyguard - directly in front of our view of the game. He snapped pictures at every move that I made that he thought apparently might help his picture business. I first remonstrated with him telling him that this was against the rule of the coaches association and asked him to move.

You will agree that these flashlights snapped in the faces of substitutes certainly render them less efficient when they go into the game because it interferes with their vision. After much annoyance to our peace of mind and to our coaching efficiency, I finally left my bench and walked over to your table at the scorers' bench and asked you kindly to remove that photographer who interfered with our vision and our peace of mind. This photographer moved perhaps four feet to our left, but still in front of our players. We were seated four feet off the sideline and this photographer worked along that margin of space which definitely obstructed our players and our view of the game as it moved up and down the court. Remember, there was a bodyguard with him which added to the obstruction of view and annoyance to our players.

Had this photographer desired a picture of me drinking water, or in any other pose that he desired, I would gladly have given it to him without him becoming obnoxious and endeavoring to do the thing he should not have done. When we played at Nebraska this past year the Omaha-Herald photographer at Lincoln desired a picture of me drinking water from a gallon jug. The Quarterback Club at Lincoln had given me the gallon jug of water at the noon luncheon, and in order to get a story out of it he wanted that picture. I gladly accommodated him by posing for the picture so that he could use it in his paper. I do not believe there is any coach but what would cooperate with newspaper men and photographers in giving them what they wanted unless they wanted some derisive thing, and in my mind this is what the chap was after when he harassed us as he did in this Oklahoma game on February 27.

It certainly seems to me, Harold, when everything is against the visiting team that these well-known rules -- certainly well-known to Bruce Drake because he helped make them -- should not be used against the visitors. Every courtesy that is possible is shown to the visitors here at Kansas. Of course, a coach can say, "Well, I am sorry, I didn't pay any attention to it", but that doesn't excuse the situation. The responsibility is upon this home coach, and he can laugh it off or shake it off lightly, but that still doesn't excuse the situation.



I am not trying to alibi, but my purpose in writing you this letter is to get some information in proper hands so that the visitors will be insured and assured of courteous treatment in the future in such situations as this. Doubtless you would not know of the coaches' agreement regarding photographers, but Coach Drake does, and of course you knew nothing about the balls. But I would like for you to get the copy from Coach Drake's desk and read it.

Now, there is another item here that comes directly home. On the second page of the minutes there is an item under "Rules Interpretation and Conduct of the Game", number 3, as follows: "Coaches are to do everything in their power to stop anything off-color among the players."

In this regard I want to call your attention to the unsportsmanlike tactics of Gerald Tucker who, when Ralph Miller was fouled, ran his fingers through Miller's hair and disheveled it by violently shaking Miller's head. And then in a baby-like fashion he whittled his finger in Miller's face in a tsk-tsk manner, much to the delight of the Sooner home audience. That is a cheap and tawdry trick, poking a pointing finger in a derisive fashion in the face of a visiting athlete who is supposed to be accorded the courtesy of an opponent.

I am told that one of the Oklahoma dailys referred to this as "colorful Tucker's act". Well, I might say to you that this was discussed in the coaches meeting and the coaches brought the matter up with Coach Drake, that his players had at times shown unsportsmanlike tactics such as this. Ug Roberts and Allie Faine did it last year with Howard Engleman and other Big Six opponents. Here at Lawrence Reich did the same thing to John Buescher, and Buescher resented it and quite a flare was caused here at Lawrence in the Kansas-Oklahoma game. The Oklahoma players were accorded excellent and sportsmanlike treatment at Lawrence.

Apparently this goat-getting act could not continuously be practiced by the Oklahoma team if it received any discouragement from the coach. Two or three of the coaches mentioned this to Coach Drake this past fall at the meeting.

The reason that I did not put Gerald Tucker on my Big Six selection was because by his own volition he migrated, whereas had he stayed at Kansas State he would have had a chance to play ten full games, and further because of his unsportsmanlike action to Ralph Miller who responded with a smile and a pat on the back.

There is another incident that happened last year at Norman that I would like to call your attention to. There is a rule in the book to the effect that when players are substituted at the half it is not necessary for them to report to the referee. I made



such a change last year at the half and reported to the scorer, who happened to be Gerald Tucker, a freshman. Just about the time the game started Tucker stood up and yelled to the referee, "He didn't report, there's a foul on him." I said to him, "Young man, you are too young to know all the rules. It is not necessary that he report to the referee."

I only mention such things as this as unpleasant happenings that are brought on by the basketball administration at Oklahoma by not putting mature men in positions of responsibility. When freshmen are played up to such an unusual extent as was Tucker, then it is impossible to have normal, modest, gentlemanly individual out of such a situation.

In all such positions of trust here we put faculty representatives and coaches who would not stoop to take advantage of a visitor. Boys do not have the equilibrium that men of responsibility have. Coaches on the faculty would not dare show that type of sportsmanship when they were supposed to be fair and impartial administrators.

Apparently the crime is in getting caught, and then to use propoganda to distort and discolor the true facts of the case.

I would much rather have rules that are agreed to - lived up to than have someone do lip service and violate the fundamental agreements that were made openly and with full expectation of being carried out as the rules were printed.

Now, Harold, so much for that, and I will forget it since I know that when you know it you will see that there is not a repetition of this thing happening to any of the visitors. But there is one thing regarding publicity that I haven't seen you print, and that is the comparison of the common opponents of the Sooners and the Jayhawkers. You will remember that DePaul decisively defeated Oklahoma with Tucker in the game in the Chicago Stadium during Christmas vacation, and you are also cognizant of the fact that Kansas defeated the same team in the Chicago Stadium 46 to 26.

I believe without exception that Kansas has defeated every team in the Big Six Conference, including Oklahoma, by a much wider spread of margin between the offense and defense than has Oklahoma. This statement goes for Nebraska, Kansas State and Iowa State, and tonight we will find out about Missouri. Of course, we may be beaten by Missouri tonight, and if we are of course Oklahoma will win and we will congratulate them. But if we defeat Missouri, then instead of talking about scoring more points on Kansas as Oklahoma did, why not bring out the true ratio between the offense and the defense and say that although the two teams are tied, Kansas is the superior team because the offensive-defensive ratio is so outstandingly large as to



leave no argument as to the superiority. Last year Kansas and Iowa State tied for the Big Six, but Iowa State was considered the superior team because they had a better offensive-defensive ratio. Therefore, if it was true last year, why would it not be true this year? Can you show one single common opponent that Oklahoma has scored more points on than has Kansas? That is sporting, is it not, Harold?

With all good wishes to you, and remembering you always as one of the fairest gentlemen that I have met, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH



C O P Y

Department of  
University Utilities

Walter W. Kraft  
Superintendent

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Norman Oklahoma

April 6, 1942

Dr. W. W. Davis, Faculty  
Representative, M.V.I.A.A.  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Davis:

After the meeting of the Big Six Conference held in Kansas City on the 27th day of February, you handed me some correspondence which contained some charges of athletic irregularities affecting the University of Oklahoma Athletic Department. The letters referred to were one, dated February 8th, from an attorney in Wichita, Kansas, and another, dated January 26th, from an attorney in Wichita. These letters were addressed to Mr. Allen, copies of which were given to me. The correspondence also included two letters from F. C. Allen, one dated February 9th and the other February 10th. You requested that I investigate the charges made in this correspondence and advise you.

Upon returning to Norman I immediately had a conference with Mr. Haskell, our director of athletics. I requested Mr. Haskell to furnish me a written statement covering these charges. I also called upon Mr. Cross, the business manager of athletics, for a statement as to whether or not any funds of the athletic department had been expended in paying the expenses of high school boys from Wichita, Kansas. I also talked to Mr. Lester Layton, a student at the University of Oklahoma.

Several days later Mr. Haskell furnished me with a complete statement in which he flatly denied any irregularities, and in which he requested further that I insist that Mr. Allen furnish specific proof rather than rumors and hearsay. It was quite evident to me that it would be necessary that I personally go to Wichita to interview the persons mentioned in the correspondence, or that I send someone there for the purpose of getting first-hand information from those supposedly involved. I preferred, of course, to investigate this myself.

Due to the press of business it was impossible for me to leave. I was hoping week after week that I could make the trip. However, finding that I could not go, I enlisted the services of a man in whom I have the utmost confidence, for the purpose of securing for me first-hand information from those mentioned in the correspondence. After several conferences with this man I furnished him the full correspondence and instructed him to interview each person involved and report back the situation as he found it. I have before me the report of this man, which I will be glad to show you at our next meeting.

The following is an excerpt from a letter addressed "Dear Phog", and dated January 26, 1942:



"I have been doing a little snooping around regarding the football situation at North High School. One of my closest friends is Paul Good, who is vice-principal of North High School. I talked with him yesterday in a confidential manner.

"He tells me that he personally talked to Doug Brown, who is the outstanding football player and captain of the team this year, regarding the trip of certain football players to Oklahoma University. Doug Brown told Paul Good that Jap Haskell had been up to Wichita and talked to them about coming down to visit Oklahoma University and that he agreed to pay all expenses of the trip.

"I believe they went in a car belonging to one of the boys, but expenses were paid by Oklahoma University. He questioned him particularly regarding whether it was Jap Haskell or his brother who had made the arrangements. He insists Doug told him that Jap Haskell came up.

"Paul Good asked him how he happened to go, and his reply was that of the typical high school boy -- that is, "Why not, if you could have a good trip with all expenses paid?". Incidentally, another group was taken down to Oklahoma A. & M. a few nights ago.

"Paul also informed me that if someone would talk to Mr. Groe, head of the Physical Education Department of North High School, they could find out about the baseball situation insofar as this Wichita boy is concerned. Paul told me that he was a very fine basketball and football player, but that he was not allowed to play anything except baseball and that he thought there was no question but that he was signed up with the Boston Red Sox.

"Furthermore, Good assured me that Doug Brown was the type of individual who would not lie for anyone, and if anyone wanted to ask him about the arrangements for the trip to Oklahoma, he would tell them the truth about it.

"Incidentally, Mr. Good and Mr. Groe are neither K.U. athletes, and neither has any interest at all in K.U. but definitely feel that these boys should go to some school in the State of Kansas, and that Kansas should retain their athletes in the State of Kansas. They have no particular school in mind but merely feel that we should not sit here and let the State of Oklahoma come into our territory and "buy" our outstanding players. Incidentally, someone should talk to this Doug Brown about going to K.U., as no one has shown any interest in him as yet."

"No Signature Given."

Referring to the above letter, the following persons were interviewed: Paul Good, vice principal of North High School, Doug Brown, student at North High School, B. E. Haskell, resident of Wichita and brother of Jap Haskell, and Mr. Groe, head of the physical education department of North High School.

There were four boys who made the trip to Norman, namely Doug Brown, George Ritter, Bill Jamison, and Don Comeaux. The trip was made in Don Comeaux's father's car. Of the four high school students mentioned, George Ritter and Doug Brown only were located in Wichita. Upon inquiry it was reported that Don Comeaux is now at the University of Kansas, and that Bill Jamison, together with another Wichita boy named Botkins, had enrolled at Oklahoma A. & M. College.



In addition to the above named persons, Mr. George Powers, Wichita attorney, was interviewed, as well as "Dutch" Scheufler.

My investigator's report, as to what each of these men had to say, is as follows:

Paul Good, vice-principal of North High School -- Mr. Good said he knew absolutely nothing when it came to facts. All he knew was just rumor, and what he had read in the Wichita papers. He explained that there were two newspapers in Wichita, and that the sports editors seemed to dislike each other thoroughly. The sports editor of the Beacon was condemning the University of Oklahoma, while the sports editor of the Eagle was condemning the University of Kansas. Mr. Good was of the opinion, and it was also the opinion of others with whom my investigator talked, that the sports editors of these two rival newspapers had selected the athletic reputations of two universities as their battleground. Mr. Good further stated that an attorney had called him and asked him what he knew concerning boys going to a ball game at Norman. Mr. Good said he told him (the attorney) that he did not know anything about it other than that he had excused the boys from school for that purpose since their parents had given them permission to go and it was therefore satisfactory with the high school authorities. Mr. Good then gave the names of the four boys who were excused to make the trip, namely Doug Brown, Don Comeaux, Bill Jamison and George Ritter.

Doug Brown -- Mr. Brown stated that what expenses were not paid by the boys themselves were paid by businessmen, perhaps alumni of the University of Oklahoma, residing in Wichita. He said that he went to Norman in a car belonging to Don Comeaux's father. He further stated that a couple of weeks prior to the game he and some other boys had been invited to Mt. B. E. Haskell's home in Wichita, and that all of the boys knew Mr. Haskell, whom they referred to as "Pat". Mr. Brown said that Pat told them that his brother, Jap, was there and that he would like to have them come over and meet him. It was suggested by both Pat and Jap Haskell that the boys come down to the University of Oklahoma sometime and look the school over. Nothing was said then about any definite time or arrangements for a trip to Norman, and it was a surprise to Brown and the other boys as well when Pat Haskell told them that arrangements had been made by a group of alumni living in Wichita to pay their expenses to see a basketball game at Norman. Mr. Brown stated that the expenses of the car, which amounted to \$15.00, were all that was received by the boys, and that he and the other boys paid for their own meals and room excepting the dinner at Norman which they ate with Mr. Luster, Dale Arbuckle, and others. He continued that later on four boys made a trip to Oklahoma A. & M. College, and that a boy named Botkins took the place of Don Comeaux.

B. E. Haskell -- My investigator talked to Mr. Haskell for a few moments, and Mr. Haskell informed him that he lived close to North High School, that he took a great interest in the athletic affairs of the high school as a fan, and that he knew most of the boys on the teams. He said that it was his idea to have the boys come over and meet his brother, Jap Haskell, and that he raised the money to pay the car expenses of these boys to Norman. Mr. Haskell furnished a cancelled check showing that he had paid D. G. Comeaux \$15.00 on January 10, 1942. I have that check in my file.

Mr. Groe, athletic director of North High School -- Mr. Groe stated that he did not know anything about the reports and rumors except those which had been in the Wichita papers, and that he had not paid very much attention to them since he was not concerned. He offered to make a statement concerning Lester Layton, which is



that Mr. Layton came to him for advice as to what school he should attend. Mr. Groe said that Layton was a boy who loved baseball, and that he knew he meant to make a profession of playing it. Mr. Groe advised Layton that he could not recommend any particular school, but that Layton would have to look over a number of colleges, and their records, to determine for himself where he would be most benefitted. Mr. Groe stated that he mentioned, among other schools, the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma, and that he saw nothing unusual in the fact that Layton had selected the University of Oklahoma since Oklahoma has had a fine record in baseball over a period of years. Mr. Groe also said that the O.U. alumni group in Wichita was solidly behind their high school team and had taken a great interest in sports, even when they were not winners. He stated that he was personally glad they took an interest in boys who were on the athletic teams.

George Ritter, student at North High School -- My investigator found that the statements made by Mr. Ritter were practically identical with those made by Doug Brown. It was Ritter's understanding that the expense money was paid to Mr. Haskell and that he in turn wrote a check for the amount, paying it to the owner of the car.

George Powers, Wichita attorney -- My investigator reports on Mr. Powers as follows:

"I had a strong feeling that Mr. Powers had written a particular letter to Phog Allen. I explained to him over the telephone who I was and my purpose in being there and asked for an opportunity to talk with him. He told me to come to his office, and he would be glad to talk with me and glad to meet anyone from Oklahoma. He went on to say that he certainly did not have any information that would concern the situation because he knew absolutely nothing about it, and that furthermore he was not even interested in it and had never taken any interest in it because he had other things to do. I went to his office to see him and he told me the same thing, assuring me that he had never had anything to do with the situation. I asked his opinion on several matters and we talked back and forth for some time before I told him that I had a letter with me which I felt sure that he had written. I read the first paragraph of the letter then so that he would recognize if it he had written it. His face turned red. The paragraph I am referring to stated that the letter was of a confidential nature. Mr. Powers said, "Well it doesn't seem to be very confidential since you have it." He then admitted that he had written the letter and stated that it gave his views exactly. I could get no further information from him."

I wish to call your particular attention to paragraph 7 of the letter dated January 26th, and addressed to "Dear Phog", which said: "Incidentally, someone should talk to this Doug Brown about going to K.U., as no one has shown any interest in him as yet." It seems to me that the thing proposed by your alumnus and attorney in Wichita is exactly what some of the alumni of O.U. in Wichita have done, and that is to encourage these boys to go to their particular school. The alumnus writing this letter to Mr. Allen suggests that someone should talk to Doug Brown. He evidently suggests that Phog Allen do something about it. I am merely calling your attention to this statement to show that it is more or less the natural thing for an alumnus to want to interest a good athlete in his own university, and I feel that it is just as legal for the alumni of O.U. to do this thing as it is for the alumni of K.U.



Referring to the letter addressed to Dr. Allen on February 8, 1942, concerning an alleged conversation that your informant had with "Dutch" Scheuffler, in this connection I wish to say that the letter seems so ridiculous that it doesn't merit much comment. However, my investigator interviewed Mr. Scheuffler, who stated that he had never given out any such interview as is related in the letter, and vehemently denied making the statements charged by your informant. It seems strange to me that your informant accuses "Dutch" Scheuffler of being a "tramp", and at the same time is willing to accept a statement of condemnation of rumored actions of the University of Oklahoma, based upon statements given him by a man he classes as a "no account".

Especially significant is the next to the last paragraph, which says: "I can't prove any of these statements but they look genuine to me and I'm confident Dutch was telling me these things just as they happened. He is one of these fellows who always likes to brag and seem important and have connections with men who are in the places of importance in the athletic world."

Your informant, an attorney of Wichita, is willing to believe statements about the University of Oklahoma and its athletic department, coming from a man he immediately accuses as being unreliable and a worthless braggart.

Referring to Mr. Allen's letters of February 9 and 10, 1942, we find that Mr. Allen refers to the Burton Cossey case which in no way concerns the University of Kansas. I made a complete statement of this case at the Big Six Conference meeting held late in February. The athletic authorities of Oklahoma A. & M. College and the University of Oklahoma investigated this entire matter and are in complete agreement on the case. I wish to state for your information, however, that no person on the athletic staff of the University of Oklahoma in any way urged, induced, or otherwise tried to influence Mr. Cossey to return to the University of Oklahoma.

In his letter, Mr. Allen makes the following statement concerning two letters which he received from certain attorneys in Wichita: "It takes the information that the two lawyers have to make the case against Haskell a perfect one". Statements made in the two letters are based on hearsay and rumor, and in a court of law such evidence is not even admissible. Furthermore I had every charge investigated, with the results as reported above. The case against Mr. Haskell doesn't contain any of the elements of a case, much less a perfect one.

Mr. Allen refers to the Layton case in his letter, and I wish to state that I have before me a photostatic copy of an affidavit, signed by Lester Layton and by both his father and mother, denying the existence of a professional baseball contract between Lester Layton and any baseball club.

I want to state that it will require some other proof other than the unsupported statements of Mr. Allen or the statements from his attorney friends, who base their information on hearsay and rumors, to make the University of Oklahoma authorities believe that the parents of Lester Layton have sworn falsely. Mr. Allen further states that he believes that secret or sub-rosa arrangements exist between Layton and the Boston Reds, which he terms a "gentleman's agreement". It seems to me that before any further cognizance should be given statements by Mr. Allen, he should be required by the University of Kansas authorities to furnish concrete evidence or to cease his child's play.



For Mr. Allen's information, Buster Mills, after graduating from the University of Oklahoma, played with Cleveland and not with the Boston Red Sox.

Mr. Allen refers to Mr. Noble, of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, as the president of the Board and the chief athletic getter. I cannot help but feel some resentment in Mr. Allen's statement, since it contains no element of the truth. Mr. Noble is not president of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, and so far as I know, and I feel that I should know more about it than Mr. Allen, he has not interested himself in securing athletes for the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Noble is a very busy man, and although he is interested in all phases of University administration, he has made no attempt to run the affairs of the athletic department.

I realize that in these times it is exceedingly hard to keep irregularities from creeping into college athletics. Although the University of Oklahoma may not be sprouting wings, I do not believe that the University of Kansas is entirely free of suspicion. Mr. Haskell submitted to me a list of prominent Oklahoma athletes who made a fine athletic record at the University of Kansas. In that list were such athletes as Standifer and Earnest Bradley of Cherokee, Ad Lindsey of Kingfisher, the two Johnson brothers, great basketball players, from Oklahoma City, T. C. Bishop and T. P. Hunter of Oklahoma City, Tom Poor of McAlester, and Ormand Beach of Pawhuska. These are just a few of the many athletes who have gone to the University of Kansas from Oklahoma. In many instances alumni and friends of the University of Oklahoma have been very suspicious about these boys leaving under the very shadow of the University of Oklahoma to go to Kansas University. We have taken the position that if a student prefers to go to Kansas University or any other university rather than to come to the University of Oklahoma, it is his privilege to do so and we bid him Godé speed and hope that he makes a success. On the other hand, we certainly are not going to turn down a promising athlete because he happens to come from Kansas.

You must also remember that we have a great many graduates of the University of Oklahoma living in southern Kansas, and many of these graduates are loyal to their alma mater, and it is not surprising that some of them interest high school students in coming here.

I resent the statement made by Mr. George Powers of Wichita when interviewed by my investigator. He stated, after first denying that he had anything to do with the charges, that the University of Oklahoma had sent the investigator there merely for the purpose of whitewashing the whole situation. I want to repeat that I sent the investigator to Wichita to find out and report to me the true situation. I had given him no instructions other than to find the truth. The situation, as I have related it, is the situation as he found it.

In the light of all information now in my hands, I feel that I am in a position to arrive at reasonable conclusions concerning this situation. My conclusions are as follows:

1. No funds of the athletic department of the University of Oklahoma were used to defray the expense of bringing these boys to Norman.
2. The funds used to provide transportation from Wichita to Norman for four boys were provided by businessmen residing in Wichita, presumably alumni or friends of the University of Oklahoma.



3. Lester Layton has furnished definite proof that he is not under contract with any professional baseball club.
4. "Dutch" Scheufler has no official connection with the University of Oklahoma or its athletic department. I don't feel that it is my privilege or duty to advise Mr. Haskell whom he shall select as his associates or summer co-workers, and I certainly have a firm conviction that it doesn't concern Mr. Allen one iota.
5. Mr. Scheufler had nothing to do with the four boys' visiting in Norman, and certainly didn't bring them to Norman.
6. The rivalry existing between two Wichita newspapers, and the bitter feeling between the sports writers on these papers, was responsible for the unfavorable publicity given the two universities and was responsible in a large measure for the information given Mr. Allen by his attorney friends in Wichita.
7. Mr. George Powers, an attorney of Wichita, wrote the letter dated January 26, 1942. When interviewed he first denied knowledge, and when faced with a quotation from his letter he admitted writing the letter and then stated that those were still his views. When faced with statements of those whom he had presumably quoted, he admitted that his information was hearsay and rumor. I feel that this was just a case of an overjealous alumni desirous of supporting his friend, Mr. Allen.
8. The letter written by another Wichita attorney, dated February 8, 1942, deals with "Dutch" Scheufler and Jap Haskell's brother. As stated above, this letter is so devoid of facts that it doesn't merit much consideration. The attorney states in his letter that he can't prove any of his statements. Under these circumstances no further time could be wasted on the letter.
9. I want to be charitable to Mr. Allen, and therefore just wish to say that he apparently has been overeager to punish and otherwise discredit Jap Haskell. The occasion of the newspaper fight in Wichita only furnished Mr. Allen a little more ammunition.

I want you to know that I appreciate your kind consideration in submitting this information to me, and I realize that it was necessary for me to be very thorough in making this investigation. I personally have no thought of producing an operation known as whitewashing. Our people here at the University of Oklahoma are human, and being so are subject to human errors. At times, due possibly to not knowing what should be done, they make errors.

We have the very highest regard for the University of Kansas, for you personally, and for your athletic staff. I know that you have often expressed the hope that our relations might always remain relations of complete confidence in each other, and of respect for the institutions of the Big Six. I am personally appreciative of your counsel and friendship. I hope that in the future we may always continue to be perfectly frank, and yet friendly.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

WALTER W. KRAFT  
Faculty Representative, M.V.I.A.A.  
University of Oklahoma.