

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: