

Return to desk

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOOTBALL COMMISSIONERS

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Southern and Southeastern
Conference

EDWIN N. ATHERTON
Pacific Coast Conference

ASA S. BUSHNELL
Eastern Intercollegiate
Football Association

ARTHUR E. EILERS
Missouri Valley Conference

JOHN L. GRIFFITH
Intercollegiate Conference
(Big Ten)

Secretary-Treasurer
REAVES E. PETERS
Big Six Conference

JAMES W. ST. CLAIR
Southwest Conference

Aug. 16, 1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

Just received word from Rollie William saying that Carroll would be alright for your game up there Jan. 29th. I have assigned Parke to that game. He also stated that with your approval he was assigning MacDonald to that game.

I was rather amused at the attitude of the Boys on the Missouri-Kansas line about officiating. How many assignments have they had in the Big Six? None. Now that someone is in charge of officials they want to get assignments, apparently not realizing that the coaches are still saying who they want. They have been invited to all our Clinics and Rules meetings and have been given every encouragement. They have been told how the whole set-up works and what they must do before they can get on coaches preferential lists.

The first year I assigned football officials I had a letter from a man that had worked a few, a very few, college games and he stated that while he had never worked in the Big Six he expected a full schedule the next year since every coach had assured him that he was on their list. He was on one list and that as no. 16 Field Judge - we don't go below ten in football. Of course he will probably feel unkindly toward me, that is to be expected.

I answer every letter I get and take pains to explain everything in detail. You can imagine how many, and what peculiar letters I get; you have been getting them for many years.

At the present time Andy Skradski is the only official over there anyways near ready for Big Six assignments, and he is on the list this year. Ed Ellis is coming along but is not ready. I have been trying to get across the idea that the Big Six is big league and that they must come up through the ranks and qualify for this conference; and that officials are picked on their merit and not because he happens to know some of the coaches or is a good fellow. It doesn't matter to me who an official is or where he comes from if he can get the job done and the coaches want him then he will get assignments. I have no friends when it comes to assigning officials.

Want to talk with you further about this when you come down.
With the best of wishes,
Reaves.

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Aug. 13, 1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

Received your letter in regard to officials for your non-conference games and will get busy on that right away.

There are several points I want to clear up at this time. At the present time there has been no action taken by the various commissioners for non-conference, or inter-section games. Here is the set-up for football and I hope that in the very near future we can make some such arrangements for basketball:

1. Mixed crews for all single game contracts
2. Local crews for all home and home contracts
3. Appointees to be selected by the commissioners independently of coaches for inter-sectional games. If you were playing a home and home series with Texas University Texas would be perfectly willing to have me select one official without consulting them and you would be willing to have Jim St. Clair do the same. Of course the understanding that exists between Jim and me is that we will use only top ranking officials for these games, and that in the event there might be any official that either coach did not want we would leave him off that list. If you did want that privilege you would make it known at the time the games were scheduled.

As the situation stands at the present time I think you should go ahead with officials for all games away from home, of course this does not mean conference games. In the event you want me to take a part in these games away from home I will be perfectly willing to do so, but feel that you should consider that when the contract for the game is made and have a definite understanding with the other coach.

You didn't state whether your game with Denver was to be played in Lawrence or Denver. If it is to be played in Lawrence I will go ahead and make the assignments, if it is to be played in Denver why don't you go ahead with the arrangements.

For your game with Creighton at Lawrence on Feb. 10 it should not be necessary to consult Eddie Hickey unless we

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want to use officials that are not known to him.

Do you have any officials in mind, other than those on your preferential list that you would like to see in action in any of your non-conference games?

I will be in Chicago for the All-Star game the 28th, of this Month. Would you care for me to get in touch with the DePaul coach at that time?, if so have you a list of Big Ten officials from which you would like to have them select the officials. If you have only a one year contract with them would you like to have one of our officials in the game?

The plan in operation for assigning officials for conference and inter-sectional games in football seems to be working out to the satisfaction of the coaches; they are very happy to be relieved of the many unpleasant situations that arise when coaches have to battle over officials. I believe the time is near when a similar situation will exist in basketball.

I don't believe we will ever have uniformity of interpretation, or practical standardization of officiating until we adopt a plan similar to that in use in football for all inter-sectional games. At the present time the Mechanics of officiating in football are practically the same in all major conferences. There is not a single major conference that will make a single exception to the rules as they are written in the book this Fall. Can't you remember when the special interpretations were almost as difficult to master as the rules.

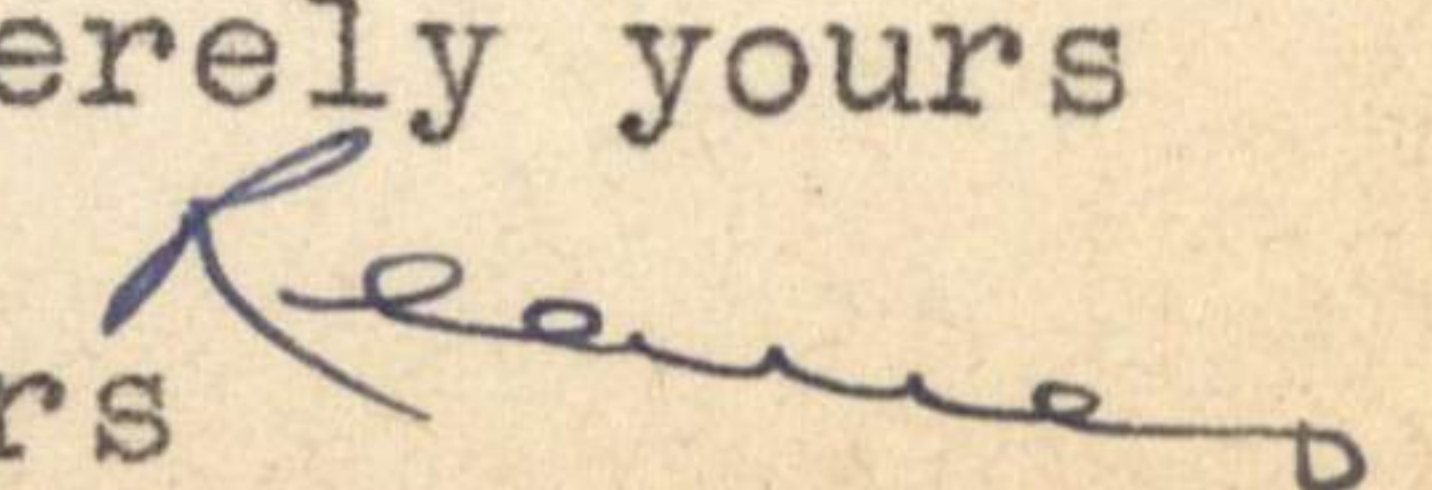
If we can come to a common agreement on what the game of basketball should be as it is played on the floor; all officials using similar mechanics, and having a common interpretation of the way in which the rules should be administered we will have gone a long ways towards helping basketball. Using mixed crews whenever possible; bringing officials from the various conferences together, not only in the conference room, but on the floor will help a lot.

This is rather rambling I know but have just been thinking out loud.

When are you coming to Kansas City for a game of golf? If you can't do that why don't you invite a fellow up to play in your back yard. What are your plans for the remainder of the Month?.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours

R.E. Peters 

December 10, 1941

Mr. Reaves Peters
324 Chelsea
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves,

I do not believe that officials for our game with Denver University have as yet been appointed. We play Denver here on the 17th.

Tomorrow I go to Dodge City for a two-day basketball clinic, but I am very anxious to know just who the officials will be as the game is a week from today.

Will you let me hear from you at the earliest possible moment?

Sincerely,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

FCA/PS

November 7, 1941

Mr. Reaves Peters
324 Chelsea
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves,

Doubtless you have heard from Moe Pressly. He is out at Grants Pass, Oregon and states that he will not be able to officiate this winter.

With the change of my secretaries it seems that we have misplaced the Big Six assignments for basketball officials this year for the conference. Will you kindly send me a list together with the scheduled assignments? I may run across mine, but since I am sure there have been changes, I would appreciate a revised list?

Sincerely,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

November 4, 1941

Mr. Reaves Peters
324 Chelsea Ave.
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves,

Carroll, O'Sullivan, Volz, Quigley, and Hinshaw will be O.K.
in order named for the Oklahoma Aggie game.

Sincerely,

FCA/PE

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

October 31, 1941

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

Coach Hank Iba
Oklahoma Aggies
Stillwater, Okla.

Gentlemen:

I don't know just what has been done to date about officials for your games, Feb. 20 at Lawrence, and Feb. 25 at Stillwater, but will proceed from here.

I will assume that Ab Curtis has been asked to work in both games and has definitely accepted the Feb. 25th. date, and is awaiting word from J. W. St. Clair about the Feb. 20th. date. I feel sure that St. Clair will not release Ab from a date that he has already taken, Jim does not operate that way.

In the event that Curtis can work only the one game would you care to use him? I will write Ab at once and get his answer about the Feb. 25th. date.

The following officials are available, in so far as my records show, for your games:

<u>Feb. 20th.</u>	<u>Feb. 25th.</u>
1. Carroll	Carroll
2. O'Sullivan	O'Sullivan
3. Pressley	Pressley
4. Quigley	Quigley
5. House	House
6. Volz	Volz
7. Hogue	Hogue
8. Grossman	Grossman
9. Hinkhouse	Hinkhouse
10. Browning	Browning
11. Hinshaw	Hinshaw
12. Hyatt	Hyatt
13. Lance	Lance
14. VanReen	VanReen

Will you send me a list of the above officials, in the order of your preference, at once that I may contact them. I am sending a copy of this letter to Artie, and after I receive your reply I will contact him and make, with him, the best selection possible from your lists. If there are other officials that you would like to consider please include them on your list, and in the order of your preference.

cc--To Eilers

Very sincerely yours,

R. E. Peters
R. E. Peters

October 30, 1941

Mr. Reaves Peters
324 Chelsea Ave.
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves,

I do not like to make an appointment at a time when Kansas and Kansas State play, or in fact, any game that takes on any magnitude of interest.

There are always so many homecoming visitors on days of big games who come in for the game, that about all we can do is talk with the people who come in to say "hello" and to visit their youngsters. If we are to get anything done we can do it much better some other time. Doubtless you are apt to go through Lawrence on the way to some other game and why not stop in and have a 20 or 30 minute visit with me when the game is played on some other gridiron but when it is still necessary for you to go through Lawrence to make your destination.

You will understand of course, that I'll be happy to have luncheon with you at any time, but I think the suggestion is a poor one for this particular occasion. Why do not you and Artie decide the Kansas-Oklahoma Aggie officials? It's entirely agreeable with me. You and Artie can talk over the matter with Hower and me after you have made the arrangements. If they have the address of Abb Curtis which is 419 Petroleum Building, Fort Worth, will you not carry on the negotiations?

Abb Curtis on the date of October 10 wrote to H.A. Dolman, Jr., assistant to Henry Iba, "At present I have an assigned game for February 20 from St. Clair's office and seriously doubt my ability to cancel same. However, I will take it up with St. Clair, and write you his action immediately."

"I will be glad to accept the February 25 game at Stillwater."

"You may look for a letter from me in regard to St. Clair's action within the next few days."

"Many thanks for these two opportunities to officiate."

Reaves, I'd be glad if you will carry on with St. Clair and make these arrangements.

You can go ahead and use your own judgement in working with your other associate commissioners in assigning conference games and non-conference games if they're within your jurisdiction or your associate's jurisdiction. Of course you learn by the trial and error method. However, I want you to know that I'm very sympathetic with your desire to procure better officials. And I heartily agree with you that the less that the coaches have to do with the selection, the better it will be. When the officials know that they're responsible to the commissioners the whole situation will be greatly improved. These officials will be selected then on the basis of work and efficiency. So you have my permission to go ahead 100%.
With all good wishes I am

Sincerely,

FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

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Big Six Conference

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JAMES W. ST. CLAIR
Southwest Conference

October 27, 1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

The officials for your games with Creighton and Denver will be assigned within the next few days.

Artie Eilers and I assigned the officials for the two games between the Oklahoma Aggies and Oklahoma for March 6 and 12th. without any difficulty. I don't believe we would have encountered any difficulty in assigning the officials for your two games.

We have not been embarrassed in any way in the assigning of officials for conference and non-conference games in football, and while there is at the present time differences in procedures in the various conferences in regard to the assigning of basketball officials, I believe we should take the lead in establishing some definite plan for this.

I believe you know that it is our policy not to assign officials to any game without the consent, thru preferential list or direct contact with the coaches, or thru the commissioners of other conferences. The officials for the Western play-off of the National Collegiate was handled in this way. The officials for the various Bowl games are handled in this way and it has proven so much better than the old way of coaches bickering over officials-you know that sometimes happens.

According to instructions given me by the Directors it will be necessary that I assign all basketball officials that work on conference floors. The only personal advantage that this gives me is that I know the officials that are working, where and when they are working, and when they will be available for other games. Then too, I believe there is a certain psychological advantage in having the officials realize that they are being assigned from a central office and are responsible, to a certain degree, to that central office for satisfactory work.

During the first year of my work in the conference I assigned only conference officials but it soon became apparent to the coaches that it would be better if I assigned all their officials. They realize, and I know the basketball coaches feel the same way about it, that it creates more work for me, but in the long run it is

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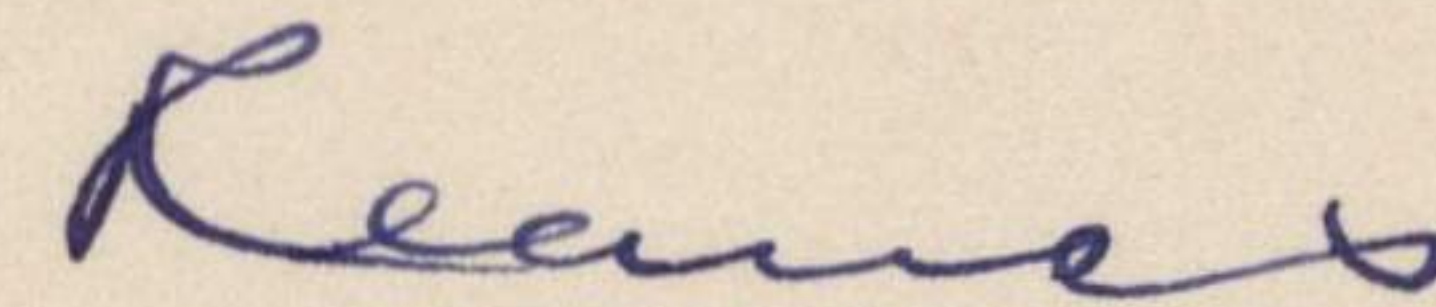
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JAMES W. ST. CLAIR
Southwest Conference

better for all concerned.

If you are playing a school from another conference and the game is to be played on their floor I think you should go ahead with any arrangements you care to make in regards to officials; if you care to have me help in the matter I will always be glad to do so. I hope we can make some definite arrangements to handle situations that may arise when you are playing away from home, whether or not you want a mixed crew, or whether or not you would want this office to contact the assigning agency in the other conference.

I will be in Lawrence on Nov. 15 for the Kansas-Kansas State football game and would like to have a talk with you, in fact a visit would be better, with you. Why not a Lunch together on that date.

Very sincerely yours,



R. E. Peters

October 24, 1941

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

Dear Reaves,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 23rd instant enclosing the names and addresses of Big Six basketball officials.

As soon as you have written the other official for the Creighton game I will be happy to hear from you. Our game with Denver is to be played at Lawrence Dec. 17. The two games with the Oklahoma Aggies are February 20 at Lawrence and February 25 at Stillwater. I am enclosing a copy of our basketball schedule for your information.

Sincerely yours,

FCA/PE

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

P.S.

I might mention, Reaves, that Hank Iba and I have communicated regarding officials. He wants Ab Curtis, who is going to work the Stillwater game, but we are not sure yet whether he can be at Lawrence.

E. A. Thomas wants to pick the officials for our game at Bethel College.

The business of the commissioner is still hazy to me, and when we get together on December 5 and 6 I imagine we will get a lot of these things straightened out. Since the office of commissioner is still new we probably go ahead and do a lot of these things from habit.

F.C.A.

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Southwest Conference

October, 23--1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

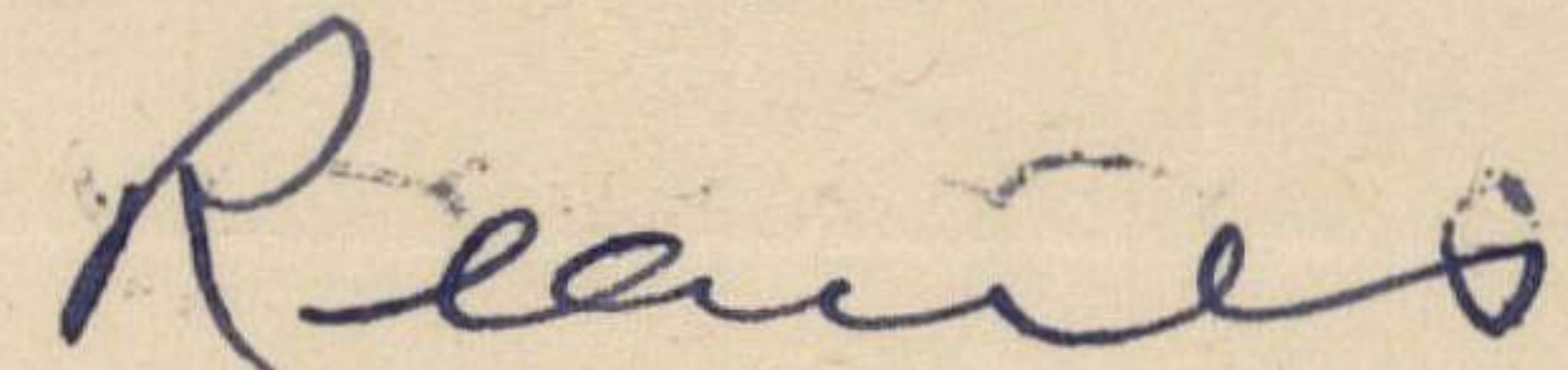
The enclosed list of Big Six basketball officials are those listed on the various coaches lists.

I have assigned Ted O'Sullivan for your Creighton game but was unable to get Carroll for this game. I will assign the other official within a few days; some one near the top of your list. I know you will want two top ranking officials for this game.

I have not assigned officials for the Denver game on Dec. 17. On the schedule you sent to me the place where this game is to be played was not stated. Will you let me know as soon as possible where this game is to be played.

I heard that you had scheduled two games with Oklahoma Aggies but have not heard from you about this. Will you give me this information in your letter.

Very sincerely yours,



R. E. Peters

University of Nebraska
Lincoln
University of Oklahoma
Norman
University of Missouri
Columbia

Office of
Commissioner of Officials
Big Six
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
342 So. Chelsea Avenue
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

University of Kansas
Lawrence
Kansas State College
Manhattan
Iowa State College
Ames

Dec. 9, 1941

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

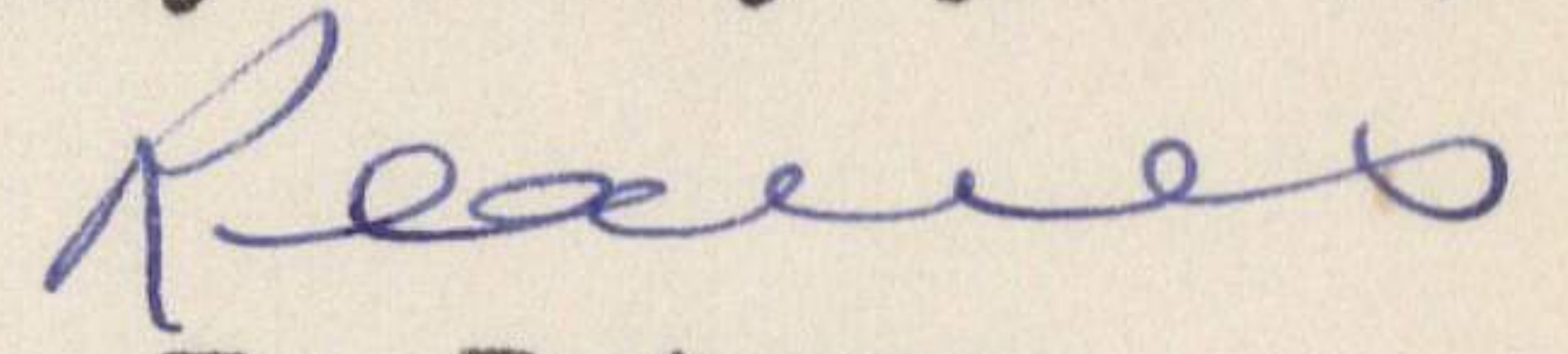
Here is a hurried list of conference officials for basketball. Also a list of non-conference games at Lawrence. Now that all changes have been made in the conference schedule we will have that out very soon.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dec. 17 | Denver University | @ Lawrence | House, Hinkhouse |
| 2. Feb. 10 | Creighton | @ Lawrence | O'Sullivan, Hinshaw |
| 3. Feb. 20 | Oklahoma Aggies | @ Lawrence | |
| 4. Feb. 25 | Oklahoma Aggies | @ Stillwater | |

Hope to get the Aggie series closed soon. I could'nt get a list from Iba until the meeting here last week-end.

Unless I hear to the contrary I will assume that all your home games will start at 7:30 this year.

Very truly yours,


R. E. Peters

WIBW

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BEN LUDY
MANAGER

St. Marys Kansas.
November 19th 41.

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

Dear "Phog";

I regret exceedingly that I will
not be able to serve in your Denver, Creighton
and Bethel games.

It was most kind of you to have
me in mind and I appreciate your thought of me.

Kindest regards----and congratulations,
even if it is one day after your birthday.

Cordially,

St. Marys Kansas.
November 16th 41.

Mr. Reaves Peters, Commissioner,
Big Six Conference,
342 So. Chelsea Ave.,
Kansas City Mo.

Dear Reaves;

Replying to your recent communication I regret that I will not be available for the Kansas-Denver game December 17th nor the Kansas-Creighton game on February 10th.

You also asked me about the Kansas-Okla. Aggie "pair" of games Feb. 20th and 25th; I could accept one of those dates but since I could not accept them both would prefer that I should "pass" on both.

Mighty fine of Dr. Allen to assist my name for these games and regret that I cannot serve in them.

Will be in Kansas City sometime Saturday night, December 6th. Have been asked to serve in that U.S.O. "All-Star" - Ft. Riley foot ball game at Manhattan Saturday afternoon Dec. 6th and expect to do that.

Cordially,

E. C. Quigley.

cc to Dr. F. C. Allen;

December 4, 1941.

Mr. Don Elser,
Horace Mann School,
Gary, Indiana.

Dear Don:

We are happy to have you work our game with DePaul. I understand those Irish are pretty tough up there and all I have ever insisted on is having officials who will call it regardless of whom the foul is called upon. And I know that you will do that, Don.

I am counting on you to work one of your best games of the year. You will work with Joe Rieff, a corking good official.

You never owe me anything at all in helping out a very worthy young man. The older we get the more desirous we are of helping the young fellow. We believe that in helping the young chap he will grow up and when he matures he will do exactly the same thing for the next generation of young fellows.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

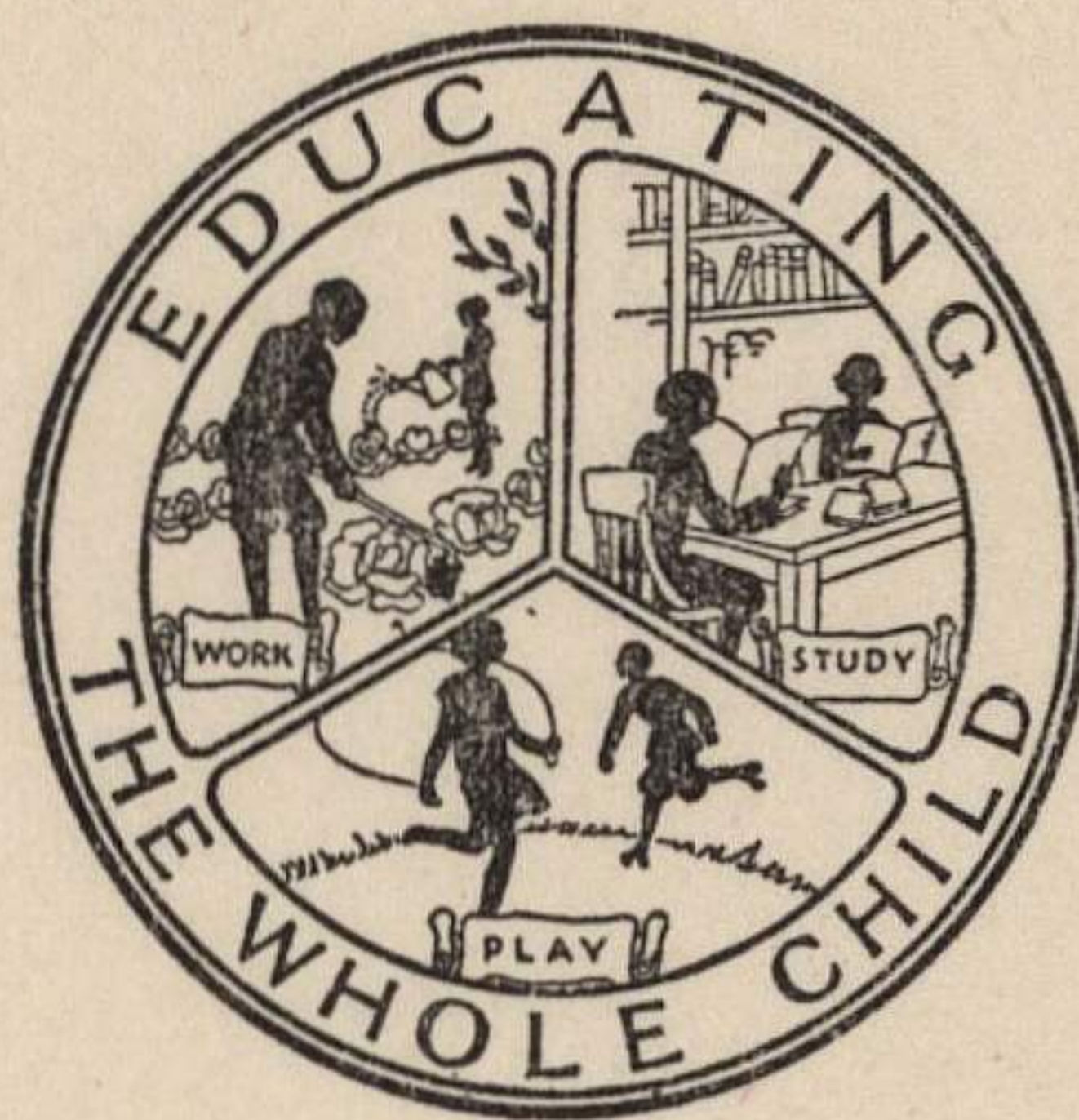
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FCA:AH

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GARY, INDIANA

Dec. 2, 1941

Dr. Forrest Allen
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you very much for your recommendation. I know that it has done a lot for me and I shall never forget it. I hope that I can return the favor in some small way some day. It will have to be small, because I will never be able to repay you.

I appreciate the assignment and Hope that my work will be satisfactory. Thanking you again and wishing you continued success I am,

Sincerely yours,

Don

Don Elser

November 21, 1941.

Mr. William Wendt,
Basketball Coach,
DePaul University,
2235 Sheffield Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Coach Wendt:

We will be agreeable to having Mr. Don Elser work
in our game.

The reason that I asked for Messrs. Clarno, En-
right or Craig is because we liked their work. They are
Big Ten officials and I thought their work was exceptionally
high grade.

Pecararo worked in our first Loyola game and I
did not care for him. That is why I desired someone else.
I will give you a list at some early date of men from whom
we would like to pick the other official. There are too
many officials in your part of the country to limit them to
Pecararo, Smith and McElligott.

Very sincerely yours,

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

FCA:AH

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DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Paul J. Mattei

GRADUATE MANAGER

Arthur B. Morse

November 18, 1941.

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have contacted Clarno, Enright, and Craig and not one of the three are available on that night.

Please reconsider Sam Pecararo, Tom Smith, and Frank Mc Elligott. I received a letter from Don Elser asking me to consider him. If you think he is alright I will be glad to put him on the game. Pecararo has an excellent record in this locality and I am at a loss to realize your attitude toward his work.

Sincerely yours,

William Wendt

William Wendt
Basketball Coach

ww/em

November 28, 1941.

Mr. Arthur B. Morse,
10 South LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Arthur:

Don Elser and Joe Rieff will be quite agreeable to us.

It was I who asked Bill Wendt to procure Craig, Clarno or Enright, but of course if they are busy then that is out.

I am sorry that I do not care for Sam Pecararo's officiating. I have nothing against him, but there are just some officials that I do not care to have. I will explain when I see you.

Don Elser worked two games for us with the University of Texas. He is a good official, fearless, and he does not chisel.

Thanking you for your cooperation and assuring you that we will ask for nothing that we would not want our opponents to have, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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

FCA:AH

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DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Paul J. Mattei

GRADUATE MANAGER

Arthur B. Morse

November 26, 1941

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have received your letter regarding officials. I am very sorry that circumstances have caused a dearth of officials for that night.

To review the matter, it is my understanding that Bill Wendt mailed you a list of officials which included the names of Craig, Clarno and Enright. Unfortunately, none of these men are available for January 31st, due to previous engagements. Please do not feel that there is an attempt being made to force Sam Pecararo upon you or anyone else for that matter. Since your last letter I have again communicated with the three gentlemen mentioned above and have again been assured that they cannot make the date.

If Joe Rieff is available, and I have suggested that he hold that date open subject to your approval, would you consider using him? I do not know Don Elser, and upon inquiry found that nobody has heard of him doing work of late. However, if he is your wish and if Joe Rieff is acceptable, the officials situation is cleared up. Joe is a big 10 official.

If you are doubtful about either one, please advise me at once and we will continue to submit further names until two officials are picked to the mutual satisfaction of both coaches. You may rest assured that your slightest wish will be accommodated if it is at all possible, with reference to officials and with reference to any other problem.

With very best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur B. Morse".

AM:GB?

P.S. Please continue to address me at 10 South La Salle Street, which is my law office.

November 28, 1941.

Mr. Don Elser,
Horace Mann School,
Gary, Indiana.

Dear Don:

I have just received a letter from Arthur Morse, graduate manager of the DePaul basketball team, and he states that he will engage you for our game in Chicago on January 31. I am glad that you will be able to work.

I told him that you are a good official, fearless and that you do not chisel. If I wanted a good recommendation I do not know one that I would rather have than that.

Sincerely yours,

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

FCA:AH

November 19, 1941

Mr. Don Elser
Horace Mann School
Gary, Indiana

Dear Don,

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Arthur Morse, Manager of the Chicago Games. I would be glad to use you, but we have not heard from the DePaul authorities as yet about the referees. We certainly would like to have you if we can possibly work it in.

Of course, everyone knows you as a Notre Dame athlete and you have a fine reputation as an official.

I will write you again after I have heard from Mr. Arthur Morse.

Sincerely yours,

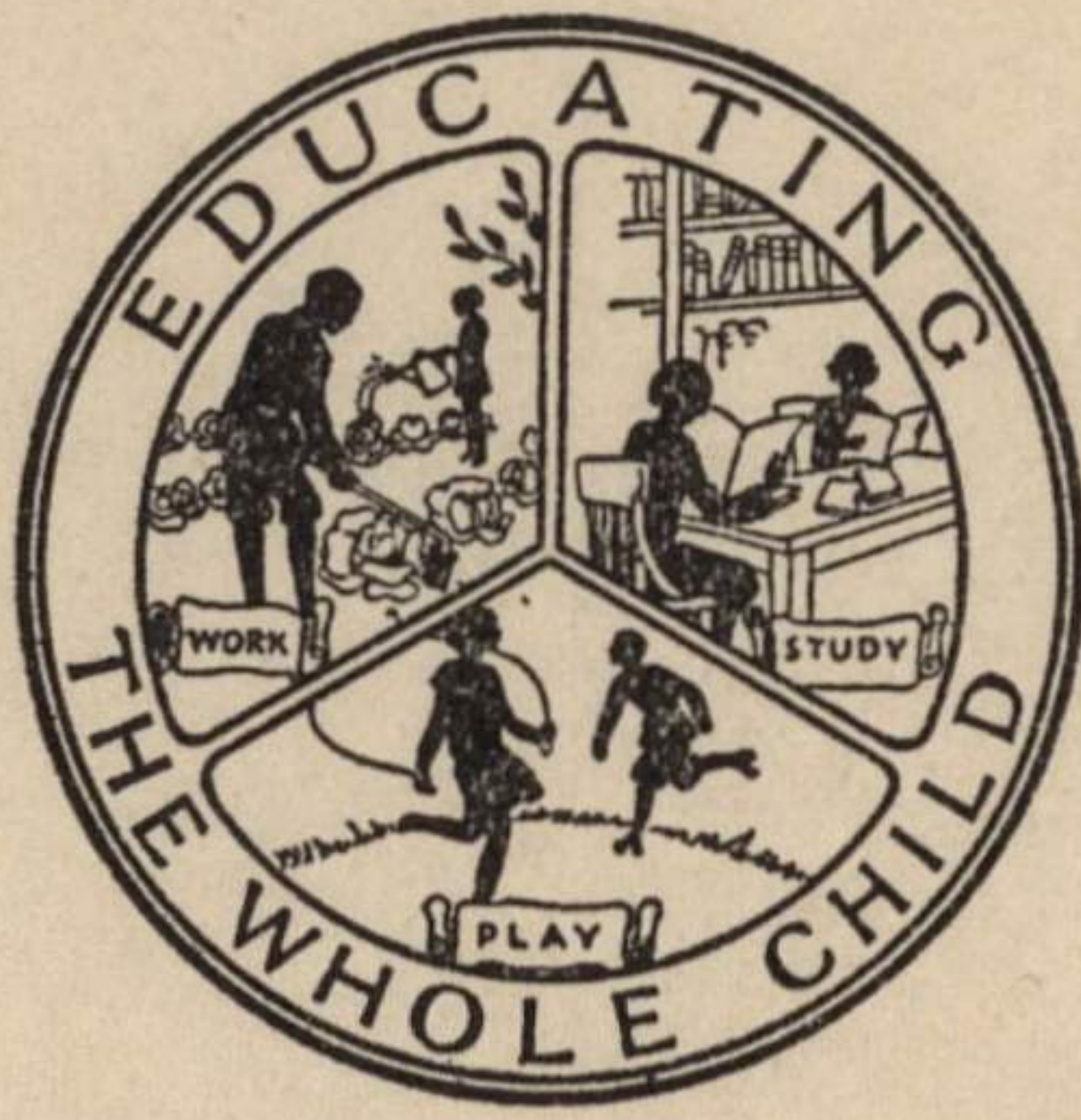
FCA/pg

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

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THE WORK - STUDY - PLAY PLAN

11/17/41

Mr. F. C. Allen
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I see you play the band in Chicago
in you. I'm trying to break in up here
but its hard & once I get started
I know I can click. I'm asking you
for a favor. I'd like to be able to
work that some for you. You've seen
me work so you can tell Bill
about it. I surely would appreciate
it beyond words. — Thanking
you in advance

Sincerely

Don Elser

November 19, 1941

Mr. Arthur Morse
10 S. La Salle St.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Arthur,

On October 23 I wrote Mr. Paul Mattei, Director of Athletics of DePaul University, and suggested that we would like to have Ike Craig and Lyle Clarno as officials for our game with DePaul, but to date I have had no word from him.

Don Elser has written me from Gary, Indiana, and we would be very happy to have him act as one of our officials if we cannot get either of these two I have mentioned to Mr. Mattei. Elser is a very fine official having worked for us a number of times here at Kansas. We want someone who we know is good. You will remember that the officials for the first Loyola-Kansas game were not satisfactory.

I wish you would look into the matter and talk with the DePaul authorities and see if we cannot get someone to do a good job. I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

FCA/pg
c.c. Mr. Don Elser

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach