

April 10, 1941

Mr. Ernest B. Smith
Director of Physical Training
Southeastern Air Corps Training School
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Smith:

I desire to write you concerning the character and ability of Mr. John Cress, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and an assistant instructor in our Department of Physical Education.

Mr. Cress is here on a fellowship this year. He has thrilled our Physical Education majors by his exceptional ability, and his highly developed skills on all pieces of apparatus in the gymnasium.

Mr. Cress has a pleasing personality and has exhibited a splendid attitude with the men under his teaching. He is cooperative, resourceful and has qualifications that an administrator highly desires.

Doubtless you know that he was a member of the National Champion Gymnastic Team at the University of Illinois. Since his coming here, interest in gymnastic skills has quadrupled. All the members of the Varsity Football and Basketball teams, who are majors in physical education, are enamored with his work. I mention this because of the fact that many so-called athletes rather look with disdain upon bar work, but since Mr. Cress' coming he has enthused this type of athlete until they work at it with enthusiasm comparable to their athletic achievement.

We have been more than pleased with Mr. Cress' presence on our staff and we regret to see him leave except for the fact that he is enlisting to serve his country.

At our budget conference our committee recommended an increase in salary for Mr. Cress should he have stayed.

I am happy to recommend him without reservation or evasion. He is one of the best qualified men that has come to us in a long time.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach

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