

Ray Parkins was a teammate of Louis Menze at the Teachers College. Louis Menze, after the war, took his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. I recommended Louis Menze eleven years ago to T. Nelson Metcalf, who was the Athletic Director at Iowa State College. Menze succeeded Bill Chandler, who was then coaching at Iowa State. Bill seemed to have tough luck and could not make the grade there in a basketball way. You know Bill is now at Marquette and going great guns. But Menze took the Iowa State team and built it up until Iowa State is one of the feared teams in the conference at present. In 1935 Iowa State won the Big Six championship. I only mention this because Parkins is the same type of boy as Menze is. He is as clean as a hound's tooth, has a wonderful personality, and would fit into anybody's organization in wonderful shape. A couple of years ago, just before Dave McMillan won his first Big Ten basketball championship, Parkins was seriously considered as cage coach for Minnesota.

Now, harking back to Parkins' football ability, might I make this one recitation of a situation that happened down at Fort Sill during the World War. Parkins was with the 35th Division, and the 35th Fort Sill was playing the University of Oklahoma at Norman. Pete Heil, a Kansas graduate and the quarterback for Pitt somewhere along in 1913 or '14, was doing the quarterbacking for the 35th Division. The 35th had not scored and the game was going along with Oklahoma a touchdown out in front. They substituted Parkins for Heil, and Parkins ran through the Oklahoma team for three touchdowns.

I am not trying to build this boy up a bit more than he deserves, but he was one of my greatest athletes, one of my cleanest and finest boys on the squad, and a perfect trainer. He had brains, ingenuity and a will to win. I used Menze, this boy who is now at Iowa State, as my left quarterback and Parkins my right quarterback. Menze pitched on the baseball team and was forward on my basketball team. Both boys, Parkins and Menze, were the same type athletes and they are the same type coaches.

I'll bet you a dollar if you will check with the Minneapolis people you will find that Parkins is tops. There are a lot of people in Minneapolis that you can get the dope from regarding Parkins, and I would not be afraid for you to ask anyone in that town, because I will recommend him without reservation or evasion whatsoever. He is about 43 years of age and would make you a great person. He is the kind of fellow that I am sure you would say is just about the right kind of a fellow to coach college men. He has won the state championship with his Edison High School team about three or four times in the past six years.

Last summer Parkins was selected as the high school coach to teach at Lake Okoboji, which is the school of Saunderson, the football coach at Morningside. He has had Frank Leahy of Fordham, and I taught there with Mattie Bell. He had Piggie Lambert and the so-called outstanding basketball and football coaches in the country, and Parkins was picked as the outstanding high school coach to lead the high school discussions.