

December 2, 1933.

Mr. Dave Shirk,  
1045 West Hills,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dave:

This is the least that I could do for you. Any time  
that I can do the smallest favor, please indicate it to me.  
I believe in you unequivocally.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



December 2, 1938.

Major L. McC. Jones,  
Director of Athletics,  
University of Nebraska,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Biffer:

A prophet or a specialist is a guy that goes so far from home that nobody knows him, and then makes predictions or observations that he expects people to believe. That kind of a fellow is as nutty as a fruitcake, but here comes one, Biffer.

I know that you are deluged with suggestions regarding your all-star line up for your East-West game, but I want to tell you about a fellow that I think is one of the greatest football players in the country. He has the ability, he has the courage and he has technique superabundantly. All he has ever needed has been the inspiration.

I am speaking of Dave Shirk, who came to us from El Dorado, Kansas, touted more highly than Ralph Graham, the great fullback of Kansas State College. Shirk was a fullback in high school, and was shifted to end. I have seen this boy play for four years and I have never seen him give anything except all he had at every game. He is an ideal trainer, he never dissipates, and he has the spirit of a killer when he is in the ball game, but he never oversteps this sportsman's mark.

I am writing to you about this fellow because I do not believe that the coaches outside of our own circle know his possibilities. He has not been heralded as widely as he deserves. People do not know that I am writing this letter, but I have such an admiration for him that I would like to do my level best to call to your attention his most admirable and efficient qualities. I am a great believer in Dave Shirk as a man and as a wonderful football player and outstanding athlete.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



December 6, 1938.

Mr. Sylvester Schmidt,  
Marysville, Kansas.

Dear Sylvester:

I certainly appreciate your good letter of the 4th instant. It was swell of you to come down and play the fine game that you did.

I am sorry that I did not get to see Regina and I want you to apologize to her for my failure to look her up to say hello. They really had me busy coaching the varsity as well as the freshmen that evening. I am sorry, too, that I did not see your good mother and dad. Give them my very best, and tell your dad that I hope we can have another golf game sometime along in the spring.

You and Fred certainly contributed a lot to the game and everybody was delighted to see you both in action. You looked your old-time self.

I have a little secret that I can't tell you now, but something is going to happen to you which will make you and Regina and your mother and dad and brother, your uncles and cousins and all the rest, very happy. It is not money, Sylvester, but it is worth more than that. You will find out soon after this letter arrives, I hope.

Now I sincerely trust I am not building you up too high for a let down, but you just wait and see if my hunch is not correct. All I can say is that it should have happened before.

Again thanking you, and with our best to all of you,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



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Received at 646 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, Kansas. Phone 2764

KAH20 30 NL XC=PAGECITY KANS 21

FORREST C ALLEN=

CARE KANSAS UNIVERSITY

AM TAKING MY BASKETBALL TEAM BACK EAST DURING THE HOLIDAYS  
WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO LOOK THEM OVER AND WILL YOU BE  
PRACTICING DECEMBER 29 PLEASE WIRE REPLY AT ONCE=  
LAURENCE STANTON...

1938 DEC 21 PM 7 58

*Rec'd Thru*

*Lyrie - 29 -  
F.C.A.*



January 9, 1939.

Mr. Dave Shirk,  
1045 West 11th,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dave:

I am enclosing one of the wrappers off my Beech-Nut mints, and you will notice that my name is spelled incorrectly. You will recall that I spelled it out twice for you, and wrote it down correctly, with two r's.

Since I paid the regular price for these mints, I am wondering just what I should do about it. I wish you would take it up with your boss and see what he thinks. I dislike to ask them to reprint all of these wrappers.

Drop in the office soon and let me know what you think should be done.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



January 10, 1939.

Mr. John Selleck,  
Athletic Association,  
University of Nebraska,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear John:

Sylvester Schmidt, one of my star players who graduated last spring, is desirous of obtaining four tickets for the Nebraska-Kansas game to be played at Lincoln on Saturday night. I wonder if you would kindly reserve four good seats for him.

If you will leave these tickets in the name of Sylvester Schmidt at the ticket office you will be reimbursed when he calls for them.

Thanking you for your kindness, and with all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



January 9, 1939.

Mr. E. W. Stuenkel,  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Alma, Kansas.

Dear Butch:

I am making a progress report to you regarding your son, Robert. I called Dr. Canuteson, and requested that he get in touch with Robert and have him in for the necessary pictures of Bob's chest. He said he would be glad to do it. I asked that he write you after the pictures have been taken and a report has been made.

I am sure that Bob will receive very excellent care from the head of the hospital and health department here at the University. Dr. Canuteson is a very capable physician.

I have also written Dr. Seothorn at Dallas, endeavoring to get information from him that will be helpful to you in your difficulty.

It was good to see you, Butch, and if there is anything that I can do to make your life more pleasant, or your son's work here less difficult, please let me know.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



January 9, 1939.

Dr. Scothorn,  
Osteopathic Physician,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Dr. Scothorn:

I want you to know how very much I enjoyed your fine visit when you came to the Hotel Adolphus during our stay in Dallas with the basketball team. I failed to get your initials, but I am writing you in quest of some additional information.

There is a middle-aged man who is an old football player and a practicing lawyer in Alma, Kansas, who is bothered with arthritis. He came into the office this morning, and of course he is greatly distressed. He has the involvement in one shoulder, one knee and both ankles. He has had his tonsils removed and the physicians are still looking for the focal infection.

I told him about the exercise that you had given me and told him to try that out. He is a very intelligent fellow, a graduate of the University, and I am sure he will do a pretty good job so far as intelligence goes. I am writing you to see what other things you would suggest in the treatment of this man's case from long range.

In other words, I would appreciate your writing me, giving me any hints that I could pass on to him, because he is an exceptionally fine man with a family and I would like to help him all that I can. I thank you for these hints, and in addition I want to say that it was fine to make your acquaintance and have a visit with you.

With all good wishes for a very prosperous and happy New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



Lawrence Public Schools

Lawrence, Kansas



Cordley School

Mr. Forrest Allen

% The University of Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

I thank you  
for sending us a referee  
for our games on March  
third.

Mr. Thompson does  
a nice piece of work.

Yours truly,

Hazel See Simmons



January 4, 1939.

Mr. Vernon Smith,  
Station WREN,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Bingo:

I want to tell you that I thought your broadcast by Rennie Ashburn was splendid. I came home in time to listen to the whole thing and called Rennie up and suggested if you could get hold of Mr. Wiley and ask him to intersperse some short, snappy band music when time was out I think it would add tremendously to the collegiate atmosphere that surrounds a basketball game.

We have never asked Mr. Wiley to do this, but if some one else would we would be very happy to have him do so.

You see, there is a minute intermission every time a time-out is called, and there are generally three or four times out for each team. Therefore these time-out periods would break the game description by Rennie enough to pep everybody up to an added degree.

Bing, I think you are going a great job and I want you to know how happy we are over your broadcasting the games in the way that you have started. If there is any way that we can cooperate with you all that is necessary is for you to indicate to us your desires and we will be Johnny-on-the-spot, cooperating one hundred per cent.

With fond hopes for a very prosperous and happy New Year for you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



January 23, 1939.

Dean D. M. Swarthout,  
School of Fine Arts.

Dear Dean Swarthout:

It was swell of you to write me and I appreciate such things as this from our friends.

I am not so thoughtful as you, however. Mrs. Allen and I have talked much about Evelyn's recital, and I had intended writing you right away to congratulate you on her smashing achievement at Town Hall. We talked about how long parents labor to fit their children for an occasion such as this. Both Mrs. Allen and I want to congratulate the Swarthouts on Evelyn's wonderful performance. You deserve to be very proud of her.

Cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS  
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 19, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen

Athletic Dept.

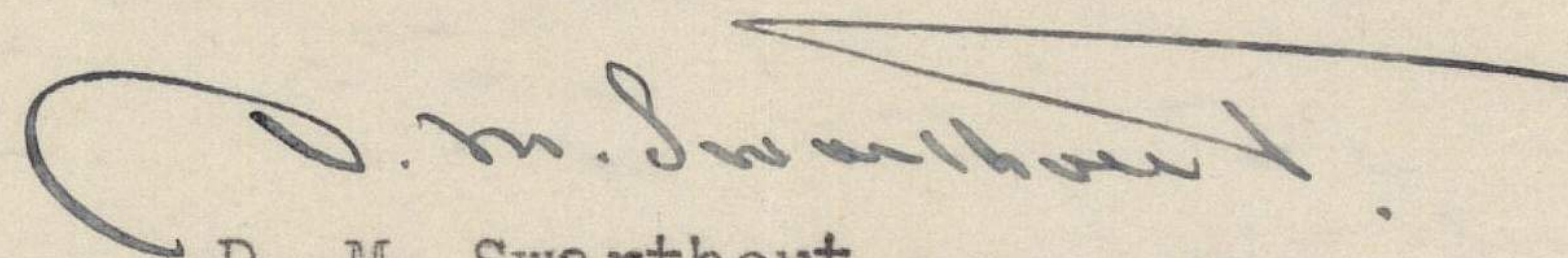
Dear "Phog":

Just a hasty line to let you know I  
was present at the big event last evening,  
and congratulate and salute you as the one  
and original "old master" in basket ball.

Whether you win your championship or  
not this year, you have already a team worthy  
of K. U. and your standing and their final  
record is bound to be a good one.

Good luck.

Cordially yours,



D. M. Swarthout  
Dean

DMS:AF



January 21, 1939

Mr. Dave Shirk  
1045 West Hills  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dave:

It was swell of you to furnish Dean  
with the gum. Dean says you are right on  
the job and we thank you for it.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education  
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:EEH



January 21, 1939.

Mr. Stanley Schwahn,  
Granada Theater,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Stan:

I am reserving 11 o'clock Saturday morning,  
February 4th, for the meeting of the shareholders of the  
Commonwealth Lawrence Theater Corporation.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



THE COMMONWEALTH LAWRENCE THEATRE CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual Meeting of the shareholders of The Commonwealth Lawrence Theatre Corporation, a corporation of the state of Kansas, will be held at the Granada Theatre, Lawrence, Kansas, on the 4th day of February, 1939, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., for the transaction of any and all business that may come before the meeting.

Dated January 19, 1939.

STANLEY E. SCHWAB  
President

TO:

Forrest C. Allen	Mrs. Roy Lawrence
Charles Amidon	Miss Minnie Moody
Dr. L. E. Bice	Dr. E. M. Owen
Owen Carl	Will Pendleton
Glenn Charlton	Harry Nevins
Jake Cohen	Dick Prosch
Morris Cohen	Floyd Raskin
J. W. Cohen	Raymond Rice
Commonwealth Theatres, Inc.	Mrs. Grace Schultz
Byron Cooke	Stanley E. Schwab
Tom Drake	T. J. Sweeney, Jr.
Exhibitors Film Rely. & Service Co.	Ralph Ward
C. E. Friend	Dick Williams
Paul Friend	Frank Whipple
Dr. J. B. Henry	M. S. Winter
Hovey Hanna	Arthur Weaver
Chris Hunsinger	M. S. Winter
	Miss Julia Larson
	Mrs. Erna Holmes

OK



January 21, 1939

Mr. Laurence Stanton  
Page City, Kansas

Dear Laurence:

The guard, which you described in your letter of the 19th, is the only one that I know of. If your player would get a blacksmith or someone to take out the bar which prevents him from seeing low passes, then weld it in the proper places, I believe this would be the best thing to do. Since he has the framework, he can build the bars the way he wants them.

Congratulations on the fine playing of your team!

I note what you say in regard to your outstanding guard; why does this boy want to go to Hays? Why not come to the university? It doesn't cost him any more. Try to sell him with this idea; you are a good salesman.

With best wishes for a very successful season I  
am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education  
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:EEH



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LAURENCE L. STANTON, SUPERINTENDENT

Page City, Kansas

HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

ETHELYN L. DIMMITT  
HILMA E. PETERSON  
THELMA STANTON

GRADE SCHOOL FACULTY

LORENE A. COLLINS  
MARGARET C. LINVILLE

January 19, 1939

Dr. Allen, Kansas University  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

A problem has come up on my squad on which I think you can give me the best information. The boy that plays center for us has poor eyes. We have been playing him without eye guards and he just can not see the ball. His defensive work has been outstanding but he has not averaged more than six points in a game. I sent to Lowe & Campbell for some eye guards and they sent all of the types that were stocked. The only one that we could use has a straight bar crossing just below the eye line. This prevents him from seeing low passes. Do you know of any company carrying a type that will suit our needs better? If at all possible I would like to get one with curved bars in front of the eyes. Any suggestion that you want to make will be appreciated.

Perhaps you would like to know how the boys have been doing since the season opened. We have played eleven games and have won all of them. Menlo, the strongest team that we have met thus far, was defeated last night by a 37-24 score. Our boys have scored 426 points to 168 for the opposition. We would have a much better team if more of the stronger teams would play us. Our League does not offer too much opposition. We played Oakley and won 53-13 so that did not do us much good. The boys are playing a combination zone and man for man. The guards and center play zone with the forwards playing man for man if the fourth man goes in. If we continue to be lucky we should win most of the remaining games on the schedule and go into the District tourney in good shape.

I wanted you to see one of my guards in action. He is recognized as the outstanding guard in this region and that is taking in all of the Northwest Kansas League teams. He is good as a defensive man and is second among our scorers. He probably will go to Hays but I surely would like for him to go any place but there.

Our players surely enjoyed watching your practise session. They still talk about it and come to me to make remarks about certain of your players after they see your box scores in the paper.

Yours sincerely,

*Laurence Stanton*  
Laurence Stanton



January 20, 1939.

Mr. O. R. Sturdy,  
Hugoton, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Sturdy:

This will acknowledge your good letter of the 9th instant. My secretary wrote you on January 14 that I would write you as soon as I returned from Lincoln, Nebraska. It happens that we have played, or are to play, six games in sixteen days, and about all I have had time to do is attend to my administrative work and get the team ready for trips or games.

Today at noon we are leaving for Manhattan, where we will have a tough game tonight with the Aggie boys. They are always tough down there.

I want you to know that I have gotten well acquainted with Lyle, although it has not been possible for him to get out but about six or eight times for practice. Lyle is a fine boy and a splendid athlete. I find that his fundamentals on pivoting, dribbling and passing are far above average. But we use a pivot designed always to pivot away from the opponent and always toward the sideline. This is somewhat new to some boys because many high school boys will pivot either inside or outside without thinking of the consequences.

I can see that Lyle has the making of a wonderful athlete. I have heard of his prowess on the track and in football and in basketball. It was unfortunate that he got hurt the first part of the year in football during his early freshman competition.

I take a large squad and work on more fundamentals than I do on scrimmaging. For that reason I haven't been able to see Lyle perhaps at his best. All the fundamentals that we work on are new to most of the group, so it is a matter of teaching, more than competition. We try to develop their reactions and reflexes so that when they get into a game they will perform in a way that the rest of the teammates will know just about where every individual can be found when a play is put on. Now, do not understand me to mean that the players are



robots, but we do have a fundamental style of working the ball down the floor, and when confronted by a guard we pivot and the players who happen to be in a strategic position perform according to a scheme of attack that we lay down. Even the fast break that we employ at times has a pattern of approach down the floor. The men are not always the same in location, but the attack works along the usual line. This is true of the defense.

So you see the type of work we have been doing has not been conducive to telling just how good a fellow is, but rather rounding him out for varsity play in the future.

I do not know whether I have answered all of your questions or not. But I want you to know that in my opinion Lyle has a great future here. There isn't any question in my mind but what Lyle can make the Kansas varsity without any trouble. He is big, quick, intelligent and resourceful. He has a fine body and a fine mind. I would be mighty happy to do all that I can for him because I think he is a fine boy.

Trusting that I have answered all the questions for you and that you will come up during the Kansas Relays or some time convenient for you so that we may get better acquainted and talk over our mutual desires, I am

Very sincerely yours,

WCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



Hugoton, Kans.  
Jan. 9, 1939.

Dr. F. C. Allen,

Basketball Coach,

Kansas University.

Dear Dr. Allen:

I understand  
you are also coaching Freshmen  
Basketball this year so  
am writing you in regard  
to my boy Lyle Sturdy. He  
was unable to come out  
~~early~~ because of track  
practice but I insisted  
on him coming out after  
Thanksgiving because you  
were coaching and I have  
been an admirer of your  
coaching ever since my



High school days at Halstead  
Kans.

Lyle is considered all over  
the southwest as the best  
all around athlete ever turned  
out in this section. His  
football playing in his  
senior year was sensational  
Especially his punting  
and passing. We had the  
best High School football  
team last year in the  
south west scoring 196  
points to opponents 6  
and Lyle accounted for  
around 140 of those points.  
He was never outworn last  
year in the 100 and 220 yd.  
dashes and also run in the



Medley and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile relay team which weren't defeated until the state meet. Lyle won his events in the state meet which Hugoton took in class B. with Lyle high point man of the meet.

But it is his Basketball that I am most interested in as I am a basket ball maniac I guess. Lyle made the Junior High team when he was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and hasn't been off the first team since.

Last year Hugoton played in the Ashland, Ks. invitation meet, the



Elimination tournament  
for class B teams at  
Whyses and the Regional  
at Meade, S.W. We won two  
but Plains, S.W. beat us  
in the Regional. Lyle made  
the All tournament team  
in every tournament and  
was voted the most valuable  
man to his team in the  
Meade, tournament. The  
Plains, Coach told me  
after the State meet. if he  
could of had Lyle on his  
team he would have gone  
to the finals.

The Coach here used  
him at forward on offense  
and guard on defense or



center on defense just depended on what man on the opposing team was best. Lyle is the only player that ever held Carroll, Plains All State Forward to less than 8 field goals. They beat us twice we beat them once last year and Carroll got four field goals in two of the games and two in the other and was held scoreless in the last half of Regional game. Incidentally Carroll made Fort Hays starting team his first year this year. Lyle has made as high as 42 points in one game



last year and in his junior year when he didn't have to play two positions I think his average was 16 points to a game for the year. The Coach here at Hugoton was all Central Conference forward at Southwestern two years and he says Lyle is one of the best defensive men he has seen.

I don't want this to sound like I am bragging Dr. Allen although I am mighty high on the boy but I have letters and newspaper clippings galore to prove every thing I have written



What I would like is for you to advise me by the time the first semester is over your actual opinion of Kyle. Whether you think he will be good enough after you have had him a year or so to make your team up there. I realize he has a lot to learn about basket ball but I know you are the man that can teach it to him.

If you actually don't think you can develop him to the J.K. U. Calibre I would like you to write me frankly so I can remove him and



send him to a smaller  
school where he can  
be eligible for competition  
next year as practically  
every Central Conference  
coach and one other  
Big Six coach begged  
for him last summer.  
Hoping this is not  
too much to ask of you.

I remain

Yours Truly,  
C. R. Sturdy



January 14, 1939.

Mr. O. R. Sturdy,  
Hugoton, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Sturdy:

Dr. Allen has received your letter of January 9th in which you write about your son, Lyle.

Dr. Allen is at present with the basketball team in Lincoln, Nebraska, where they play the University of Nebraska tonight. He will be in the office next week, and I am sure will write you before long. He had a talk with Lyle immediately upon receipt of your letter, and is very much interested in Lyle's welfare.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen.