

April 11, 1941

Mr. Leaford F. Cushenbery  
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Dear Mr. Leaford:

Thank you for your good letter of April 10 giving me full information on Bill Forsyth. I am writing him this morning and inviting him up for the Relays, and if there are any other senior boys there whom you feel might be offended by not being asked, I would be glad to extend the same invitation to them. Won't you kindly advise me in this matter?

It was a genuine pleasure, I assure you, to attend your splendid banquet and meet your fine people. I was much impressed with Bill Forsyth's father and mother. I had a nice visit with Bill's mother and she was a delightful woman. She certainly understands boys and I am sure that if Bill should come to the University we would have both Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth up here often. I am intending this as a compliment, because we would consider both parents intelligent patrons of the University.

Now, regarding a job for Bill; I can give him a job but I would want to talk to Mrs. Forsyth and I hope I have an opportunity of doing so before Bill comes. The reason that I mention the mother is because I had a longer visit with her and I would want to tell her that there are a good many adjustments that a Freshman must make. A fellow sweats with his brain as well as with his muscles, and with all the adjustments that a boy is forced to make, if you tie him down to too much work, then he will not be the superior student that he would be if he put his time in extra study and making adjustments.

If this boy is on my team, even as a Freshman, I assure you that I will check him closely and see that he is not getting around to the point of neglecting his studies. During the time the boys are out for their Freshmen Basketball, I will not let a boy play unless he makes a C average. Each year we drop a good many Freshmen from our Freshmen Squad until they bring their average up to a C. None of the Freshmen are permitted to play in the Freshmen-Varsity game unless they have this average.

I always hold to this for the Varsity for their non-conference games. Now, you can understand that the Big Six rules do not hold to this, but it is my theory of getting boys on the Freshmen Team impressed with the necessity of study, and too, I do not crack down on the boys in a hardboiled way, and say to them that they cannot play if they do not make their grades, but rather I explain to them that a depositor in a bank would not want to put his money in an unsound bank. Then I tell them that neither do I as a coach want to spend my time on Freshmen while I am teaching them the fundamentals, and then see them fail in their fundamentals of academic work or study.