

April 16, 1941

Bill Forsyth

Mr. Leslie Forsyth
Medicine Lodge, Kansas

Dear Mr. Forsyth:

It was mighty good of you to write me as you did in your letter of the 12th instant. I assure you I appreciate what you had to say and I assure you further that I will give your son the very best of attention. I rather make a family affair out of my basketball team. I always have done it and I find that it gives me much more pleasure to work with the boys in this fashion, and I also find that the boys like it very much better.

Last year I bought the boys fatigue shirts which they used in traveling. What I mean to say is that I bought them out of my own pocket because the Athletic Association did not feel able to purchase them. They were the cleverest things that had been worn by a traveling college outfit when we took the trip to New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, etc. These boys were really set up. They appreciated it more than if I had made a personal gift to them.

The three seniors, Howard Engleman, John Kline and Bob Allen, of course, were presented with theirs because they had played three years on the Varsity.. Each year when a player has served the Varsity three years he will get one of these shirts. Replacements, of course, will be made each year to the supply.

I only mention this to show you that when a coach spends some of his own money to give the boys something that they could not have otherwise, they deeply appreciate it, and they do things for the school and the coach that they want to do. It is just their democratic way of saying thank you.

So you can count on my taking a personal interest in these boys from the time they are freshmen to the time they graduate. I meet the freshmen quite often and do not wait until the boy has had one year of college life, which is the most valuable one, before I contact him.

I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity to talk with you after the dinner. But I promise you when I get out in your part of the country again this summer I will make it a point to have a visit with you and Mrs. Forsyth; or if you and Mrs. Forsyth should be coming to Lawrence, nothing would delight me more than to have a visit with you people and have you go over the things that you desire to talk to me about concerning Bill.

Bill has a fine background of basketball appreciation and you have had a lot to do with it. The fact that Bill picked Jack McCracken shows me that he picks the clever boys and not any other kind. Mr. Cushenbery certainly thinks Bill has the stuff and the fact that he is a leader in his school work in addition to his athletic skills confirms that belief.