

July 29, 1939.

Mr. Verne Wilkin,
1010 Dwight Building,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Verne:

Thank you for your note giving me the names of boys who were mentioned to you by Pete Peterson. I am very appreciative of your interest, Verne, but I think you know that I do not, nor ever will, go out and get boys to play on my teams.

I have the old-fashioned educators' idea, that the boys should come to the University primarily to get an education. They are the ones who will benefit by their training and education. After a boy chooses his school, then I am willing to help him in every way I can.

I am sure you understand all this, Verne, and know that I have the boys' best interests at heart.

Again thanking you for your note, and with all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



THE UNION CENTRAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

CINCINNATI

W. VERNE WILKIN
1010 DWIGHT BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Dear Phog -

Don't know whether these names
have come to your attention or not - if
so fine. Pete Peterson former basket ball
star at Washburn who now is doing
some umpiring of ball games gave me
this information.

Melvin Mudge - Eskridge Ks.
6' 10" handles himself very
good for a big boy - has a lot of
possibility to develop as he
overcomes the awkwardness
playing center in B. B. & Jack's
Dr. F. Ball

Bundy Eskridge
Guard at B. B.
Half back at F. B.

Charley Sloop - Lyndon - best
big man B. B. guard he has seen this year
& fast → wonderful backboard man.
He is working at Baker now -
no sign he has to go to school there
Verne

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 21, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen,
Basketball Coach, Univ. of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have just had a letter from Gilbert Wilson, one of my basketball players last year and in his letter he tells me of having a visit with you. He seemed to be very much thrilled over the courtesies shown him while there. He seemed to appreciate very much the attitude you took in his case. Naturally it pleased me and I want to thank you for what you did for him.

If you remember my talking with you in Sioux City during the Physical Education meeting he is the boy I mentioned to you. As soon as I told him that I had spoken to you about him he was immediately interested in going to see you. He has, as far as I know, very meager finances and I do not know if he will be able to pay out of State fees. If he can get enough to pay his out State fees I am sure he will enroll with you next fall.

You are probably surprised to know that I am working in Yellowstone for my third summer as Ranger-Naturalist and that I was granted a years leave from school to do work on my Ph. D. and that Mr. LaPorte of U. S. C. gave me a teaching fellowship for next year.

Fishing is good and I say the best in the world and if you come up this way ask for me at Old Faithful ranger station and I will take you on a real fishing trip and guarantee you your limit of fish.

Thanks again for the interest shown in Wilson.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. Watkins

R. D. Watkins, State Teachers, Kearney
Ranger-Naturalist

May 22, 1939.

Mr. Gilbert Wilson,
821 West 27th St.,
Kearney, Nebraska.

Dear Gilbert:

I appreciate your writing me and I further appreciate Coach R. D. Watkins recommendation to you that you finish your physical education work at the University of Kansas.

However, I might say that there is no basketball player here in school that I know of that is making all of his expenses. We do not approach the situation from that angle. It has always been my notion that any student would find it very difficult to get all of his expenses in school. The only individual that I could imagine who would be able to do that would be an assistant instructor or a laboratory assistant. I do not know of any standard university in the country that would have a lucrative job sufficient to do this.

About the most that any of our athletes on the basketball team are able to earn would be a maximum of \$20.00 a month.

Our University here is, of course, academically pretty difficult when a man works but two hours a day. When he works more I find that he is bound to neglect some phase of his activity. For that reason we have put the emphasis upon the academic side, and we definitely encourage our athletes not to depend upon working their entire way through school because they will forfeit their academic birthright.

For that reason I am afraid that it would be impossible for you to make all of your expenses while here. I do hope, however, that you are as successful as you have been in the past in making all your expenses, and if there is any time that I can help you please do not feel abashed in calling upon me.

Thanking you for your good letter and wishing you continued success, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

821, W 27th St
Kearney, Neb.
May 18, 1939

Forrest C. Allen
Basketball Coach
Kansas Uni.

Dear Sir:

My basketball coach, R. H. Watkins of Kearney State Teachers College, came back from the Physical Educ. Convention at Sioux City, Iowa, and told me that he would like to see me finish my college career at Kans. Uni. He said he spoke to you about my attending your school when you were at the convention.

I would be very happy to attend your school if it will not burden me financially. I have made all my expenses here at Kearney and will have to do likewise at Kansas. How much can an athlete expect to earn while attending school?

I would be very grateful for an immediate reply so I can make my plans accordingly.

Sincerely yours
Gilbert Wilson

Dear _____:

I am very glad to know of your interest in the University of Kansas, but as you know, we do not have any special scholarships of any kind for athletes here at the University, and of course we do not make any special offers to athletes on account of their athletic ability.

I know that you do not want to sell your academic birthright for a mess of pottage. I tell all the boys that you can get propositions from many schools, but if I were you I would pick out a school that you really want to attend, and then go to that school regardless of whether you make \$15.00 a month or \$30.00 a month.

If you have saved enough money to pay for your books, tuition and incidental expenses, then I am sure that you will have no difficulty in making the grade here at the University of Kansas. I do not want to appear to preach, because no one is converted after very much preaching. I tell all the boys that the first thing they must get is their academic work. That is the thing you go to school for, and you will find that your degree from the University of Kansas will amount to just as much as you think it is worth, or as much as you put into it.

It is necessary for you to make definite progress toward graduation to establish yourself as a student in the University. There are three other things besides academics which a student may indulge in here on Mount Oread - athletics, politics and social life. A boy who works his way through, either partially or wholly, can only choose one of those three and still make a go of his academic work and his chosen avocation or hobby. About 15% of the students at the University participate in athletics; about 15% take part in politics as their hobby; and about 15% are active in the social life. To endeavor to do more than one of these three prime non-necessities of student existence is a sure debacle as far as your academic work is concerned.

You will find that I am not trying to entice you here as a student because you played basketball. I have never contacted basketball players because I think that any coach who offers a boy a job on account of his athletic ability is doing the boy a real injury. I tell each athlete that he cannot help the University on account of his athletic skill. The University helps him. When I think of the great scientists here, - such as Dr. Cady who discovered helium gas - and other great men of science, then I am reminded of the insignificance of the contribution of an athlete to his university. Of course, people come to see the game in which you or I are playing, but if you or I had never been born they would still go to see the game and to see other boys playing.

So, when you consider the University of Kansas please do not think that I am endeavoring to entice you to the University on account of your basketball ability. If you should decide to attend the University I would be glad to help you help yourself, but I cannot promise anyone assistance until he has definitely made up his mind to enroll at K. U.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Dear _____:

I am very glad to know of your interest in the University of Kansas, but as you know, we do not have any special scholarships of any kind for athletes here at the University, and of course we do not make any special offers to athletes on account of their athletic ability.

as a consequence

a good athlete

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where

play

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The University of Kansas

primarily

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Dear _____:

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I tell all the boys that a good athlete can get propositions from many schools, but if I were you I would pick out a school that you really want to attend, and then go to that school regardless of whether you make \$15.00 or \$30.00 a month. I know that you do not want to sell your academic birthright for a mess of pottage.

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So, when you consider the University of Kansas please do not think that I am endeavoring primarily to entice you to the University on account of your basketball ability. If you should decide to attend the University I would be glad to help you help yourself, but I cannot promise anyone assistance until he has definitely made up his mind to enroll at the University of Kansas.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Ike Davis, 6'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Paseo High 3 years ago)
Bill Stock, Westport High) Bud Kennedy

✓ Harold Wright, Dwight, Kansas, over 6' (Joel N. Martin, Prin.)

✓ EARL Bozeman, Nickerson, 6'4" (L. R. Buell)

Engelland, Nickerson "

~~Reed Anderson, Norcatar, 6'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (Russell "Dutch" Anderson, Oberlin)~~

Russell Reinecker, McPherson, 6'3" (Ernie Vanek)

✓ Victor Ebaugh, McPherson, 6'1" "

Hoover, Ellsworth, 6'4" "

Schubert, Ramona, over 6' "

Clayton Smith, Prescott (Harry Miller, Prescott; Dick Amerine)

Douglas Condit, Salina, Okla., 6'6" (L. L. Gaylor, Prin.)

✓ Byron Kern, Atchison (Rice Phelps)

LCN Burnett, Dodge City 6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (Doral Grose)

✓ VERN Schwertfeger, Dodge City 6'4" "

✓ Vance Hall, Downs (Wm. H. Harrison)

Allen Verhage, Downs "

Max Kissell, Portis

Charles Read, Baxter Springs (Win Tate)

Richard Chubb, "

Walter Hartley "

William Burcham "

Paul Heap, Tulsa (Buck Trombold)

Red Pemberton, Tulsa "

Gerald Burton, Tulsa (Sidney Rice)

Lou Steimmeyer, Kansas City, Kans, 6'5" (Dr. Billingsley)

Roy and Guy Mitchell, Hutchinson (Herbert Sizemore)

Warren Settles, Scott City, 6'3" (A. S. Foulks, Ness City)

James Weir, Green River, Wyo., ~~6'6"~~ 6'6" (Wm. Timothy)

✓ Don Blair, Ottawa, 6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

DON BLAIR, Ottawa, 6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (Horace Mason says he may even be taller than this. He is better than the average player; the best Ottawa had this year. Horace saw him play against Lawrence this year.)

ROBERT L. KLAUHN - 1400 Ohio Street, tel. 1486

Enrolled this semester as a sophomore in Elec. Engr., carrying 13 hours, on probation.

His record follows:

entered in Summer '36 and made	8 hrs.
In fall of '36 made	7 hrs.
On probation spring '37, made	9 hrs.
In fall '37 made	4 hrs.
In spring '38 made	8 hrs.
(failed in 5 hrs; passed in 8)_____	
Total	36 hrs.

JIMMY WEIR, Green River, Wyoming, 6'6"

(Bill Timothy and Lester Kappelman are coming in to talk to you about this boy.)

Kansas High School Basketball

GERALD TUCKER, Winfield- Easily the outstanding high school player in the state this year. About 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 185 pounds or better. Only 16 years old and a junior. Does all of his damage around the basket. A one hand shooter almost entirely, but does not shoot pivot shots very often. Directs his team's play more than any other player I have ever seen. Practically a coach out on the floor. Very cool and calm. My only possible criticism is that he did not fight quite enough at times. A good man on defense, however, and a sweet rebounder. Plays it smart. Very strong and can throw the ball like it was an orange. His passing may lack finesse, but he gets the job done. Feeds his teammates plenty. Did not show up as well in the championship game as he had in others, but was being guarded by a fine guard, In addition, his teammates were not too hot at getting the ball in to him when he was playing the post. The fact that he got only 8 points against Eldorado was due in large part to the fact that he played inside on offense only about half the time, being in the back line the rest of the time. Plays back there part of the time to settle the team down. Leading scorer in the Ark Valley this year by a good margin. One of the best high school tennis players in the state. Always came up the floor slowly, but this does not mean he cannot run. Last year, when Winfield used the fast break at times, he was the first man down the floor. That he is still plenty speedy was indicated by the way he got back on defense. Does not shoot nearly as much as most players would under the circumstances/ and yet piles up big totals any way. The slow break, also, handicaps Tucker in trying to keep up with the scoring pace set by Miller and Engleman when they were in high school.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

JACK WEDDLE, Winfield- One of the two best guards at the tournament. Slightly over 6 feet tall and weighs about 165 pounds. Another junior. An all-Ark Valley guard this year. Leading scorer among guards in the Ark Valley this season. A good one hand shot and a boy who drives hard for the basket. His play is characterized by lots of energy and fight, directed in the right channels. Seldom makes unnecessary fouls. A beautiful rebounder, he and Tucker got almost every rebound. On defense, he is a tenacious guard, with remarkable reflexes. A fine ball player.

DALE COVERT, Eldorado- The other outstanding guard in the tournament. Did a beautiful job of guarding Tucker in the game for the championship and is the only man who has held Tucker down all season. Guarded him three times. Is 6'4" tall and weighs about 185 pounds. Plays tackle on the football team and looks about like Fred Bosilevac did when he was in high school as far as build goes. Very good at guarding post men. Not an especially hot ball handler. Plays outside on offense part of the time and also plays post part of the time. About as much a center as a guard. A good man on recovery shots under the basket. An all-Ark Valley guard. A Junior.

DICK NOLAN, Ward- One of the few good men who graduate this year. Made the two all-state teams. Plays the post beautifully for a man who isn't any bigger than he is. Slightly over 6 feet tall and weighs about 155 pounds. The only returning regular from last year's championship team. Can make practically any shot off the post. Dribbled around the Lawrence guards till they went crazy. Against tight defenses, he whipped the ball back out as fast as he got it to give his guards good set shots. Plays the post very smart. Had very good feeders and took advantage of it. Is a good clutch player.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

LOU STEINMEIR, Wyandotte- Biggest boy in the tournament. Is 6'5" tall and weighs about 190 I would guess. A senior and I understand from a reliable source he wants to come to K.U. His play in the two games Wyandotte was in was very encouraging. He looked greatly improved over last year. Got around well and has good movement. Scored 8 of Wyandotte's 15 points when they lost to Wiffield. Got all of his points around the basket. Might be pretty good if we get him up here. At least is worth a try. Leading scorer of Wyandotte team.

DICK SHAKESHAFT, Topeka- Tall, red head. Is 6'3" or better. Missed a million layups when Topeka lost to Hays, but I still think he is a fine prospect. Has good enough coordination to be a red-hot high hurdler. Has size, speed and natural ability. Also has had considerable experience. Bagged 15 points against Lawrence in the regional final. Goes up into the air very well. A senior this year and a good prospect in both basketball and track.

VESTIE WHITE, Ark City- Only a sophomore, he is by far the best college prospect on the Ark City team. About 6'1" tall and weighs around 165. Plays ~~in~~ with the coolness and poise of a veteran and can battle like a wildcat when fight is the thing that is neededmost. A sweet pivot shot and a good all-around player. Rebounds very nicely and is good on defense. A fine ball handler. Comes from an athletic family. Should be awfully good.

GUY MITCHELL, Hutchinson- Another sophomore ace. Better than White right now, but will not develop as much I believe. Attitude is not very good. Guy and his brother are pretty cocky. Looks old and plays like an old hand. A beautiful one hand shot. Can hit long as well but seldom shoots from far out. Fine floor man and an exceptional ball player for a sophomore. If he improves at a normal rate he will be a sensation, but I don't think he will improve that much.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

ROY MITCHELL, Hutchinson- Did not look so hot at the tournament, but apparently was playing considerably below par. Is about 6'1", I believe, and his brother is around the same height. The Mitchell boys had practically the same point average in Ark Valley play, so Roy must have just been off. He ~~did~~ not appear to be as aggressive as Guy, however, and played in the back line part of the time. Hutchinson's favorite setup was a double post with the Mitchell boys playing them, but they did not use this all of the time. A junior.

DANNY SIDENER, Ark City- This boy made the Capitol's all-state team, ^{at guard,} but if he is that good, I certainly could not see it. He is a nice ball player and better-than-average, but he certainly is not a scoring threat in anybody's league. Sidener stands 6'1" or taller and weighs about 185 pounds. He was a star end on the football team and is a senior. Sidener is a good rebounder and a fair guard, but is certainly not the best man on defense I ever saw.

J.T. JAMES, Ark City- James is Ark City's other guard and a better prospect than Sidener it seemed to me. James is only a junior and he is a scoring threat as well as a good guard. He is around six feet tall, weighs 175 pounds or so and rebounds well. He has a sweet long shot on which he does not have to get set. Plays post on offense once in a while, as does Sidener. Not too smart looking.

BARNEY OLDHAM, Hays- The best dribbler in the tournament in recent years. Dribbles around men and just keeps dribbling and dodging until he can get a one hand hook shot at the basket. Was red hot on them against Ark City and scored 20 points. Such a performance against a quick team like Ark City proved that he was a genuinely fine dribbler and not just looking good by any faults of his opponents. I thought he was a senior, but the Capitol said he is a junior. Too short, about 5'7".

High School Basketball (Cont.)

LARRY McSPADDEN, Eldorado- A smooth player, but I am not sure just how good a college player he will make. Did not mix it up enough, it seemed to me. Let the other boys get the rebounds. An even six feet tall and trimly built. The only really smooth ball handler on the team. A sweet pivot shot and a good two hand shot, especially from the corner. An All-Ark Valley forward and a senior.

BOB KENT, Eldorado- Eldorado teams are the Wildcats and this boy is certainly a wildcat. He was the smallest man on the team, not making six feet, but how this boy scraps. He dogs the ball and rebounds with a vengeance. Also was the best two hand shot on the team. Drives hard for layups, but if he has a guard on him who will not let him in, shoots long with accuracy. Supposed to be a junior.

JIM ROBERTS, Winfield- One of the many nice looking juniors in the tournament. Six feet tall and plays with a reckless abandon. Takes lots of chances and either looks like a champ or a chump. Always trying to intercept the passes between the offensive guards. A hard driver for the basket. Fouls out frequently because he plays so recklessly. He might develop into a pretty nice forward next year.

CLIFFORD SICKLES, Winfield- Not a conspicuous player, but a pretty reliable one. Played the other forward with Roberts. About 6 feet or 6 feet 1 and a junior. Can zip down the floor when he wants to. Scraps hard for rebounds, although he is not very heavy. Just a nice ball player, nothing to boast about, but might develop next year.

LARRY SMITH, Wyandotte- A senior guard, who is plenty sweet on defense. Less than average on offense, however. About 6'1" tall and weighs 180 to 185. A tackle on the football team and supposedly is headed for Kansas State. This boy really puts the clamps on the man he is guarding, usually by good position and good foot work. Not too hot.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

RAY EVANS, Wyandotte- The Bulldogs other guard and practically the opposite of Smith. Plays like a wild man. May dribble the length of the floor any moment. A big boy and it is no fun getting in front of him. Is 6'1" tall and weighs around 180 pounds. Only a junior. Was a sensation at end in football last fall. A great football prospect. Overflowing with drive and pep and if he can be polished up a little more, should be a red hot next year. A diamond in the rough.

LEO HEADRICK, Wyandotte- Another Wyandotte boy who will be back next year. Lean and rugged. Is 6'1" tall and weigh around 163. Was hot the first night and just as cold the next night when they needed points. A good all-around man on offense. Can hit one hand and two hand shots with equal facility and is a nice ball handler. Awfully good on defense for a forward because he used to be a guard. A junior.

BILL BRILL, Wyandotte- Wyandotte's third regular who will be back next year. A junior forward, standing about 6'2" tall, A nice ball handler, who showed more fight at the tournament than I had expected from him. Sprained his ankle badly in the second quarter of the first game. Supposed to be the best rebounder on the team. A disappointment to Wyandotte fans in scoring, however. A regular as a sophomore also.

_____ CHRONISTER, Coffeyville- One of the best looking prospects at the tournament in the single game Coffeyville got to play. Is a 6'3" senior forward weighing about 175 pounds. Banging long ones from the corner. Got three from there I think. Drives hard for one hand shots and has very good movement. Rebounds well. Also played sensationally in their three regional games, but was only medium during the regular season I believe. Got 12 or 13 points in the game at Topeka.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

WARREN SETTLES, Scott City- A big, rugged boy. A senior who is 6'3" tall and weighs around 190 pounds. A center. Seemed to be a fairly good boy potentially. Apparently had not had too much coaching or experience and was far from a finished player. Did not handle the ball smoothly, but was effective. He fairly waded around around the basket. Not a bad pivot shot, but missed setups and free throws.

DON PALMATEER, Lawrence- A pretty good high school guard, but I don't know how good he will be as a college ball player. A plenty rugged boy, who rebounds nicely. A sweet ball handler. Is 6'1" tall and weighs 185 pounds. Pretty good on defense. Probably be better in football in college. Is a good shot however, both on long shots and one handers. Has the old fight, but fouls out occasionally as a result.

JACK CORLIS, Lawrence- Another senior at Lawrence high. Is a 6' senior center. Afraid he is too weak on scoring to make a good college ball player. Also lacks fight. A sweet ball handler, but a little too methodical. Looked good on defense at times. His passing might get him by, but personally I don't think so.

JUNIUS PENNY, Lawrence- A sophomore who is one of the finest natural athletes Lawrence has had in recent years. A sweet football player as a center and a fine forward in basketball. Is 5'10" tall, weighs about 168 pounds and is built beautifully. Makes most of his points on recovery shots, but when he gets hot makes some uncanny goals. A real scrapper and a fairly good ball handler. Needs just a little more polish.

High School Basketball (Cont.)

GLEN TRYON, Pittsburg- A tall junior center who may be pretty good next year. Is 6'3½" tall and skinny. All-conference center this year. Must have had the "buck" at Topeka, because he played like he was walking in his sleep. Made several nice pivot shots at that, but made little effort to get the ball when it was passed wide to him~~y~~ or in any other way show enthusiasm.

HORACE HUGGINS, Coffeyville- Another tall boy from the same conference who was a considerably worst bust at the tournament. Huggins, Coffeyville's leading scorer during the regular season, did not get a single point at Topeka and did not look good in any department of the game. This does not prove he is a poor prospect, but it gave me a poor opinion of him after reading about him all year. A 6'3" senior.

JUNIOR WILLIAMS, Salina- A nice high school ball player, but I am dubious of him as a college player. Only~~y~~ a junior, however, and might improve even more next year. Hustles the ball all over the floor and is a sweet shot. About 5'9" tall, I would guess. Has that old fight and was the boy who kept Salina in the ball game.

Tall High School Basketball Players

- 6'7" Dick Dolloff, Winfield
- 6'7" _____ Roller, Marquette
- 6'5" Lou Steinmeir, Wyandotte
- 6'5" George Andresen, Wyandotte
- 6'5" Darren Schneider, St. Francis (Junior)
- 6'4" _____ Covert, Eldorado (Junior)
- 6'4" _____ Miller, Coffeyville *Jr.*
- 6'3½" Gerald Tucker, Winfield (Junior)
- 6'3½" Ned Tryon, Pittsburg (Junior)
- 6'3" Dick Shakeshaft, Topeka *Sr.*
- 6'3" Bob Kirchner, Topeka
- 6'3" Horace Huggins, Coffeyville *Sr.*
- 6'3" _____ Chronister, Coffeyville

6'8" EUGENE WATSON, HOUSTON, MO.

6'4" VERN SCHWERTFEGGER, DODGE CITY I.C.

6'½" *Burnett* Dodge City H.S.

TIERNAN - Ward H. S.

(John Lonborg)

Looked good two seasons ago; not so good last season - reason
not known . Intelligent to talk to.

165# - 6' or a little over.

Guard position.

(For further information write C. Wilkenson, of Kansan.)

TALL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

6'1 1/2"

Burnett, Dodge City

Schwertfeger (6'4"), Dodge City

Bledsee, Great Bend

Brock, Stafford

Vance Hall, Downs - o.k.

Clayton Smith, Prescott (Dick Amerine) - Coach Carrier, Harry A. Miller