

Centre College of Kentucky

Athletic Board of Control

July 1924

File
July 10th, 23

J. H. DEES
Varsity Chairman
W. HICKMAN CARTER
Treasurer

ROBERT L. MERRA
Head Coach
HAROLD F. OFSTIE
Asst. Coach

Danville, Ky.

DEAR FRIEND:

This time I want to tell you how well we're fixed at Centre to give all football men the best coaching. I brought the present system of play to Centre seven years ago, which developed such stars as Covington, Bo-McMillin, Red Roberts, Red Weaver, and many others of national reputation. That system is still being carried on at Centre in full swing, and I guarantee it to make a star out of you if you have the makin's in you.

We give you the best equipment money can buy. We know how to train you and keep you in condition. You hardly ever see a Centre player even limp. When an official yells, "Time Out", it's generally for the other fellow. We know how to train and protect you so you won't get hurt. That's why the Colonels run their opponents ragged so often in the last quarter.

Get this, too, for it's important. We teach you the fundamentals of the game, first - the "jillion" things you have to be able to do right before you're the real goods. Most coaches slight this work, but we know better. As a Freshman you would practice much of the time with the varsity, and get the same individual coaching (and cussing) that they get. Besides you have your own coach, your own field, and your own schedule. Also you can play in some of the varsity games your first year.

And, big boy, we teach you a football offense that is a joy to behold.

As Head Coach, I have to see that the coaching department is up to snuff, and believe me, young squirrel, it is. Hold still a minute and I'll tell you something that listens good.

One of the best ends ever in the West, and one of the smartest coaches in the country today is Harold S. Ofstie, of California, who is to work with me at Centre to keep the Colonels on top. Ofstie played right end on Wisconsin in 1911, 1912, and 1913. Wisconsin won the Big Ten and Western championship in 1912. At the close of each of these seasons Ofstie was chosen All-Conference, All-Western, or All-American end. He was chain lightning on the field. He kept his team pepped up and playing jam-up football all the way. He was the life of the team. In basketball and track he was also a star. All round, Ofstie made a fine record as an athlete and a student. He was brilliant in engineering and President of his class, and President of the Student Athletic Council, and personally very popular.

A year or so ago Wisconsin was looking for a new Head Coach. In a statewide voting contest for this position Ofstie was the popular choice, and barely missed being chosen to this big job. Before this he had made a great record coaching the Wisconsin Freshmen in 1914. Then he won the college championship of the West for Ripon in 1915 and 1916, with only 150 boys in the whole school. Then Ofstie was in the army and did not coach again until 1921 when he coached the Univ. of Southern California Freshmen to the championship of the Pacific Coast. They not only beat the Univ. of California Freshmen, with 22 High School captains on their squad, but whaled the tar out of some of the best college and club teams on the Coast. In 1922 he was offered the position of Head Coach at Mississippi A. and M. in the middle of the season, but declined. In 1924, Ofstie coached the Great Lakes Naval Training Station team to a national championship. Now we've got him at Centre where he'll be from "now on", working with us in football, and in direct charge of basketball and track. He's a "shark", at all three.

You've got to hand it to Ofstie, because he is right up among the best football coaches in America. His teams are always made up of fighting fools who would go through heck and high water for him. He's just the man to fit in with our crowd at Centre. By the way, he coached Washington and Jefferson for two weeks prior to their big game with California two years ago. W. and J. played California to a standstill, and "Greasy" Heale, W. and J. Coach, publicly gave the credit to Ofstie.

It's no wonder we're feeling fine and "settin' pretty", at Centre. The old gang will all be back, the old rootin', tootin', fightin' bunch of brothers that is going to keep on movin' 'em down in the future just as they've been doing in the past, and don't you let any one-gallus guy with a bee in his pants tell you any different.

We'll be looking for you, old-timer. The lathstring will be on the outside and we'll be proud to have you with us. On the square, what better luck could you wish for yourself than to be a Centre Colonel?

YOURS IN OLD CENTRE,

Robert L. May
HEAD COACH.