

C O P Y

Danville, Ky.
October 13, 1924.

Dr. R. A. Montgomery,
Pres. Centre College.

My dear Dr. Montgomery:

In view of the possible questions that may be asked in regard to the cancellation of the football game with Carson-Newman College on October 11, I feel that you should have a statement of the causes that led to this cancellation.

Reasons for conducting an investigation.

There has been a persistent rumor for several months that Carson-Newman was collecting a group of "ringers" for the express purpose of defeating Centre in the game this fall. About the middle of September we received a clipping from the Syracuse, N. Y. Journal, containing the following statement: "Four Syracusans, three of whom were up to this year students at the University and members of Meehan's squad, are now members of the Carson-Newman College eleven down South. Their names cannot be published. The quartet has been at Carson-Newman since early this month and has been drilling for a season, which is expected to make the Southern eleven shine in intercollegiate circles this fall."

On Friday, October 10th, the editor of the Kentucky Advocate received a request from the Syracuse N. Y. Herald for a line up, a summary, and a 200 word story of the Carson-Newman-Centre football game.

Evidence procured previous to the cancellation.

On Friday morning, October 10th, I received the following list of men certified as eligible by Dean John D. Everett, of Carson-Newman College:

Sam Holt, Walter Haas, John Hutchins, Walter Abbott, Tom Taylor, M. Weaver, A. Weaver, J. P. Weaver, David Jacobs, Cecil Lillard, J. E. Ruby, Henry Seneff, Earl Smith, Iris Tucker, Hobart Sprinkle, Wm. Shalkeford, Harold Leftwich, John Sutherland, Debriall Hicks, Robert Snyder, John Fifield, George Ballard, Tee Ballard, H. Holmes, C. A. Harwood, Roy Dillon, Kenneth Swartz, S. David, S. T. Mudford, Eddie Freeman, Hollis Bible, Milas Shoun, Walter Wilson, Harold McNabb, Aubrey Eggers, George Simmons, Glenn Hampton.

On Saturday morning a night letter was received from Dean John D. Everett, of Carson-Newman, giving the following list of Carson-Newman eligible players for the Centre game:

Holt, Haas, Hutchis, Abott, McNabb, G. Ballard, T. Ballard, Holmes, Smith, Freeman, Fifield, Simmons, Tucker, Swartz, Jacobs, Taylor, J. Weaver, M. Weaver, David, Wilson, Shackelford, Leftwich, Sutherland, Shoun, Rule, Eggers, Harwood, Mudford, Bibble, Hampton, Ridgeway

A. Weaver, Lillard, Hicks, Sprinkle.

In a telephone conversation between Dr. R. A. Montgomery of Centre College and Dean John D. Everett of Carson-Newman about two P. M., on Friday, October 10th, Dean Everett said that to the best of his knowledge there were no men from Syracuse, New York, in College at Carson-Newman. There were no transcripts on record to that effect.

Mr. T. A. Reyneirson, a citizen of Danville, made the following statement:

"I do hereby state that on Friday, October 10th, in the Gilcher Hotel lobby, a Carson-Newman football player, who in my opinion resembles player #21 in Spalding's Guide of last year's varsity football team of Syracuse University, approached Head Coach Russell whom I know and made this remark to him: 'Coach, it seems we have started something', and the coach in reply said, 'Now, you must keep quiet about that. They will have to prove it. They are the ones to do the worrying, not us.' Player #21 in question, was registered as Harwood."

Signed:

T.A. REYNIERSON.

The following consists of the list of men registered at the Gilcher Hotel as members of the Carson-Newman squad:

Coach Russell, Manager Hudgins, Holt, Hutchins, Freeman, Swartz, Rubinsmith, Fifield, David, Jacobs, Mudford, Haas, McNabb, Lillard, Senef, Harwood, Abbott, Dillon, Ballard, Wilson, Weaver, Taylor, O. R. Taylor.

On this list, Coach Russell stated that he had no knowledge of such a man as Rubinsmith. A follower of the Carson-Newman team, J. B. Bundren, stated that he knew nothing of a man by such a name.

On the afternoon of Friday, October 10th, the Carson-Newman squad practiced on the Centre Athletic Field. On that occasion there appeared in uniform a man who was recognized as Ziff of last year's Syracuse team. It is to be noted that the name of Ziff does not appear on the list of eligible men or upon the Hotel registry of the squad. Neither does it appear on the Hotel registry at any other place. However, Ziff was with the team at the Hotel, and practiced with them in uniform.

At about eight o'clock P. M. on Friday night, Coach Russell was asked to meet with the Athletic Board of Control of Centre College at the home of President Montgomery. At this meeting there were present, President Montgomery, Coach R. L. Myers, Professors Biles, Hewlett and Cheek, Dr. O. L. May, T. A. Reynierson, and C. W. Lemon, also W. H. Carter.

Coach Russell upon being asked if there were any Syracuse men upon his squad, stated that there were four such men, Ziff, and Fivaz who had formerly attended Syracuse University, and Jacobs and Mudford who were freshmen at Carson-Newman. He stated that Fivaz was not with the team but that the other three were but that he did not intend to use Ziff in the game.

He was asked in regard to what he knew of the previous records of the men upon the squad and in the case of nine of them was unable to give any information as to their places of resident. In regard to Harwood, he stated that Harwood was a freshman from Idaho.

He stated that in view of the question that had arisen, he would rather cancel the game than to play it.

When asked if he would object to a picture being made of this squad before the game, he stated that he did not like the idea, but would consent to it under the circumstances.

He was not able to explain in any way the discrepancy between his statement in regard to men from Syracuse and the statement of Dean Everett over the telephone, except to make assurance that he intended to play no men who were ineligible under the contract.

In the meantime Alexander Bush had overheard one Carson-Newman player remark to another that they would get Covington out of that game. Mr. George Thurmond heard one say in a barber shop that they would put some of those sons of bitches out at any rate.

About 9.30 P. M., Mr. Russell was taken back to the hotel with the statement that we wished to consider the matter further and would notify him as to our decision.

DECISION

President Montgomery, Coach Myers, Professors Biles, Hewlett and Cheek, Mr. W. H. Carter, and Mr. George Joplin, then went over the whole situation and after a lengthy discussion the Athletic Board of Control took the following action:

In view of the discrepancy between the statements of Dean John D. Everett and those of Coach Russell in regard to the status of four members of the Carson-Newman squad, and in view of the bad feeling that had already arisen between the members of the two teams, we deemed it inadvisable to continue with the game.

This information was delivered to Coach Russell in his room at the Gilcher Hotel by Professor Biles, in the presence of Coach Myers and Mr. W. H. Carter.

REMARKS.

There is considerable suspicion to the effect that Fivaz, the other man named by Coach Russell as being in Carson-Newman, but formerly a student at Syracuse, was also with the squad at the hotel, but we are not in position to prove it.

The fact that Ziff was with the squad in uniform, but not registered under his own name at the hotel consists in our mind of prima facie evidence that he was to be used as a player in the game but under an assumed name.

The fact that there was a man registered at the hotel under the name of Rubensmith, and that neither the coach nor one of the followers of the team who professed to be familiar with the team would account for it in any way, produces a questionable circumstance in regard to the personnel of the squad.

The fact that on questioning, Coach Russell was unable to state any information in regard to nine men of his squad though they had been under his personal direction since the first of September, seemed also a suspicious circumstance.

The statement by Dean Everett that there were no men in Carson-Newman with transcripts from Syracuse University, while the coach states that there are two such men, Ziff and Fivaz, creates an impression of at least a gross misunderstanding, or of ignorance of the men in College, or of a deliberate deception of Carson-Newman College by the men in question.

The whole situation indicates a gross irregularity in the management of athletics at Carson-Newman College in at least two cases, and we can only conclude that if there was such irregularity in two cases, there was likely to be in others,

On Saturday afternoon or evening a Carson-Newman player by name of Taylor who was on last year's team was at the Sigma Chi House in company with the one listed on their squad as Eddie Freeman. Freeman was a Sigma Chi and stated that he was a freshman at Ohio State University last year and that he was captain of their freshman team at Ohio State. The fact that he was a Sigma Chi is evidence that he was a transfer student as there is no chapter of Sigma Chi at Carson-Newman. This man was certified as eligible by the Dean. This information in reference to Mr. Freeman did not come into my hands until Monday.

Respectfully yours,

J. H. Biles,
Chairman, Athletic Board of Control
Centre College.