

OCTOBER FIFTEENTH  
1924

REV. V. PALEN MERRELL,  
MOSSY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE.

MY DEAR MR. MERRELL:

Your kind letter of October 13th expressing your interest in Centre College and your connection with this Synod, and making request of us for a statement concerning the Centre -Carson-Newman game, is at hand.

Permit me to say in reply that a copy of the report of the Chairman of the Athletic Board of Control of Centre College has been forwarded to the President of Carson-Newman, which expresses the ground upon which we felt it incumbent upon us at a late hour to cancel the game. I will sum it up for you:

The contract with Carson-Newman required that any man, to be eligible to play with the Carson-Newman team, must have been registered at that institution in September of 1923. Four facts were contrary to this requirement, or rendered it impossible for us to decide as to who was eligible.

FIRST: A man by the name of Ziff, who last year was a member of the Syracuse University team, Syracuse, New York, was here with the squad; was in their uniform and came out to the grid iron for practice; but he was not listed with the squad. This was acknowledged by their coach, Russell.

SECOND: They had a man registered at the hotel as Rubinsmith, of whom the coach, and a follower, J. H. Bundren, declared they had never heard. They denied this fact of Rubinsmith's registration with their squad until they were faced with the name on the hotel register. Of this man they could give no explanation.

THIRD: A man by the name of Freeman was certified as eligible, but by his own statement was captain of the Freshman team at the University of Ohio in the season of 1923-24.

FOURTH: We had two lists, one forwarded to us by a special delivery letter purporting to come from the Dean's office accrediting thirty-seven men. Later we had a telegram from the Dean certifying a list of men which list did not agree with the certifications of the first list. The coach declared a list of men he intended to play to be eligible, which eligibles were not included in the Dean's list. All of which warranted us in rejecting the entire list, as there was this lack of agreement.

I will further say to you that when Coach Russell was before our Athletic Board of Control there were nine men in his squad about whom he could give no account, tho he declared they had been under his personal direction since, or about the first of September.

The Dean had told the undersigned, and also the Chairman of the Athletic Board of Control of Centre, in a telephone conversation, that Carson-Newman had not registered any man from Syracuse, New York, neither from the University or from any Prep school. The coach under the investigation made affirmation that there were four men registered in the College and listed in his football squad who were from Syracuse, two of whom had been with the University and two of whom he said had come from Prep schools.

Other things also came out, to which I will not refer as this will indicate to you we had sufficient grounds to believe that those representing Carson-Newman College were moved by purposes that were in violation of the contract which they had with Centre College, and also in violation of the standards for clean athletics, for which this institution stands, and we, therefore, upon the discovery of this situation, tho it was at a late hour on Friday night, decided we would not engage in athletic contests with such a group.

We deeply regret this, being fully conscious of the possible reaction of our decision against the College, but we have tried to be clean in our understanding of the case and have presented to Carson-Newman our sufficient reasons for the action taken.

We have no reason to believe that the academic authorities of Carson-Newman College had any intention to deceive us or to accredit men who were ineligible, but we are fully persuaded that we have discovered conditions of which they were not cognizant until we had placed the information in their hands.

With every good wish, I am

CORDIALLY YOURS,

PRESIDENT.