

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SECOND,
1924.

PRES. O. E. SAMS,
CARSON & NEWMAN COLLEGE,
JERRERSON CITY, TENN.

MY DEAR PRES. SAMS:

I am in receipt of the copy of the letter which you sent to Prof. Biles, Chairman of the Athletic Board of Control of Centre College.

I was very sorry that the situation, en re game scheduled between Centre College and Carson & Newman College had to be cancelled. I had not think the Dean or any of the Faculty including the President intended to introduce men whose participation in the game would have been a violation of the rules under which the contract was made.

However, we believe we have made quite clear, not only to Carson & Newman College, but also to the public, the grounds upon which we cancelled the game and we have been vindicated by those who have been interested outside of Centre College, and we hope in due time that Carson & Newman will appreciate that we did what was best for them.

I note one sentence in your first paragraph, - "Every man whose name I sent to U. T. was eligible and they would have played as strong game as any combination we have, if they had agreed to play them." "After consulting with your authorities, the Tennessee crown wanted to cancel and declared they would if we did not play just the men they would designate. So they eliminated four who were as eligible as any of the men we had, under the contract."

This statement indicated that the University of Tennessee faced an embarrassment similar to the one that confronted us - the impossibility of telling who was who on your team, made it impossible for us to accept any team that you might have proposed to play the game. Why was it that we could not tell who was who?

First: The eligibility list purporting to come from the Dean and the eligible men claimed by your coach did not agree.

Second: The statement of the Dean that he had no one from Syracuse was directly contradicted by the statement of your coach that you had four men from Syracuse in your squad.

Third: The fact that your coach had allowed a Mr. Rubensmith to be registered at the Hotel with your squad and that he could not iden-

tify any man of the team as Mr. Rubensmith.

Fourth: That there were nine men in the squad of thirty-seven accredited in the letter purporting to come from the Dean about whom the coach knew next to nothing.

Fifth: As no one in our aggregation knew eleven men out of this thirty-seven from Carson & Newman, it was impossible for us to select a team with which to play.

I note what you say about our coach 'phoning an invitation to "two of your men to come to Knoxville to see the game, when it was understood they were wanted down there to talk to Kubale about playing with his team next year."

I will not present any denial from the Coach, as I have had no opportunity to talk with him since the receipt of your letter, but I may say this, that Centre College is not involved in any arrangement Mr. Kubale may be making for his course of conduct after graduation from this institution. All we can attempt to do, and I think all you can attempt to do, is to see to it that the ethical ideals which we hold be steadily kept before our studentsbody, and that we would repudiate any man acting for Centre College in violation of the standards and ideals of the institution, but none of us would presume to accept responsibility for what the students may do or plan to do after their graduation.

I am a little disappointed in your reflecting on the ethics of Centre College in any such reference.

As to our failing to observe the terms of the contract, permit me to say the condition of forfeit are in the contract and not in any conversation men may have had or over-heard regarding it. It was never intended to pay within less than a week and nobody said it would be paid. When payment was claimed it was cited that such claim could not be made for payment before one week had expired.

My personal judgment is that Carson & Nesman College has been more generously dealt with than they deserve, even though the contract was broken after they arrived on the scene, but we had no means of telling of the effort of your coach and consequently your institution to introduce ineligible men and to bring to us a group of men whom he himself could not identify until we had the eligibility list from your office which arrived at this office after your team was in town. It was only upon the ground of a generous spirit toward the College which we at that time believed had been deceived that we paid expenses money and not upon any contractual obligations.

I note one other sentence in your letter and with that I will close, since I am simply endeavoring to satisfy your mind as expressed in your letter to Prof. Biles, that we have acted honorably in this situation. You say: "It looks as if you are trying to wash out Centre College's record for the last few years with our blood." I am sorry that you have resorted to the use of innuendo; what record do you have in mind?

Permit me to say, I challenge you to produce a single instance since you came to Carson & Newman College in which Centre College has played, or tried to play ineligible men

I am glad that the closing part of your letter assures us that you harbor no hard feeling in the matter, and that whatever we do will be satisfactory to you.

Pleased with this assurance, I remain

CORDIALLY YOURS ,

PRESIDENT.

RAM:W

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