

PROPOSED LETTER TO BLACK ATHLETES

APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL
June 8, 1968

Dear _____

Since our meeting with Vice President Layton and members of the Athletic Council on May 20, 1968, a number of events have taken place which we believe are of concern to you as an important person in the intercollegiate athletic program of Iowa State University. We would, therefore, like to take this method for bringing you up-to-date on the progress of these discussions and actions.

Following the meeting on May 20, 1968, the Press publicized the meeting and eluded to several of the grievances which they (the Press) thought were brought forward. A second article, which appeared in the Des Moines Register and local paper, dealt with each of the specific grievances, which made it obvious that the letter addressed to the Athletic Council had been given and/or acquired by the Press in its entirety. This circumstance placed the Athletic Council in the position of having to respond to the published grievances at their regularly scheduled meeting held on June 5, 1968.

Following the meeting on May 20th a subcommittee of the Athletic Council conducted a series of fact-finding interviews and discussions with coaches Timm, Anderson and Majors; trainer C. R. Billings; team physician Dr. C. V. Hamilton; Dan Robinson, Bill Cain, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vaughn, Bruce Ellis, Dr. Edwin Hutchins, Dr. George Karas, D. Phillip McGee, Rowland Dawkins, Tim Lewis, Sam Campbell and John Chism. Each of the specific grievances was brought to the attention of the coaches and trainer concerned and discussed at length.

While the Athletic Council has made progress toward investigating the specific grievances and developing alternatives for the improvement of communications and/or rectifying inadequate procedures or policies, the time interval between the May 20 and June 10, 1968 has not been sufficient for us to resolve all of the specific points that were developed. If those of us who are concerned with intercollegiate athletics are to make adjustments for improving our program, we must recognize that the specific grievances as listed cannot be solved now--today; we can make progress toward the solution of these problems if given a reasonable chance.

For example, we are developing specific recommendations for improving the counseling system for Black Athletes (recognizing that counseling is done by coaches, academic advisers and the Counseling Service). A standard procedure is being developed for notifying course instructors of athletes who are participating in intercollegiate activities and specific dates these athletes will be participating in athletic events off-campus.

A Code of Ethics and proposed guidelines relative to the treatment of athletes are being developed for distribution to the coaching staff. Housing has been discussed with the coaches and further meetings will be scheduled in June and July to develop an equitable and workable solution to the problems brought

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to our attention by your group. The Council will instruct its representative to the Big 8 Conference to present to the NCAA at its next regular meeting a proposal that would permit an athlete on scholarship to supplement his income during the academic year.

Those discussions with coaches, athletes and those concerned with the intercollegiate athletic program at Iowa State will be expanded and specific programs developed in relation to the list of 8 grievances which were developed. Let me assure you that the Athletic Council is sincere in its efforts to improve and take positive actions to improve our total athletic program in the best interests of Black and White athletes alike.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. P. Mahlstedt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

J. P. Mahlstedt for the
Executive Committee
Athletic Council