

047

5-349d
(May 1966)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FILES

CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be added to or taken from this file, except by an employee of the Records Management Section.

CARLISLE

FILE NO. 89680-1912

FILE NO. 89680-1912

CARLISLE

047

Education-
Schools
89680-1912
94923-1912
R H H
James Thorpe.

OCT -4 1912

Mr. Richard Adams,

Bond Building,

Washington, D. C.

FILED BY G. P. R.

Sir:

In response to your letter of September 9, concerning proposed relations between James Thorpe and the New York National Baseball Club, you are advised that the Office has inquired into this matter and is informed by the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, where James Thorpe is enrolled, that he has had several proposals from baseball clubs, the New York club being among the number, but that in consideration of his own future welfare he has voluntarily declined these offers.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. H. Abbott.

Acting Commissioner.

10-JHC-2.

Education-
Schools
89680-1912
4923-1912
R H H
James Thorpe.
Ja

OCT -4 1912

Mr. Richard Adams,
Bond Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

FILED BY C. P. F.

In response to your letter of September 9, concerning proposed relations between James Thorpe and the New York National Baseball Club, you are advised that the Office has inquired into this matter and is informed by the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, where James Thorpe is enrolled, that he has had several proposals from baseball clubs, the New York club being among the number, but that in consideration of his own future welfare he has voluntarily declined these offers.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. H. Abbott.

Acting Commissioner.

10-JHC-2.

See also 88975-12 - 825
" " 71916-12 - 047

FOR FILE.

9680/2 Carlisle 047

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

5-1100

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Education-
Schools
89680-1912
P C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON ⁵¹

James Thorpe.

Mr. Richard C. Adams,

B o n d B u i l d i n g,
Washington, D. C.

FILED BY C. P. F.

Sir:

The Office acknowledges the receipt of your letter of September 9, asking whether James Thorpe, a pupil at the Carlisle Indian School and captain of the Carlisle football team, must have permission of the Government before he can sign a contract with the New York Baseball team.

The Office has no information in reference to this matter from Superintendent Friedman and it does not understand how the matter has come up. James Thorpe is enrolled as a pupil at the Carlisle Indian School, and while carried on the rolls is amenable to the same regulations in reference to outside activities as are other pupils, and if the Superintendent has undertaken to exercise control in such matters, he has acted clearly within his right.

The Office does not wish, however, to be understood as denying to James Thorpe the right to enter into a contract while still a pupil, which he intends to carry out after he has been dropped from the rolls.

Respectfully,

Carbon to
Supt. Carlisle.
9-JHC-20.

Acting Commissioner.

Education-
Schools
89680-1912
- P C



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

September 25, 1912.



The Honorable
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

FILED BY C. P. F.

I have your telegram dated September twenty-third, with reference to the report to your Office that James Thorpe desires to contract with a New York Baseball Team, and requesting a report.

In reply, I respectfully inform the Office that Thorpe has had offers from a number of major league baseball teams offering to enter into contract with him to play major league baseball, and that he has turned all these offers down. This he has done in order to continue with his schooling, and I have advised him personally that it was my opinion that this was the best thing for him to do. I informed him that he would find it to his interest to maintain his amateur standing, and not enter the ranks as a professional, and I pointed out to him how transient the successes of major league baseball were and how very few Indians had made a success of the game, and in most cases their success was of short duration.

Sch

I think he sees the matter in that light, but before I had an opportunity to speak to him he had already

-2- The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

turned down offers of this kind. I have advised him to finish up his schooling here this year, and, if possible, go to a college and get a better general education. This would fit him to enter into some profitable, legitimate business which would enable him to maintain his amateur standing, and his renown as the world's greatest all-around athlete would be an asset to him in any business he took up.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.

MF:SR

Teleg

Carlisle.

Education-
Schools
89680-1912
P C

SEP 23 1912

Indian School,

Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

FOR FILE. FILED BY C. P. F.

It has been reported to Office that James Thorpe desires contract New York Baseball Team and that permission of Government to so contract is required. Report full particulars immediately by letter.

P o s t a l.

9-JHC-23.

J. H. C.

Government
Night Rate

Acting



BROTHERHOOD OF North American Indians

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZED DECEMBER 6, 1911

RICHARD C. ADAMS,
GREAT SACHEM
LOUIS J. CARPENTER, GREAT TREASURER

JOSEPH CRAIG,
GREAT SECRETARY



BOND BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C. September 9, 1912.



FILED BY G. P. F.

The Honorable
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir,

It has just come to my notice that James Thorpe, the great Sac and Fox Indian athlete, who was the winner of the decathlon and the pentathlon at Stockholm, and who is the captain of the Carlisle foot ball team, has been compelled to get the permission of the Government before he can sign a contract with the New York base ball team.

I want to protest in upholding all of the Indians of the country against such restriction as has been placed upon Mr. Thorpe. He is probably as well able to care for himself as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or any one of the numerous clerks in the Indian Office. Please inform me whether it is a fact that you require Mr. Thorpe to obtain permission from the Indian Office or the Indian Agent before he can sign the contract referred to and also what other restraints are put upon him in his business transactions with other people.

Yours truly,

Richard C. Adams

Great Sachem.

Taken in school

Eck