

The Carlisle Indian Athletic Association

FILE

J. H. Dortch



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To J.H. Dortch,
Indian Office,
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The Athletic Management of the Carlisle Indian School feels that, owing to the publicity given by the press to a lot of sensational charges as to the eligibility of the members of the present season's football squad, it would be but justice to the Carlisle players that an explanation be made to the several colleges and universities who have met them this year, to the end that the misrepresentations that have affected them morally as well as casting a slur upon the eligibility of some of the members, and accordingly, the Athletic Association desires to say, that the Carlisle football squad this year consisted of 54 boys;—that of this number 52 members were bonafide pupils, duly and legally enrolled at the school under the rules and regulations prescribed by the Indian Office at Washington. Five of this number are taking special work in the Commercial College, the Preparatory School, or in Dickinson College, in the town of Carlisle. They are Carlisle Indian School students, under the care and support of the government, the same as the other students, and are subject to all the school rules, and live up to them,—the one exception being that they are permitted to go to town to attend recitations in advanced or special work. Forty-seven members of the squad are in daily attendance at the school, and subject to the same rules and regulations as the rest of the student body. The other two members of the squad, a regular and a substitute, were Indian employees at the school.

Of necessity, the eligibility rules for athletes at Carlisle cannot exactly coincide with those of the universities, as conditions here are so entirely different. Throughout the Indian Service;—at Agency schools and Government Indian schools of all kinds, it is customary,—and has been always,—for young Indian employees who as a rule are ex-pupils, to participate in the athletics of their school while so employed, and this custom has obtained at Carlisle to a very limited extent. This is not a fact that we attempt to cover up, or deny, it is a custom of the Indian Service schools for which we make no apology. The other members of the squad, 52 in number, are absolutely bonafide students at the school and are entitled in every way to represent Carlisle. They

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are as fine a body of young men morally, of as correct habits and gentlemanly demeanor as any body of school boy, or university student, athletes in the country. The school is proud of them and of their character, including the three or four boys who had their preliminary training at Haskell and upon some of whom a cruel, unjust and villainous attack has been published in criticism of their conduct before coming to Carlisle.

Finally the Athletic Committee, with the approval of the school authorities, desires to say that the whole squad in every way reflects credit upon the school, and every institution that has met them upon the gridiron can rest assured that they have met as fine and deserving a body of young men as the Indian race can produce, and that in meeting them, they met the truly accredited representatives of this school.

It is a fact that not a single protest has come to Carlisle from a university or college that have met the Indians this year, either as to their eligibility, or the conduct of the players. On the other hand, nothing but praise as to their sportsmanlike and gentlemanly conduct wherever they have played has reached the authorities.

The term of enrollment at Carlisle is five years and students often remain longer and they have been allowed to represent Carlisle in athletics as long as they have been here. There were two members of this years' football team who had played more than four years. This being the case and there having been perhaps some just criticism as to the length of time the players were allowed to represent Carlisle, and also to the custom of playing Indian employees, it has been decided to enact and enforce eligibility rules preventing any students representing Carlisle in foot ball more than four years and providing that only regularly enrolled students, and not employees, shall be eligible to represent the school in athletics in future contests.

It may be of interest to our competitors to know that any surplus receipts over and above the sums necessary to maintain athletics at the school which come into the hands of the Athletic Association are used entirely for the mental, moral and physical welfare of the school in necessary ways that are not provided by the government appropriation.

CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

G. S. WARNER, Prest. and Athletic Director

A. M. VENNE, Secretary

W. H. MILLER, Treasurer

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