



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSEMBLY HALL BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47405 PH. 812/337-2794

December 11, 1980

John J. Smith
21400 Alaminos Drive
Saugus, California 91350

Dear John:

I will certainly try to comply with your request as much as possible. Let me share a couple of things with you.

E.C. "Billy" Hayes was a track coach at Indiana University until 1943 when he succumbed to a bout with pneumonia. Bill Easton is still living in Lawrence, Kansas. His address is on Mississippi street and you could reach him there.

I believe that Bob Grieve is still living in Syracuse, New York and John Morris is still living in Houston, Texas.

George Dales is in the Physical Education Department at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. You could reach him there. Wayne Vandenburg is still in El Paso, Texas and I'm sure he could be reached there.

Fran Welch still lives in Emporia, Kansas and you could reach him there. Bill Exum has just retired but is still living in Frankfort, Kentucky and I think you could reach him by writing to him in care of Kentucky State University.

As far as I know Chock Sportsman is still in San Diego and Anthony Sucec is still on the faculty of San Diego State University, with the Department of Physical Education. Pat O'Brien still lives in Charleston, Illinois and I think could be reached through the track office of Eastern Illinois University.

Jay Dirksen is now an assistant track coach at the University of Illinois at Champaign, Illinois and Len Miller is the head track coach at Arizona State University. Steve Miller is still at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and Tom Woodall is still at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston. Therefore, I think you could reach all of those people in those places.

You asked who I thought was the all time best athlete that I had ever seen. That becomes a very difficult question because there are so many great athletes in different areas. You probably have to look at one outstanding performance as well as performances over a long period of time. When you take into consideration of the latter, I think I would have to list Al Oerter as the greatest that I have seen because of his great ability to rise to the tremendous challenge

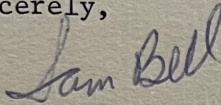
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when it was necessary over such a long period of time. I've had lots of sports thrills in my life as a coach but I believe the greatest one that I had was as a young college coach our team finally defeated the University of Oregon in a dual meet while I was coaching at Oregon State University in May of 1963 with about 18,000 people in the stands. I have been in International Competitions including the Olympic Games but as far as occurred thrills from a coach was concerned, I think that is the greatest that I have had.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Bell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sam Bell
Track Coach

SB/js