

William J. Wisdom Letter and Football Plays, 1942:

A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wisdom, William J.

Title: William J. Wisdom Letter and Football Plays, 1942

Inclusive Dates: 1942

Abstract: The collection documents the activities of William J. Wisdom, who coached football and basketball teams at John Tarleton Agricultural College during his tenure there.

Identification: UA26

Extent: 1 folder (10 items)

Shelf location: SC1, Folder 11, 7:E:1

Language(s): Collection is in English.

Repository: Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

Biographical Note

William J. Wisdom was a football and basketball coach at Tarleton State University (known then as John Tarleton Agricultural College) during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. He was born in Pottsville, Texas on July 25, 1887 and attended public school in Hamilton, Texas. Wisdom earned his teaching certificate from North Texas Normal College. He also attended the National School of Recreation in Chicago, Illinois. After school, Wisdom played one year of semiprofessional baseball for the Colorado State League. His teaching career included positions at Tyler Commercial College, Paducah High School, and Thorpe Springs Christian College (now known as Texas Christian University). He taught at John Tarleton Agricultural College from 1920 until his retirement in 1943. Under Wisdom, Tarleton's football team was undefeated in the 1925 season. Between 1934 and 1938, the Tarleton men's basketball team that Wisdom coached set a national record of eighty-six consecutive wins. Honors accorded Wisdom include the 1969 Tarleton Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Member, induction into the Texas Sports Writers Hall of Fame in 1971, and induction into the Tarleton Athletic Hall of Fame in 1981. Tarleton State University named its gymnasium in his honor in 1972.

Sources:

Guthrie, Christopher. *John Tarleton and His Legacy: The History of Tarleton State University, 1899-1999*. Acton, MA: Tapestry Press, 1999. pp. 294-300.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the activities of William J. Wisdom, who coached football and basketball teams at John Tarleton Agricultural College during his tenure there. Materials are textual comprising correspondence and diagrams of nine football plays with written instructions. The letter is written by William J. Wisdom on September 26, 1942 to Coach Daniel A. Cheatham of Sidney, Texas. The letter is on John Tarleton Agricultural College letterhead, and the signature designates Wisdom as the director of the Department of Physical Education.

Organization

The William J. Wisdom Letter and Football Plays, 1942 are organized in 2 series:
Series I. Letter
Series II. Football plays

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

None.

Technical Access Restrictions

None.

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Index Terms

Persons

Cheatham, Daniel A.
Wisdom, William J.

Organizations

John Tarleton Agricultural College

Subjects

Football—1940-1950.
Football coaches—United States
Football--Coaching

Places

Sidney (Tex.)
Stephenville (Tex.)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Unknown.

Preferred Citation

William J. Wisdom Letter and Football Plays, 1942, UA26, SC Box no., Folder 11, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2022.

Note to the Researcher

The collection is processed, but advance notice is required with time allowed to retrieve the records from an offsite location before conducting research. There may be occasions when staffing or weather conditions may delay or prevent retrieval of the records. For more information, contact Librarian/Archivist Phyllis Kinnison at pkinnison@tarleton.edu.