

Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901

Intercollegiate Athletics

September 7, 1973

Dear Gang:

Have finally found a few minutes to sit down and collect a few thoughts. Needless to say it is good to be back in Uncle Sugar again and they can say all they want to about Communism, but our way of doing things is pretty nice also.

Had a good trip to Moscow and the food was good as was the champagne and wine. Food was also super which meant that I came back weighing a little more than when I left. However after much starving and hard work I have once again regained my svelte shape. (Shutup - no cracks)

Morava did a very fine job over there. Tied for sixth in floor and finished 15th in the All around. Gary was the top american with Ivicsek 17th, Stephenson 21st and Mike Carter 27th. Crosby had an operation right after arriving in Moscow so did not get to compete. I felt Gary did a good job for a gimpy gymnast.

Morava has had his shoulder operated on and reports that it is going well. No pain in the shoulder but the rest of his body is a mess. Only kidding. They removed some bone, filed down some of the splinters and attached three muscles. Dr. feels he should have full range of motion. Do not know just yet whether we will use him this year or not.

Have heard from a few who are wondering about getting started again. Jack and I have discussed it and have come to the conclusion that you should all come back on the 16th for practice. As you know we will have to be out partly due to Holiday on Ice for about a week so we felt that we should take one good week to get started. Therefore we are calling for the start of practice on the 16th at 1:00 P.M. You no doubt will have to come in on Saturday the 15th and get settled. In most cases everybody has had a nice rest and should be ready to come back to school.

In most cases we know what you have been doing this summer know about what to expect when you get back. For some of last years team members it should be good to get back and let us see what you have been doing this summer.

As most of you know I was not very pleased with the work that we did last year. That is my fault. I intend to correct that right away. Those of you who are not sure whether they want to work or not I would suggest you not work or try. We will try and get along without you.

Our schedule is complete now and it will not involve as much traveling or as many meets as last year. Consequently it will mean less men traveling so you should not have a problem on missing classes. Without Morava working it looks like about a ten man team. If Gary works we will go with less men. If you have not worked hard this summer you may find your old seat on the bandwagon taken by a new face.

Am not attempting to scare you but just frighten you a little. Will add a couple of notes that Jack typed and get this in the mail. Looking forward to seeing you shortly. If you want to work and be good fine if not good luck in whatever you do.

We will expect you to be in fairly good condition when you arrive here. The first five workouts will be devoted to work on parts and short sequences. Then on 21,22,23 September we will work on complete exercises on two events each day. This means complete compulsories and optionals.

During Holiday on Ice week we will work all events except horizontal bar, but we may have to work outdoors some of the time. We will also use the universal gym at the Stadium if conflicts keep us from the apparatus. So, count on working hard, more or less continuously from 16 September on.

Summer here was marked by very high spirits and hard work. It must be continued through the coming year.

I guess that takes care of everything that needs to be said until you get here. Take care and see you next week.

Sincerely,

Bill + Jack

William T. Meade
Herman John Biesterfeldt, Jr.