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NATIONAL LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB  
Incorporated

Philadelphia, Pa.

November 28, 1939.

Mr. Amon Carter  
The Star Telegram  
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

Knowing of your friendship and admiration for David O'Brien, and also of your faith in his ability as a football player, and of your respect for him both on and off the field, it gives me genuine pleasure to write you to let you know just how wrong and unfair New York sports writers and those of a few other cities were in predicting David's future as a pro football player—particularly because most of them had seen him only once, others not at all.

First let me say that I have coached football for twenty years—eight at the University of Pennsylvania, three at Temple University, and the other nine both as advisory coach and head coach in professional football, and I wish to publicly acclaim that Davey O'Brien is in my opinion the finest all-around football player ever to play in the college and professional game, and although weighing less than 150 pounds he is a fine blocker, an inspirational team player, and his quarterbacking and strategy is on a par with the best who ever played the game. Finally, the records will show that Davey is the greatest passer that ever threw a football.

The players on my team, the other players in the league, the coaches and the fans have more admiration for Davey O'Brien's ability, courage and sportsmanship than they've ever had for any player who ever lived. This is neither an exaggerated nor an empty statement, for I am going to quote merely a few of the statements that have been written about him:

Howard Roberts, of the Chicago Daily News, Nov. 20th— "Little Davey did more than shatter the league record for pass completions for the second straight week. He proved himself one of the gamest players to ever trot out on a professional gridiron."

"The little man made a brilliant personal triumph out of a 27-14 defeat."

Marvin McCarthy, of the Chicago Daily Times, Nov. 20th— "We understand now why old Goliath, with all his muscle and meanness, was the rankest pushover of the ages. There was only one of him and that, of course, is never enough to cope with Little Davis. We know it now after seeing our modern Little David—"

Davey O'Brien of Texas and the Philadelphia Eagles---manhandle a dozen football Goliaths at Wrigley Field yesterday, doing everything but crack their craniums together."

"Gamest, toughest and most dangerous little man of the gridiron is David O'Brien. Standing five feet-eight, he looks up at giants and laughs in their scowling pans. Weighing 150 pounds, he flings himself at them and spills them like ten pins. And he, too, slays with a sling, this Little David of 1939...a "sling" that is the deadliest forward passing arm to be found in all football."

"The Chicago Bears defeated O'Brien's Eagles, 27 to 14, but they in no way conquered Little David. He was still in there warring when every Goliath on the two teams had gone off the field for at least one rest period, some of them limping. He was still in there whirling his sling when some who outweighed him 50 pounds had retired to the dressing rooms, to bathe bruises and soothe aches. He was in there for 59 minutes of such a battering as didn't seem humanly possible for one little man to take, yet when David O'Brien left the field he went at a gallop, his chest and head thrown back, his face crinkled into a smile, and his ears ringing with the uproar of a crowd which knew it had seen the most football player crammed into the smallest package to come this way in many seasons."

"O'Brien, once a baseball shortstop, throws a football like one. Yesterday he broke his own week-old National League passing record by completing 21 of 36 tosses. With this potent "sling" of his he gained 247 yards for the Eagles and made two touchdowns possible, one an 85-yard passing play to his end, Herschel Ramsey."

"Remarkable though it was, this was not the factor that took your breath away, however, Big time football has many great passers---Herber, Baugh, Luckman, Isbell, Parker...and all of them have days when they are "hot" and their receivers are right in tune. But football has few days when little men can take the big men's limit beating, and outlast them all. How Little David did it yesterday was the thrill-over-all."

"Watching, you wondered which scrimmage pile-up would disentangle itself and reveal a small, crushed body lying still underneath. They are real Goliaths in this league, few weighing under 200, most of them six feet or more. With a line so leaky charging forwards would be on O'Brien almost as soon as the ball arrived, Davey performed one miracle in that he was able to throw the ball 36 times. Miracle No. 2 was that he threw 21 of them straight enough to be caught. The Third, and greatest, miracle was that on the occasions when he didn't have time to throw, he still could jump up spry and chipper after being crushed beneath a human avalanche."

"Add to this the shocks that jolted his frame when O'Brien made three head-on tackles of big backs thundering down an open field, and when he many times was smashed to earth while running with the ball himself, and you should obtain a clear vision of one-half the picture."

"The other half you probably didn't see...at Green Bay just one week ago, when O'Brien played 59 similar minutes against the Packers. Anybody who has heard the tales of Paul Bunyan, should know there is nothing dainty about those North Woods Goliaths, but the Packers didn't hurt O'Brien, either...They didn't even "soften" him for the Bears!"

Jim Gallagher, of the Chicago Herald-American, Nov. 20th-- "Even Bears Cheer O'Brien!" (headline).

"The Bears won the football game, but Davey O'Brien won the fans."

"When the 143-pound quarterback of the Philadelphia Eagles trotted wearily from the field with hardly one minute to play, 21,398 fans rose as one to cheer the mighty mite to the echo."

"Little Davey had stood up for 59 minutes under a battering such as few men

far bigger than he would care to take. He had completed 21 passes in 36 tries for a total gain of 260 yards, breaking the record he himself had set only a week before, when he completed nineteen against Green Bay."

"He had played like a tiger on defense, covering his territory well on passes and tackling as though he weighed 243 instead of 143. He had kicked well, he had returned punts, he had intercepted, a forward pass and ran it back 54 yards to avert a Bear scoring threat."

"If ever a man stood out as a hero in defeat, it was little Davey O'Brien."

George Strickler, of the Chicago Daily Tribune, Nov. 20th— "Davey O'Brien, the biggest little man in football, brought his aerial magic to Wrigley Field yesterday. There, in the face of a merciless Bear onslaught, he spent 59 minutes struggling out from under behemoths, cocking his arm and firing away relentlessly for a hopeless cause."

"The audience rose in a thunderous ovation as the 150 pound Texan slipped off his headgear and reluctantly loped toward the bench with less than a minute left to play. He had:

- (1) Completed 21 passes of 36 attempts, breaking his own record of 19, set last week in a 59 minute exhibition against Green Bay.
- (2) Returned an intercepted pass 54 yards to break up a Chicago scoring threat.
- (3) Passed to make an 85-yard play to End Herschel Ramsey for the Eagles' first touchdown.
- (4) Completed four passes in a 68 yard advance to set up their second touchdown from the 3 yard line.
- (5) Gained 247 yards with his arm, while his team was being held to a net of minus-36 from scrimmage.
- (6) Handled his team's punting when the noted Fran Murray was not in the game.
- (7) Prevented three touchdowns with man sized tackles of charging enemy ball carriers in open field."

"The little man had a busy day."

Curly Lambeau, Coach of the Green Bay Packers, after Green Bay-Philadelphia game— "One of the greatest players I've ever seen."

Lambeau, incidentally, has coached the Packers ever since he formed the colorful Wisconsin club back in 1919 and certainly is qualified to judge playing values.

"We played three right and three left ends against O'Brien and couldn't stop him. Time and again we had the little chap cornered, but he mysteriously managed to get the ball away. His ball carrying also surprised us. Furthermore, Davey played the entire game. I never witnessed a greater individual display of ability and grit."

Ed Pollock, Sports Editor of the Philadelphia Evening Ledger— "O'Brien is the William Tell of football, and one of the greatest players, offensively and defensively, who ever played the game!"

Walter Kiesling, Coach of the Pittsburgh Pirates— "Davey O'Brien is the greatest all-around football player I have ever seen."

George Halas, Coach of the Chicago Bears— "O'Brien's performance was magnificent, and was the talk of the whole town!"

These are just a few of the great many compliments paid Davey my men who had not predicted he would fail, and are therefore unbiased opinions, and I sincerely hope that those who did not predict failure will be big enough to admit they were wrong and give this boy the credit he so richly deserves.

Regarding his record, he has thrown 175 passes, completing 87 (which breaks the world's professional record of 81, presiously set by Sammy Baugh, though Parker Hall, of Cleveland, also broke the record and now has 90 completions for the season. However, each has one more game to play). (Davey O'Brien also broke, for a single game, the previous record of 15 passes completed, when on November 12th he completed 19 against Green Bay, which he came right back and again broke with 21 completions against Chicago Bears on November 19th). Davey also set a new record for yardage gained on passes for a season when he last Sunday brought his total up to 1,149 yards (surpassing Baugh's previous record of 1,127)—and there is still one game to play.

Davey has played practically 60 minutes of our last four ball games—Green Bay, Chicago Bears, and two games against Pittsburgh, and hasn't once this season called for a time-out.

His achievements are even more of a credit to him than the records will show as one must remember that he really did not join the team until September 6th—10 days before the opening game. Most significant, however, is the fact that Davey has made his record playing with a ball club which has only won one and tied one of ten games played. It must also be remembered that two of these games were played in a downpour of rain.

In closing, I again wish to express my opinion that Little Davey is the finest all around football player that ever lived, and he has a heart as big as City Hall. His character both on and off the field is so praiseworthy that I am sure it will be a living inspiration for every boy and a model to which every father and mother can point.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Bert Bell.