

"Because," said the director, "there is no gymnasium in the city that could seat over 2,000 spectators and, in fact, only one that accommodates over 1,500. It is necessary for any school playing intercollegiate basketball to lease the Garden for any contest other than those of a minor nature. There is hardly a gymnasium in the city that would even accommodate the student members of the athletic association of an institution.

"By the same token the burden of leasing the Garden would be too much for any single institution. Therefore, it is customary to have two games, each home team selecting its opponent, the officials determining the type of ball and in all manner handling the games."

Referring to a recent statement in this department that Kansas University may send a team to the Garden next winter, Ned said:

"If Kansas is to play its game it will not be arranged by me, but by the institution it will play. Secondly, the New York school which invites Kansas here will make all arrangements, and it will be played as a regular contest included in that institution's 1940-41 intercollegiate schedule and not as any part of a tournament."

Irish went on to stress the fact that the only tournament which would be held here was a post-season affair conducted and sponsored by the association composed, as already pointed out, of the ten metropolitan colleges.

#### Purely Collegiate.

"The 1940 tournament," he said, "was conducted by this body through a tournament committee composed of Prof. Walter Williamson of the College of the City of New York; Herb Kopf, Manhattan College; Lou Oshins, Brooklyn College; Asa Bushnell, central office for Eastern intercollegiate athletics, and Everett Morris, representing the Basketball Writers Association.

"This group considered the list of teams eligible to play, issued the invitations, selected the officials and in all ways actively supervised the conduct of the tournament."

So it will be seen that, far from encroaching on the intercollegiate athletic picture and luring local and outside collegians into the maw of commercialism, the function of Madison Square Garden is merely to supply a substitute for those gigantic field houses of the Middle West accommodating from seven to ten thousand spectators, and if there is any undue emphasis placed upon the sport it is done by the colleges whose athletic authorities have not been deaf to the clicking of the Garden turnstiles.

#### Minor League