

The A.A.U., of which Avery Brundage was the president, and Dan Ferris was secretary, along with Frederick Rubien, the secretary of the American Olympic Association, emphatically told me that nobody played basketball anywhere except in the United States. I presented an article that I had written for the Athletic Journal in 1929, showing that 52 foreign countries were playing basketball at that time.

Of course I got most of my information from Dr. James Naismith, who was then in my department, and had been previously head of the Department of Physical Education at his coming to the University in 1898. Dr. Naismith died here in 1939.

L. W. St. John, of Ohio State, and Romeyn Barry, of Cornell, were on the N.C.A.A. Olympic Committee with me, and they doubted, with Brundage and the Olympic outfit, that we would ever land an Olympic game. Then the N.C.A.A. sold basketball down the river by trading with the A.A.U. Major Griffith said to them, "Let us name the coaches of track and field, wrestling, crew, and swimming, and we will let you control basketball." Heretofore the Olympic Committee had named the coaches of these sports that the colleges desired to control. That is where Major Griffith and St. John began the political power in the N.C.A.A. and the Big Ten.

But that is enough of that. Thought you might like that angle.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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