

## ON THE LINE

### Basketball Goes National Tonight Tourney Opens In the Garden

By Bob Considine - Daily Mirror -  
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Basketball, as a National, game with a nation-wide focal point of interest, becomes a reality for perhaps the first time tonight at Madison Square Garden when the first annual National Invitation College Basketball Tournament gives forth a twitch and begins to stir.

Temple, Eastern Conference champs and, to my disorderly mind, the best club in the country, plays Bradley Tech, the corn-fed champions of the Illinois College Conference. In the caboose end of tonight's double feature, N.Y.U. and Long Guyland U., who play in the same town, but never against the other, come together in a game that bodes no good for life and limb.

The second round of the tournament, next Monday night, will pit tonight's winners against whizzer White's Colorado University five, which tied Utah for the Big seven title, and Oklahoma A. and M., Missouri Valley Conference champions. And the winners of this boiling down process will par-boil each other for the championship a week from tonight.

The British, who know that the sport is the thing, probably wouldn't like this tournament, for it will serve, in time, as a test-tube to isolate the official national champion. Basketball, since the time it started with the peach baskets in the gymnasium of the Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A., College has somehow remained aloof of the American passion for naming the best of a given field. It has developed sectional champions of a hundred different varieties, but it really was not until young Ned Irish, the reformed schoolboy columnist, hired the big New York fight barn, built himself that yellow pine floor, and began inducing teams to make the long sleeper jumps to New York, that there was any intercommunication of ideas, playing systems and players.

Irish, of course, is the general major dome of the present tournament, though the idea seems to have originated in a stray paragraph printed in the New York University Commerce Bulletin. It's a good stunt, and we know of no one who could handle it better than Irish, who somehow has found a way to blend those inherently opposing ingredients- the amateurism of college basketball and Irish's big league showmanship.

The teams were handpicked by the New York Basketball Writers Association, whose president is the able Everett Morris, of the Herald-Tribune. Every visiting team is a champion of some conference where the court game is highly regarded, and though there may be a well-bred sneer from Stanford or Notre Dame when the champion is crowned, we think said champion will have more claim to the title than any team ever had in basketball history.