

March 31, 1945.

Lt. (jg) Wayne Clover, Jr., USNR,
USS Markab,
Fleet Postoffice,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Wayne:

Yes, indeed, I do remember you, and I am immediately answering your letter.

The tournament that you speak of is the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament. The United States is divided into eight collegiate districts, four west of the Mississippi River and four east of the Mississippi River. The Big Ten is number four, the Missouri Valley territory is number five, the Southwest Conference is six, the Rocky Mountain area is seven, and the Pacific Coast area is number eight.

Since 1939 a national championship of universities and one-year residence colleges has been played. The plan is that the four districts of the N.C.A.A. east of the Mississippi meet and play off the Eastern N.C.A.A. finals, and the four teams west of the Mississippi meet and play off the Western N.C.A.A. finals. Then the eastern winners meet the western winners for the N.C.A.A. championship which is, in fact, the big collegiate championship of the United States.

In 1940 Kansas won the Western N.C.A.A., and Indiana won the Eastern. Kansas had defeated Oklahoma Aggies to determine the Fifth District champion since Oklahoma Aggies is in the Missouri Valley Conference and we are in the Big Six Conference, and it was necessary to decide on our Fifth District champion. Then Southern California, Rice (representing the Southwest Conference), Colorado (representing the Rocky Mountain Conference), and Kansas played in Kansas City. Southern California defeated Colorado, and Kansas defeated Rice. Then Kansas defeated Southern California for the Western N.C.A.A. Indiana and Kansas met in Kansas City for the National N.C.A.A., and Indiana won.

In 1941 Stanford won the N.C.A.A. championship by defeating Dartmouth, the Eastern winner. In 1942 Wyoming won the N.C.A.A. championship by defeating St. Johns of Brooklyn, or Georgetown, I am not certain, the Invitation winner.

Now let me say a word about these Invitation winners. They are nothing more nor less than a selection of Ned Irish and a group of newspaper men in New York. This tournament was formerly called the Sport Writers