

May 6, 1938.

Major John Griffith,  
The Athletic Journal,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Griffith,

An article on the rating of basketball teams by Mr. Robert D. Wright, Mt. Union College, in the current issue of the Athletic Journal is of particular interest at the University of Kansas, for we have been using for several years, five or six, a method of comparing effectiveness of basketball teams. We use the term "offense ratio," which is the number of points a team scores to each point made by opponents

The "offense ratio" is in effect a combining of offense and defense effectiveness of a team. For example, in the Big Six season just closed, the best offense was shown by Oklahoma, with a total of 456 scores in ten conference games. Kansas had only 408 points, and Nebraska, last year's co-champions, had 388. While Oklahoma was running up its score totals by rapid-fire play, opponents likewise were scoring, amassing a total of 401. In the meantime, Kansas was holding its opponents, including the fiery Oklahomans, to a total of 329 points. Kansas' moderate offense coupled with strong defense gave the Jayhawkers the championship (their 20th in 31 years of conference competition) and Oklahoma took second place.

When the "offense ratio" is applied to these figures, it appears that Kansas scored 1.240 points for each one an opponent scored, while Oklahoma was making a ratio of 1.112. These ratios substantially unchanged, had prevailed throughout the season---at least after several games had been played, sufficient to "give an average." The relationship between "offense ratio" and conference standing is shown in the following summary of the 1938 season in the Big Six:

	W	L	Pct.	Pts.	Op.Pts.	Offense Ratio
Kansas	9	1	.900	408	329	1.240
Oklahoma	8	2	.800	456	401	1.112
Missouri	4	6	.400	389	384	1.013
Nebraska	4	6	.400	388	383	1.013
Kansas State	3	7	.500	348	398	.874
Iowa State	2	8	.200	295	389	.758

A variation of the Kansas "offense ratio" was used in a story or two from the University of Oklahoma the past winter when Harold Keith prepared stories showing the average score of games played by each member of the conference and comparing the plus or minus advantage of each team over its opponents. Thus, one team averaged four points to the game more than its opponents, while another team averaged only 3.5 points advantage per game.

Where the average scores are somewhat similar, this