

July 31, 1940

Dr. Forrest Allen
Director of Athletics
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

The game of basketball is probably played and watched by more people than any other game in America. Having been originated by Dr. Naismith, I feel that it is proper that a memorial be erected in his memory. I feel that this would be the wish of the millions of men and women who play, coach, or watch the game. It is fitting and proper that this memorial be the most modern and beautiful basketball gymnasium ever built in America, and the proper place for it is the University of Kansas campus, where he spent so many years.

I believe that such a gymnasium could be built at no expense to Kansas, by having every willing basketball team in America play one home game as a memorial game for Dr. Naismith, under the auspices of the Naismith Memorial Committee--giving a portion of the gate receipts to the fund. In this way no individual would be asked to contribute a penny. It would cost the teams little if anything, for by featuring the game as the "Naismith Memorial Game" the added attendance should increase the receipts by the small portion to be given.

Time is too short to do it this season, for quite a bit of planning should be done. The committee should have several nationally prominent educators and coaches on it. The idea should be sold leading sports writers and coaches. Much of the publicity could be handled by the Journalism school at Kansas University, and the mailing and correspondence should furnish employment for several students.

Suitable plaques or certificates should be given schools or organizations whose teams take part in the project.

The game of basketball has touched and is touching the lives of so many thousands that teams--school, high school, college, university, semi-pro, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and professional--could, I feel sure, be interested in the undertaking; and the money raised by each team, be it large or small, would reach a large total and make such a gymnasium possible.

I am a Kansan, and graduated from Chanute High School in 1921. I attended the College of Emporia and Washburn College, though never had the privilege of attending the University. My wife is a Baker graduate. I have discussed this plan with several Kansas University alumni, a few newspaper men, and coaches and find them all very favorable to it.