

CENTRAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Biltmore Hotel, Madison Avenue and 43rd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 6-7580

ASA S. BUSHNELL, *Executive Director*

October 21, 1944

Eastern
Association of
Rowing Colleges

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Baseball League

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Basketball League

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Football Association

Eastern
Intercollegiate
150-Lb. Football League

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Golf Association

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Gymnastic League

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Swimming League

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Tennis Association

Eastern
Intercollegiate
Wrestling Association

Heptagonal Games
Association

I. C. A. A. A. A.

Intercollegiate
Fencing Association

Intercollegiate
Ice Hockey
Association

Intercollegiate
Rowing Association

International
Intercollegiate
Ice Hockey League

Pentagonal
Hockey League

Collegiate Basketball
Officials Bureau

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Kansas University A. A.
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Phog:

Local papers are today carrying the Associated Press account of your comments on gambling in intercollegiate sports, particularly basketball. Though A.P. does not attribute these specific words to you, the story emphasizes your charge that "professional gamblers already have caused two boys to throw basketball games in Eastern collegiate tournaments." It goes on to quote directly your reference to "known cases" of such malfeasance.

Did you make any such categorical statements as those cited? If so, what are the facts -- dates, places, persons, understandings, results -- and where is the proof? Also, if there are "known cases", who knows about them, and, if their scene was an Eastern one, why are they "known" in Lawrence, Kansas, but not in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Washington? Investigations conducted in these parts of the few rumored cases have shown that, though gamblers may have tried to fix games, they have not succeeded in any single instance.

Purposes and methods of the gamblers are fully understood, and the very real menace to collegiate sport which they represent is clearly recognized. Obviously, it is not enough to deplore their presence; action must be taken to eliminate these gamblers and destroy any slight possibility they may have of success in their operations. This action must be powerful and unrelenting, and it must be effectual.

Certainly the proper agency to undertake and accomplish the solution of this serious problem is the NCAA. It is of course in order, if you so wish, for an interested party such as yourself to urge the NCAA into telling action. However, it seems to me that the poorest sort of way to do this is to jeopardize public confidence in game and players by leveling vague and unsubstantiated charges against them in the newspapers. Let's help the NCAA do the job which confronts it by furnishing all possible authoritative information; let's not hinder the Association with public statements which are bound to be damaging to athletics.

Sincerely yours,

