

NED IRISH

NINE ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK CITY

January 6, 1942

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

Dear Doc:

I have read with quite some interest a lot of the material which you forwarded to Harry Grayson at N. E. A. A good deal of this is very interesting and well taken. On one point quoting you, however, I would like to clear up a misunderstanding on your part so that in the future you would realize that I have nothing whatsoever to do with the officials or officiating in Madison Square Garden.

The conduct of the games in all phases is entirely in the hands of the colleges competing. The officials in this case come within that classification. The College Basketball Bureau under the direction of Asa Bushnell of the Central Office for Intercollegiate Athletics is the only authority in this section which has anything to do with college basketball officiating. This bureau was founded by the ten metropolitan colleges who comprise the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Basketball Committee. These colleges, seven of them using the Garden court as their home court for all major games, derive their revenue for the support and maintenance of the official bureau from the National Invitation Tournament which they conduct in Madison Square Garden every March.

Mr. Bushnell's bureau appoints all officials for varsity, freshman, and junior varsity games, including the games in Madison Square Garden. Mr. Bushnell has two former officials, Dave Walsh and Ellwood Geiges as his field observers. They inspect the actual work of the officials and conduct three clinics for instruction during the course of the season.

I attended one of these clinics last night and from my own observation I would say that the question of "intent" no longer is a factor in Eastern officiating. I do not believe any foul is called where there is no substantial body contact and where it was not in direct violation of the rules.

I have observed games in the Middle-West, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and in Philadelphia so far this season. Other than exceptions which you expect between any two officials work, I have not noticed any particular variance of interpretations.