

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

December 9, 1942.

Six Six Basketball Coaches.

Gentlemen:

Missouri will again start home basketball games at 8:00 p.m. for all contests with conference opponents ~~except~~ for Nebraska and Iowa State when the games will start at 7:45 p.m.

Two reasons have caused us to refuse the request of our conference visitors for a 7:30 p.m. starting time.

1. Kansas, Kansas State and Oklahoma will not be hurt by an 8:00 o'clock start since rail connections to the West on the 9:45 p.m. Wabash are now almost impossible. Previously it was possible for a team to have a sleeper set out at Columbia. This car was moved at 9:45 and connected to a main line train at Centralia about 3:00 a.m. for arrival in Kansas City at 7:30 a.m.

Special sleeper service has been discontinued on all rail lines, I am told by Wabash officials. Teams going West of out Columbia at 9:45 this season will have to use chair cars to Centralia; sit in the station there for four hours; and probably occupy ~~extra~~ chair cars into Kansas City. We anticipate, therefore, that at least three of our opponents will stay in Columbia over night and that an 8:00 o'clock game will be no inconvenience for them.

Nebraska and Iowa State both travel from Columbia to Ames. They will be able to catch a sleeper at Centralia at 11:00 p.m., and thus will leave Columbia at 9:45 p.m. as usual. For them we have moved the starting time to 7:45 p.m.

2. Our most important reason for not starting earlier in all games concerns a war situation in Columbia. Arrangements have been made between University officials and commander of the local U.S. Navy unit for naval use of the Field House from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Sunday. This demand for space has prevented us from installing enough bleachers for our basketball spectators. We must erect some sections of the bleachers in the interval between 5:00 p.m. and game time. We estimate this job will take approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes. Navy requirements keep us from installing more than the lower section of our big West bleacher. Our seating capacity at best will hardly exceed 3,000, - about one half normal. Even with our present plans we can not take care of our 3,200 season ticket holders.

We hope that each of you will understand that our refusal of your request for a 7:30 p.m. starting time is forced upon us by conditions over which we have no control.

Yours truly

George R. Edwards
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