

April 24, 1940.

Mr. C. E. McBride,
Sports Editor,
The Kansas City Star,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

This is written in entire confidence, but I want to pass the confidential thought on to you why we are playing in Madison Square Garden.

After our dinner at your home I had a conference with Olsen regarding the distribution of a small sum to the respective athletic associations of the schools playing in the tournament. He called Chicago and asked that President Bill Owens of the N.C.A.A. who was meeting with St. John, Major Griffith and a group, and a Mr. May, a member of the board from the University of Washington, Seattle, fly out to Kansas City for a conference.

When Bum, Olsen and I met we discussed what the N.C.A.A. should get out of these tournaments of the districts, and so forth, and it was agreed that they should receive 20%. There was no discussion a year ago with Bum, Olsen and I as to where the profits would go because there had been none. Our chief concern was getting out of debt. Certainly there was no thought in any of our minds that the N.C.A.A. should take all the money. Olsen had also told us that any earnings the N.C.A.A. would receive would be earmarked for basketball.

When President Owens flew out to Kansas City we were destined to get the shock of our lives. We were told by President Owens that there was no chance to earmark any of the money for basketball, although Olsen (who was St. John's fair-haired boy) said he had no knowledge at all that such a thing was impossible. Further than that, President Owens let it be known that the N.C.A.A. expected to take all the profit and that it was rather an unusual request to think that the colleges would get any of the money. I had no thought of playing in the Garden, but upon receiving such an autocratic statement from people whom we thought were cooperative, I told them very frankly that I considered a selfish promoter a philanthropist in comparison to an idealistic set of administrators like the solons of the N.C.A.A. who desired to take all of the money