

COPY

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Sports Department
February 27, 1939

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Kansas University,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Phog:

This is my annual letter. If you only knew how rarely a newspaperman writes letters you'd be flattered. But skip that. I really am writing this because I want to do so. This is the time of year when I begin to run in circles trying to arrange the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Tournament. Before I begin rotating too rapidly I want to talk tournament to you.

At the risk of putting the jinx on your team, it looks to me as though they were about to win the hottest Big Six race in years. In that event, would Kansas consider an invitation to the writers' tournament on March 20-22? I don't know whether the Big Six is definitely committed to the N.C.A.A. tournament. If so, we do not wish to do anything to interfere with such plans. But if Kansas wins the Big Six and is free to accept invitations on its own responsibility, we would be interested in having the Jayhawks play in New York.

I know that conference permission will have to be obtained, but since Oklahoma got permission for the Orange Bowl football game I don't see how any objections can be raised to your availing yourselves of an opportunity to do something for Big Six basketball and Kansas University. I don't know whether you realize it or not, but the Big Six is virtually the only major conference or basketball district in the country that never has been represented on a New York court. I think that this state of affairs should be remedied.

I am cognizant of the fact that early in the season your team had its troubles, but it seems to have found itself lately. And I am told, too, that this boy Ralph Miller is a worthy successor to the fine players you have developed in recent years.

While I am at it, I am going to impose upon your good nature to ask about other teams out your way. How does Oklahoma A. & M. compare with its 1937-38 team? What sort of a record does Warrensburg State Teachers of Missouri have and is it a club that could stand up in major competition? This may be out of your range of vision and information, but do you know anything about Texas University in the Southwestern Conference?

You have plenty of troubles to keep you busy these days, I know, but I would appreciate it deeply, Phog, if you could scribble off a reply at your earliest convenience. You can appreciate how important the time element is in this tournament set-up. We are trying to run another high-class tournament without interfering with the N.C.A.A. project. Ours will be so compact that it will require a minimum of time away from classes, it will guarantee full expenses to participating teams and give them an opportunity to share in the net profits. If you want any first hand information on the way we do things, I refer you to Hank Iba at Oklahoma A.&M. and A. J. Robertson of Bradley and your old pupil, Frosty Cox of Colorado.

All the best of luck to you, Phog, and I hope to see you at the coaches' meeting if not before.

Sincerely,

Ev Morris