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March 17, 1939.

Mr. Jim Bell,
University Daily Kansan.

Dear Jim:

You write this stuff like you got it from me in conversation. I wouldn't want it printed as if it was a letter.

The Fifth District National Collegiate Athletic Association championship basketball was decided before a hilarious crowd of 5,000 Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma Aggie Wildcats at the Oklahoma City auditorium Tuesday night, March 14. On Monday night the Aggies had defeated Drake in a one-sided contest. Drake and the Aggies had wound up the Missouri Valley season as co-champions of their conference.

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooners showed a marked superiority in the last half over Henry Iba's clever basketeers. Two contrasting types of balls were used in the final play-off game. Big Six games have been played with sewed seam basketballs, while the Missouri Valley conference teams have used a moulded type of ball. The championship committee decided that both types of balls be used in the play-off games, each ball being used for a half. The choice of which half either type was to be used belonged to the team winning the toss of a coin. Bruce Drake won the toss and elected to play with the Big Six ball the first half.

Iba told me previous to the game that if he won the toss he would play with the moulded ball the second half. So it turned out that both coaches got exactly what each desired.

The moulded type of ball uses 7 pounds of pressure and the resiliency bounce of the moulded type ball is 4 feet 6 inches when the ball is dropped from a height of 6 feet. On the other hand, it is necessary to inflate the sewed seam basketball to a pressure of 13 pounds to get the same resiliency. The moulded ball is very slick and difficult to handle when wet with the perspiration of the players, while the sewed seam basketball is made of natural leather and absorbs perspiration readily. So there ^{was} much speculation as to the outcome of the game depending upon the toss of the coin. As it turned out, Oklahoma outplayed the Aggies by a greater margin with the moulded ball than with the sewed seam ball.