

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, *President*

COLUMBUS

February 13, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
L. W. ST. JOHN, *Director*

Mr. W. A. Witte  
Director of Athletics  
The University of Wyoming  
Laramie, Wyoming

Dear "Dutch":

I have your letter of February 1, regarding the possibility of holding a tournament in District #7 before the one which is to be held in San Francisco.

As I have indicated in previous correspondence, I have the feeling that, generally speaking, if we can possibly select representatives from each of the eight N.C.A.A. districts without resorting to play-offs within each district that that is the thing which should be done. I am a little afraid that if we had a play-off, such as you have indicated in District #7, then follow that up, say a week later, with the Western play-offs at San Francisco, that we are apt to come in for criticism on the part of the conferences and individual schools who are opposed to any extended post-season play. If, however, you find that the teams in your district, not only the coaches but faculty representatives as well, feel that there should be some sort of a play-off to decide the representative from that district, then I can see no harm in handling the matter in that way. Any such play-off, however, must necessarily stand on its own feet. That is, there could be no subsidizing of such a play-off on the part of the tournament committee of the N.C.A.A., because, as you will realize, we may have enough on our hands to make sure that all expenses are paid for the teams competing in the Eastern and Western play-offs and in the final game at Chicago.

The two members of the General Committee located West of the Mississippi, are Dr. Forrest C. Allen at Kansas and John Bunn at Stanford University. I would suggest that you check with these two men and, if possible, get through Bunn the reaction of President Owens regarding such a play-off as you propose.

I have this further thought - should you decide that some play-off is necessary and is desired by the teams in your district, that you would do well to limit it to a play-off between two teams, or possibly four teams at the most, so that it could be handled on a straight elimination basis and would be run off easily on a Friday and Saturday.

I would appreciate your keeping me informed with respect to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

HGO

H. G. Olsen  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball  
Tournament Committee

HGO:M

✓ CC-John Bunn

CCC-Forrest C. Allen



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS

February 13, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
L. W. ST. JOHN, Director

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

Dear "Phog":

I am enclosing a copy of a letter just written to "Dutch" Witte at the University of Wyoming, which I think is self-explanatory. As I indicated in that letter, I am in hopes that you and Bunn, as the two members of the General Committee West of the Mississippi, will take it upon yourself to check pretty carefully with the selection committees in districts 5, 6, 7 and 8 in whatever moves they make.

By the way, it just occurs to me that you had asked me in some previous letter if it wouldn't be possible to arrange for your presence at the time of the Western play-offs at San Francisco. It seems to me with the very obviously favorable financial set-up for the San Francisco event that we would be completely justified in having you go to San Francisco to help Bunn in the promotion and the handling of this play-off. At any rate, please keep in mind that I feel that such an arrangement can be made and I hope you will be able to attend. I think there would be plenty for both you and Bunn to do out there and if the thing can be arranged financially I believe it would be a smart arrangement for us to make.

I still feel, after having consulted with everybody, that even though there are some few objections, such as the ones you raise, to playing the final game on the 25th of March that that is what we had better plan on. It does appear that it is being somewhat of an additional burden on the representatives from the Western play-off to play at that time, but Bunn still seems to think that even though that is true we should go ahead with the date of March 25. I have every respect for your judgment and for the validity of the arguments you advance, but unless you could convert John Bunn, for example, to the proposition of setting it back to March 27, I still think we should let the thing stand as it is. After all, March 25 is pretty late for this basketball game.

I agree with you that when the matter of play-offs and dates for the same come up next year that we probably can arrive at a more satisfactory result than we have this year, but don't you think that under the circumstances we had better go ahead with the plan as originally outlined? I sincerely hope you can bring yourself to feel that that is what we should do as I shouldn't like to go against your wishes if it is at all possible to go along with your thoughts in the matter.

Kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

"Ole"

H. G. Olsen  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball  
Tournament Committee

HGO:M



February 15, 1939.

Mr. John Bunn, Dean of Men;  
Stanford University,  
Palo Alto, California.

Dear John:

I have had another letter from Harold Olsen, chairman of the N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament Committee, saying that the date for the Chicago play-off will be perhaps March 25.

John, I am wondering if you wouldn't agree with me that the winners of Districts 5, 6 and 7, being forced to travel from their home vicinities to San Francisco, are entitled to at least two extra days in recovering from their return trip to play the eastern team. Should the Coast team win the play-off they would be traveling but one way across the continent, whereas should the representatives of Districts 5, 6 and 7 win it they would be doing double traveling duty. For that reason I feel that it is hardly fair to put the tournament off so late as many of the teams' playing seasons are over, and then crowd the semi-final and final dates together, long before the teams have recuperated.

I feel that there will be much dissatisfaction when the district chairmen learn of the dates. I am wondering if these various chairmen have been notified of the eventuality. There is enough basketball interest in the country to justify playing the game even after March 27. You know the World Series is played late after the baseball season is over, and so are all star games in football. Why wouldn't it follow that basketball games would still carry the interest in the play-off a few days later?

I would much rather bring these questions up now than to say nothing about it and then get much criticism simply because we had overlooked this important matter.

Trusting that you will give this your careful consideration, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, *President*

COLUMBUS

February 15, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
L. W. ST. JOHN, *Director*

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

Dear "Phog":

Enclosed you will find the names of additional members of the N.C.A.A. in your district. This is in accordance with a check-up made with Dean Nicolson, Secretary of the N.C.A.A.

Please keep in mind that if at any time you have material which you can forward to this office to be used for publicity in connection with the tournament, I hope you will do so.

Very sincerely yours,

"OC"

H. G. Olsen  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball  
Tournament Committee

HGO:M  
Enc.



IN BULLETIN 1 ON THE NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT YOU WERE SENT A LIST OF NCAA SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT.  
PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS TO THE LIST:

Yankton College, Yankton, S. Dakota

Northwest Missouri State Teachers College



February 15, 1939.

Mr. H. G. Olsen, Chairman,  
N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament Committee,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Ole:

You know, Harold, I think that the fair thing would be to ask the various chairmen of Districts 5, 6 and 7 to vote on the 25th or 27th date.

You can see that these district winners are going to be forced to travel to San Francisco and then the winner of the play-off will again be forced to travel back to Chicago. This is double the lot that is being put on the District 8 winner. Those fellows out there will be rested, with no strain on them whatsoever and all they will have to do is travel to Chicago.

I feel it is utterly unfair to these three districts to permit District 8 the final determination in the choice of dates. I can remember very well when Chicago and Princeton played for the national title (so-called) several years ago when Pat Page and Johnny Schamer were playing with Chicago. I think the games were played the first part of April. I do not think that March 27 would be a bit too late. In fact, a game of this kind could still stand several days later and not detract from the national importance of the event.

I would be very happy if you would take the chairmen of these different districts into your confidence and see what they think about it. I have not communicated with any of them, but I am sure that we will be in for a lot of criticism by letting District 8 determine a policy of this kind. I am speaking very plainly on these matters because I would rather say them now than to hear it later from these people who cannot help but be dissatisfied. Remember, it was the 8th district that required this late date. Now I do not feel that we should postpone the dates so late to benefit the 8th district and then rush it through to the detriment of all the others. I have always believed that the greatest good for the greatest number is the best motto.



I am enclosing a carbon copy of the letter that I have written John Burn, beseeching him to give his vote to the later date, if possible.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 15, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Dept. of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

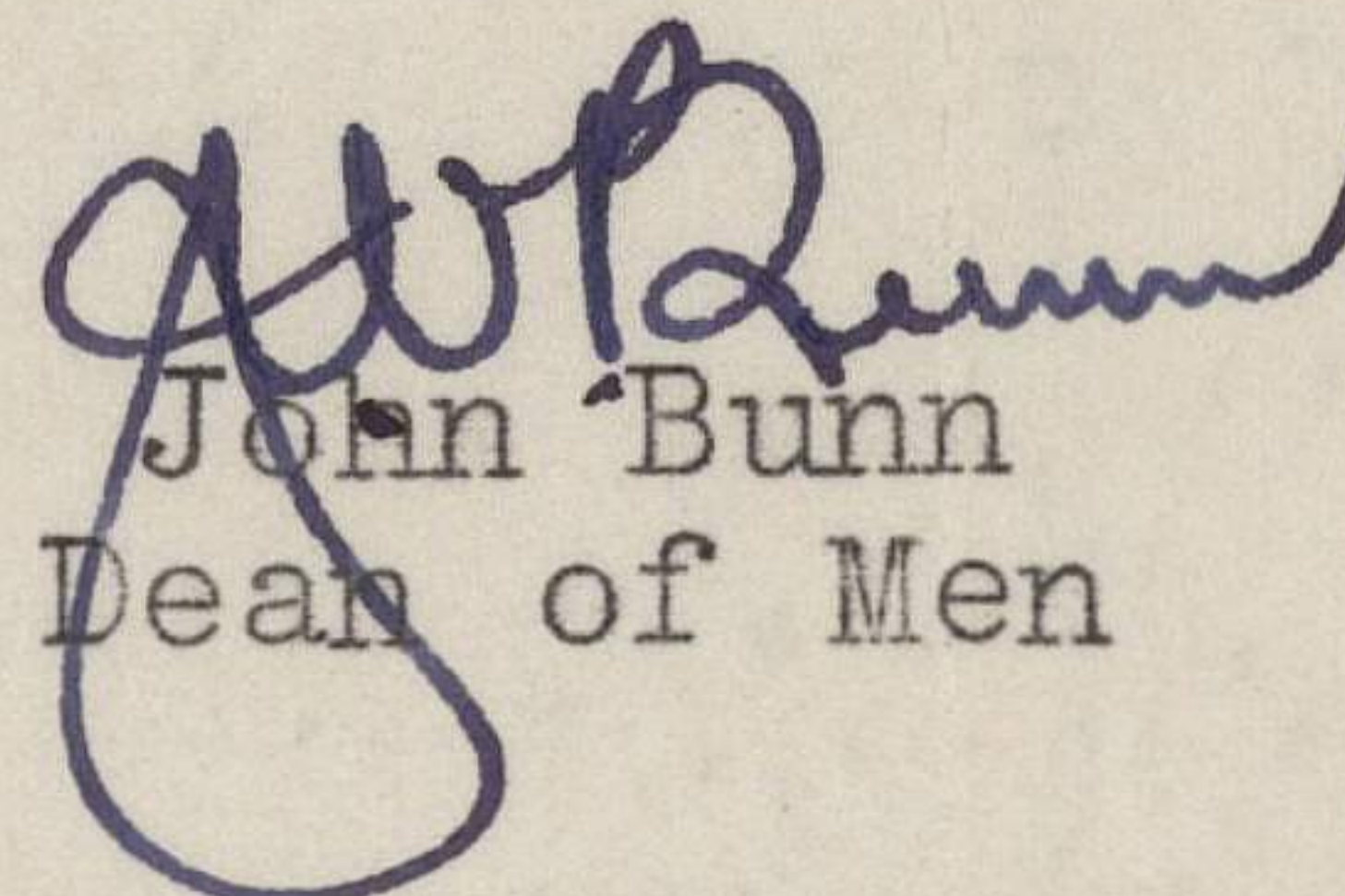
Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you very much for the publicity material on the outstanding teams in your district. You certainly have done a thorough job and I greatly appreciate your cooperation.

I read with much interest the account of your own team. The injury to Miller certainly was an unfortunate occurrence for basketball. It was always my opinion that Ralph did not have the physique to stand up under college football. I think he is making a great mistake to jeopardize a wonderful basketball career by further participation in football. I hope you are able to pull your gang out by the end of the season and that we may see you here on the Coast.

Thank you again for the material and with best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

  
John Bunn  
Dean of Men



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA  
February 16, 1939

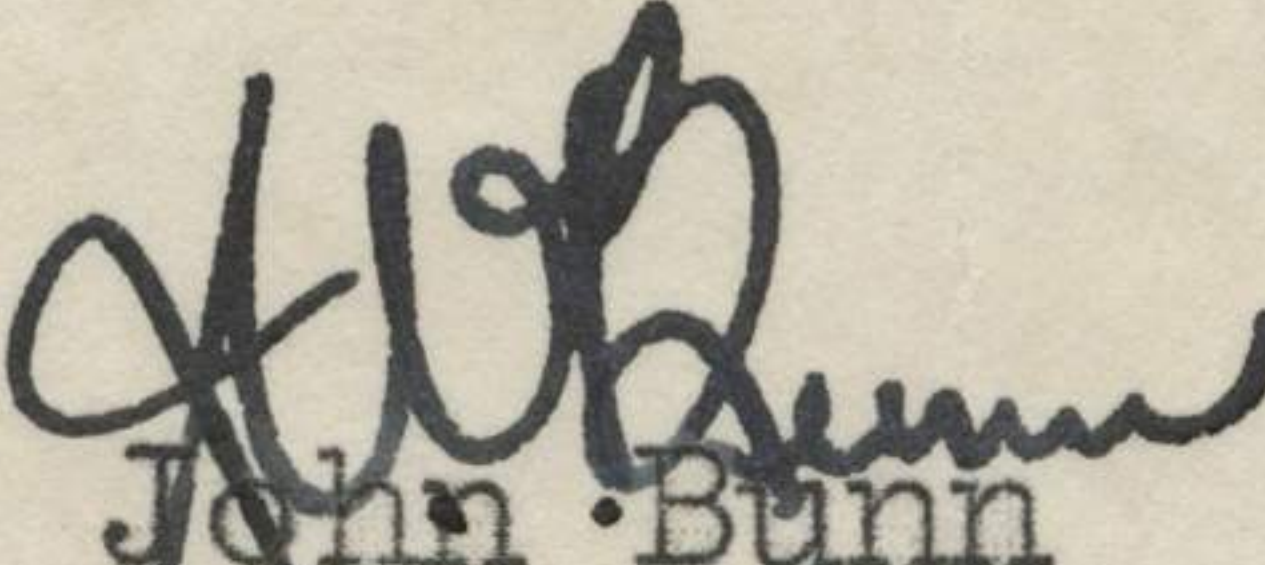
Dr. F. C. Allen  
Basketball Coach  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Doc:"

I have just received a copy of Olsen's letter of February 13 to you. I sincerely hope that it will be possible for you to get out here for the play-off for I am sure that you would be invaluable in making contacts and helping with the arrangements.

I have noted the statement concerning the date of the final game in Chicago. My own reason for objecting to the date of March 27 was the fact of absence from school. I suggested to Olsen, however, that he secure the opinion of all the districts before he set the final date. I did not feel that the three games in one week would be too strenuous. The train ride from here to Chicago will give an excellent opportunity for rest. Then after playing on Saturday night the teams could get back for classes early the following week. This point, I think, must be taken into consideration. I shall, however, be glad to abide by the majority decision if there is still some question about the final date.

Very cordially yours,

  
John Bunn  
Dean of Men



February 20, 1939.

Mr. John W. Bunn,  
Dean of Men,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear John:

I am enclosing some additional publicity for the N.C.A.A. tournament, regarding this Indian boy on the Oklahoma A. and M. team.

As you doubtless know, the Missouri Valley Conference has a ruling that any graduate of a junior college may automatically enter a university and play on the team in the same year. I understand this is about the same ruling that the Pacific Coast Conference has.

However, as I understand it, this is the exception - the boy does not have to declare his intention of going to that particular school. This makes rather a "hunting ground" out of this kind of a proposition. If a coach needs a star player he can go out and get him. And this Indian is a real star - we know, because we played against him.

Cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 20, 1939

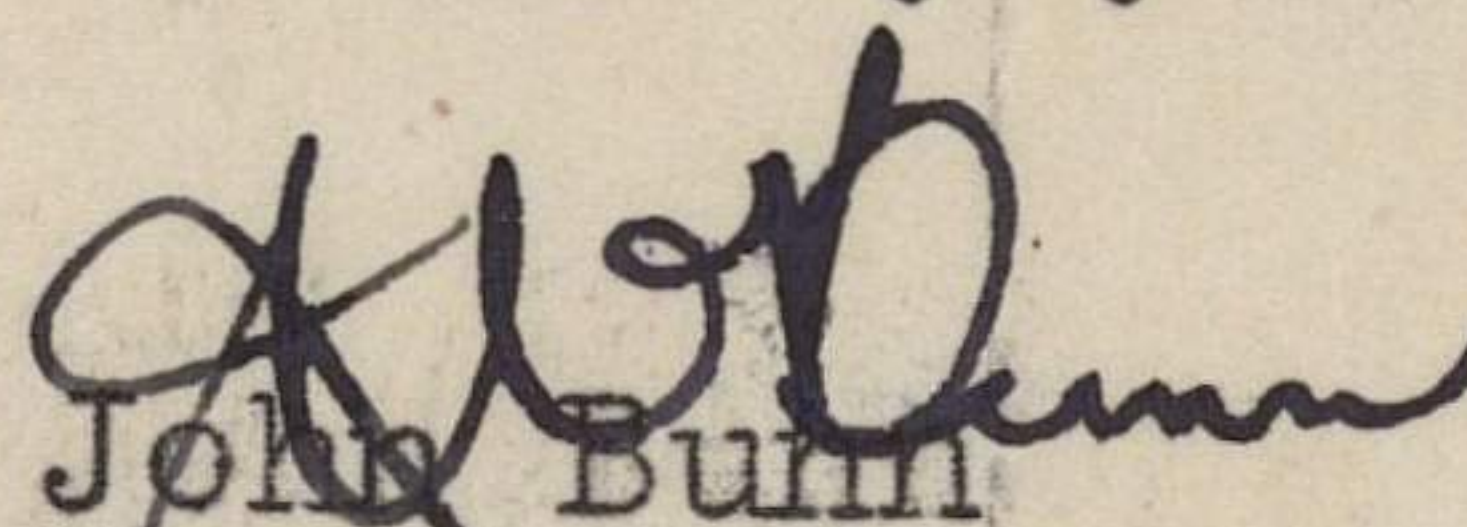
Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Doc:"

I have just wired Harold Olsen that the committee here in the 8th District is agreeable to the change of date for the final play-off to March 27. I wrote you previously my one concern was that of absence from school. It seemed to me that this outweighed all other factors. I still think so but certainly do not wish to oppose the rest of the committee. It was my understanding that the date of March 25 was decided after the opinion of the whole committee was polled. Evidently this was not the case.

In a number of your letters you have referred to the lateness of the date for our tournament out here. I hope you will appreciate the fact that this is the earliest possible date (it could be held on March 17 and 18 which is practically the same time) that the tournament could be held, and still have the representation of the 8th District. The Pacific Coast Conference championship play-off is scheduled for March 10, 11 and 13. Our regular season does not end until March 4. This schedule has been followed for years so, if the N.C.A.A. tournament is to be continued and the 8th District is to be represented, it will be necessary to hold our play-off around the 20th of March each year. If this is to be opposed by the general committee, then I think it should be considered in Chicago so that if any possible adjustments can be made in the Pacific Coast Conference there will be ample time to consider them.

Very cordially yours,

  
John Burn  
Dean of Men



February 23, 1939.

Mr. John W. Bunn,  
Dean of Men,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear Johnny:

I believe our difficulty in the whole situation, John, has been that we have had too few communications with the chairman. While Harold and you were out in California you remember that Harold phoned me. I received no other communication from him then until I received his wire on January 25, as follows:

"It seems best arrangement for tournament play is as follows- Eastern playoff at Palestra University of Pennsylvania March 17th and 18th; Western playoff San Francisco March 20th and 21st; final game for NCAA championship at Chicago Northwestern University gymnasium March 25th. Feel publicity should go out at once so if you have objection to this arrangement please wire immediately; otherwise will consider you as confirming these dates and places."

On January 26 I received an onionskin copy of the letter that was sent to H. H. Salmon, you, and Bill Chandler. I find that I have written him a great number of letters; two on January 21, one on January 16, one on January 28, one on January 23, and several in December. I also called him by phone. In all these letters I endeavored to find out more of what was being done.

But I want to assure you that I have tried to do the best for the representatives from this section of the country who might be forced to play out in California with some pretty tough games in the offing, and then have to retrace their steps and play the representative of Districts 1-2-3-4 in Chicago so soon after the dates in San Francisco.

You state in your letter that it could be held on March 17 and 18 at San Francisco. If that could be done that would suit everyone of our people here because the last date that our conference has is March 6, and most of them are over by March 2. I wonder why March 20 and 21 was not chosen out on the coast. Do you know?

It was because of the fact that I received a letter from Harold Olsen saying that the play off in San Francisco would be on the 20th and 21st that I felt it would be fair to play in Chicago on the 27th. But if you could set your dates on the 17th and 18th out there I would be strongly in favor of playing on the 25th in Chicago, so far as I am concerned as a member of the committee. I did not understand that you could



play on March 17 and 18, and until I had received this letter from you this was the first time I learned of it. I certainly would not oppose what you suggest in your letter in regard to the 8th district play off. I have never received this information as a member of this committee, and I believe the general committee should have all these facts in mind, or at least have it spread before them and then let them express their opinions.

It seems to me that the members of the general committee have not had all the necessary facts, nor have they been communicated with often enough to know the facts for the best interests of all concerned.

I want you to know that I will go along with you one hundred per cent, with a definite idea of having the 8th district represented and give them ample time for the play off, and then arrange it so that everybody in all eight districts will have an equal chance. Being a member of the general committee caused me to oppose the 25th as the play off date, after the 20th and 21st were set. Frankly, I think we would come in for a lot of criticism if we held to those dates. For instance, consider Texas, who perhaps will be in the 6th district play off. They would travel to San Francisco and then if they should win it they would be forced to travel back to Chicago and meet the teams from the east who had had their last game on the 18th.

I thought that perhaps the date, the 20th and 21st, was at your suggestion. In the eastern districts the teams would travel much less distance than the western teams and would have the advantage of several days more rest.

Johnny, I do not believe we are too late to still take this up with Harold Olsen and get our games on the 17th and 18th on the coast, if you are agreeable.

And here's another thought. Personally, I do not think the National Interscholastic play off would be too late if it were held in Chicago even as late as the first of April, which would be the Saturday following the week of the 25th. I am giving you my opinion of these dates so that you can see that I am in favor of a wider latitude of choice in the dates and not restricted or hidebound in my opinion in regard to getting this over in a hurry. Personally, I am strongly in favor of conserving our time away from school. I enthusiastically subscribe to your conviction in this regard.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 24, 1939

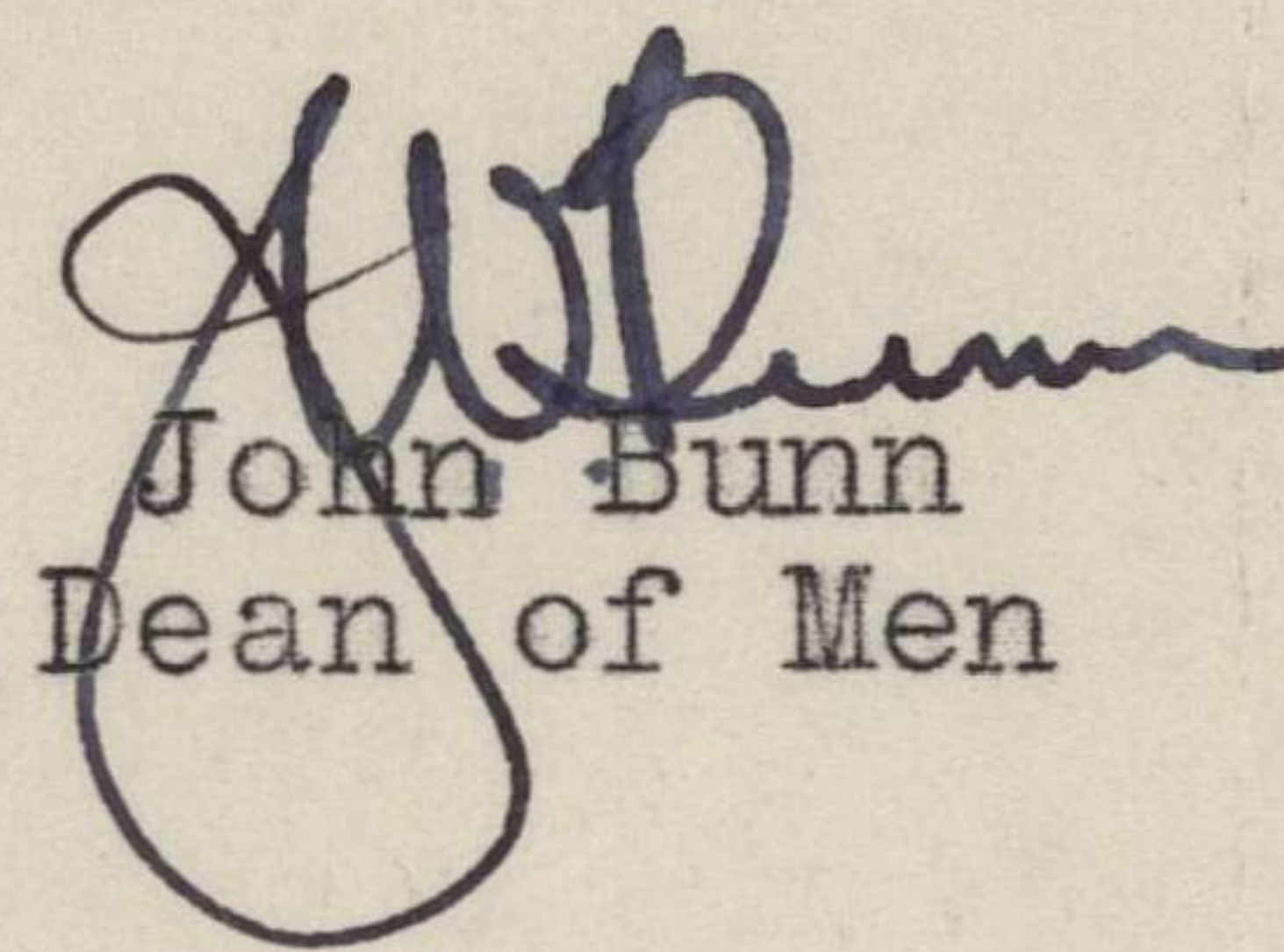
Dr. F. C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Doc:"

Thank you for the material on Oklahoma A. & M. The junior college ruling for the Missouri Valley Conference is the same as that here on the Pacific Coast. No boy in our junior colleges out here need declare his intention of going to any particular university. The boy may also compete immediately after his registration.

It has seemed to me that this has been a very fair rule. The boys who have attended junior colleges before going on to universities are in this way not penalized in their athletic competition because of such scholastic procedure.

Very cordially yours,

  
John Bunn  
Dean of Men



Lawrence, Kansas  
February 28, 1939

Mr. George Edwards,  
Columbia, Missouri.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. J. C. Truesdale  
Grinnell, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

Our committee is expected to pick a representative from the Fifth District to play with the other districts, Six, Seven and Eight, at San Francisco to determine the winner who will represent the western section for the national title at the play-off in Northwestern University gymnasium on March 27.

There is no formal rule of procedure and it is up to our committee to make some such determination for the play-off. Doubtless the Oklahoma Aggies will have won or have already won in the Missouri Valley championship. Should there be a two-way tie in the Big Six I am not sure just what the committee's feeling should be in deciding how the play-off should be arranged. There has been some discussion that the Oklahoma Aggies have been invited to the New York tournament. I have no definite information that they are entertaining the thought of accepting the New York proposal.

I am merely writing this letter so that you can turn over in your minds the necessary procedure that should be followed soon after the Big Six championship is decided. If you now have a solution or an idea toward a solution we would be very happy to have it.

Very cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, Fifth District, N.C.A.A.



Lawrence, Kansas  
February 28, 1939

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

Dear Mac:

This is just a "feeler" that I am sending out  
to the committee.

No doubt our conference will be represented, and  
I believe we should begin with preliminary plans. I thought  
possibly our committee could have a meeting in Kansas City  
after the conference season is over. This would be a conven-  
ient meeting place for all of us, with the possible exception  
of John Truesdale, and I hope he can get down for the meeting.

Cordially yours,

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLUMBUS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
L. W. ST. JOHN, Director

March 2, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Phog":

As indicated in my wire to you, I don't understand the statement you received in a letter from John Bunn in which he stated that the tournament out there could have been held on March 17-18. As you may recall, the first announcement regarding the San Francisco play-off was that the play-off would be held on Treasure Island on March 17-18. Those were the dates agreed upon by Bunn, Major McChrystal and myself on December 26.

On January 13, I received a letter from Bunn from which I will quote a portion:

"Since the conference with the Fair officials on the western play-off, it has been necessary to change the dates from March 17-18 to March 20-21. It did not seem possible for McChrystal to completely clear the original dates. I found by checking travelling schedules that the teams would miss one day less of school if they played on March 20-21 than they would if they played on March 17-18. I think, therefore, that there can be no objection to holding the tournament on the first of the week."

On January 18, I sent the following wire to Bunn:

"Planning final game Chicago, Saturday, March 25. Suggested dates of March 20, 21 appear impossible because winning western team cannot arrive Chicago in time for final game. By all means stick to original dates of 17 and 18. I feel we should do this even if it means taking the event to San Francisco and running it in the Auditorium. Please settle this finally and let me know by wire earliest opportunity."

Then on January 21, I received the following wire from Bunn:

"March 20 and 21 only possible dates. Bicycle races as per my letter and preparation for elimination tournament here make early date impossible. Train connection permits western winner to arrive Chicago evening March 24. Fair will pay first class fare. Suggest you confirm date as tentatively arranged. Least amount of absence from school this way."

And so, in accordance with the information I received from Bunn, as indicated above, I told him to go ahead and plan on the dates of March 20 and 21. So can you wonder that I am at a loss to see how Bunn could say in a letter to you that the tournament out there could have been held on March 17 and 18? You figure it out, I can't.



F.C.A. #2

March 2, 1939

Please give me the word just as soon as you have made a selection in district #5. It is important that we have these selections in all districts at the earliest possible moment.

Kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

*HGO*

H. G. Olsen  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball  
Tournament Committee

HGO:M



Lawrence, Kansas  
March 3, 1939

Mr. H. G. Olsen, Chairman,  
N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Ole:

I have just returned from Columbia, Missouri, where last night the Tigers whipped us for the Big Six championship. Oklahoma may share the bunny. They are to play Nebraska Saturday night at Lincoln, and their last game is with Kansas State on Monday night at Manhattan. We will not know until after the final game, which is March 6th, whether it will be a tied championship between Missouri, with 7 wins and 3 losses, and Oklahoma, who can have a possible 7 wins and 3 losses if they win both their remaining games. Kansas had 6 wins and 4 losses, so it will be necessary to wait until after Monday.

I talked to George Edwards, a member of the committee, last night. We plan to have a meeting in Kansas City on Monday, March 6th.

It happens that the Oklahoma Aggies have the flag cinched in the Missouri Valley Conference, so they must be considered at an early reckoning. It is for that reason that I am using every possible date advantage to have my committee of George Edwards, C. E. McBride and John Truesdale meet in Kansas City, but it will, of course, be impossible to have the meeting any sooner. I am sure you will agree with the necessity of waiting until we have something to discuss with assurance.

You may rest assured of my early eagerness and my kindly cooperation in bringing the Big Six representative participating team to the front at the earliest date.

Possibly it might have been my letter to John Bunn about a week ago that caused him to set the dates March 17 and 18. I complained rather bitterly that I did not think that the general committee had polled their general intelligence and understanding fully enough before the semi-final and final dates were set. I told



John Bunn how unfair it was, say to the representative of the Southwest Conference district #6, and the rest of our people here to play in San Francisco on March 20 and 31, and then to go back to Chicago and meet a team that played in Philadelphia on March 17 and 18 with a short haul and a longer rest to meet that longer traveling team which had gone to San Francisco for the 20th and 21st and then raced back across the continent to play the 25th. I told him that I would be unhappy to be on the general committee and to be held up for criticism by a team which might feel that the dates were made by the general committee which would put a burden on this worn-out team. Of course, I said, if the 8th district should win it they would make but one trip, but if the 5th or 6th district should win it they would be traveling a distance comparable to making a trip across the entire continent with dates against them, while the eastern district winners would have every advantage from shorter hauls to more rest.

That is all I know about it, Harold, but I voiced my opinion as a member of the general committee, trying to put myself in the place of those people that I was supposed to represent. Frankly I am saying to you that I do not believe that the general committee met or were polled on all these ideas frequently enough.

Again I want to assure you of my loyal cooperation in trying to promote the best interests of basketball, but I want to call your attention to the fact that early in the beginning you talked about the semi-finals in Kansas City, or possibly the finals. I thought we had a possibility, and went to work and got Mr. McBride on the committee and cooperated with you to the point that I thought we would land one or the other. Then you called me from San Francisco saying that you thought the semi-finals for our district should be out there. I happily acquiesced, but I remembered what you and I had said to Mr. McBride. Then without knowing much more, the place of the final play-off was set for Chicago.

Again I assure you of my hearty cooperation, but again I say that the general committee has done too little and has known too little for a general committee. Certainly we can profit by our acts of omission or commission for next year, and it should be a much easier matter for us to obviate some of these embarrassing situations.

With all good wishes to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.

FCA:AH



CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

(55)...

SYMBOLS

- DL=Day Letter
- NL=Night Letter
- LC=Deferred Cable
- NLT=Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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1939 MAR 1 PM 4 55

DR FORREST C ALLEN=  
=UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

URGE EARLY DECISION REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 SANFRANCISCO  
 PLAYOFF. FULL EXPENSES TOTAL PARTY 12 GUARANTEED  
 SANFRANCISCO PARTICIPANTS, ALSO FOR WINNER TO CHICAGO.  
 FINAL GAME. DONT UNDERSTAND BUNNS STATEMENT REGARDING  
 POSSIBILITY PLAYING TOURNAMENT MARCH 17TH 18TH THOSE  
 WERE ORIGINAL DATES SELECTED AND WERE CHANGED ONLY AT  
 INSISTANCE OF BUNN LETTER FOLLOWS=

H G OLSEN.

RECEIVED TO  
 459  
*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

5 12 17 18.

PANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



March 4, 1939.

Mr. H. G. Olsen,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Harold:

An extract from my letter to John Bunn of this date is as follows:

"Now I am getting to a point that I mentioned to Ole once, and I think that I should speak very frankly to you about members of the general committee at these play-offs. I particularly referred to myself at San Francisco and to Salmon at Philadelphia. He said of course that we should be there, and you were very nice to mention the fact that you would be glad to have me as the N.C.A.A. representative from the general committee. But I am wondering if the income for such expense would be derived from the general income of the N.C.A.A. play-off, or from what source. I frankly believe that we will make enough money from our district here to take care of any such expenses that I mention."

I am wondering what suggestions you have, Ole, in regard to expenses of members of the general committee for travel expense. Will you please let me hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.



Lawrence, Kansas  
March 4, 1930

Mr. George Richards,  
Columbia, Missouri.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Mr. J. C. Truesdale,  
Orimell, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter that I received from Mr. H. C. Olson, as of November 7, 1929, asking me to serve as chairman of the N.C.A.A. 5th District and asking that I appoint two other members on the committee. Personally, I felt that a four-man committee was much better than a three-man committee, and made that suggestion to Mr. Olson, Chairman of the N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament Committee, and he acquiesced. I am also sending a copy of the N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament plans, as he briefly outlined.

I would like to call your attention to the third paragraph of the letter in which Mr. Olson referred to the possible contingency of Kansas winning the title. In that case he felt that it would be the part of wisdom to have Kansas take smaller action toward promoting her interests than if she were not in the representative list. While we desire all the cooperation and intelligent suggestions from Mr. Richards, as well as his personal attendance at the meetings, since Missouri is in the championship titular hunt it may be the better part of wisdom to let the Missouri representative depend upon the other members in outlining the vital procedures for the tournament.

I am sending this copy of the letter so that you may know the wishes of the general chairman.

On the afternoon prior to our game with the University of Missouri at Columbia, Coach Richards and I had a conference about the possible contingencies of the play-off series. I outlined to Coach Richards the bare possibility of the winner of the Kansas-Missouri



game being tied with Oklahoma after next Monday night's Oklahoma-Kansas State game. In other words, the Big Six presents the possibility of having a co-champion.

The Oklahoma Aggies are definitely in as champions of the Missouri Valley Conference. I told Coach Edwards that it seemed unfair to pit two Big Six teams against the one Missouri Valley representative in a play-off series, and I voiced to him that I thought the fair thing would be to have two representatives of the Missouri Valley district, namely the Oklahoma Aggies and Drake. Drake is a close second to Oklahoma Aggies, and the fact that they defeated them at Des Moines evened the series in their own conference. Therefore, if such a situation does exist, that Missouri and Oklahoma are tied, then it seems fair that two teams from the Missouri Valley Conference with two teams from the Big Six Conference should have a play-off at some point to be selected real soon. Drawings could be made with the Missouri Valley teams playing the Big Six teams. This would be a two-night tournament, the second night would be the final play-off to determine the champion that would represent the 5th District at San Francisco on March 20-21.

I further expressed the opinion to Coach Edwards that in the event that Oklahoma should lose either one of the two games to Nebraska or to Kansas State, then Missouri would be the outright champion of the Big Six and they would meet the Oklahoma Aggies on some neutral court in a single game to determine the championship.

Coach Olson stressed the point that the matter of being taken away from school as little as possible was one of the prime essentials that the tournament committee has emphasized. The time consumed in determining the district winner, and then the added time for the trip to San Francisco and then back to Chicago adds up into a lot of days away from school. We must protect our athletes against the charge of itinerant traveling men.

Upon receipt of this letter will you not wire me telling me if it will be possible for you to meet in Kansas City, say at the Continental Hotel, at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7th. This committee can then make final plans regarding the selection of the teams eligible for this play-off to represent the 5th District at San Francisco. The Monday night game between Oklahoma and Kansas State will be history and we will then be free to make a decision. There is a bare possibility that Oklahoma might lose to Nebraska Saturday night, but by writing this letter today and having it in your hands Monday morning I feel that I have moved as rapidly as possible consistent with possible changes in the situation.

I am thinking out loud so that you may have the benefit of my thoughts, and I might suggest that you also turn over in your mind and have ready for presentation your ideas on the location of this play-off tournament or play-off game. As I think it over, the cities that might be interested in this would be Des Moines, Oklahoma City and Kansas City.



The National Intercollegiate Tournament starts in Kansas City on March 13 - 16. It might be possible to make arrangements with this tournament committee to stage our play-off game in conjunction with their game. Naturally the time for the lightest attendance for their tournament would be the first part of the week, say Monday and Tuesday, the 13th and 14th. By playing this tournament or game in Kansas City it is my opinion that both groups would benefit - the tournament committee in Kansas City and the members of our group. The citizens of Kansas City would naturally be basketball-minded due to the build-up that the Kansas City Star has given the National Intercollegiate tournament. And too, if the game should be in Kansas City it would be possible for Mr. Holtride to inform John Q. Public the difference in the status of the two tournaments. So I think that one would help the other. Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas, is very anxious to attract play-off tournaments of this kind, but I believe that we should stick to the basketball center of the United States - Convention Hall in Kansas City, Missouri, if it is possible to make arrangements.

Doubtless you will remember that when the N.C.A.A. tournament was first mentioned the thought was to have either the sectional district play-off of Districts 5-6-7-8 in Kansas City, or the final championship tournament played there. It was also tentatively planned in the beginning to have the National Association of Basketball Coaches meet after the final play-off game, as well as the National Rules Body to be in session at that time. But those things were changed, due to the fact that the World's Fair directors at San Francisco guaranteed the regional there, and the final game for the championship was set for Evanston, Ill., at Northwestern University gymnasium on March 27.

I will appreciate your wire at the earliest possible convenience.

Very sincerely yours,

WCA:AJ  
Enc.

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.



March 4, 1939.

Mr. H. G. Olsen,  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament Committee,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Harold:

Answering your air mail special delivery letter of March 2, I concur in your belief that we should use Dr. R. Tait McKenzie's wonderful N.C.A.A. medal design for the championship plaque.

I do not recall that design. If this medal design is so distinctly "track", then I am not sure that it would be the thing.

For our Big Six Conference championship award we have a plaque design that we give to all of our teams which shows a winged foot Mercury runner placing the thongs around his leg, ready for a long, arduous endurance contest. While it might be constructed as a track emblem, it can be viewed as a general athletic design. So I would go along with your belief in that.

It might be that this design could be placed on a plaque in such a way that a separate bronze engraving plaque could be put below the main figure that would give all the information without the engraving on the back. Then the twelve members of each team that would participate in the final game at Chicago could have a replica of this plaque reduced to a small medal size.

Personally, I would say that for the final game at Chicago the one team winning should have the gold basketballs and the team taking second should have the silver basketballs, then you should award a plaque to the school winning the national title, and maybe a silver cup to the runner-up. I know that the boys would much rather have a gold or silver basketball than any small plaque or medal that you might give them. Why would it not be a good idea to give them a small N.C.A.A. medal at the regional play-off at San Francisco and Philadelphia, and give the gold and silver basketballs to the individual winners and runner-up at Chicago? This seems to me to be the better plan. The boy wants to wear a gold basketball on his watch chain and he would be mighty proud of a national championship ball.

Very cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, *President*

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
L. W. ST. JOHN, *Director*

COLUMBUS  
March 2, 1939

✓ W. S. Chandler  
✓ Dr. F. C. Allen  
H. H. Salmon, Jr.  
John Bunn

Dear Sirs:

In order that we may have appropriate trophies ready in time, we must come to some decision as to what medals, cups, etc., we are going to give the winners in the N.C.A.A. Tournament.

The N.C.A.A., some years ago, had Dr. McKenzie design a very fine medal which has been used in the N.C.A.A. track meets for years and, I believe, is considered the official N.C.A.A. medal. I am wondering if we shouldn't adopt and use that same medal for our tournament with appropriate engraving, of course, on the back, rather than to try to design a medal which is distinctively basketball.

I would assume that we would, of course, give medals to the twelve members of each team which would participate in the final game at Chicago.

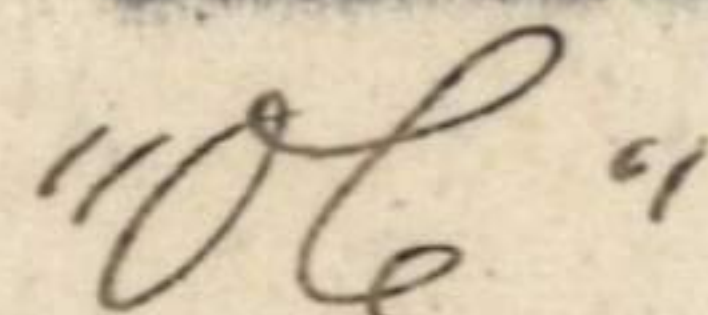
Regarding the play-offs at San Francisco and the Palestra, do you think we should give medals to the winning team and also the runner-up? Someone has made the suggestion that perhaps we might give the N.C.A.A. official medal for the final game at Chicago and give something in the line of a gold or silver basketball to the winner and runner-up at the two play-offs.

If you have any suggestions regarding this matter of medals, I hope you will get them to me at once because it is imperative that we place our order soon so that the medals will be ready to give out.

Do you feel we should have, in addition to individual medals, some sort of team trophies for the winners and the runner-up?

I would appreciate an immediate reply with respect to these questions.

Very sincerely yours,



H. G. Olsen  
Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball  
Tournament Committee

HGO:M