

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.