

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, *President*

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

COLUMBUS

February 1, 1939

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

Dear "Phog!"

I am enclosing the first release of information regarding the N.C.A.A. Tournament, since we finally have the Eastern play-off, the Western play-off and the final game set. You will notice there is a sheet of general information and also several sheets for use in your district. We have endeavored to give you definite information as to the territory which your district covers, together with the N.C.A.A. schools in your district. If you should find any discrepancy in this list, I wish you would let me know at once so I may get the matter straightened out. We don't want to overlook anybody and the list as I have given it to you is correct to the best of my knowledge. I am, however, making a check with Dean Nicolson, the Secretary of the N.C.A.A., to make sure that it is correct with respect to his records.

I think now that the play-offs and the final game have been definitely set, we should get busy in each district in the matter of talking about the tournament, getting as many people as possible interested in the ideas of this tournament, which is to decide as best we may the N.C.A.A. Basketball Championship. I think it is incumbent upon each member of the committee to spread the word wherever possible that this is not a "National Intercollegiate Championship" sponsored by the N.C.A.A., but rather a tournament run by the N.C.A.A. for its membership only. I am sure you get the distinction. Obviously, there are a number of schools with good basketball teams who are not members of the N.C.A.A., but we are not interested in them in connection with our tournament. We are not competing with such other tournaments as may be run throughout the country; we are simply trying to put over in the best possible manner this N.C.A.A. tournament, but I think it should be rather clear to everybody that if we do a good job, this tournament will be the outstanding basketball tournament in the country.

I think I see a fine opportunity for building up a lot of interest in this tournament through the work of committee men in each district. As the season goes along and various teams begin to "stick their heads up", they ought to be singled out as potential representatives from that district. I think in this way we can build up a good deal of interest as the teams "come down the stretch" in each of our eight districts.

Please bear in mind that because of the very general objection to any amount of post-season play we want, if possible, to select the best team in each district without any play-offs. If, however, you find it impossible to make a final selection, as between two teams, let us say, and you find that these teams are willing to play off to see who will represent the district, then I can see no objection to such a procedure.