

The other question which deserves most consideration in preparing future plans, and one which has evoked considerable controversy, is the matter of the qualifying tournament. In our discussions last Fall the reasons for the introduction of the qualifying tournament were, first, the fact that the open tournament in the past few years had grown to such proportions that it was difficult to conduct a proper tournament within a week's time; second, that the open tournament permitted entries of varying caliber, with the result that, generally speaking, the first several days were spent in weeding out the lesser players; third, that qualifying tournaments throughout the country, if properly conducted, would result in more interest locally and a greater number of total entries; fourth, from the standpoint of expense, it was felt that colleges would prefer to incur the lesser expense of a qualifying tournament until it was demonstrated that their players were of sufficient caliber to enter the final event, in which case the additional expense would be justified.

It can be fairly stated that the qualifying tournaments for 1938 were not a success. In fact, one of the eight districts found it impossible to hold a tournament. There appear to be many reasons contributing to the lack of success of the qualifying tournaments, some of which are as follows:

First, the fact that because the machinery was not put into effect until early Spring, the college tennis schedules had been arranged, so that it was difficult to select a satisfactory date for the qualifying tournament, because in many cases the date conflicted with college examinations or other important tournaments.

Second, the existence of certain conference championships detracted from the qualifying tournament, and in some cases colleges which did absorb the expenses of players to conference championships would not finance the expenses to qualifying tournaments.

Third, the lack of interest on the part of colleges to support the qualifying tournament.

Fourth, the failure of college authorities to insist upon their representatives completing the event. In some cases, for example, as soon as an individual had established his qualification by reaching the quarter finals he defaulted in order to play in some other tournament.

It would appear, however, that the two most serious reasons are, first, the failure to consider the qualifying tournament in arranging the college schedule and, second, the lack of support on the part of the colleges.

It is our opinion that both of these objections could easily be overcome if proper thought and coöperation were supplied by the college authorities.

In the questionnaire sent to the twenty-five members of the N. C. A. A. committee, the question was asked whether the committee members approve of the system of qualifying tournaments. Of the twenty-two replies, three failed to answer this, thirteen endorsed the qualifying system, and six favored its abandonment, returning to the open championship.