

August 23, 1940

N.C.A.A. F

Mr. H. G. Olsen
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Dear Ole:

A copy of the attached wire was sent to you yesterday. I feel very strongly that St. Clair should be present at our Chicago meeting, and the fact that we made enough money this year to justify his attendance causes me to appeal to you for such a decision. This meeting with the Executive Committee should be a history making meeting. Either we will set out a plan whereby the coaches of the nation will support this tournament, or we will make rules which will cause them not to support it, and the N.C.A.A. basketball tournament will die. It will take much patience, careful planning, and the best brains that we have to put the N.C.A.A. basketball tournament among the top-ranking N.C.A.A. activities, and with all of that it can be made a definite money maker.

My notion was to have an eight-team tournament during the week of Easter vacation and not during the regular academic term. Easter falls a little late this year but I believe with the success of the Rose Bowl games and the Christmas games which come a month after football season that it would be an easy matter to keep these successful teams in training for a month. In fact, a two-weeks rest after the basketball season is over would be the very thing a team needs, and then light practices up until the time the trip is made, Easter week would be a stimulating thing. Ole, I am looking at the thing from the standpoint of reducing the objections by educators to this basketball tournament. The fact that we would take no time away from school and would give the boys an educational trip would put the basketball tournament in the same position as the Rose Bowl game, or the East-West game. As a matter of fact, the coast games do take some time away from the boys' study, but if you played this tournament during Easter week you would lose no time from school.

I may face a possible protest by the Ministerial Alliance on the possible project of playing the games during Easter vacation. You will remember we played the finals last year during Easter vacation and I called the Ministerial Alliance and told them that I regretted that the games were held at that time but that there was no alternative. The President of the Alliance said, "Don't worry about that. They have rodeos and shoots and all sorts of things, so I see no reason why you shouldn't have basketball games." In fact, many ministers attended the games and then flew home either Saturday night or Sunday morning. So, my suggestion, Ole, was to set the national play-off during Easter week so that there would be as little time as possible lost.