

Ole has asked me to handle this tournament and I certainly could not bring myself to the belief that the N.C.A.A. should give away the best seats in the house, especially when this deficit hangs over our head. Won't you write me at once and let me know your convictions and reaction in the matter?

Now, regarding the Dr. James Naismith Memorial Trophy. It happens that Emil Liston, athletic director at Baker University, and acting executive secretary and managing director of the so-called Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament, has issued printed material to the effect that they would give a "James A. Naismith Memorial Trophy". The Naismith family is adverse to this committee using Dr. Naismith's name or presenting a trophy in his name. Some three years ago Liston went to Dr. Naismith, who was on our faculty here, and sold him on the idea of a big inter-collegiate basketball tournament. Doctor, of course, thought that the University of Kansas would be eligible for play in this tournament, and he gave a "Maude Naismith Memorial Trophy" in memory of his wife. Doctor appraised me of the fact, and said "I have given this trophy and I want Kansas to win the first one." I said, "Doctor, we cannot win it because we are not permitted to enter such a tournament." He was really disappointed and appeared almost heartbroken. They had fooled him when they sold him the idea of this so-called National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament.

He told me when he was well and happy this past summer that he did not intend to give any more trophies to this outfit. During last October Liston printed this announcement. You can see that he has used the James Naismith Memorial Trophy months before the good doctor died. Maude Naismith would not mean anything to him so he just plagiarized and used the good doctor's name while he was still alive. Can you feature this? Not only was it unethical, but it was coldblooded and selfish.

I met with the Naismith family and they resent very much such practices, and they are meeting and are willing to give us coaches of the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States permission to give this trophy. Of course, it would be up to the Coaches Association each year to pay for such a trophy, or to buy a very good trophy and have it passed around as a challenge trophy. This seems to me a wonderful thing for the Coaches Association to do.

You will please understand, Butch, that I am not trying to get the Coaches Association to do something that they would not want to do, but I am endeavoring to use my good offices here at the University and my acquaintance with the family to direct them to proper sources where Dr. Naismith's name could be revered and honored by men who have made their livelihood from his game. I was thinking perhaps it might be possible to offer a trophy even with the good doctor's photograph some way worked into the cup or plaque or medal that would be awarded to the winner.