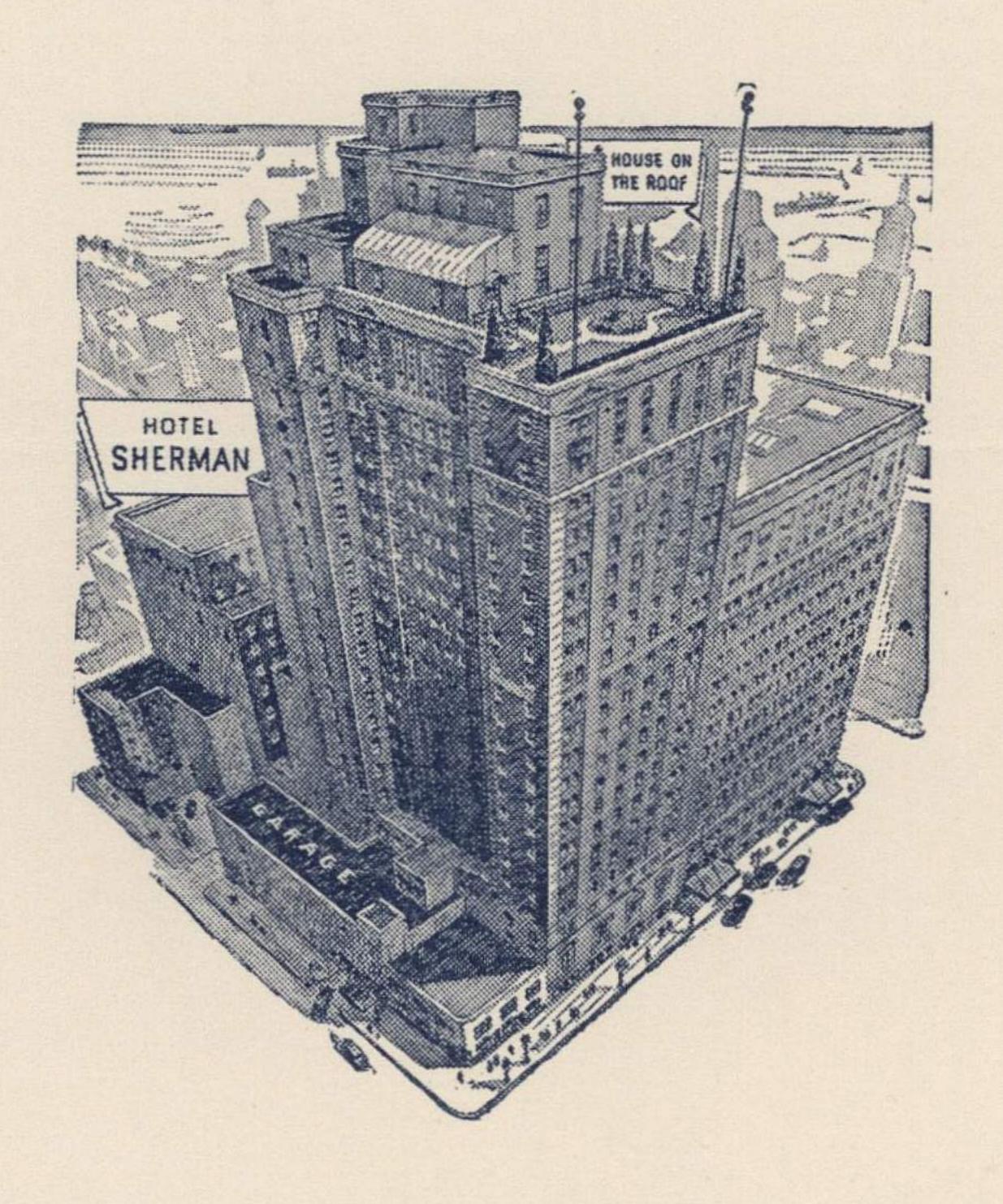
CALLING ALL BASKET BALL COACHES

TO THE CONVENTION OF THE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKET BALL COACHES



HOTEL SHERMAN :-: CHICAGO

MARCH 25, 26, 27, 1939

YOUR CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Presents discussion.. basket ball movies...

banquet and entertainment-commencing with the
Daily News Track and Field meeting. Saturday,
March 25th, and ending with the National Collegiate
basket ball championship game, Monday, March 27th.

The Committee has arranged for special hotel and garage rates.

We are enclosing a room reservation card for your convenience. We would appreciate your early reservation.

HOTEL SHERMAN

Chicago

Mr. B. T. Grover, President, National Basketball Coaches Assn., Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

Dear Butch:

Thank you for your good letter of the 18th instant in which you inform me that I have again been placed on the Tournament and Olympic Committee of the Coaches Association for the year 1939-40. I assure you that I will do the best that I can in making the tournament successful.

I am leaving Friday for New York for the Rules Committee meeting.

I am wondering if it would not draw a bigger crowd of coaches to the convention on March 22-23 when we play the regional play-off, rather than on March 30 when the finals are played. I am hoping that I can talk Ole and Johnny into having the coaches meeting when the four teams are playing, and then get the Rules body to meet when the finals are played on the 30th of March. Maybe some of the coaches might stay over and see the finals, which would be the next week, but if we could do that I am sure that we would make a lot of money and bring the basketball interest up to a most unusual degree. By the four teams playing there we would have a double header each night.

I am going to promote this when I am in New York, and wanted you to know about it.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education, Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

OHIO UNIVERSITY ATHENS, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

April 18, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

Upon recommendation of the Board of Directors of the National Basketball Coaches Association I wish to inform you that you have again been placed on the Tournament and Olympic Committee for the Coaches Association for the year 1939 and 1940. Mr. H. G. Olsen is chairman and Mr. John Bunn is the other member of this committee.

The Board and I myself feel that the committee with its experience of lat year would be in a much better position to do a better job this year and we are therefore asking the same three men to make up this committee for the the year 1939 and 1940. In view of my conversation with John in Chicago and the possibility of the final tournament game being held in Kansas City, I thought that you should certainly be a member of this committee as you are so near the place where the game is to be played. I shall appreciate your acceptance of this appointment to the committee.

Very truly yours,

13.T. Groven

B. T. Grover, President National Basketball Coaches Association

BTG d

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AN NAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

February 17,1939.

Dear Coach:

The basketball season is rapidly approaching its end and we all have had many opportunities to observe the effects of the recent rule changes on the game as a whole; on questions of fatique and on offensive and defensive play.

I, as chairman of your Research Committee, would appreciate any suggestions that you might make concerning the above or upon any other problem with which you have been confronted.

Please fill out the enclosed questionaire and supplement with any additional information which you believe would be helpful to this committee.

Thanks for your kind co-operation and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Valentine Lentz

Chairman, Research Committee

P.S. FILL OUT AND RETURN QUESTIONAIRE IMMEDIATELY

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES of the UNITED STATES

QUESTIONAIRE OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

].	Are	e you in favor of standardizing -
	a.	the ball ?
		(1) If so, what type ?
	b.	the basket ?
		(2) If so, what type ?
	•	the backboards?YESNO
		(3) If so, what type ?
		d you use the "four foot" extension under basket ? YESNO
		If so, where your reactions favorable?YESNO
3.	Is	the game, as played at present, to fast for the ayers ?
	۵.	If you believe so, have you any evidence to substantiate your belief?
		(1) What is your evidence ?
	77 .	
		If you believe not, have you any evidence to
	~.	substantiate your belief?
		(1) What is your evidence ?
4.	If	the Ten Second Rule where only enforced in the last five minutes of the game-
		Would this be an improvement?YES
		(1) If so, why?
		Would this be detrimental ?YES
		(1) If so, why?

5.	Are you in favor of all "held balls" being jumped at the nearest 6 foot circle ?
•	
0.	Have you found the play under the basket too rough ?YESNO
	a. If so, do you place the blame upon the officials ? YES
	b. Should we have a clarification of what is meant by pessession at this particular place ?YESNO
7.	Have you done any research work during the past season ?
	a. If so, please give detailed report of work done.

8. List below any suggestions you may think helpful to this committee.

S	igned
Po	sition
Co	ollege

CONVEX AND STREAMLINED BACKBOARDS

It remained for a rabid basketball fan, Leonard A. Maune, of St. Louis, Mo., and Mr. G. R. Chervenka, a research engineer of St. Louis, to introduce the convex backboard. This convexity of 4 inches begins at the median plane of the board and extends and curves outward to the sides of the board, which is 3 feet from the median plane. The original convex backboard has retained the 6-foot width dimension of playing surface and likewise the 4-foot height dimension. The inventors have assumed a 14-foot radius of curvature to be ideal, as the angle of incident and reflection on this arc does not vary greatly from the conventional flat plane. This radius, however, can be altered to meet conditions that may develop.

Since the latest change in the rules permits the extension of the end zone for an additional 2 feet, totalling 4 feet, practically all the new schools laying out basketball courts are taking advantage of this new ruling. This allowable increase in the end zone increases the blind spots, or "coffin corners", which while all owing greater freedom of movement or play, insofar as the offense is concerned, does markedly change the defense owing to the fact that the basket is now plainly set out so there is no mental hazard from the projecting straight side of the backboard.

It is the thought of the originators or inventors that this board will revolutionize the offensive play in the end zone. By increasing the scoring zone
it must necessarily follow that the defense must spread out, resulting in more
open and much faster play in the end zone.

The inventors cite the following points which they consider to be decidedly in favor of this type of bank:

- 1. For a straight shot to the goal the scoring zone is, figuratively, increased by 27 sq. ft.
- 2. For a bank shot contacting the bank 3 inches from the edge, the scoring zone is increased 720 sq. ft.
- 3. The mental hazard of attempting a shot from the sideline, directly parallel to the bank, is eliminated, owing to the recession of the vertical edge of the bank, allowing unobstructed visibility of the goal.
- 4. The visibility to spectators is greatly increased beyond the end zone due to the recession of the vertical edge, thereby opening up large areas which heretofore had been obscure.
- 5. The convex shape of the bank results in a unit of much greater strongth and rigidity, thereby causing rebounds to land a greater distance from the basket and opening up the congested regions around the basket.
- 6. Present type bank mounting structure doss not have to be materially altered to permit installation of this new type of bank.
- 7. This type of bank can be made of wood, glass, steel or any of the materials as used in present bank construction (cost of board no greater than flat backboard).

The inventors appreciate that in order to have this type of bank adopted for national scholastic or collegiate play there must necessarily be a change in the present rules. They believe, however, that the selection of either type bank could be specified. Since its inception, the rules of the game of basket-ball have been changed from time to time to allow more freedom, faster play and more interest to the spectator, but no change has been offered in equipment to achieve these points. They believe, however, that they have accomplished the desired results with this new type of bank, and likewise will have created a new interest in the game from the standpoint of both player and spectator.

The chairman of the Research Committee is doing research work with three of the convex backboards of different sizes. A streamlined convex board which has a foot cut off the top, 6 inches off the bottom and a foot off either side with the corners lopped off, will receive much attention from Mr. H. V. Porter. He is doing additional research on a flat board of this size. For the research work at the University of Kansas, this small streamlined board is placed at one end of the regulation playing court in Robinson Gymnasium, and at the other end is a convex board the normal size of 6 feet by 4 feet with the corners lopped off in a graduated scale. At one side of the court another 6 by 4 convex backboard with no alterations, is placed for research work on bank shots. At the New York meeting we will be able to give you some findings of the work done on this board.

ALL-STEEL BASKETBALL NETS

Mr. Joseph H. Bennett, of Worcester, Mass., has perfected an all-steel basketball net which he asks to have tested by the Research Committee. The argument in favor of the nets is their durability and construction. This type of net causes the ball to drop down directly through the basket rather than going out of bounds at times as heretofore when a high looping shot was made with such force that it carried the ball out of the court. With the cord net, a "swisher" was produced when a long goal was made, but with the all-steel net a "jingle" is produced.

The only objection that we can find to the steel net is the weight of it. When the steel net is attached to the "no-tie" loops, in one case already, the steel loop was broken loose from the mooring of the rim.

The price doubtless will be a determining factor should the nets eventually be approved.

There is one argument in favor of the white cord nets. With the white back-board and a white net the black rim is set off in a more definite contrast — black against white — than the shading of the metallic nickel. Perhaps the steel basketball nets could be made white. This will be a minor objection.

There seems to be no objection on the part of the players shooting through this type of net as over and against the traditional cord net.

Mr. Bennett states that he is using two different styles of hooks as fasteners, but until the plain hoops are outlawed completely this is the only fastener that can be used, as it must pass over the top of the old style basket. If the old style basket should ever be outlawed, then the tape or rawhide attachment could be used. Mr. Bennett further states that if the net should be approved he will then be in position to have special hooks made up to fit the "no-tie" basket which seems to be the most popular in all sections of the country.

BLACK AND WHITE ALTERNATE MARKINGS FOR THE BASKETBALL COURT

Many basketball playing floors with their dark stain are poor surfaces to carry a black marking which should set off the playing court from the out-of-bounds area. Many basketball courts are used for auditoria and assembly hall, and when the floor becomes over-used the light color of the wood is darkened by additional coatings of varnish or shellac.

On a white maple floor the black designated markings are plainly seen, but if the floor gets darker the black lines show less distinctly.

2 . . .

A scheme was tried this past winter at the University of Kansas which showed up wonderfully well. The black sidelines, end lines, free throw lines and jumping circles were broken every six inches by a two-inch square white line. This alternate black and white marking of contrasting colors showed to a decided advantage. The "make and break" of the white line set off the well-defined sidelines and end lines so definitely that it was possible for a coach, player or an official to tell whether a player was on or near the sideline at the other end of the court.

We suggest that other groups try this for a research problem in clarifying and making more distinct the sidelines. We believe that it will lessen the
officials' problems, many times when an over-enthusiastic rooter takes issue
with an official who calls the ball in or out of bounds.

TEAM-WORK ON THE PART OF OFFICIALS

It is the concensus of the coaches everywhere that officials are not cooperating with each other and with the scorekeeper in designating the proper offender and his number and the offended player who is to toss the foul.

It is suggested that it is the duty of the off official not calling the foul to report to the scorekeeper the foul, the offender, and to designate to the scorer the player who is to toss the foul shot. In other words, Official A calls the penalty. Official B walks over to the scorer while Official A is taking the ball down to the free throw line, gives the scorer the proper information, and immediately walks to the free throw line while the official who called the foul places the ball on the free throw line and then walks back under or near the basket for the throw.

SCOREBOOK

It has been recommended that the official scorebook remain at the scorekeeper's table from the start of the game to the finish, and that it not be removed to the dressing rooms of either team during the time between halves or at the quarter.

TWELVE-FOOT BASKET FOR COLLEGE AND INDEPENDENT TEAMS

Of late years there has been a protest on the part of the basketball public against these "mezzanine peeping goons" of the cage sport who actually come to the level of the basket rim when they reach for tip-in shots, or actually dunk the ball into the hoop instead of shooting it upward, as originally intended by Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game. No other sport puts such an outlandish premium on height as basketball.

The only reason that the height of the basket today is 10 feet from the gym floor is because the indoor running track at Springfield, Mass., College was 10 feet from the floor, and Dr. Naismith attached his basket to this running track.

Twelve-foot baskets would be only for college players who have reached their growth and maturity, and not for high school players. It is just as easy to accommodate the muscles of the eyes, wrists, hands and digits to distance in height as it is to accommodate them to distance on a horizontal plane.

It is proposed that a field goal count 3 points and a free throw from the 20-foot line (now 15 feet) count one point. This would equalize the scoring ratio. It has long been a contention of Dr. Naismith that a field goal should count more than twice as much as a free throw. An argument might be advanced that if the field goal is increased in value there would be a tendency to foul an opponent to keep the field goal from being made. The answer to that is that 4 personal fouls will disqualify a player from the game. And again, there will not be the desire to work the ball in under the goal for lay-ups on a 12-foot basket because the most disadvantageous spot under the new scheme is directly under the basket. It is much easier to bank a shot 8 and 10 feet out from the basket near the 12-foot goal than it is to work it under the goal. Research has shown that nearly 90% of all the fouls are made in close proximity to the basket. This is on account of the desire of the players to work the ball in close to the basket for a lay-up shot.

Many adherents to the elimination of the center jump rule contended that the no jump rule at center would drive the exceptionally tall player from the game. This certainly has not been true, nor should any rule be made that would be discriminatory. The higher basket would require all players to shoot for goals, whereby now only the "second story peeping Toms" can bat the ball away before it reaches the cylinder of the basket, thereby preventing the goal. Never in the history of the game have there been so many exceptionally tall men under very low baskets, comparatively speaking. Men 6'10" tall are getting to be quite commonplace. The presence of so many long fellows has reduced basketball to a freakish demonstration and has put an almost unbearable handicap on the finer athletes of a normal 6-foot height. Certainly no discrimination is asked against an exceptionally tall player. Rather uniformity is asked so that discrimination against the little fellow will be removed.

Practically all the rules that now exist against the single or double post play, against touching the ball while it is on the rim or above the cylinder of the basket, the 3-second rule, the 1-yard defensive rule, the player being awarded two free throws when fouled under or near the basket -- all of these rules will be unnecessary after a higher basket is put into effect.

The higher goal will increase spectator enjoyment, and will decrease injuries under the goal from accidents by players when driving in hard for lay-ins.

We have seen tall players in many team line-ups who were born without any special gift in basketball, but who were on the team solely on the accident of extreme height. Some junior high school coach discovered this altitudinous Brobdingnagian, sky-scraping stepper oozing ethereally down the hall and straightway the coach made for him with a pair of shorts, the stimulus being mainly his altitude and not his ability. Only a severe cardiac insufficiency will permit that basketball monstrosity to escape the coach's tentacles. Therefore, it is beyond reasonable doubt but what we can expect players of this 6'10" altitude to become so numerous that they will be the rule rather than the exception.

An eleven-foot basket would not be out of reach of the exceptionally tall players. A twelve-foot basket would forever guarantee non-interference of the basket rim by players. In addition to this, the twelve-foot basket would contribute markedly in clearing up the congestion under the goal by increasing the arc of disbursement of the rebound of the ball much further out on the court and away from the basket. All modern gymnasia and auditoria have high ceiling clearances, but in schools that do not have high ceiling clearances ground rules could be permitted which would allow the use of the lower baskets until conditions could be corrected.

In 1934 Kansas State and Kansas played a home-and-home series using the elevated 12-foot basket. Neither team had practiced previously with the 12-foot goal, but the players seemed to have little difficulty in making goals and the spectators enjoyed the game very much. The players only complaint was that they couldn't drive in and make their lay-up shots. On the other hand, they reacted quite favorably toward the elevated basket.

At the coaching school the following summer conducted by Allen of Kansas and E. J. Hickox of Springfield, Professor Hickox elevated the basket to 12 feet and the boys in the coaching school, without any practice whatsoever, played a match game. We asked Professor Hickox to write his impressions of that game. It seemed to be his opinion and that of the group who watched the game that the players had little difficulty in finding the range of the basket.

It seems to be a fair conclusion that certainly no one should criticize the elevated basket until he has at least tried it out. There are so many benefits and so few drawbacks that this experiment should be indulged in by more coaches than those who have tried it. It also seems reasonable that it might be fair to all concerned that if the 12-foot basket is found to be practical to advance the time of its possible adoption over a two year period so that none of the tall players now in college would be injured, but those oncoming players would have notice of it. This perhaps would remove an objection from coaches who might have tall men now.

The following are a number of reasons set forth in favor of the twelvefoot basket:

- 1. Arc of disbursement is greater, thus freeing congestion under basket.
- 2. Guards are forced further away from baskets to get rebound.
- 3. Forwards are forced further out from baskets to obtain rebound.
- 4. Will encourage more shooting account greater value of field goals.
- 5. Will definitely reduce foul shots because of no drive-in necessity.
- 6. Shots are easier made 8 or 10 feet out from basket instead of directly

- 7. Will eliminate the player's effort to draw two shots by being fouled.
- 8. The four foul disqualifying rule will still discourage too much fouling.
- 9. Will require all players to shoot upward for basket as originally intended by Dr. Naismith.
- 10. Present congestion of tall men under basket works a hardship on short men and makes the game rough.
- 11. Loss handicap to a short man in shooting extra distance than by jumping extra distance.
- 12. Will discourage using a tall man who is not as active as a shorter man.
- 13. No other sport puts such an outlandish premium on height as does basketball.
- 14. A player accommodates muscles of eyes and hands to height the same as to distance.
- 15. The only roason the height of the present basket is 10 feet is because of the gymnasium running track at Springfield College.
- 16. A 12-foot basket is a blow to the zone defense account spreading defense.
- 17. A convex board with 12-foot basket is another impediment to the zone defense.
- 18. The speedier players could recover the ball before it goes out of bounds in the 4-foot zone, thereby reducing the number of out of bounds plays in a game.
- 19. Is a decided aid to officials awarding 2 shots on fouls.
- 20. Will do away with single and double post plays.
- 21. Will do away with 3-second rule in the lane.
- 22. Will do away with rule regarding interference of ball on or above rim.
- 23. Will increase spectator enjoyment by high arch shots that hit.
- 24. Will increase visibility for spectators by raising basket 2 feet.
- 25. Will decrease number of accidents under goals, driving in, not so much hipping, nudging.
- 26. Will actually give more rebound playing space per player.
- 27. Four-foot zone behind basket another fa ctor against zone defense.
- 28. Will make unnecessary all legislation around basket, such as 1-yard rule, etc.
- 29. Twelve-foot basket is coming, as sure as death and taxes.
- 30. An eleven-foot basket would still be within reach of 6'9" or 6'10" players.
- 31. Twelve-foot basket would forever guarantee non-interference.
- 32. In Olympic participation 12-foot basket would equalize height of two teams (desire of Olympic Committee); limited class 6'2" of under, unlimited class, any height.

Complete Membership: Corrected to Sept 1st 1939 E J Hickox - Sec-Treas NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

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Iowa City Iowa
Joliet Illinois
New York New York
Los Angeles California
Storrs Conn

Cicero Illinois Chicago Illinois Mr. Edward J. Hickox, Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.

Dear Coach Hickox:

Thank you very much for your kindness inssending us the revised list of members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, and also the stationery for committee work.

We are planning great things for the N.C.A.A. tournament this spring. We have rooms in one of the best hotels at \$2.50 a single room and \$1.50 per man in a double room.

We hope you and Mrs. Hickox will come out and spend a week or two weeks in our midwest. It was a great pleasure to see thin this summer. We were delighted with our visit, which was all too short.

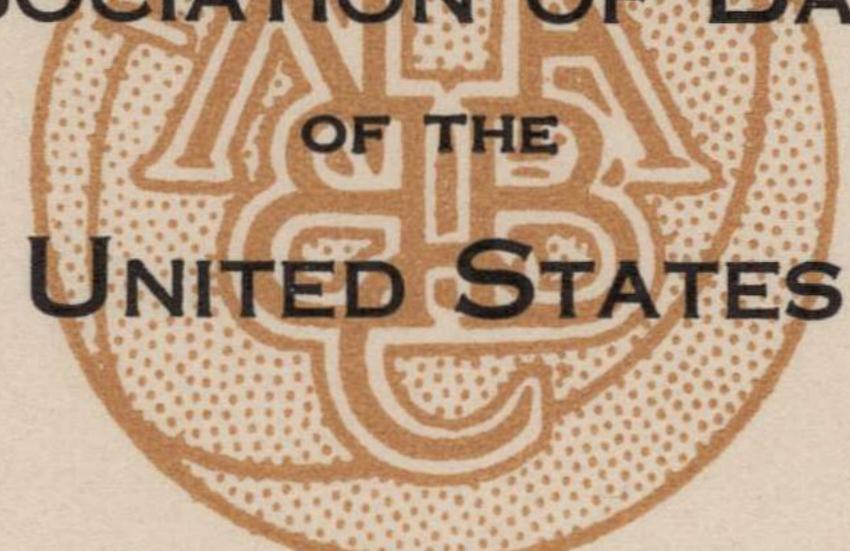
I hope that you had a lovely summer. From time to time you will hear from me as we perfect our plans.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES



EDWARD J. HICKOX, SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sept. I8, I939.

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Dr. Forrest C.Allen, Chm. Convention Committee Nat'l Assoc. Basketball Coaches Kansaa Univ.Lawrence, Kan.

Dear Doctor Allen:

Have just received the newly checked list of members from the mimeograph office and am sending copy of same to herein.

When you get really started on promotional work I shall have more names to add I hope. The new membership committee is going out after a record registration.

Am sending you in separate package some stationery for committee work. Probably not enough but more may be had later, perhaps.

I am already looking forward to the Kansas City Convention and the games the week before if I can get out there.

We enjoyed greatly seeing you all in your home this su mmer.

Best of luck

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Hickox, Sec.-Treas.

Inc. Membership List 1939-40

Lawrence, Kansas November 13, 1939.

Mr. B. T. Grover, President, Mational Association of Basketball Coaches, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Grover:

As you know, Frank Root has resigned as head basketball coach at Kansas State. He was replaced by Jack Cardner, one of Sam Barry's boys from U.S.C.

Since Mr. Gardner is a newcomer to these parts, and since your Convention Committee was comprised of three men - myself, George Edwards and Frank Root, all of the Big Six Conference - I would like to suggest that I be permitted to use Mr. Bill Williams, of Drake University, on this committee. This would give a representative from the Missouri Valley Conference. This conference is comprised of Washburn, Drake, Oklahoma A. & M., Washington University, Tulsa University, St. Louis University and Creighton University.

Bill Williams is a splendid fellow, and although he is three hundred miles from Kansas City, I am sure that we can work together in a very fine fashion. I would be pleased to hear from you if this meets with your approval.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation Varsity Basketball Coach.

Memorandum: Correction - The information listed hereon was received too late to be included in their respective districts -Thus the loose leaf is added.

"In Bulletin 1 on the National Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament you were sent a List of N.C.A.A. schools in your District. Please make the following additions to the list. Sgd: H. G. Clsen

Chairman, N.C.A.A. Basketball Tournament Committee.

DISTRICT No. 1.

American International College Springfield, Mass. Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Muhlenburg College Allentown, Penna. St. Johns University, Brooklyn, N. Y. State Teachers College, Shippensburg, Penna.

DISTRICT Np. 3

Presbyterian College, Clinton, S. C. Washington College, Chestertown, Md. Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich. Kent State College, Kent, O.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Yankton College, Yankton, S. Dakota Northwest Missouri State Tr. College, Maryville, Mo.

DISTRICT No. 6.

No correction.

DISTRICT No. 7.

University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

DISTRICT No. 8.

University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, Calif. Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash. California Institute of Tech. Pasadena, Calif. Occidental College, Los Angeles, Calif. Pomona College, Claremont, Calif. La Verne College, La Værne, Calif. Santa Diego State Tr. College, Santa Diego, Calif. University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif. Whittier College, Whittier, Calif. Santa Barbara State Tr. College Santa Barbara, Calif. George Pepperdine College, Los Angeles, Calif.