



BASKETBALL GOLDEN JUBILEE

NAISMITH MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Springfield, Mass.

MAYOR ROGER L. PUTNAM

Chairman

November 1, 1941

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

The article which you so kindly contributed to the Naismith Memorial Souvenir Program is certainly a grand piece of work and it will do a wonderful job, I am sure, in the interest of the Golden Jubilee Campaign.

One reason I am writing you is that I was talking to John Doyle a few days ago. He is an old friend of mine on whom I have frequently depended for good advice. John happened to show me a letter which you had written him and when I told him that I felt I knew you well enough to write you myself and mention the letter, he said it would be alright.

What I have in mind is your reference to the fact that Springfield will benefit by reason of the Naismith Memorial there. Obviously you are right, and there is bound to be some feeling of criticism on the part of people who think about this. It is nevertheless a fact that the primary purpose of the Temple of Basketball is to benefit the game itself and to commemorate the name of Dr. Naismith. Just as Yale profited by the Walter Camp Memorial and Notre Dame profited by the Rockne Memorial (both of which, as you know, were erected through public subscriptions) so Springfield, which gave basketball to the sports world, is entitled to profit somewhat for that very reason if for no other.

There is no doubt in my mind but that the game will benefit very definitely through this national campaign. The cooperation which everyone seems to be willing to give in its interest will serve to pull together the loose ends of the sport, and will make it a more concrete and significant factor in the category of athletics.

The reason I am going into such detail about the matter is probably a selfish one. Frankly, we need all the help you can give us and we want you to play a part in this enterprise that is commensurate with your high position in the game. You have been more than kind so far and I trust that you will continue to lend us your support wherever possible.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Don Spencer

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