

COPY

CENTRAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
Biltmore Hotel, Madison Avenue and 43rd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Asa S. Bushnell, Executive Director

December 21, 1944.

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

Dear Phog:

I should have sent you long since a more detailed answer to your letter of October 23 than the mere acknowledgment which did go forward immediately upon its receipt. I apologize for allowing a lot of work here in the office to spoil my good intentions in the matter.

My thoughts still sugar off to the opinion which I expressed in my original communication regarding the gambling matter. I feel that publicity for rumors, second-hand reports, and alleged happenings can only do harm to college basketball and other collegiate sports, whereas I am certain that your sincere desire is to gain protection against possible damage to campus athletics. Perhaps you have seen the editorial in the Saturday Evening Post's December 23 issue, entitled "The Gamblers Move In on College Sport"; this item illustrates my point. The article lists your charges, and then goes on to say that the episode of their airing "did suggest to a lot of people that their estimate of college athletics ought to be revised again - and downward". Thus, in consequence of the publicity innumerable people now undoubtedly believe that two boys were persuaded by gamblers to "throw" a college basketball game, though the authorities at the institution which the two boys in question represented were convinced after exhaustive investigation that such was definitely not the case. Believing this much, those people will also believe that many other boys have "thrown" games, and further that "the fix will be on" in countless other contests in various other branches of sport. And, in addition, these people will convert many others to the belief that faith in the integrity of intercollegiate athletics is misplaced.

It seems to me that your unsubstantiated story, if told to the N.C.A.A. instead of the AP, would have been highly beneficial instead of harmful. It would then have helped and inspired the N.C.A.A. to the sort of action which that organization should take in eliminating evils from college sports and in preserving all of their many good features. We should all work everlastingly to have the N.C.A.A. assume responsibility for investigation and - if needed - for correction also of problems such as that growing out of gambling on basketball.

There is no doubt of the facts that professional gamblers are