

66/13/3

"THE INTERNATIONAL GROWTH OF BASKETBALL"

By Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Head Basketball Coach, Univ. of Kans.

Perhaps there is no game in all the world that enjoys the same possibilities for international uniformity as does basketball. Why not include this sport on our next Olympic calendar? Los Angeles in 1932.

At present, it is estimated by authorities that there are eighteen million people playing this indoor game.

India, France, Italy, Japan, the Phillipine Islands, China, Persia, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Greece, Mexico, Canada, Poland, Russia, and Germany, as well as the South American countries, have been playing basketball for several years and today are turning out creditable teams.

Some of these countries had their introduction to the game of basketball almost simultaneous with the inventor's first draft. The first printed copy of the basketball rules appeared in "The Triangle", the International Y.M.C.A. school paper, Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1892. At this time, Dr. James Naismith and Dr. Luther H. Gulick were co-editors of the Triangle, and, because of lack of available funds for printing, they deemed it both wise and expedient to get the rules in printed form in this way.

Because of this and because of its origin at Springfield, basketball has spread uniformly to all nations of the globe. The Y.M.C.A. secretaries who were sent out from the Springfield school carried the knowledge of the game along with their other work into "all the world" and taught its principles to all peoples.

Duncan Patton, a "Y" graduate, implanted the game in India, in 1894. Emil Thies, another graduate of the Springfield Y.M.C.A. school returned to his native country, France, in 1895, and established the game there. In 1898, Dr. F. N. Seerley, at present Dean of the Springfield, Massachusetts Y.M.C.A. Training School, secured a leave of absence to spend the year in France. During Dr. Seerley's stay in the land of the fleur-de-lis, he did much to extend the interests of basketball--already well established by Thies. Italy has played the game for a number of years--perhaps taking up the game through contact with its neighbor, France.

At the Inter-allied Games in the Pershing Stadium, outside of Paris, in June, 1919, the United States, in a series of games for the championship, defeated both France and Italy.

Ishakawa, another "Y" student, took the game to Japan, his native land, in 1900. Ernest Quigley, the National League umpire and major sports official, several months ago wrote me from Japan that basketball had taken an unusual hold upon the Orientals. He stated that great throngs of spectators attend all games.

Our United States soldiers established basketball in the Phillipine Islands during the same year that Ishakawa took it to his land of Japan.

China is indebted for the game to four men, Galey, Robertson, Exner, and Siler. Robert Galey, a former center in football at Princeton, left Springfield in 1904 for Tientsin to establish both missions and the game of basketball in North China. J. Robertson, in 1905, followed his colleague to Tientsin to assist in the intensive development of this work. Dr. Max. J. Exner, a medical

#2. The International Growth of Basketball.

missionary, went to East China in 1908, and figured prominently in the extensive development of the game there. Dr. Charles Siler, a Kansas cage Athlete, and also a medical missionary, left the states in 1912, China-bound, to add a further contribution to the game, in the way of his personal knowledge of scientific basketball.

C. Herok, another Springfield man, transplanted the game in Persia as early as 1901. In 1924, Roberts College in Constantinople became the first college in a foreign land to incorporate basketball in its curriculum. Chester N. Tobin has done much for the game in Turkey. In 1924, he brought about the publication of the first translation of the American Basketball Rules into the Turkish language. Many of the pictures of American players were reproduced in this book of rules.

Today, the game is enjoying a rapid and enthusiastic growth in the land of the Moslem. Louis W. Riess has done for Greece what Tobin did for Turkey. He has translated the American game into Greek. Salonica was the birthplace of basketball in Greece.

The game in Mexico is well established. H. C. Aguirre of the University of Mexico, City of Mexico, and T. B. Rodriguez, at Chiluhua, both graduates of the Y.M.C.A. school at Springfield, have done much to promote the game in that republic. At present we are in communication with Mexican basketball teams who are desiring to make a tour through the United States.

In Canada, hockey is the big game among the men, although basketball is growing in proportion to the growth of indoor playing space, much of which is now under construction in the dominion.

Canada possesses the World's Champion Girls' Basketball Team in the personnel of the Commercial Grades of Edmonton, Alberta. This team has successfully defended its laurels both in this country and in Europe. Coach J. P. Page has tutored this quintette for eight or nine years.

After the Armistice was signed, two American teams, by invitation from the British government, demonstrated basketball in the British area of the war zone. The English took to it readily. In the earlier days in England, basketball was introduced as a girl's game. Until a little more than a decade ago, the British did not know that there was a game of basketball for men.

In Poland and Russia, where the cold weather prohibits outdoor play, the lack of large indoor playing spaces is a hindrance to the game. Czechoslovakia received the game with open arms in 1920.

In the last decade, the World War has contributed its share of advancement to the play program of Germany. Many years have passed since the American Army of Occupation vacated German soil, but it left behind something that it could not take away. That something was the American enthusiasm for Sports and Games. The results of the Olympic Games of 1928 verify the above assertion. Germany assembled the largest Olympic group of competitive participants for the try-outs, of any country in the world. A war-weary world turned "en masse" to recreation through sports and games.

Very early we learned that the whole is equal to the sum of its parts. Basketball is one of these parts. Germany is now taking up basketball with an enthusiasm unsurpassed. To the immense population in her crowded and congested areas this sport has particular

#3. The International Growth of Basketball.

appeal. This country has long economized in play space. Her gymnasiums have for centuries been the gathering places for her Turnverein-her men of exceptional physical skill. These gymnasiums are now being turned over to basketball and other indoor sports. Basketball is Olympic bound.

The German physique, big and powerful, and the German mind, progressive and inventive, are especially adapted to basketball. The only thing that will prevent the rapid growth of basketball in Germany will be her failure to build large arenas rapidly enough to keep pace with her enthusiasm for her new national play-program.

Practically every foreign country has fashioned its basketball rules after our American game. The reason for this is self-evident. They look to us as the mother country in this sport and have a right to expect guidance in formulating rules and in shaping their ideals of sportsmanship.

If it has not already been done, it would be a splendid service for the Joint Basketball Rules Committee to render, if copies of the Code of Sportsmanship, translated into every language where the game has gone, could be sent to these foreign neighbors. Such efforts most certainly edify sports and keep us in touch with the athletic leaders of other lands.

I know of no finer message to send to the workers in remote lands than that contained in the words of the code.

Keep the rules.

Keep faith with your comrades.

Keep your temper.

Keep yourself fit.

Keep a stout heart in defeat.

Keep your pride under in victory.

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.

box 16

"olympic games"

REPORT OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ON BASKETBALL

Mr. President:

Your chairman wishes to present the report of the Olympic Committee on Basket Ball. We began early in 1928 to interest our local and foreign friends in having basket ball incorporated in the X Olympiad to be held in Los Angeles in 1932. The local men contacted were Avery Brundage, president of the A. A. U. of the United States, Daniel J. Ferris, secretary-treasurer of the A. A. U., and Frederic W. Rubien, secretary of the American Olympic Committee.

Mr. Daniel J. Ferris' suggestion of July 26, 1929, was: "that you address a communication to the American Olympic Committee, asking that they go on record as favoring basket ball as one of the optional events on the Olympic program at Los Angeles in 1932. Personally, I feel that there will be so much objection by foreign countries to basket ball that it will be impossible to have it listed. They will contend that so few countries are playing the game that it should not be included as one of the Olympic Sports. However, this should not prevent you from making every effort to have basket ball included."

Mr. Avery Brundage stated in his letter of August 23, 1929, that: "Last year at Amsterdam, a new International Federation was formed to take jurisdiction over the games of handball, basket ball, and the German game called field handball. If I am not mistaken, I am one of the officers of this International Federation. The program for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles will be settled at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee, which will be held next

Spring in Germany. The proper procedure to follow to have basket ball added to the program for 1932, is to take the matter up with the American Olympic Committee, have them approve the idea, and present it to the International Committee. It will probably be very difficult to accomplish this at this time, since the American game of basket ball is not played to any extent other than in the United States. As I understand it, the tendency of recent years has been more toward cutting down the Olympic program rather than expanding it, a policy with which I personally am not in accord. I think the first thing for you to do is to draw up a brief outlining the reasons for adding basket ball to the Olympic program, and send it to Frederick W. Rubien, secretary of the American Olympic Association, with the request that he bring it before the next meeting of that organization. Since it may take some time to accomplish your end, the quicker it is started, the better. You know, Los Angeles began working to secure the Olympic Games over twelve years in advance."

We immediately conferred with Mr. Frederick W. Rubien of the American Olympic Committee asking him to present this to his Committee for approval and also enclosed to him copy of the Athletic Journal which contained the article that we had written for Major John L. Griffith, entitled "The International Growth of Basket Ball".

Mr. Rubien's reply of November 1, 1929, follows:

"Thank you for your cordial communication of October 24. I am pleased to note the splendid progress you are making. No meeting has been scheduled for the American Olympic Association

but one will have to be held before May 1930, at which time the Congress of the International Olympic Committee will be held to decide upon the program for the 1932 Olympic Games. In compliance with your request, I am enclosing herewith the list of organizations holding membership in the American Olympic Association together with their addresses. I duly received the copies of the Athletic Journal which contained the highly interesting article on the international growth of basket ball. Please accept my thanks for same."

Among the sixty-six organizations holding membership in the American Olympic Association are

X X X X X

We circularized these many members seeking their support for basket ball, fully realizing that some of these organizations holding membership were desirous of seeing their sport listed among the Olympic Games competition.

On September 9, 1929, Mr. Brundage wrote as follows:

"This will acknowledge your letter of September 6th relative to adding basket ball to the Olympic program. As it happens, Mr. J. Sigfrid Edstrom, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which is the body controlling track and field sports throughout the world, and also a member of the International Olympic Committee, is in America at the present time, and I had a talk with him just last week when he was in Chicago. In the discussion, I brought up the matter of adding basket ball to the Olympic program. The general feeling is, as I think I stated before, to cut down the program rather than

XXXX See roster of members in American Olympic Association at close of report.

enlarge it. However, I was somewhat surprised at the information given in your letter and I have no doubt that Mr. Edstrom would be interested in learning of the growth of basket ball in various foreign countries. You might write him care of William Garland, president of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, but you will have to do this at once since he is now on his way to Los Angeles and I am not sure how long he will stay there. Better send your letter Air Mail. In the event basket ball cannot be added to the program, sometimes the country holding the games is allowed to include one or two national sports, and in addition, sometimes demonstrations of sports not on the program are given. For instance, there were some La Crosse games last year in Amsterdam. Perhaps a letter to Edstrom will do some good."

A letter was immediately dispatched to Mr. Edstrom, to which he replied: "Your kind letter of September 13, has reached me here on the eve of my departure for Yokohama. I fully appreciate the importance of the sport of basket ball. During the time I provisionally acted as chairman of the International Handball Federation, we made an application with the International Olympic Committee that hand ball and basket ball be a part of the Olympic Games. Said application is going to be decided on at the Olympic Congress at Berlin Germany in May next year. Knowing the sentiment within the International Olympic Committee, I know, however, that the application will be rejected. The Olympic program is already too full and it is almost impossible to carry out the games within the period of a

fortnight. There is a possibility, however, that at the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 1932, basket ball will be added to the program provided the American organizing committee so proposes. The American Olympic Committee has the right to propose one national sport and one foreign sport on the program."

Appeals were made to Secretary Rubien of the Olympic Committee and to authorities of organizations promoting basket ball in the United States including the Y M C A, National Collegiate A A and Amateur Athletic Union to go on record endorsing the addition of basket ball to the Olympic program at Los Angeles in 1932. Mr. Ferris then introduced a resolution at the National A A U meeting at St. Louis in November, 1929, petitioning for basket ball as an Olympic sport. Request was made of the American Olympic Committee to support the application for basket ball before the Olympic Congress in Berlin. Communications went to the authorized representatives in the foreign countries. In Mexico we enlisted the aid of Mr. A. A. Aguirri and Mr. T. L. Rodriguez at Chihuahua, Mr. L. Ochoa at Mexico City, also Mr. Sohaku Ri at Waseda University, Tokio, Mr. Akira Oshida at Meiji University, Tokio, also Mr. Elmer Berry at Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. Val Bouryschkine at Paris, France, Mr. J. H. Crocker at London, Ontario, Canada, Mr. Charles S. Jones at Vancouver, British Columbia, Mr. Renato Jones at Rome, Italy. Through the kindness of Dr. Naismith we constantly contacted foreign representatives who assisted in our venture.

On October 15, 1929, President Avery Brundage suggested that we circularize our basket ball colleagues in Southern California, Messrs. Sam Barry, Dick Rutherford, a host

of coaches and other interested individuals in this district, asking their aid and cooperation.

We were confident it would be impossible to obtain basket ball as one of the regularly scheduled sports on the Olympic program due to a letter written by Mr. Frederick W. Rubien on October 1st, 1929, as follows: "Mr. Edstrom is a very influential member of the International Olympic Committee and his sentiments carry great weight. What he says is true. The American Olympic Committee will have the right to propose one national sport and one foreign sport on the Olympic program. It will be necessary to arouse sentiment in this country as to what event the American Olympic Committee should propose for its national sport. There are so many sports not on the Olympic program, for which representatives are clamoring for recognition, that there is likely to be quite a contest. It would be well to sound out foreign countries to find out whether there would be representation, in addition to that from our own country. We followed that method in securing the adoption of la crosse at the last games, teams representing Canada, England and the United States taking part, but I do not think the game took very well. La crosse is gaining strength here and will be clamoring for recognition again; so will canoeing, rugby, all kinds of shooting, tennis and billiards. Los Angeles and California will probably be interested in an event that would appeal to the greatest number of people and on account of the reputation that California has achieved in tennis and from correspondence that I have had with Mr. Garland of the Los Angeles Committee, I rather think that they would favor tennis over any other sport."

On October 7, 1930, President Brundage wrote as follows: "Replying to your letter of October 6th, 1930, the tendency during the last few Olympiads on the International Organizing Committee has been to limit the number of sports on the program of the Olympic Games. It was impossible to add any sports at the meeting in Berlin since the duration of the games was limited to sixteen days. The Organizing Committee of the Games, however, has the right to put on two demonstrations. Among other sports recommended was basket ball and I personally advocated to the Los Angeles representatives who were there, that is, William Garland, president of the Organizing Committee and Zack Farmer, Manager of the Games, the advantage that would accrue from using this sport as one of the demonstrations. Furthermore, I took the matter up at the International Federation meeting where many reports were given of the increasing popularity of basket ball in continental countries, and they spoke very favorably of holding a European elimination for the purpose of selecting two or three of the best teams to be sent over herein the event that basket ball was on the program.

The matter is entirely up to the Los Angeles Organizing Committee, and I do not know if it has been settled as yet. This committee will report at the American Olympic Association meeting in Washington the middle of next month.

The Los Angeles Organizing Committee, which is concerned to a large extent about finances, will of course consider the subject of additional sports largely from the point of view of gate receipts. I told them in Berlin that

in my opinion a basket ball tournament with international participants and the best American teams, would pack the stadium. Get after Garland and exert as much pressure on the Los Angeles crowd as you can."

Mexico, Canada, the Phillipines and Japan definitely promised us that they would send teams to Los Angeles for participation if the Los Angeles Organizing Committee would put basket ball on as a demonstration sport. It is needless to mention that scores of American teams were anxious for such opportunity to participate. It is our opinion had this tournament been staged in the stadium at Los Angeles the result would have been pronounced success, comparable to the Madison Square Garden sell outs. Three separate groups in Canada were tremendously interested.

On October 3, 1931, Mr. F. B. Eagleston of Toronto wrote: "Mr. G. T. Hepbron has referred me to you for information regarding the possibility of basket ball being recognized at the Olympic games. Would you kindly let me know whether any negotiations are pending at the present time or whether any definite decision has been made regarding this. Has basket ball any chance of being included in the programme? Any information you can give me will be appreciated as our representative team desires to know what the possibilities are."

We replied to Mr. Eagleston that basket ball was presented to the Olympic Committee and accepted favorably as one of the games to be put on for demonstration. The International Olympic Committee okayed it but we lost out in California. The Gold Coast people chose football because the game

could be played in the coliseum. Mr. Farmer stated that the Los Angeles people wanted money exhibitions and the possibility of lack of foreign competition made them dubious. They arranged for Pop Warner and Jimmy Phelen to handle the North Coast teams and Howard Jones to handle the South Coast teams, which participated. We won out with the Olympic Committee but lost with the Coast people.

At a dinner with the Japanese Delegation during the course of the Olympic Games, Mr. Sohaku Ri of Waseda University, Tokio, told me that annually they have the Far Eastern Olympics which include basket ball with China, Japan and the Phillipines competing with each other and other nations for the championship. Japan has won three straight years. Mr. E. C. Quigley, our National League umpire and outstanding all-sports official, during his tour of the Land of the Rising Sun two years ago, officiated at a tournament for the Japanese. After working all night until four o'clock in the morning, the only way that he finished that tournament at all was by disqualifying an entire team if any individual on that outfit made a foul. Interest even more intense than in the United States and crowds numbering ten thousand attended these great tournaments. Japan has gone basket ball as well as baseball mad.

Not content to remain defeated in our quest for basket ball in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles, Count Soyejima, president of the Japan Basket Ball Association, Dr. Kishi, Sohaku Ri, Shumpei, Suzuki, and other foreign representatives met with us in Los Angeles with a definite aim in mind of landing

basket ball in the Olympics at Tokio in 1940 where the XII Olympiad is very apt to be held. The Japanese Delegation volunteered to work unceasingly to influence Germany and to ask other Olympic representatives to petition for basket ball in the XI Olympiad at Berlin.

Digressing from the XI and XII Olympiads at Berlin and Tokio, your attention is called to the Third Central American Olympic Games which were held March 17, 1935, at San Salvadore in the National Stadium, which is located just outside of the City -- the stadium which took two years for construction seats 35,000 persons. The competing nations were Costo Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Porto Rico and El Salvadore. The games included track athletics, fencing, wrestling, boxing, basket ball and volley ball.

Returning from the X Olympiad at Los Angeles, a letter was addressed to Mr. Carl Diem, the general secretary of the Germany Olympiad. Contacts were made with Herr Siewicki, an exchange student at Springfield, Mass. College, where we were teaching basket ball for the summer. On May 25, 1934, the following letter was received from Gabard Krause, assistant Secretary of the Olympic Games at Berlin: "Acknowledging receipt of your letter of May 12, I beg to inform you that the question of what sport shall be demonstrated at the Olympic Games at Berlin will be decided upon later in this year. As you will know, the Olympic program provides two demonstrations. One of them will be glider flying, the second one has not yet been decided upon. Dr. Diem, our general secretary, who will have to deal with the matter is not yet back from Athens, and I

must ask you therefore to wait another fortnight or so for a specific reply. You can rest assured, however, that the question of basket ball will be considered thoroughly, and I believe myself that the interest in the game is widespread throughout the world. It will interest you that basket ball was one of the points I spoke about to Mr. Elmer Berry who was here just the other day. Herr Siowicke who has a job now in the Hitler-Youth and whom I know quite well has been one of the promoters of basket ball at the Deutsche Hochschule fur Liebesubungen."

On October 25, 1934, Herr Diem wrote: "With further reference to our former correspondence I have the pleasure of informing you that the Organizing Committee at its meeting on October 19, adopted the resolution that basket ball be included in the program of the 1936 Olympic Games at Berlin."

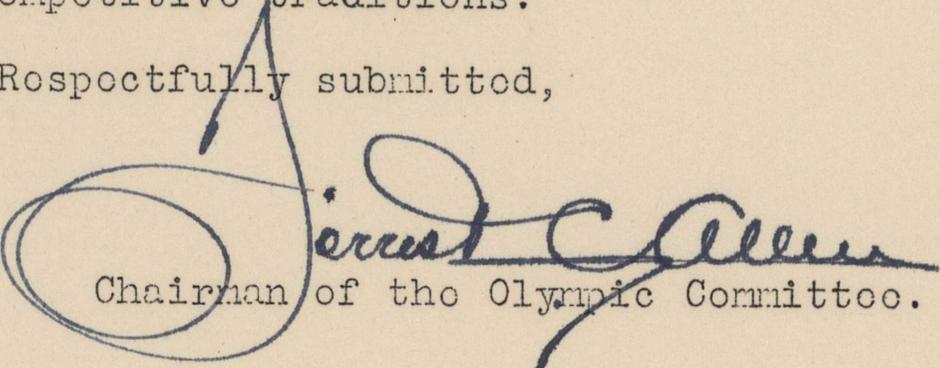
Again on December 3, Herr Diem advised: "I acknowledge very gratefully your letter of November 15, and I am glad that America responded so enthusiastically to our plans including basket ball in the program of the XI Olympiad. In the meantime we had the pleasure to have Mr. Jones, the secretary general of the International Basket Ball Federation from Rome with us. Mr. Jones told us also that various other parts of the world answered very favorably to the result of our correspondence. We are now preparing the regulations and rules for the basket ball tournament. Mr. Jones told us that we can count on at least twenty teams: Argentine, Belgium, Esthonia, Latvia, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, United States, China, Greece, Cuba, Japan, Poland, Rumania, Spain, Philippines, Brazil, Portugal, Bulgaria. If

there should be any particular question you can be sure that I will call on you. When we have finished our sport booklets concerning the basket ball tournament I should be glad to forward a copy to you. Hoping that I can count further on your helpful cooperation and thanking you for your assistance until now."

We have just finished a definite check up with Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game in 1891, enumerating the nations now playing basket ball and listing fifty following nations: Australia, Africa, Brazil, Germany, England, Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, France, Spain, Portugal, Madagascar, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Switzerland, Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia, China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Canada, Chosen, Paraguay, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Panama, Italy, India, the United States, Poland, Bulgaria, Argentina, Latvia, Hungary, Syria, Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, Persia, Siam, Arabia, Ceylon, and Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rico and San Salvador.

Basket ball being an official part of the Olympic program, America can now look forward to the appointment of an American Olympic Basket Ball Games Committee to supervise America's participation at Berlin in 1936. Undoubtedly college basket ball men of America will play a very definite part in upholding America's splendid competitive traditions.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman of the Olympic Committee.

ORGANIZATIONS HOLDING MEMBERSHIP IN AMERICAN OLYMPIC ASSOC.

United States Army	Southern California Int. Conf.
United States Navy	Southern Conference
American Remount Association	Southern Pacific Assn. A. A. U.
Intercollegiate Assn. of Amateur Athletes of America	Western Assn. A. A. U.
Amateur Athletic Union of U. S.	Nat. Assn. of Amateur Billiard Players
Amateur Fencers League of America	Michigan Assn. A. A. U.
International Skating Union of U.S.	Ohio Assn. A. A. U.
National Amateur Athletic Federation of America	Florida Assn. A. A. U.
Nat. Assoc. of Amateur Oarsmen	U. S. Intercollegiate La Crosse League
Nat. Collegiate Athletic Assoc.	American Turnerbund
Nat. Cycling Association	National Ski Assn.
Nat. Rifle Association	American Canoe Assn.
U. S. Amateur Hockey Assoc.	American Rowing Assn.
U. S. Football Association	
U. S. Revolver Association	
Boy Scouts of America	
Catholic Young Men's Nat. Union	
Girl Scouts of America	
Jewish Welfare Board	
Knights of Columbus	
Navy League of the U. S.	
Playground & Recreation Assn. of America	
Young Men's Christian Assn.	
American Phys. Ed. Assn.	
Adirondack Assn. A. A. U.	
Allegheny Mountain Assn. A. A. U.	
Central Assn. A. A. U.	
Connecticut Assn. A. A. U.	
Hawaiian Assn. A. A. U.	
Indiana-Kentucky Assn. A. A. U.	
Intercollegiate Boxing Assn.	
Intercollegiate Conference A.A.	
Intercollegiate Rugby Assn.	
Intercollegiate Swimming Assn.	
Inter-Mountain Assn. A. A. U.	
Metropolitan Assn. A. A. U.	
Middle Atlantic Assn. A. A. U.	
Midwestern Assn. A. A. U.	
New England Assn. A. A. U.	
New England Intercollegiate A. A.	
Niagara Assn. A. A. U.	
Ohio Conference	
Pacific Association A. A. U.	
Pacific Coast Int. A. A.	
Pacific Northwest Assn. A. A. U.	
Pacific N. W. Intercollegiate A.A.	
Rocky Mountain Assn. A. A. U.	
South Atlantic Assn. A. A. U.	
Southeastern Assn. A. A. U.	
Southern Assn. A. A. U.	