

January 13, 1940

The National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament has been national in scope since 1938 when representative teams from 19 states competed. In 1939 teams from 21 states competed. The 1940 tournament is to be conducted under the same general plans. If a tournament intercollegiate in character and national in scope, in which representative teams have an opportunity to qualify if they so choose, and where provision is made for them to qualify, is not national, then the National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament is "so-called" national.

It is open to members of this Association without payment of a tournament entrance fee, and to non-members of this Association upon payment of a \$25 tournament fee. (Non-members wishing to qualify must meet the same academic standards as members.) In either case, teams must qualify according to plans set up by the district committee. There are 32 districts.

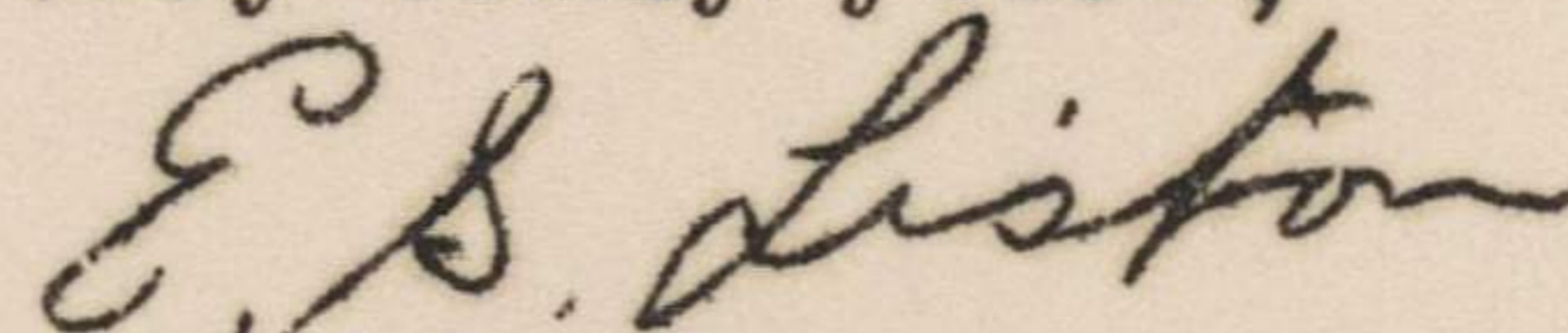
It is not unlikely that the programs of two national organizations interested in basketball would engage in overlapping activities. I am sure that the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball is not envious of the accomplishments of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. In fact, many of us are cooperating in the work of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and in its program. If the main controversy is that of determining the national champion, my suggestion is that the teams qualifying for the N. C. A. A. play-offs or those that can qualify, compete in the National Intercollegiate Championship Tournament or allow those teams that qualify for play in the National Intercollegiate Championship Tournament, or those that can qualify, participate in the N. C. A. A. playoffs. This would settle once and for all the controversy. Until that is done, there will be a National Intercollegiate Champion (Open Championship), and an N.C.A.A. Champion (Closed Championship).

At each meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches it has been my privilege to attend, there has been much effort put forth to enroll members. It has been my pleasure to help secure members, but let us be open-minded and be careful lest we alienate some of the workers in the National Association of Basketball Coaches and consequently retard the growth of that organization in attempting to discourage the development of another.

Then in the spirit of cooperation, for, Mr. Hickox, "in unity there is strength," wouldn't it be better to go along in these respective fields, working in the interests of the game without fear that one association will do what the other has not yet been able to do? Let the best interests of basketball be foremost and not those of any individual or group.

I beg to remain

Very truly yours,



E. S. Liston
Director of Athletics
Baker University
Acting Executive Secretary
National Association of Intercollegiate
Basketball