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## of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

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December 8, 1939

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Dear Mr. Allen:

I appreciate having your letter of December 5th and the accompanying folder. In my opinion this is the first headache of the many which are certain to develop from the holding of a National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship. I doubt whether you agree with me on the general principle of having a national intercollegiate champion but I believe you will agree that if such a championship is to be held, it should be kept rigidly under the authority of a properly constituted committee authorized by the colleges themselves. If the matter is permitted to get into the hands of any unofficial group which may have the nerve and commercial backing to undertake control, the whole project is headed toward failure. I do not think for one minute that the various athletic boards of control in the colleges will sanction an organization which is entirely independent of any regularly approved collegiate organization.

Unless I misunderstand the origin and intention of this new association, there is no reason why any individual might not form a similar one through getting a few coaches or student managers interested. I anticipate all kinds of attempts on the part of commercial clubs and promotional groups to sponsor and control the elimination tournaments which are designed to lead up to the national championship. It seems to me that the National Collegiate Athletic Association can not afford to let these activities get out of their control. I base this opinion on the experiences of the high schools in connection with sectional and national meets. The high school organizations have had to work for years to counteract the damage which was done by permitting some of these contests to get out of control of the regularly constituted school groups. It is only during the last couple of years that the damage has been largely counteracted and this has been possible only through the complete elimination of meets and tournaments of a national character. Under other circumstances and with proper control, they might have been made to serve a good purpose.

In the case of this collegiate development, I am directly interested only through my interest in controlled school athletics and through my connection with the basketball rules committee. I am firmly convinced that groups such as this new association, if allowed to go without proper control,