

# ● **History and Growth of the National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament and Organization of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball**

The National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament had its beginning in 1938. That was the first effort by administrators of College Athletics to conduct a tournament open to all Colleges and Universities in the United States and to determine the National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship. Thirty-two teams, selected from fifteen districts, representing an area of more than thirty states, participated. The title was won by Central Missouri State Teachers College, Warrensburg, Missouri, who defeated Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia in the finals.

With practically the same organization the tournament was again held in 1939, with thirty-two teams participating. Those teams represented sixteen districts, which covered an area of approximately thirty-two states. Southwestern College of Winfield, Kansas, won the title by defeating San Diego State College, San Diego, California, in a hectic final game—32 to 31.

As a result of the rapid growth of basketball and the resultant nation-wide interest in a National Championship Tournament, the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball was organized. This Association had its actual beginning March 15, 1939, in Kansas City. Recently the permanent organization was completed.

Membership in the organization is institutional. It

is open to Colleges and Universities that offer standard four year courses and whose academic work is recognized by exacting standardizing agencies and graduate Universities. Memberships from 25 different states have been approved. Sponsoring of the National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament is but one part of the program approved by the Association. It includes an active national program designed to aid in the development and protection of Intercollegiate Basketball.

The Association is controlled by an executive board, composed of the district chairmen of thirty-two districts, each of whom has been selected from the Association membership. The personnel of this board consists of Athletic Directors, Basketball Coaches, and Graduate Managers. Every member has faculty rating. Members are chosen from state universities, state colleges, normal universities, and privately-endowed colleges and universities. No special athletic code of eligibility is required for membership. Eligibility codes of members are left to the governing body of athletics in each member institution. The National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship Tournament is open to non-members as well as members. Non-members must meet the same academic requirements as members and must qualify in the same manner as association members.

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#### **INFORMATION**

Frances Rosenberg

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St. Marys, Kansas, Supervisor

Alvin Bell

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