

October 3, 1940

Mr. Harold G. Olsen  
Basketball Coach  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Ole:

I just received your urgent communication and I am air-mailing a reply so that you will get it at the earliest possible moment.

You know, Ole, I will agree to most anything for the sake of harmony and compatibility, but I think after we had a clear out-and-out understanding with these people and then for them to come back with the statement that they did, that it can hardly be charged to misunderstanding or even neglect. The way that it was worded made me definitely feel that while they were trying to make a rule that would apply to everything, it was definitely crippling our sports so that we could not have gone through with another tournament with anything but a failure sign tacked to it before we started.

For that reason I think we had better guard our tournament all that we can since basketball has made money and will make money everywhere we play it, if we use any reasonable course in a fair degree of business acumen. Then I think we had better cut out this \$5.00 per day and let it go that they will pay expenses. I realize there will be some abuses, as was shown by Colorado and Rice. That was unfair. On the other hand, Clevenger needed Dro and another one of the boys to make connections for his southern trip in baseball, and we paid the expenses of those boys from Kansas City to the point of their destination. Now maybe there are some people who would say that was unfair, but if we are going to make our tournament a success we cannot split pennies, especially when we are making dollars.

I am going to be perfectly frank with you, as I have always been, but I think we need to protect our tournament; if not, I think we had better give it up. I am not hardboiled, and I do not want to make any money for anybody but the N.C.A.A. and our basketball tournament.

I am frank to say to you that when I got the copy of Major Griffith's letter I was ready to sing the last swan song, but I held it and said nothing. I am glad that I did because you are presenting it in such a way that I know you will protect the tournament, if it is within your power. For that reason I am not in favor of giving up this point,--that must of necessity be retained to make our tournament what you and the rest of us who worked so hard hope to make it.