

copy

August 11, 1939.

Mr. H. H. Olsen,  
Camp Sarona,  
Sarona, Wisconsin.

Dear Ole:

I have intentionally waited until the close of our Summer Session, which just finished this week, so that I might very properly take care of my correspondence with you. I wanted time to meditate so that I might arrive at a solution that I could go along with you one hundred per cent.

I was happy that the Executive Committee of the N.C.A.A. voted to continue the tournament for another year. I will have to admit that I was somewhat surprised to know that the tournament as a whole lost approximately \$2500.00. Now, I am going to try to make that \$2500.00 back but that is quite an assignment for one year, isn't it, Ole? I have never had charge of any tournament of any kind that we have ever lost money on, and I am not boastfully saying that. But I believe that we will have to dip our colors and perhaps play the district tournament on one of our schools' home courts if they will pay enough for it. It gives them a decided advantage - say eight to ten points in the score - but we can also realize that if we do not make good this year we will give the Madison Square Garden outfit a decided advantage over our college set up. Failure with our program means finis for all of our collegiate championship hopes. So we cannot afford to fail. If this procedure is followed in all the district tournaments I am sure that we could wipe out the deficit and have some money in the bank.

When you broached this proposition of playing on the champion's home floor to John Bunn and me in our conference I could not see it, and I would not be willing to abide by it if the N.C.A.A. were out of debt, but as I see it now we are in a very critical position, and a school that wins the championship in their respective sector - if they are hot enough to offer a big guarantee for the play-off - then I would be in favor of accepting it.

Now I am going along further with you. I can see the bad taste in the financial mouths of the N.C.A.A. Executive Committee, and I assure you that nothing will be left undone in our schedule toward putting the financial standing of our basketball tournament in black ink. I will guarantee you that I will have a nice show for you in the final and we will try to lead up with a sizeable sum of money in the district and the semi-final.

I appreciate the nice things that George Edwards had to say regarding our desire to make our district play-off a successful one from the financial as well as the general interest standpoint. Missouri dealt us a body blow when they withdrew from the tournament and Drake University did almost as bad after agreeing to play, and then trying to back out at the last minute, and then after not backing out to come to the tournament and stay nearly a week at the expense of the tournament committee. They used the same excuse that Missouri did - the fact that the trip necessitated too much time lost from school. That is always a big laugh to me because Missouri as well as Drake sends her athletes all over the United States at any time as an excuse for publicity and competition.