

March 6, 1944.

Mr. Carl Pine, AM3/c
A & R Sea Guard,
Naval Air Station,
Norfolk, Virginia.

Dear Carl:

I appreciate the confidence that you boys have in me and I will endeavor to give you the answers to the best of my ability. Your first question is that you boys desire to know what high school conference tournament is the largest in the nation. The largest tournament at the present time that I know of is the Illinois tournament with sixteen teams. They have no classification of Class A, B and C.

Iowa perhaps has the next one with eight A teams and eight B teams. The tournament will be held in the Iowa fieldhouse which should assure an attendance of about 13,000 at a game. The Illinois tournament is held in their large, massive gymnasium at Urbana and I believe they seat about 12,000.

In the Indiana tournament the finals of four teams are drawn one team from each of the four sections of Indiana and they meet at Indianapolis in the Butler fieldhouse. The seating capacity of that fieldhouse is between 13,000 and 14,000.

If you expected to ask which state drew the greatest total attendance, then I would tell you Indiana because their district, regional and sectional tournaments all draw tremendous crowds. The Indiana high schools have a larger seating capacity in their various fieldhouses and gymnasiums than any other state in the nation.

In Minnesota the high school tournament is held at the Minneapolis fieldhouse which seats between 12,000 and 14,000.

Now, regarding the states which have the largest high school memberships in the state association. Ohio has the most with 1150. I am speaking of high schools that have basketball teams in their membership. Iowa has 938; Illinois has 920; Pennsylvania has 900; Indiana has 800; Kansas has 650; and Virginia has 225. You ask in your letter, also, "how many high school teams this state has compared to its rival". I take it that you ask about Virginia because you are writing from Norfolk. I have given you the comparisons, I hope, that you desire.

You ask also, "which state is rated as the Basketball State of the nation and which state has more basketball per capita." Kansas has more high school basketball teams per capita than any of the states that I have enumerated. Her population is less than one and three-quarters million, while all of the other states mentioned with larger memberships have many