

Sam Houston State Teachers College

H. F. ESTILL, PRESIDENT

Huntsville, Texas
February 25, 1937

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

JOE E. KIRK, DIRECTOR
H. O. CRAWFORD
CLYDE WHITE
ERNIE KOY

Mr. F. C. Allen
Basketball Coach
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

The data for the research committee of the National Basketball Rules Committee, as requested by Mr. J. W. St. Clair, is enclosed.

If you desire further information I shall be glad to aid in any way possible.

Very Truly yours,

Joe E. Kirk
Joe E. Kirk

SAM HOUSTON BASKETBALL ROSTER 1937

*Full Team
Research*

Head Coach

Clyde White (S.H.S.T.C.)

Assistant Coaches

Ernie Koy (Texas)

Captain-----Alvis Bolton

No.	Name	Home	Pos.	Age	Ht.	Exp.
23	Gordon Cotton	Huntsville	G.	19	5.11	F.
22	Bill White	Huntsville	F.	22	5.9	1-VI
25	Mack Runnels	Tufkin	G.	21	5.9	1-VI
35	Alvis Bolton	Huntsville	F.	22	6.0	2-VI
26	Bill Bitner	Lovelady	F.	21	6.3	1-VI
24	Swede Hill	Houston	G.	21	5.10	F.
32	John Puckett	Houston	F.	20	6.0	F.
30	Tom Williams	Arp	F.	22	6.0	J.C.
28.	Melvin Reimer	Richmond	F.	21	6.0	1-VI
33	Clifford Dotson	Ponta	C.	23	6.2	J.C.
27.	Cleve O'Toole	Houston	F.	20	6.1	F.
27	Jack Williams	Palistine	G.	21	6.0	1-VI
21	Floyd Dotson	Ponta	F.	23	6.0	J.C.
29	R.T. Bunting	Huntsville	F.	20	5.9	1-VI
34	Bus Lowe	Laneville	F.	23	6.1	1-VI
36	Soupy Mize	Beadis	C.	21	6.3	HS
31	Aubrey Stallings	Edna	F.	21	6.2	J.C.
38	Carl Spencer	Denton	C.	18	<u>6.5</u>	F.

VI--Varsity Letter
 VS--Varsity Squad
 F---Freshman team experience
 J.C.--Jr. College Experience
 H.S.--High School Experience only

Hardin-Simmons University

Department of Journalism

Abilene, Texas

Feb. 27, 1937

F.C. Allen,
Athletic Department,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kan.

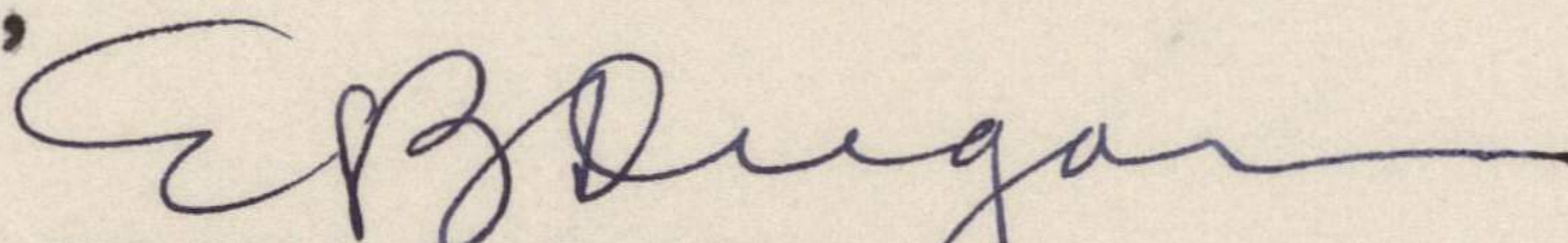
Dear Mr. Allen:

Please find inclosed basketball roster for
Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas,
as requested by J.W. St. Clair of S.M.U.

Regret several days' delay but Coach Frank
Kimbrough asked that my secretary measure
each of the boys and it was difficult to
catch all of them.

Trusting that I may have the opportunity
of serving you further, I remain,

Very truly yours,



Edward B. Dugan,
Director of Publicity,
Hardin-Simmons University

Hardin-Simmons University

Department of Journalism

Abilene, Texas

Name	Position	Height
Benson, Carol	F	<u>6'4 1/2"</u>
Glover, Robert	G	<u>6'7 1/2"</u>
Harris, Bill	F	6'1 1/2"
Hunt, Cagle	F	6'1 1/2"
McCollum, Sam	G	6'1 1/4"
Payne, Vernon	G	5'11 1/2"
Reeves, Ollie	F	6'1 1/2"
Scroggins, Firman	C	<u>6'5 3/4"</u>
Terry, Alton	F	6'1/2"
Wood, Gordon	F	6'1/2"

R. GUY DAVIS
PRESIDENT

T. H. HART
DEAN

Daniel Baker College
Brownwood, Texas

Full men

C. W. McCLELLAND
DEAN

MISS ALTA M. CRAIG
REGISTRAR

March 4, 1937.

Mr. F. C. Allen,
Basketball Coach Kansas University,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Allen;

The information you desire follows;

Jake McCulley, F. ~~6'10"~~ 6'½"
Billie Stewart, F. 5'11"
Bill Bratton F. 5'10"
Hubert Davenport C. 6'1"
Cullen Perry C. 6'
Charles Chrane 5'10" G.
Carl McCurdy G. 5'9"
Charles Jordan G. 5'8"
Bob Asberry G. 5'9"
Irby Petsick G. 5'11".

Sincerely yours,

Gene Taylor
Gene Taylor.

Research
BIB
(Tall men)

February 10,
1937

Mr. W. A. Witte
Director of Athletics
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

Dear "Dutch":

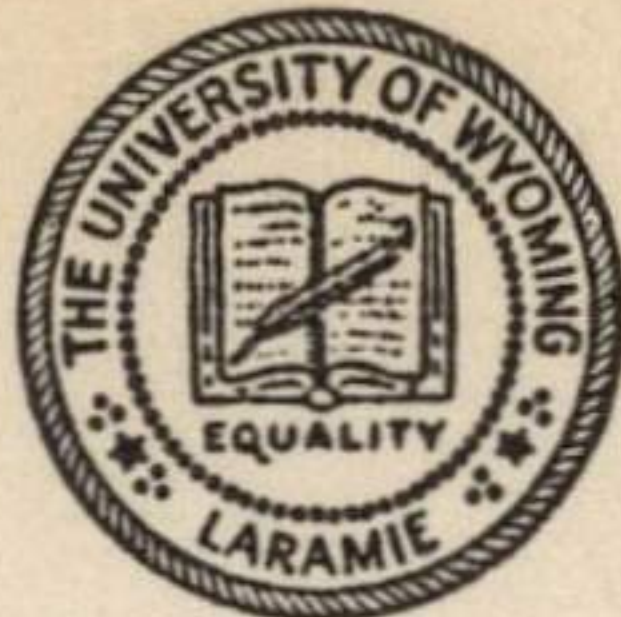
Thank you very much for your letter of February 8 in which you gave me the list of the tall men in your conference.

I am this morning in receipt of a letter from Saint John in which he advises that the National Rules Committee meeting will in all probability be Tuesday night, the 16th, and Wednesday, the 17th. He states that this is not definitely settled, but things seem to be shaping up so that these will be the dates.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:CS

Director.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
LARAMIE, WYOMING

February 8, 1937

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Athletics
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Phog:

The following is a list of the men in our conference whom I believe to be 6'3" or more in height. I think there may be several more on the western side but since we do not play them I am not familiar with all the players, particularly Montana State and Brigham Young University.

Childs-6'8"- Utah State: Babcock - 6'5" - Denver Univ.:
Wade - 6'5" - Utah State: Pederson - 6'4½" - Western States
College: Robertson - 6'4½" - Greeley State: French - 6'4" -
Colorado State: Simmons - 6'4" - Colorado Univ.: Peterson -
6'3½" - Colorado Mines: Unger - 6'3" - Colorado Univ.:
Ahlquist - 6'3½" - Utah State: Fore - 6'4½" - University of
Idaho Southern Branch.

I am not sure that all these heights are exactly right but feel that they are fairly accurate. Perhaps Ryan of Utah State is close to the 6'3" mark.

I hope that this is the information that you desire. Should there be any additional questions I should be more than happy to give you any information you might want.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

"Dutch"

W.A. Witte
Director of Athletics

WAW:mei

Have you been informed of the dates when the National Rules Committee will meet?

B.B.
Research

February 17
1 9 3 7

Mr. George J. Johnson
418 North College
Bloomington, Ind.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I contacted Dr. Naismith the day your letter arrived which was on February 15th.

He failed to return to the university yesterday afternoon but this morning I got him to write some of his additional opinions on the two sheets of paper that I am enclosing to you today.

Dr. Naismith stated to me that you have his authority to express his views as they were contained on the post-card which he sent you and this additional data which is on the two sheets of paper.

You also have my permission to use any and all of my opinion that I have expressed to you in my letter of February 8, 1937.

I wish to say this, however, that I am not fighting anyone who has different opinions than I have on the center jump and further, may I add that if they incorporate in the new rules the elimination of the center jump, I will go along happily with the Rules Committee and cheerfully abide by the decision.

When the Rules Committee several years ago deleted the dribble, I voted against it feeling that they were taking something away from the game as far as spectator and player enjoyment was concerned.

I hold to this principle in regard to the elimination of the center jump. But the game is a fine one as it is and will still be a fine one after the Coaches Association has made its findings and the Rules Body have met and made their changes.

#2 Mr. George J. Johnson
February 17, 1937

Basket ball is a great and growing game and if the coaches and the Rules Body will keep paramount the thought that the game is for the players and the spectators more than it is for the coaches, then I am sure that we will always have splendid rules to play by.

The compensation to the coaches is the remuneration or the salary they get which constitutes their livelihood. The compensation for the spectators is the enjoyment they get for the remuneration they spend at the turnstile. And, the compensation for the players is the great enjoyment and pleasure they get out of playing for fun.

I wish that you would please incorporate this thought of mine that I will cheerfully go along with the Rules Body so there will be no appearances of my being disgruntled on account of the proposed rule.

I have been a member of the Basketball Rules Committee for ten years and have four additional years to serve at the present. I am also Chairman of the Research Committee of the National Basketball Rules Committee.

Trusting this will give you some definite information to write on and trusting that you will send me a copy of your article after it has been published, I am

Very cordially yours,

Director.

FCA: IW



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

February

Thirteen

1 9 3 7

Dear Dr. Allen:

Surprise would be a mild term to use in describing my reaction when I received your letter on the center jump elimination.

I had no idea you would discuss it at such length and am very grateful that you would take so much of your time in order to give me the very clear view of the matter as you saw it.

My purpose in again writing you concerns itself with your letter.

I had intended to combine the opinions of some thirty coaches, players, and writers in a series of articles for publication. However, I feel that your four-page discourse on the tip-off play is so valuable that it would be a shame to use only a fraction of it, as would be necessary in the series I had planned.

With your permission, and that of Dr. Naismith, I would like to combine your views in one article and offer it as a magazine article to one of the leading magazines of the country.

Because I realize that the work is completely the property of Dr. Naismith and yourself, I thought it only proper that I consult you as to your wishes before taking any action.

My personal opinion is that such an article as that I propose would have considerable market value.

I would appreciate your answering as soon as is conveniently possible.

Yours,
George J. Johnson
George J. Johnson
418 North College
Bloomington, Indiana

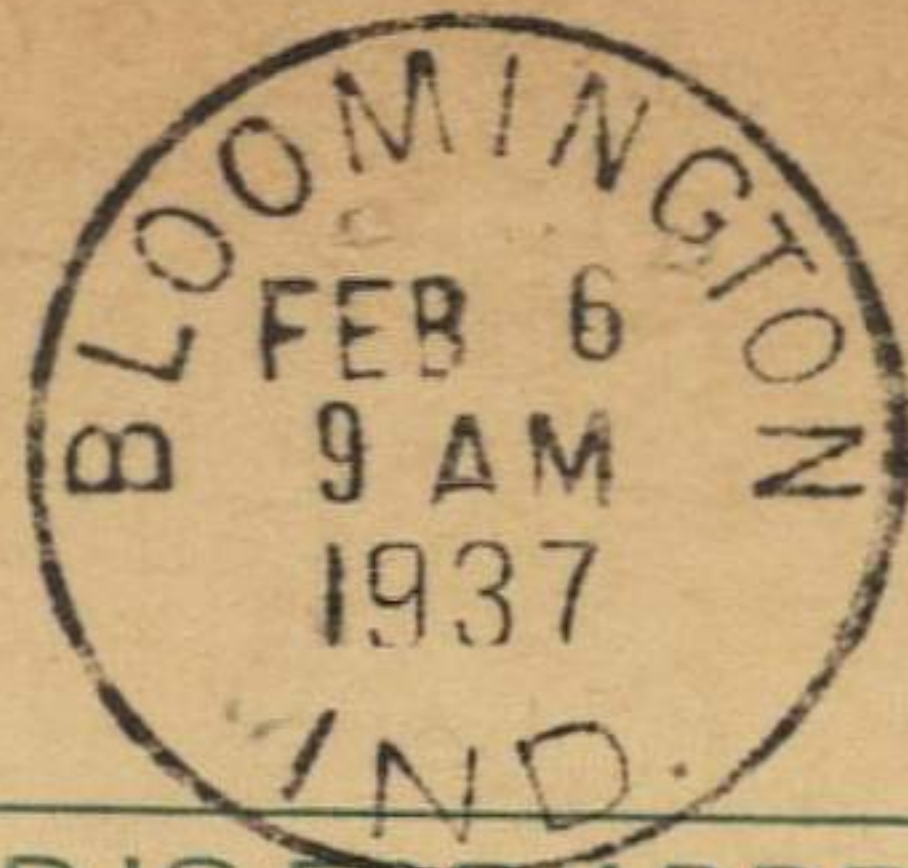
Dear Dr. Allen:

I am collecting the opinions of basketball coaches, players, and writers on the problem of eliminating the center jump. Do you favor its elimination?

If you do, or don't, please let me know by the attached card. "Yes" or "No" will do, but it would be appreciated if you would expand and make any comment you think pertinent.

Yours,

George J. Johnson

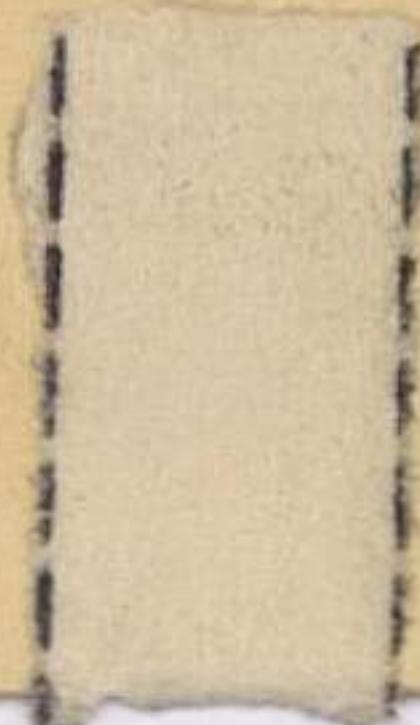


THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Forrest Allen

University of Kansas

Lawrence, Kansas



B.B.
Research

February 8th
1937

Mr. George J. Johnson
418 North College
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In reply to your inquiry concerning my reaction on the possibility of eliminating the center jump I beg to state that I am not in favor of eliminating the center jump on account of several reasons.

First, every game has certain fundamental qualifications. Jumping is one of the fundamentals of basket ball. If you could eliminate the jump after held balls and the jump when the ball goes out of bounds when two men simultaneously touch it, then I say if you could eliminate all jumps from the game I would be in favor of being consistent and eliminating the center jump.

I have done quite a bit of research on the center jump and found that the center jump comprised but two-thirds of the total jumps in a game and this was when they jumped at center after a successful free throw following a personal foul or a technical foul.

Even though you should eliminate these center jumps after field goals, it would still be necessary to start the first and second half of any game by tossing the ball up at center. This shows how absolutely necessary the jump rule is from a fundamental standpoint.

Now, take the thing that the jump contributes to a game. It contributes definite high expectancy as to who will recover the ball on the tip-off. The crowd is not sure but what the opposition may dart in and steal the ball from a center who controls the tip but places it at a spot that the opposition is able to steal the tip.

I distinctly remember Dr. Naismith asking a group of coaches as to what they thought was the high spot or the highest thrill to spectators when a field goal was

#2 Mr. George J. Johnson
February 8, 1937

being shot and the ball was two feet above the basket. Dr. Naismith said to the coaches, "When is it that the spectators get the greatest thrill," and a coach replied, "When that old ball goes through the bucket." Dr. Naismith replied, "You are wrong. It is when it is above the basket on its way to the goal and the question is will the ball go through the basket or will it miss.

The uncertainty of the thing - will it or will it not - one set of rooters pulling for it to go through, the other set pulling for it to miss. Isn't that an argument comparable to the jump ball, tip-off or tap in this phase of basket ball.

When the rules will eliminate the jump ball altogether then I would say that I would be consistent and vote for the elimination of the tip-off or jump ball at center.

You are just making another out of bounds play when you give the opponents the ball out of bounds under the basket. You have removed the dash and color and you haven't speeded up the game only you have enabled a team to pass the ball within bounds.

But, the team which has just scored, if it has half-way intelligence, can drop back quickly on defense before the team that has been scored upon recovers the ball and drives down the floor. Certainly no quick break will be permitted by a half-way smart team under such conditions as these.

A quick break is much more thinkable by a defensive guard who recovers the opponents' shot off the back-board and by a semi-long pass to a sleeper team mate or one who has laid back slightly initiated a drive to the basket. And, would a quick break be best by a team that has been scored upon recovering the ball and making the same type of pass?

The defense would be that when the ball starts to go through the hoop, the scoring team senses it immediately and immediately drops back. While in the other case the offensive team would be driving in to follow their rebound and by having a defensive guard recover it, the first offensive team would

#3 Mr. George J. Johnson
February 8, 1937

be thrown out of position due to the fact that they are following the ball too closely.

I think you can easily see the contrast.

In my 27 years of coaching experience I have had but two extremely tall centers. I have been able to get the tip-off more times than I have lost it with small centers due to the fact that the other players on my team make a tough scrap for possession of the ball.

I honestly believe that the team without a tall center is a tougher fighting team than a team that possesses a tall center and kids themselves that they can control the tip. The team without the tall center realizes that it must fight for it and puts up a better scrap.

And again, it is not the tall man that beats you at the tip-off in the center of the court but he beats you under either the defensive or offensive basket, - either by batting them away from the goal when they are on their way into the basket or dunking them when he is around the basket.

I would cure all of these ills by raising the college players basket to a height of 12 ft. which really puts the big fellow out of business either under the offensive or defensive basket, but I would leave the high school basket at 10 ft.

Ten years ago there were 6 ft. 5 in. basket ball players. I can now think of three players in the country who are 6 ft. 10 in. and our conference here with six schools in it has three fellows 6 ft. 7 in., several 6 ft. 6 in., two 6 ft. 5½ in. and there are two players within a radius of one hundred miles from here who are 6 ft. 10 in. So you see these fellows can literally stand and dunk the balls into the basket or dedunk them away from the basket.

I think many of the coaches are failing to analyze the real difficulty. It is not the tall player who controls the tip as much as it is the tall player who bothers or aids the ball into the basket by his altitudinous reach.

#4 Mr. George J. Johnson
February 8, 1937

I would be in favor of rotating the center jump just as we have a batting order in baseball. The rotation tip-off play could start with either the right forward, left forward, center, right guard or left guard. And the opponents' guard and forward would jump against each other just as they have batting order in baseball.

There would be no more confusion over this fact than there would be over any other of the adopted rules that have been put in.

You can see by the fact that I have had so few tall players in my time that I have no special altitudinous player coming up. And, I believe the center tip is one of the highlights of the game and we should look toward spectator enjoyment as well as the efficiency part of the play.

I talked with Dr. Naismith this morning and he is strongly in favor of retaining the center jump or tip-off. Doubtless he will write you.

Very cordially yours,

Director.

FCA:IW

February 11
1 9 3 7

Mr. Sumner A. Dole
Connecticut State College
Storrs, Conn.

Dear Mr. Dole:

As Chairman of the Research Committee of the National Basket Ball Rules Committee, I am endeavoring to do a bit of research work on exceptionally tall men in the various National Collegiate Districts of the U.S.

Would you kindly list for me the names of all men in your district whether members of your conference or not who are taller than 6 ft. 3 in.? I especially want those over 6 ft. 5 in. and better. Will you please give me the school that they are affiliated with and their year in college as far as competition is concerned?

I would appreciate your writing me at once giving the names of the outstanding tall men that you know of and then write the other schools that you have heard of having tall men for definite confirmation.

I will appreciate your early cooperation.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Representative 5th Dist.
Nat'l Collegiate Ath. Ass'n.

FCA: IW

BB
Research

February 2nd
1 9 3 7

Mr. Harold Olsen
Basket Ball Coach
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Harold:

As Chairman of the Research Committee of the National Basket Ball Rules Committee, I am endeavoring to do a bit of research work on exceptionally tall men in the various National Collegiate Districts of the U.S.

Would you kindly list for me the names of all men in your district whether members of your conference or not who are taller than 6 ft. 3 in. I especially want those over 6 ft. 5 in. and better? Will you please give me the school that they are affiliated with and their year in college as far as competition is concerned?

I would appreciate your writing me at once giving the names of the outstanding tall men that you know of and then write the other schools that you have heard of having tall men for definite confirmation.

I am writing you instead of bothering Saint. Dr. Meanwell is not active and I want to get this dope so I thought you would be the one to write me regarding the tall men in the Big Ten Conference and the Fourth District.

Between a handball game and a golf game, which you can't play now, write me this dope as nearly accurate as you can give it.

I certainly enjoyed the short visit I had with you at Saint's party. It was great.

I will appreciate your early cooperation and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Representative 5th Dist.
Nat'l Collegiate Ath. Ass'n.

FCA:IW