

This basketball season should have many pleasant surprises for all of you. You doubtless have not forgotten that the National Collegiate Basketball Championship Tournament of the United States will be held at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 30. Also, the National Basketball Rules Committee will meet in Kansas City on March 30, 31, April 1. In addition to this, the National Basketball Coaches Association, the membership of which includes all the outstanding college coaches of the United States, will convene on March 28, 29 and 30.

Kansas has an opportunity to play for the National Basketball Championship in Kansas City if she comes through. A week prior to this the semi-finals of the National Collegiate districts -- #5 (Missouri Valley), #6 (Southwestern Conference), #7 (Rocky Mountain Conference, #8 (Pacific Coast Conference) -- will be held in Kansas City on March 22 and 23, and prior to this date the winners of the Big Six Conference and the Missouri Valley Conference will meet at some designated spot to determine the champion of this district. Then the winners of this district will play in the four-game tournament on the above designated date, March 22 and 23, in Kansas City.

So you can see that Kansas has a great opportunity to play right in the front yard of the nation's biggest basketball extravaganza. If you don't like that big word, then I'll give you another. It will be terrific, stupendous, colossal, gigantic and emotionally devastating! You will remember that the University of Oregon defeated Ohio State last year in Chicago, and at the present time Oregon is the National Collegiate champion in basketball. All of these play-offs are timed so that Kansas will lose little time away from school, and yet play in America's national championship. This is the greatest opportunity that has ever come to a group representing Kansas in basketball.

I have been staying on the job here pretty steadily in Lawrence, with the exception of the trip I took to Atlanta, Georgia, to coach the North Georgia all-star high school boys. They used a new scheme down in Georgia in a pedagogical way. The Georgia Coaches Association picked ten all-star high school seniors from the north half of Georgia and they selected me to coach that team. Then ten senior high stars were picked from the south half of Georgia, and they selected Roy Mundorff of Georgia Tech to coach that team. The visiting coaches, 186 of them, sat in the bleachers in Tech's new gymnasium and watched Mundorff and me put the boys through the paces that we would execute in drilling our varsity. We had never seen these boys before, and you can imagine that when you only have five days to do a job like that you have to organize your work pretty carefully. The two teams met for a game in Tech's new gymnasium, and strange as it may seem, 1800 people turned out for the high school basketball game. I might add that I was darn lucky to have our North Georgia boys win the ball game. We won by about seven points and it was the surprise of my life because we did not draw the rangy boys from our North Georgia group. They had Augusta and the larger schools in their section and they play better basketball and poorer football in southern Georgia, and better football and poorer basketball in northern Georgia, so the ones who seemed to know, say.