

May 24, 1938.

"At the Chicago convention of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the motion was passed that the incoming President appoint a Tournament and Olympic Committee, this committee to communicate with and petition the N.C.A.A. to take basketball 'under its wing' in much the same way as it has sponsored national collegiate championship contests in track and field, swimming, wrestling, tennis and golf.

President Chandler of the N.A.B.B.C., appointed the following committee: H. G. Olsen, Ohio State University, chairman; John W. Bunn, Stanford University, and Dr. F. C. Allen, University of Kansas.

Our committee, after considerable deliberation and correspondence, is ready to make the following proposal to the N.C.A.A.:

1. That the N.C.A.A. assume responsibility for the conduct of a National Collegiate Basketball Tournament in the Spring of 1939. This championship play to be so arranged that any lengthy, time consuming district play-offs be avoided. One team to represent each of the eight N.C.A.A. districts might very well be chosen by a selection committee from each district. The teams representing districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 (East of the Mississippi River) might play a four team tournament at some point where interest would be high, travel expenses low and time away from school negligible. For example, Indianapolis, Indiana. The other four teams from districts 5, 6, 7 and 8 (West of the Mississippi River) might meet in a four team tournament at Kansas City or Denver. Then the two winners could play at some central point for the N.C.A.A. Basketball Championship.

It is the belief of our committee that such a plan for 1939 would be feasible and practical. It should produce enough revenue to pay all expenses and it is not likely to meet with strenuous objections from conferences and from individual schools who frown on post-season contests, etc. In 1940, the Olympic year, a more ambitious and comprehensive program of elimination tournaments in each district might well be considered.

2. That a Games Committee to conduct the N.C.A.A. Championship play be appointed. It is suggested this committee might be composed of the Tournament and Olympic Committee of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, plus a representative from each district of the N.C.A.A.

Personnel as follows:

District #1 - Wesley Fesler, Harvard University  
District #2 - H. H. Salmon, Jr., New York City  
District #3 - Curtis Parker, Centenary College  
District #4 - W. S. Chandler, Marquette University  
District #5 - George Edwards, University of Missouri  
District #6 - James St. Clair, Southern Methodist  
District #7 - L. Mahoney, Denver University  
District #8 - J. Fred Bohler, State College of Washington

Our committee urges that the N.C.A.A. act on our proposal at its earliest convenience so that the plans for the Tournament Play in 1939 may be gotten under way very soon."