

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO  
NMS/P10-1  
OnS-6

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION  
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS  
(Copy)  
December 23, 1941

Dear Dr. King:

We have developed an outstanding basketball team here at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois. As you know, it is meeting leading college teams throughout the Ninth Naval District.

Its presentation fulfills two purposes; it brings the Navy "home" to the Middle West, showing the type of man needed for the United States fleet. And, by participating in gate receipts, it directly contributes to the Navy Relief Funds, now more vitally necessary than ever before.

Because the Navy need is so great at this time, we want the Great Lakes team to play in every one of the thirteen states in the Ninth Naval District, and to play to the greatest number of people possible. In some cases, however, campus facilities are previously engaged, or seating facilities provided a smaller attendance than was anticipated.

To insure maximum attendance when the Great Lakes basketball team meets in the Big Six Conference, we would deeply appreciate further relaxing of conference rules to permit the use of off-campus gymnasiums, auditoriums, civic centers and indoor stadiums.

This request is being made with full realization of its unusual nature, but we of the Navy believe you will understand the patriotic need for funds. Play for Navy Relief directly provides wives and children of men who have sacrificed their lives for our liberty. It, also, serves members of families of Navy men sent from Kansas to the front line of our fight for freedom.

I would appreciate a reply at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN DOWNES,  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Commanding.

Dr. H. H. King  
Secretary of the Board of Faculty Representatives,  
Kansas State College,  
Manhattan, Kansas.