

I realize that any schedule that you make would inconvenience someone. But I do trust that you will understand that the National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament Committee is striving their level best to do everything within their power to please every one of the competitive members.

This morning's issue of the Topeka Daily Capital, dated February 23, carries an A.P. article out of Stillwater blasting the Big Six and the N.C.A.A. for late basketball climaxes. I can not believe that they are quoting you correctly, although some of the statements they allegedly give you credit for are as follows: "I am not going to be yokeled into playing two games. We have already won our conference championship. Let them determine their winner and then we will play their champion. This whole thing should be set up in advance so that everybody would know what is coming off, because Big Six teams spread fifteen or eighteen games out until well in March. We should be going into the play-off right away, not that late when interest in basketball is beginning to lag. If the Big Six ends up in a two-way or three-way tie, it is a cock-eyed cinch those fellows will settle their own championship before we get matched up with any of them."

Now, Henry, you know that no one has endeavored to take advantage of you in any way, and if there is a two or three-way tie, certainly the Big Six would want to settle that of themselves before they would play the Missouri Valley champion in the play-off. The only reason for the extra teams in last year was because there was a two-way tie in each circuit.

Frankly, I believe that such statements that are allegedly made by you are injurious to basketball. We must permit each conference to handle their affairs as they see fit and not question the motives of any of the men in it. If the Oklahoma Aggies win the Big Six champion play-off you will find everybody behind your team one hundred per cent. Frankly, I believe the N.C.A.A. should be commended for their effort to elevate basketball beyond the promotional stage.

From all I have learned in Bus Ham's column it has always been planned that if it was an all-Oklahoma event it would be played off the week-end of March 15th, and I cannot see that it makes any difference when the Big Six champion is determined so long as they are ready to play the play-off with you that week-end.

No member of the N.C.A.A. Basketball Committee draws one penny, and I am sure you will agree they draw a lot of grief in promoting this game for the sport and for nothing else.

The personnel of this Fifth District N.C.A.A. Basketball Play-off Committee is as follows: Dr. H. H. King, faculty representative, Kansas State College, chairman; C. E. McBride, of the Kansas City Star; Bill Williams, athletic director, Drake University; George Edwards, of the University of Missouri, and myself.