

January 13, 1943.

Mr. Ed Neal,
Sports Editor,
The San Francisco News,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Neal:

One of your ardent sports readers sent me a tear sheet from your Thursday, January 7th issue of the San Francisco News quoting my good friends and yours, Nibs Price and Jimmy Needles, on the 12 foot basket. I assure you I am not a fanatic on the 12 foot basket but since Dr. Naismith tacked the peach hamper on the running track which happened to be 10 feet from the floor I see no reason why a basket should not be raised with the increasing height of the players.

Tomorrow night we are playing the Oklahoma A. & M. team, and they have an 18-year-old boy playing on the team who is exactly 7 feet tall in his stocking feet, and he has good action. That chap can reach the basket without jumping.

The rules as they are now written are clearly discriminatory in regard to the 10 foot basket. A defensive man guarding the goal may not reach over the perpendicular plane of the basket in knocking the ball away from the hoop. Again, if the ball should be on the edge of the basket and the defensive man should knock it off it counts a goal for the offensive side.

Now let's take the discrimination in favor of the tall man. If the ball is on the rim of the basket the offensive man may push it in, strike the ball and the rim, and the goal counts. Or he may jump up above the basket, dunk it in, stick his arm and hand eight inches through the basket, and still the goal counts.

Do you not agree with me that that is discrimination for, in one case, and against, in the other? A higher basket that could not be touched by either player would be just for all concerned. And too, a player shooting for a basket accommodates the muscles of his eyes to height the same as a player accommodates his eyes to distance. A player standing 20 feet out on the floor and shooting at a 10 foot basket would arch the ball a little higher and further than he would if he was standing 15 feet from the basket. A player arching his shot for a 10 foot basket 15 feet out would not arch it as high as he would for a 12 foot basket at the same distance.