

November 15, 1939.

Coach Lorenz F. Wahlers,
St. John's College,
Winfield, Kansas.

Dear Coach Wahlers:

Answering your kind letter of the 9th instant regarding your gymnasium furnishings, beg to state that it is my opinion that the size of the backboard will be reduced somewhat, but I am not in position to state the exact size at present.

There is a feeling on the part of the Rules Committee that much of the dead space on a basketball backboard should be cut down, especially the protruding square corners. If the board is not made convex it will be reduced in a very few years. There is much research being conducted at the present time, and if I were you I would plan on the new type.

Why would it not be possible to build for the new type backboard with an arrangement that will still accommodate the larger type backboard that you now have? Yes, I would say the smaller backboard is on the way, but whether it will be convex and as greatly reduced as some think, I am not certain.

If the convex board is patented by any firm I doubt that the Rules Committee will approve that. But I am very certain that in the course of a year the four corners will be lopped off the board to an extent that will leave only the active part of the board remaining. By active part I mean the part that is used for banking purposes. The desire of the Rules Committee is to obliterate as much of the board as possible so that it does not interfere with spectator vision so those people seated behind or to the side will be able to see the basket.

Trusting this answers your question, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH