

WELDA RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS A

Education for Citizenship

LEE CORDER, PRINCIPAL

WELDA, KANSAS

Dec. 31, 1943

Dr. F. C. Allen,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

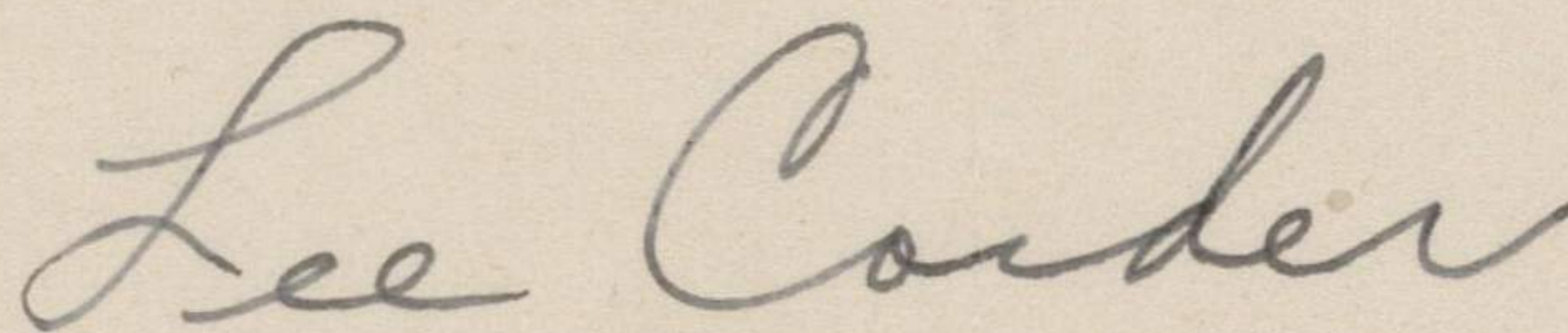
Dear Dr. Allen:

Your basketball success last Wednesday and Thursday in Kansas City was very gratifying to all of us. I want to congratulate you on the splendid way in which you came through to win such merited honor and recognition.

Here's wishing you the greatest success in proving that Oklahoma and Iowa will not have a 'too easy' time of it in taking Big Six honors this year.

I wish you a most happy and successful
New Year.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Corder.

CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Affiliated With The

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Carl L. Nordly, President
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Eloise Lemon, Vice-President
Central Missouri State Teachers College
Warrensburg, Missouri

Howard G. Porter, Secy.-Treas.
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Germaine Guiot, President-Elect
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Gertrude M. Baker, Past President
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

M. Gladys Scott, Member-at-Large
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER:

The Eleventh Annual Convention of the Central District Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation will be held in Topeka, Kansas, at the Hotel Kansan, on Sunday March 5 and Monday March 6.

Immediately following the Central District Convention the U. S. Office of Education Physical Fitness Institute will be held in Topeka, on March 7, 8, 9.

Some of the speakers to be heard at the Institute will be on the Central District Convention program. If you plan to attend the Institute, it will be profitable for you to come to Topeka Sunday and attend the Central District Convention just before the Institute. There is a vital need now for the people in the profession to share in a serious consideration of the present status and trends in Physical Education, Health and Recreation. There is also a need for definite post war planning in this field.

Whether you have some program to propose or you need ideas and practical suggestions to help you with your own program, you will find just what you are looking for at the Convention. In the event you cannot be away from your work during the school week you can get a great deal of help and inspiration by attending the Sunday meetings on March 5.

The Hotel Kansan will accept up to one hundred reservations for the Convention, but it is suggested that whenever possible reservations should be made for two or more in one room. Please make your reservations early and state how long you intend to be in Topeka.

Enclosed is a tentative program. If you wish more detailed information, please write to me or to Miss Germaine Guiot, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Respectfully yours,

HOWARD G. PORTER,
Secretary-Treasurer

2133 Vermont
Lawrence, Kansas

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Central District Association

for

Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Annual Convention - March 5-6, 1944

Topeka, Kansas - Hotel Kansan

(Prior to U. S. Office of Education Physical Fitness Conference March 7-8-9)

Sunday, March 5

10:00 a.m.

Registration

2:00-3:30 p.m.

First General Session

Post-War Problems in Health

Presiding: Dr. Germaine Guiot, President Elect
of Central District

"Health Problems in the Post-War Period", Miss
Helen Starr, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis,
Minnesota

Panel Discussion:

Miss Dorothy LaSalle, U. S. Office of Education

Miss Edna McCullough, Kansas State Teachers
College, Emporia, Kansas

Dr. Wesley Cushman, State Teachers College,
Mankato, Minnesota

Dr. G. E. Galligan, State Teachers College,
Winona, Minnesota

Mr. Leonard Marti, Principal, Junior High School,
Bismark, N. D.

Dr. F. C. Bealman, Secretary, State Board of
Health, Topeka, Kansas

Dr. D. D. Carr, Director of Shawnee County,
Topeka Health Department, Topeka, Kansas

Summarizer: Dr. Wesley Cushman

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Group Discussions

Health during the War--Discussion Leader, Dr. G. E.
Galligan

Physical Education during the War--Discussion Leader
for Girls, Miss Mabel Lee, University of Nebraska,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Discussion Leader
for Boys, Dr. Ralph A. Piper, University of Minn-
nesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Discussion Leader
Recreation during the War, Mr Pat Rooney, Field
representative, National Recreation Association

8:00 p.m.

General Session

Post-War Problems in Physical Education. Presiding
Miss Eloise Lemon, Vice-President of Central
District. Objectives: Miss Jane Harris, Public
Schools, Sioux City, Iowa.

Mr. Harold Jack, State Department of Education
St. Paul, Minnesota

Program: Miss Helen Manley, Public Schools,
University City, Missouri

Mr. Clarence A. Nelson, Duluth State Teachers
College, Duluth, Minnesota

Evaluation: Dr. C. H. McCloy, State University of
Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Summarizer for Boys: Mr. Willard Greim, Public
Schools, Denver, Colorado

Summarizer of Girls: Miss Gertrude Baker, University
of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Monday, March 6

9:00 A.M.

Registration

9:00 A.M.

Superintendent of Schools

"What I Expect in a School Health Program"

Superintendent of Schools

"What I Expect in a School Physical Education Program"

Superintendent of Schools

"What I Expect in A Recreation Program"

12:15 p.m.

States Luncheon

Presiding: Miss Eva Lyman, President, Kansas State
Association

Speaker: Dr. D. K. Brace, U. S. Office of Education

3:00 -

4:30 p.m.

Group Discussion

Post-War Problems in Health

Discussion Leader: Dr. Wesley Cushman, State Teachers
College, Mankato, Minnesota

Post-War Problems in Physical Education

Discussion Leaders:

Dr. D. K. Brace, U. S. Office of Education

Mrs. Theresa Anderson, Public Schools, Des Moines,
Iowa

Post-War Problems in Recreation--Mr. James Lewis
President, Nebraska State Association, Recreation
Department, Lincoln, Nebraska

8:00 p.m.

General Session

Presiding: Dr. Carl L. Nordly, President Central
District Association, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

"Community Recreation after the War", Dr. Elizabeth
Halsey, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Panel Discussion:

Mr. A. O. Anderson, Recreation Department, St. Louis,
Mo.

Miss Wilma Haynes, University Of Missouri, Columbia,
Missouri

Regional Representative in Recreation, Federal
Security Agency

Mr. Pat Rooney, Field Representative, National
Recreation Association

Mr. James Lewis, Recreation Department, Lincoln,
Nebraska

9:15 p.m.

"The Future of Our Profession" - Dr. Ben Miller,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, American Association
for Health, Physical Education and Recreation

December 15, 1943.

Mr. Ralph Cannon,
Esquire Magazine
919 No. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Ralph:

I was interested in your Sports Poll, and there are some things that I would like to say about it. First, I have never recommended a 12 foot goal for high school players. This is always the way when you do recommend something for college players - there is always an erroneous impression that carries over in some other field of activity. But for college players, men of maturity, when they reach such heights as the tall player now possesses, then I can see nothing sacred about the height of a 10 foot basket. There is no reason in the world why it should not be changed.

I was rather interested in the AP article out of New York last night in which Henry Iba, the coach of Oklahoma A. & M., with his 7 feet Bob Kurland, and Joe Lapchick, coach of St. John's College, with his 6 feet nine inch Harry Boykeff, came out against the goal-tending type of defense. Sure, both coaches used this style of play because it is profitable. But the goal-tending is only half of the story; the goal-dunking is the other half of the story, and that is where the rule-makers have made an unconstitutional rule according to any law in the land. It is discriminatory and therefore could not hold in a court of law nor should it hold in a court of fair reasoning.

The discrimination I speak of is discrimination in favor of the offense. If the ball is on the rim of the basket the offensive man may push it in, strike the ball, bat it in, or strike the rim when he dunks his arm about eight inches through the rim with the ball, and the goal counts in all of these situations.

But a defensive man guarding the goal may not tap the ball or 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 or touch the goal two points are scored for the offensive side.

Do you not agree with me that that is discrimination for - in the one case, and against in the other?

A higher basket that could not be touched by either player would be just for all concerned. Just because Dr. Naismith tacked the peach hamper on the running track of the gymnasium at Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., and that running track happened to be 10 feet from the floor is the only reason why we have a 10 foot basket at the present time. Why should not the basket be raised with the increasing height of the players? And players in basketball are getting constantly taller all the time.

We played Oklahoma A. & M. two games last year with 7 foot Bob Kurland, and we won both games, so I am not one of these coaches who are crying because we can't beat mezzanine peeping basketball hurdlers, but rather I am thinking of the game. I call these big boys "mezzanine hurdlers" because they are tall enough to touch the mezzanine floor.

It made me laugh audibly to see what some of these coaches said in their objections to a 12 foot basket. One, that it would make a little man shoot further than the taller man. A player shooting for a higher goal 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 court and shooting for a 12 foot basket would arch the ball a little higher and further than he would for a 10 foot basket. The same parallel argument is always good when a player is standing 20 feet out on the floor and shooting for a 10 foot basket he will arch the ball a little higher and further than if he were standing out on the floor 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.

Some coaches have raised the objection that a short man going in for a lay-up would be forced to jump two feet higher, which would be a disadvantage to a small man. This shows one thing, Ralph, that none of these coaches have tried a 12 foot basket. There would be no lay-ins on these shots because each player would be required to shoot at a 12 foot basket and none of them could accomplish a lay-in on account of the height. The poorest place to shoot at a 12 foot basket would be directly underneath the goal. That is emphatically the strong point of the 12 foot basket - in that they may not dunk it in the basket nor bat it away.

A hard drive toward the basket which produces 80 per cent of all the fouls by the defense in basketball are made for this very obvious reason -- because a player driving in for the basket is fouled or draws a pair of fouls and the official awards the offended player two free throws. If you could cut out 80 per cent of the fouls and practically all of the double shots caused from players throwing these fouls, then you would have a much cleaner, open game where field goal shooting would be the dominant point rather than foul shooting which seems now to be the case. A field goal would count 3 points and a free throw would count 1, which was Dr. Naismith's idea as to the evaluation of a field goal and a free throw. The whistle blowing of the officials would be cut down immeasurably because there would be fewer fouls on account of the

fact that it would be to the advantage of a player to shoot at the basket from a distance of 8, 10, or 12 feet rather than have the big boys camp under the basket and jab or dunk them in.

The added height of the basket would measurably clear up the congestion that always exists under the 10 foot basket. The big, rugged guard who sets himself to block out the incoming man and the tall mezzanine hurdler who camps near the basket would of necessity have to move back on account of the higher arc of dispersment of the bounding ball from a 12 foot basket. Therefore, it would clear up that congested area, and it would give the shorter man a decided advantage because when a ball is arched for the goal, if by striking the basket the arc of dispersment would cause a further rebounding of the ball, the big man moves back away from the basket. Then the small man, should the ball miss the basket and drop down to the floor, could dart in and quickly steal the ball before the big man could cover this added space that he now protects and reserves for himself under this lower basket. By forcing the defensive man further back and away from the basket it would naturally give the shorter and speedier man more area to operate in without molestation. I believe that you can easily visualize this point. It would also strike a blow at the zone defense.

Many of these proponents of the 10 foot basket who are opponents of the 12 foot basket remind me of a young short-sighted farmer east of Kansas City who complained that his father was the most short-sighted business man that he had ever seen. He left him five hundred acres of the finest farming land in Jackson County that was worth a thousand dollars an acre. But the son complained that the father did not leave him one darned thing to farm it with. That remind me of these basketball coaches who would much rather inherit a tall player after their annual intensive search for mezzanine hurdlers than they would actually go to the trouble to install a 12 foot basket and try the game out under these conditions.

I believe that I can say without fear of contradiction that not ten per cent of all the coaches of the United States have seen a 12 foot basket. Therefore, some of these coaches who have derived their life income from the game have never put anything into it but have been constantly taking out. They sit around and complain about their players going out on four personal fouls, and yet they do no more about improving the game or correcting the difficulty than this Jackson County farmer.

We have two 12 foot baskets in our gymnasium, and have had them installed for fifteen years. We use them for the purpose of teaching our players correct arching of the ball. And as for the cost of raising a goal two feet - that is a rare joke. Most goals are suspended from the ceiling and all you would have to do is shorten the pipe two feet. The bill for basketballs each year double exceeds the cost of raising the basket to 12 feet, so this plea for economy is rare. These coaches speak as if the cost of raising the baskets would come out of their own pockets and just try to get it from them.

Now, again, may I emphasize that I would not suggest the 12 foot basket for high school players because many of the gymnasiums in the East do have low ceilings, but this is not true in the West, and there is not a college gymnasium in America or a large auditorium in the big cities that holds any sizeable crowd but what could stand a 12 foot goal elevation without any difficulty. And by asking a raise to 12 feet this even keeps the 7 feet 6 inch player shooting for a goal and not dunking a goal. This height basket would for all time seal the gate of the gangling, inept player; but for the good, big, tall man - he would still be in the game and he could pass and shoot along with the rest of them. The premium on height would not amount to the great advantage that it does at the present time under the 10 foot basket.

There are some conferences so unprogressive that they are still using the "horse-and-buggy" four by six backboard rather than the new stream-lined board. Maybe some of these fellows couldn't hit a stream-lined board and they need that large area to stop the ball from going out of bounds. And the joke of it is that the board was never put up for a rebound board by Dr. Naismith, but rather it was to keep the spectators away from the basket. They would reach over the balcony and kick or knock the ball away from the basket, so they built a wooden barrier large enough to keep the crowd away, which proved to be the four by six backboard. Anyhow, the Big Ten and some of the unprogressive conferences still need that backboard to keep their players from throwing the ball out of bounds.

Much of this backboard is unfertile banking area and it obstructs the view of more than fifty per cent of the people who sit behind it. Olsen says, "The worth of the 12 foot basket has not been demonstrated in connection with the tall 'geen' problem, and such a change would have many disadvantages -- chiefly the expense of changing the height of baskets all over the country at a terrific total cost." As if this large backboard if not obstructing the view of many people in many of the high schools who pay their good money to see the game and yet sit behind this large obstructing surface without anything being done about it. Certainly the expenditure of the people who pay to see a game and fail to see it far surmounts the so-called terrific total cost that Mr. Olsen speaks about of raising the basket; and yet we are not asking that they raise the basket for high school boys but for college mezzanine hurdlers. I do not call these boys "geens". I think it is an unfair misnomer. Some of the finest athletes that I have seen have been boys over six feet six inches tall. "Mezzanine Hurdlers" seems to me a more polite appellation.

Facetiously I might suggest that in your questionnaire you ask the public, the sportscasters and the sports editors how many 12 foot baskets they have ever seen. There are none in the Smithsonian Institute, but we have two here in Robinson Gymnasium. Then if you want to get a thousand per cent negative answer ask how many coaches have actually put up a 12 foot basket and played a game under these conditions.

It is interesting to note that in your questionnaire 52.14 per cent of the public voted for a higher basket. Doubtless the sportscasters and

the sports editors were tinctured by the opinion of many of the coaches who doubtless had expressed their opinion on the 12 foot basket to the sportscasters and the sports editors. I ask how otherwise would the sportscasters and the sports editors know, unless they were just guessing it wouldn't be a good thing, because I am sure they haven't seen any 12 foot baskets.

Many Mark Cox has seen a pair. If he hasn't his guess on the baskets would be as good as the fact when he said the Eastern Intercollegiate play-offs were played in Independence Hall in Philadelphia in his article in Esquire.

You mentioned several of the coaches who were against the raising of the 12 foot basket. Wouldn't it have been fair to have mentioned more than Ward Lambert as favoring the idea - say Henry Iba, Bruce Drake, and a score of others?

The elevated basket will come as sure as death and taxes. There is no way that these administrators can frame a rule that will not be discriminatory and I am going to get a great chuckle out of watching these boys that oppose a 12 foot basket view these 7 foot boys like Kurland. In their confusion they wouldn't know what to do, and they get licked. However, there is a way to beat a team with a 7 foot player but you have to spend many weeks in preparing for just that one team and one player. We will beat many teams with tall players and we have had very few tall centers. So I am not kicking on my own personal account, but I am endeavoring to improve the game. And please remember that there is no 12 foot basket suggestion for high school players, - just for college and independent teams.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

P.S. My suggestion always has been if and when such a rule should be enacted in elevating the basket that there should be a moratorium of three years in order to permit any player now in the game full play under the 10 foot basket. The incoming tall players would naturally play under the new rule. Also, the free throw is suggested from a distance of 20 feet on account of the increased height of the basket making the trajectory easier for the thrower.

F.C.A.