

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?