

April 25, 1944.

Mr. Bob Collins, Mus. 1/c  
Band - Navy 120,  
c/o Fleet Postoffice,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Bob:

I regret that I have not answered your communication sooner. I have been busy with war work, and am at present serving as secretary of our county Selective Service Board. I have just finished our county Red Cross War Fund drive, and have also served the University as chairman of the Third and Fourth War Loan, Community Chest, and Infantile Paralysis drives. This, together with my work as chairman of the Department of Physical Education where we are conditioning V-5, V-12 and ASTP units, added to my basketball coaching this past winter, have kept me busy.

Basketball, along with all intercollegiate sports, has suffered much. Naturally her outstanding material has gone to the war effort, as it should. However, the placing of extremely tall boys in the 4F classification has done more to overbalance basketball than has any other factor affected any of the other sports.

Since each player is entitled to his own position on the floor, the altitudinous player has enjoyed an extreme advantage in war time. The able-bodied and physically fit men of shorter stature than six feet six inches have been drained into the war effort. Therefore, the war has given the gargantuan player in height a most undue advantage. The fact that the basket is but ten feet from the floor enables these seven foot boys to actually reach into the basket. In peace times the especially rugged and aggressive boys would be in the game ready to contest these super-super tall chaps. Therefore, of all times the present gives the mezzanine-peeping jumper in basketball an advantage that he would never enjoy in peace time.

It has always been my conviction, even during the time of the center jump, that the tall player's advantage was under the defensive and the offensive basket. The advocates of the elimination of the center jump said - Eliminate the center jump and you will run the ungainly, tall player out of the game. I have always maintained that there was one way to equitably settle the matter, and that was to raise the basket. The basketball rules committee did a lot of shadow boxing this year in regard to the tall player. A few coaches, selfishly inclined, pressured the rules committee to do something about the tall player on the defense. Therefore, they caused