

April 17, 1944.

Mr. B. W. Crone,
Associated Press Office,
Kansas City Star Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear B. W.:

Confirming our conversation of Saturday, I am sending you my statement concerning my opinion of the new rules promulgated by the basketball rules committee of the N.C.A.A.

The so-called Goal Tending rule, or the rule Against the Defensive Player Touching the Ball on its Downward Flight: This rule previously forbade the defensive man from touching the ball while the ball was on the rim of the basket or while the ball was above the perpendicular cylinder of the basket. This new rule substitutes the one just mentioned. I am going into a little detail with you for fear you might not have followed all of the angles of the new rule. The rule-framers had in mind that if this defensive player touched the ball while the ball was in its downward flight this would correct all the trouble, but it will not because we have run tests on this rule.

At a clinic meeting at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the other day I had the boys shoot for the basket and did not tell them what I had in mind. A group of us studied the ball when it started on its downward flight. We found that a tall player standing in front of the basket and moving to either side could intercept most of the balls before they started on the downward flight because the impetus was given to the ball to carry to the basket, and many shots that would carry to or over the basket were still going up in their flight from the floor. Only the ball with a very high arch would begin its descent before it got above the plane of the basket.

Therefore, my comment, I think, is well taken.

The New Injury Rule, permitting the Official to call Time Out for Injury for Either Side: This rule has been tried before and found wanting.

The Unlimited Substitution Rule: This has always been a good rule, but the basketball rules committee was afraid to put it in even after the football rules committee had done so. My criticism of the rules committee being susceptible to pressure groups is shown by their slow action in this rule. The fact that football with more than twice the number of people participating could have adopted it for