

December 16, 1940

Mr. Harold Claassen
The Associated Press
Star Building
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear "Spike":

I am sending the bulletins that you asked for, together with some others on the subject and I trust they are sufficient for you to send on to Richmond, Virginia for the feature. Would you please tell the fellow writing this that I would appreciate very much seeing it after it is in print, or at least his giving me information as to where the feature will appear. Thank you very much, Spike.

Now, for a word on the new-styled backboards. I call them the "lady's fan" because the new board is exactly the shape of a lady's folding fan. These modified backboards are a benefit to spectators in that more than 50% of the dead wood has been cut away; thereby greatly increasing visibility of the spectators for the goal.

This new stream-lined affect presents a more neat appearance so far as the playing apparatus of the basketball court is concerned, and yet it retains all of the fertile spots on the board. Every bank shot that was possible for a goal on the old board is still possible on this one.

The Research Committee charted hundreds and thousands of shots on various sized boards. They used small ones and large ones and registered every hit on a board, whether it was good or bad. Then the next step was to chart hits on the board that were good for a goal and from every angle and height. The people best fitted to do this work were members of our Research Committee in the high schools; namely, Mr. Floyd Rowe, Chairman of the Basketball Rules Committee, and Mr. H.V. Porter, Secretary of the National High School Federation.

Smaller boards than the present one and even larger ones than the one we now have were tried out. I had a set of them here in the gymnasium and we used them for a year. We found on the smaller one that some shots would hit on the edge of the board; therefore, we increased the size for experimental purposes and continued our study. We tried the convex board, but the Rules Committee turned it down because it was patented. We are using the board with the flat, planed surface which can be made by everyone without much expense; it can be made in the manual training shops of the high schools.

The manufacturers conceived upon a plan of using a pressed-steel backboard and making it uniform for everyone. Of course, a wooden or a steel board is satisfactory as well as a glass board, if the glass is painted white. The white paint is for the purpose of setting off the black ring. Many glass banks have rather a bluish cast and they do not set off the black steel ring.