

November 9, 1937.

Dr. H. C. Carlson,  
Student Health Service,  
University of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Dr. Carlson:

Your good letter of the 30th ultimo certainly struck a responsive chord in my makeup. We do not use the seamless ball, nor are we going to as long as they make a good lace ball. That seamless ball looks phony to me.

Mr. St. Clair, of S.M.U., told me at the rules meeting that this is exactly what their boys did when the salesman gave Coach St. Clair four balls to try out. St. Clair tossed them out on the floor. The boys picked them up, looked at them, shot at the basket two or three times, and then picked them up and threw all four up in the balcony, somewhat to Coach St. Clair's embarrassment in the presence of the salesman.

On the basis of our experiments with the ball we do not like it from any angle. This is confidential to you. However, I told the Wilson people very directly. While I do not lambast the ball at the coaching schools at which I teach, I let them know very definitely that I do not like a seamless ball. Why do we not use a laceless football, I ask. They made one, but it lasted but one year.

I also use the lace on the basketball to a very decided advantage. In my opinion we do not want a ball to last two long. Why do we throw out a new football or a new baseball?

When we filmed the picture in Kansas City I was not on to the tricks, being a country boy with not enough social background, and I made the statement before the filming of the picture, "Give me a ball with a lace on it." I did not want to make the picture with the ball because I did not like it. However, one of the sales force slipped up to me and said the Wilson people were paying for the picture and they wanted to use this kind of a ball. After having made that terrible faux pas I apologized and continued on with my work as a little boy should.