

August 29, 1938.

Mr. Russell Crabtree,  
Clarion, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

We have been away on vacation, and this accounts for your letter not being answered upon its arrival.

I do not use any method other than the chalk and black-board instruction at the present time. For a while I used the football gridiron and basketball court with steel disks which were charged as electrodes and we moved these on the playing field as the movement of players would indicate their direction. We had one red and one blue set, and we moved them around as individual team members moved from place to place.

But I discontinued the use of that because I found that it was impractical as these magnets lost their electrical charge when aggregated together in a box. They were just too much trouble. Frankly, I do not remember where I got this device as it has been about ten years ago, and they have been discontinued about eight.

If you had a game room where the boys could play with these things it would be helpful as recreation, but my reaction is that most of the boys do not know enough inside football to initiate these movements for real team benefit. Most of them want the coach to tell them what to do, and it is a rare exception to find a boy with enough initiative and intuitive judgment to do much of this on his own hook. I regret that I cannot give you more information. I trust that you have a very successful football season.

By the way, you might be interested in my new book, "Better Basketball", published by McGraw-Hill Book Company. If you do not care to purchase it, perhaps you may want your library to add one. Frankly, it is the best thing that I have written, and if you do not have it I believe it would be beneficial to you. I have a chapter devoted to the treatment of athletic injuries which I think is quite good.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.