

February 12, 1941

Mr. M.S. Stewart  
Esquire  
919 N. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I have read your article, "Mayhew at the Box Office", and I think it is an excellent article, bringing out the very potent dangers of this fire engine, pell-mell, fundamental destroying, hurricane shuttling back and forth, up and down the floor game. Not only fundamental destroying but energy and health destroying.

In your article you tell of the research of Paul J. Fay and Lloyd L. Messerschmidt of De Pauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, who put the pedometer on the boys to determine the distance traveled during a game. Yes, they do travel quite a bit further under the present rules of the game, but the big point has not been brought out; namely, that when a smaller team in stature and in weight meets a larger team, as is most usually the case, the boys are worn to a frazzle endeavoring to get the ball off of one or the other backboards from one of those mezzanine-peeping goons.

You will remember that the advocates of the elimination of the center jump: Sam Barry, Pinky Lambert, John Bunn, Harold Olsen, L.W. St. John, and a host of others, said, "Eliminate the center jump and you will eliminate tall fellow who can do nothing but go to the center and tip the ball over the shorter fellows' heads.

In my text, Better Basketball, I have a chart showing the tall players in the United States. These players have been increasing in height consistently for over a period of twenty-five years. It would be well for some physicists to figure out how many pounds of energy it takes for a 6' man to out-jump a 6'5" man, and it is not the jumping in the air that hurts a fellow.

Basketball is a game of contact under each basket. Theoretically, they say basketball is a non-contact game, but when players are jumping for the ball there is contact. However, the saving grace of this game is that the players play the ball, but everytime they jump, even though they play the ball, they are cautioned to protect themselves. Even this skill, so highly developed, has a wearing down process on the shorter fellow.

No team is beaten in the center of the court at the tip-off. The teams are beaten on the rebounds under the offensive or the defensive basket. Any team that wins consistently must have at least two tall men.