



THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN · OKLAHOMA
Feb. 25, 1944

Forrest C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Doc":-

Since 1939, our National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States has been opposed to "goal-tending". That year the Rules Recommendation Committee made the following recommendation: "It is believed that goal-tending would be eliminated if the team whose player touched the ball in its downward flight following a shot, before the ball has hit the back-board or rim of the basket, be penalized by awarding the goal to the opposing team".

This year the national rules committee has finally come around to our point of view. J. W. St. Clair, chairman of the National Rules Committee, recently made the statement, "After observing the basketball games in Madison Square Garden during the holidays, the N. C. A. A. Tournaments and Invitation Tournament, I am convinced more than ever that the biggest problem in basketball today, and one I hope can be solved soon, is the matter of the tall man in the role of a goal-tender".

In this year's guide, under, "Changes in Rules", one of the proposals to be studied and covered in the questionnaire is practically the same suggestion our organization made in 1939 which reads, "Award a field goal when a defensive player touches a try for goal above the level of the basket after the ball has started its downward arc....".

As you know this questionnaire will go to the high school coaches as well as the college coaches which means the picture will not be a clear one. We are out-numbered about 25 to 1, and yet high schools are not bothered with this goal thievery to the extent of colleges. I would appreciate a prompt reply to the enclosed form along with any suggestions you might have not covered in my questions. Since our national organization will not convene until after the war, I am in hopes that I can submit your answers as evidence to the members of the rules committee before they convene in March this year. That is why it is imperative I should hear from you by return mail.

Sincerely,

Bruce Drake
Coach of Basketball

bd:rh