



THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN · OKLAHOMA
March 18, 1944

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
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Dear Doc:-

Thanks to you for your letter to Harold and I. We both feel deeply honored.

In spite of the opposition we are getting to your 12 foot basket, I feel sure that you will have the last laugh. Not now, but it's coming and I'm convinced that it is the only sound solution. It's going to take time. At least they are giving the matter some thought---some a little shallow, but the fine part of it is that they are opening their eyes.

I have the questionnaires back from sixty-two coaches, and only four of the group say, "leave the rules as they are". The funny thing about their answers is that they all use a goal-tender. All the rest of them say something should be done to curb this practice. About 85 % of them say to make it illegal for a defensive man to touch the ball on it's downward flight by awarding a field-goal. Only two of the group say raise the basket to 12 feet.

Here's the way I have the thing figured out. They can see this goon take baskets away from them, and it makes them unhappy, in fact very unhappy. They haven't however, given much thought concerning the damage he is doing on the offensive basket. They don't stop to realize that when a giant is throwing the ball down thru the basket he is doing the same thing to you at that end of the court. However I've taken this attitude after considerable deliberation. It is obvious that now isn't the time to push the 12 foot idea of yours, altho it's before them. They have all said that something should be done about it and have given various solutions to it. Most of them haven't the vision of the outcome of moving the baskets up, but if we can eliminate one end of the court, it will give them a chance to concentrate upon the basket in the future that we want them to. In other words I feel certain that if we can eliminate goal-tending this year, it won't be long until they will see how it should be in effect at both baskets and the only solution will be a-la-Allen. Nes pa? I'm tickled to death that most of them are vitally interested in getting something done.

I read an account of your talk the other nite and you advocated that you were in favor of "freezing" the rules and have a committee (not the N. C. A. A.) do some work on proposed changes. That's a fine idea, and I suggested to Hank that we try the proposed suggestion in the rules this year in relation to goal-tending. He laughed and said, "It's not in the rules". In other words, I don't believe that any coach that employs a goal-tender as a defensive weapon will ever agree to sacrifice him in a game. It would be breaking up his defense which really is asking quite a favor unless you are fortunate enough to have one yourself. Then of course the man with the taller player ~~player~~ would say no. As far as this issue is concerned, I believe you