

December 10, 1941

Mr. Ralph Dennis
2922 Stevens
Parsons, Kansas

Dear Ralph,

I have received your post card and will endeavor to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

I am enclosing an excerpt from "Who's Who In American Sports" which, I believe, will give you the most important events in my life.

Of course there have been a great number of great basketball players at Kansas. It would be very difficult for me to select any few as the "best". Each man contributed some unique and personal ability to make his team a good one. Last year I had Howard Engleman, my son, Bobby Allen, and John Kline whom I have called "The Three Musketeers". These boys really had what it took to be great ball players. Each had courage and a drive and the spirit which would not admit defeat. Of course they were also good athletes, but a good athlete without spirit isn't worth a great deal. In past years I have had such excellent players as Ray Noble, Milton Allen, Francis Kappelman, John Bunn, now Director of Basketball at Stanford University, Arthur ("Dutch") Lonborg, at present Head Coach of Basketball at Northwestern University, Ray Ebling, Fred Pralle, "Frosty" (Forrest) Cox, Lee Page, Tom Bishop, and many others.

The new fan-shaped backboards are the result of a great deal of research. A large number of shots were charted in regard to just where they hit the backboard or the goal itself. It was discovered that a great number of the shots were made at the backboard rather than at the goal. The players had learned to shoot at the backboard and carom the ball into the basket rather than to shoot at the basket. Finally, it was decided to eliminate a great deal of this type of shooting by leaving only the most vital area of the backboard - the area just around the basket. - Thus the fan-shaped or lima bean type of backboard.

When basketball was in its infancy the backboard was made large so that the spectators in the galleries could not lean over the railing and hit at the ball.

By using the new fan-shaped backboard a great deal of additional seats are now available for spectators behind the goal, and players