

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENERAL OFFICE

50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK, N. Y.

FEB. 15, 1944

DEAR PHOG,

IT WAS WITH GREAT INTEREST THAT I READ YOUR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT BASKETBALL IN GENERAL AND 12-FOOT BASKETS IN PARTICULAR. I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE QUOTED A LOT MORE OF THEM, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH SPACE THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO ONE SUBJECT IN THIS "BREATHLESS" WRITING.

I'LL HAVE TO CONFESS THAT I HESITATED TO SAY MUCH ABOUT THE 12-FOOTERS UNTIL I COULD QUOTE HANK IBA ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO THINK I WAS "GOING FOR PHOG ALLEN'S CRACKPOT IDEA." TO ME IT SEEMS THE LOGICAL IMPROVEMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR THE BIG BOYS AND WHILE THERE'S ALWAYS AN ARGUMENT THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE SEVEN-FOOT PLAYER, THERE ARE PLENTY SIX-SIX AND UPWARDS AND BOYS AREN'T GROWING ANY SMALLER.

PERHAPS THE BIGGER BASKETS OR SMALLER BALL WOULD HELP, TOO. AND I'D STILL LIKE TO SEE IT TRIED AND FORM MY OWN IDEAS. WITHOUT CLAIMING TO BE ANY BASKETBALL EXPERT, I'VE REACHED TWO CONCLUSIONS: ONE THAT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH THE GAME WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE SO MANY IDEAS ABOUT MAKING CHANGES THAT WOULD IMPROVE IT, AND THE OTHER THAT ANYTHING THAT WOULD KEEP THOSE BIG BOYS FROM CROWDING INTO THE SPACE WITHIN 20 FEET OR SO FROM THE BASKET WOULD BE THE BEST IMPROVEMENT.

EVERY TIME I SEE A GAME IT LOOKS LIKE AN AWFUL CROWD IN A SMALL SPACE, WITH ALL THE BOYS MAKING FUTILE EFFORTS TO KEEP FROM BUMPING ONE