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January 25, 1944.

Mr. Hugh Fullerton, Jr.,
Associated Press,
Rockefeller Center,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Fullerton:

I read your column as of December 21, 1943, which appeared under your headline in The Kansas City Star, as follows:

"When such a basketball expert as the Oklahoma Aggies' Hank Iba grudgingly admits that a suggested change in basketball 'might work', this dept. feels safe in popping off about it....Our idea was to hoist the basket up out of reach of the extra tall boys and to make it larger so that shooters would have a reasonable chance of hitting their mark without getting into those traffic jams under the bucket ... Iba, who contends that basketball will see a lot of post-war changes, agreed that anything that tends to produce more outside shots will give the spectators a chance to see what's going on inside ... Then he added still another point-if the backboards are higher, the rebounds will go farther out into the court....Maybe we still couldn't see what some of the clever ball-handlers were doing, but we'd like to see the experiment made once."

Personally, I have been agreeing with your ideas, for lo, these many years, for in the February number of the Country Gentleman in 1935 I wrote an article, "Dunking Isn't Basketball". At that time I was chairman of the research committee of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and also chairman of the research committee of the Joint Basketball Rules Committee. We made countless research experiments, many of them, in my opinion, that would emphatically help the game. We are still continuing research projects in basketball at the University of Kansas at the present time. I said then, and I repeat now - goals should be shot and not dunked. Should height, figured by itself, carry such a premium as it does now? Isn't the game penalizing the fine players who fall below the six foot mark?

I've thought for several years now that the tall man has an unearned advantage under a ten foot basket. That is why I suggested a twelve foot basket. It was not that I was failing to win my full percentage of games. I would move the baskets into the court six feet instead of four. Most of the eastern courts have but a two foot margin. I would have all jump balls taken to one of three spots nearest to where the held ball occurred - the two foul shooting marks and the center spot, circled by six foot radius restrainers for other than the jumpers.