

July 5, 1938.

Mr. R. A. Fetzor,
Director of Athletics,
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Mr. Fetzor:

I am very happy to have your good letter of the 2nd instant, and first desire to give you the benefit of the discussions in the meeting of the Rules Committee of the National Basketball Rules group at the last April meeting.

There is the thought among the members of that group that the six by four basketball backboard is too large and that the corners will soon be cut off; that the backboard will take on much the appearance of a fan, giving just enough back surface behind the goal for bank shots. The purpose of cutting away the corners is to give the player more of an opening when he comes out from his area four feet behind the board to shoot at the basket.

As you know, the Rules Committee made it optional this year as to whether the end line should be extended four feet beyond the basket. By cutting off the corners a better view could be had by the individuals sitting on the end line or just back of the backboard.

Personally, my opinion is that the board will be sizeably reduced in the next few years.

I think glass is impracticable because the rules say that the backboard shall be of plate glass or wood or any other material that is flat and rigid, and that the fact of the backboard shall be painted white, and when you paint a glass surface white you destroy its transparency. It is true that Madison Square Garden does not paint the whole surface of their backboards, but their backboards are not official. When you are playing conference teams they want uniformity, and an unpainted glass backboard casts a dark bluish color and interferes with visibility. The purpose of having the backboard white is to set off the black