September 7, 1937.

Mr. Henry Elias,
Superintendent,
Beeler, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Elias:

Answering your communication of September 2 beg to state that I can see no danger in starting basketball practice very early in the year, especially when there is no football participated in by your high school.

I would suggest that no scrimmage be indulged in for at least two or three weeks after you start, and further that fundamentals both in individual offense and individual defense be given the most attention. The team offense and team defense is a build-up after the fundamentals on the individual work is taken care of.

I would also suggest the necessity of impressing the boys with instruction on personal hygiene and diet. I find that by interesting the boys in their diet that they become greatly interested in themselves and that they will have much cleaner existence which, after all, is the purpose of their early physical activity.

I would say that two weeks after school starts would be a good time to start basketball practice, but it would be a month after school starts before I would do much scrimmaging.

You will find that after scrimmage starts it is very difficult to keep the boys definitely on fundamental, and even after scrimmage does start I would never devote more then 15 minutes a day to scrimmage work. The boy reverts to his fundamentals during the periods of excitation. Therefore, ground them well in fundamentals and they will make fewer mistakes in scrimmage.

I trust this answers your question.

Very cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education.