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February 22, 1943

Dr. Forest C. "Phog" Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear sir:-

I believe I am correct in the assumption that you know as much, or more, about the game of basketball as any living man. With that in mind I am writing this to ask your opinion as to the proper course to pursue when an occasion arises such as I am about to describe. The following incident took place here at the Springfield, Missouri Y.M.C.A. this month. It aroused considerable comment and evoked some pretty strong feeling among basketball players and fans, not only here in Springfield but in this entire area, - southwest Missouri. I shall be very grateful to you if you will send me your thoughts and reactions to the matter, for your words will carry great weight here.

Here is what happened: -

The "Y.M.C.A. Senior Independent Basketball League" for many years has had a split season schedule. The Constitution of the League provides that a two-out-of-three game series shall be played by the winning teams of each half in case the same team does not win both halves of the League. This means, of course, that the winner of the play-off is declared the League Champion for the season.

This year the Dr. Pepper Independent team won the first half of the league, and the Central Labor Union team won the second half of the league. There were six teams in the league. -- At the end of the first game of the play-off series the official scorer had the running score on his book thus: Dr. Pepper 32; C.L.U. 31. Thirty seconds before the game ended, at the request of the captain of Dr. Pepper's team the referees came to the scorer and asked if the score-board on the wall - 32-31, - was correct. The scorer did not check the box score to see if it corresponded with the running score, but simply looked at the running score ^{on his book} and saw that it was 32 - 31, - favor of Dr. Pepper. Assuming that this running score corresponded to the box score he answered the referees that the score on the board was correct and the game ended with the crowd, both teams, both referees, and the scorers thinking ^{→ 32-31} that Dr. Pepper had won and that C.L.U. had lost the game. Besides the official scorer there was another scorer, a representative of the C.L.U. team. His running score corresponded with that of the official scorer, so the scoreboard on the wall, as well as the running score on both scorers books showed Dr. Pepper 32; C.L.U. 31.