

January 27, 1943.

Mr. Arthur F. Hughes,
Sports Editor,
St. Joseph News-Press,
St. Joseph, Missouri.

Dear Art:

Thanks for your good letter of the 24th instant. Mr. Falkenstien, our financial secretary, has a report from the Auditorium and I am sure that he will mail the check if he has not already mailed it.

Milo Farneti, our sports editor, printed some of the things that you had to say regarding our trainer, Dean Nesmith. This plaintive wail sounds so much as if it came from DeVictor of Missouri that I am wondering if you didn't get some of those ideas from him. I do not know whether you know it or not, but at each time out the trainer or any representative member of the team has a perfect right to seek permission to either go on the court or go to the end line and minister to his men.

Dean Nesmith has never played basketball and does not profess to know the fine points of the game. He takes the towel and water bottles and the smelling salts and makes them as comfortable as he can. This, as I said, he has a perfect right to do as often as he wishes. I see no reason nor would I object if the trainer went out to his own men each time that time is out.

Another thing that I am not sure whether you have kept up with the rules or not, is that a player reporting to his teammates may communicate with them any time he goes in. I have fostered this rule to do away with the very charge that you wrote - that we were communicating with our players. If a player going in from the bench can freely communicate with his teammates, then what information could a trainer convey to the players? And further, I have always gone on the theory that if the boys couldn't play the game out there on the court certainly the coach would be doing a poor job to expect them to receive information from the bench. What type of coach would it be that would coach a team and still have a trainer who would know as much as he did? In that case I would hire the fellow as assistant coach rather than trainer. The trainer is hired for entirely different purposes.