

Central High School

Lonaconing, Maryland

ARTHUR FRANCIS SMITH, A. M., PRINCIPAL

March 3, 1942

Mr. Phog Allen
Basketball Coach
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

In recent years here in the East there has been a tendency to teach the two-hand set shot as follows:

- 1-feet together
- 2-arms extended
- 3-loose finger grip
- 4-break the wrist or drop the wrist and shoot the ball as you leave the floor

When I started coaching I decided to give the boys first hand information as to hit and miss information and I purchased your book on Better Basketball and also John Bunn's book on Methods in Basketball.

We were successful this year, winning 23 out of 25 games and having one of the best teams in the state of Maryland. Everything I used was on a team basis, the set shot, one hand shot, offense and defense.

I used your apex-defense and three out and two in on the offense.

After a statistical check-up with the manager I found that we weren't doing as well as we should on our set shot.

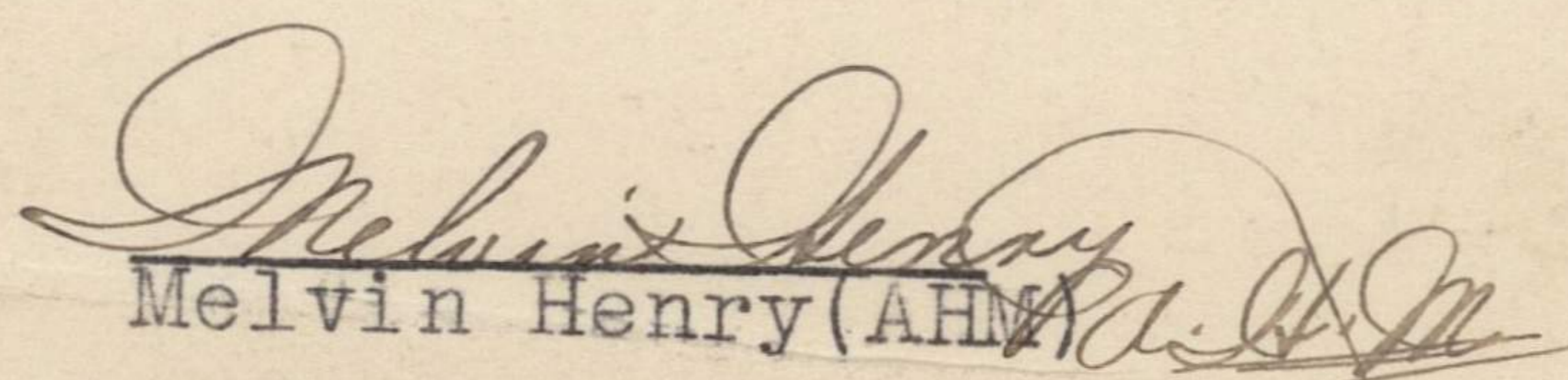
Would it be asking too much if you would inform me as to how you coach the following points on a set shot:

- 1-finger control; where are the thumbs placed?
- 2-propulsion of ball to the basket. Is it a "shot put" pushing movement with the wrist joint locked or fixed; or do you coach a downward and upward break of the wrist?

The other points concerning the shot you teach are clearly illustrated in your book.

Hoping to hear from you, I am

Sincerely yours,


Melvin Henry (AHM)