September 14, 1943.

Mr. Harold Keith,
Director of Publicity,
Intercollegiate Athletics,
The University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Harold:

I will be glad to help you and Bruce on any article that you try to land. I rather agree with you that the basketball goon subject is a bit trite and I warn that it is a little early for a basketball article, but I am always happy to help you in any endeavor you undertake. You have my blessing.

Every coach is for the 12 foot basket when he has an opponent on the opposing team 7 feet tall. Harold, the rule that is now before the Rules Committee prohibiting the touching of the ball in its downward flight by a goal-tender is a discriminatory rule. Any rule that doesn't work both ways is a poor rule. The offensive player can tip the ball into the basket while it is still on the rim or he can jump up and dunk his whole arm and the ball into the basket, even touching the inside rim with his arm as he dunks it in, and the goal counts. Yet we have got some asinine administrators of basketball who make these crazy rules and expect people to accept them. A rule like this wouldn't stand in a court of law five minutes. It would be thrown out of court because it is discriminatory. I am sure you can see this without elaborating further on it. The defense must have the same right as the offense. This 12 foot basket rule is the only rule that will give both sides and every player on both teams an equal opportunity.

But I can tell you frankly why it meets such strenuous opposition. All boys like the drive-in, lay-up. The goal is close to the floor and they like that speedy drive-in. Now understand, please, Harold, I am not advocating a 12 foot basket for high school players. We have the lower hurdle for high school boys, a lighter shot, a lighter discus for high school boys. Why shouldn't we have a lower basket for high school boys, say the 10 foot basket? There are not enough mezzanine-peeping goons in high school to bother much about the basket, but in college and in independent basketball playing days - that is when you get the Fortenberrys and other altitudinous players.

Some people will mention the 11 foot basket but there are players now in the game who can touch an 11 foot basket and knock the ball away. Therefore, the 12 foot basket will forever remove the possibility of interference by either the offense or the defense of the ball on the rim or above it.

It might interest you to know that with all the argument on the back-

board, the only reason a 6 ft. 4 in. backboard was put up was to keep the spectators from kicking the ball away or knocking it away from the basket when the player shot. And there are still a lot of unprogressive basketball coaches, like the coaches in the Big Ten, who still stick to the 6 ft. 4 in. rectangular board. And it was used as a protecting wall, not as a shooting space. Any fello who cannot shoot close enough to the basket to hit the kidney shaped board should lose the ball out of bounds, yet the Big Ten coaches will not agree to a smaller board. And it was put up for no purpose of rebounding at all.

You may think I have digressed a bit in bringing in the backboard, but I am showing you that a parallel case is the basket in height, being 10 feet because Dr. Naismith tacked it on a running track and the track was 10 feet from the floor. Now through all these years we have argued about the player interfering with the ball at the basket, and all we would have to do to eliminate all difficulties of that nature, and delete many of the rules that are now in the book would be to raise the basket. And yet there are many people who will not agree to this because either the drive-in or some other of their pets would be slightly curtailed. The drive-in calls for the awarding of an extra shot.

Statistics have been made to show that between 72 and 92 per cent of all the fouls are made within a radius of 18 to 20 feet of the basket. We say that there are too many free throws, yet the very people to argue that point will not agree to a rule that would eliminate most of those fouls. They go way around the measure by asking for five and six personal fouls on a player to disqualify rather than four. Yet, if you would raise the basket there would be very few players go out of the game because most of the fouls are made on driving in for the basket, or being right under the basket when a player jumps up to shoot and is fouled by a player too closely guarding the offensive man. The most disadvantageous position for an offensive man is directly under a 12 foot basket. He should be out a piece to bank his shot or to shoot in for the goal.

Harold, why don't you get Bruce to put up a 12 foot goal and let his players shoot at it for a while? I have found that most of the objections to the 12 foot basket are from coaches who have never shot at one. I am just venturing a good-natured guess now that Bruce has never shot at one, and of course the thing that causes Bruce to be extremely emphatic now is this 7 foot boy down at Stillwater.

Several years ago I wrote a short article and had it mimeographed on the 12 foot basket for college and independent teams. You will notice that I stress college and independent teams, and if you do write the article I think you should set out definitely that it is not for high school players. I am enclosing one of these mimeographed copies which answers most of your questions. However, I will take your questionnaire in order and answer the same so that you will get the stuff you desire in the way you ask it. But I did want to bring some other points out in this epistle to you. If there is anything else that you desire, please feel free to call upon me because I am not unduly interested, as I told Bruce, in the Rules Committee and its members, or the Coaches Association and its members. You can use any or all of the quotations you desire. I am not particularly anxious to wet-nurse any of the boys on the Rules Committee. I worked a good many years for what I considered the best interests of basketball and I find that the majority of these fellows are a group of basketball politicians who try to get some

rule through that will help their cause and not help the game, and I can say straightforwardly and conscientiously to you that I have steadfastly worked for the best interests of basketball, regardless of whether that rule helped me or not. I have felt that I knew enough basketball fundamentals that I could teach my boys to play the game so that any rule that was put in would eventually give me a chance to get even with my opponents.

I cite the dribble rule. In the second week of April, 1928, Knute Rockne and I were speaking before the National Education Association at Des Moines, Iowa, at the Drake fieldhouse. Knute spoke on The Pedagogy of Football and I spoke on The Pedagogy of Basketball. Two days prior to this meeting at the fieldhouse, the Basketball Rules Committee had abolished the dribble, putting in the one bounce rule. In my speech on The Pedagogy of Basketball I assailed the National Basketball Rules Committee as autocratic and high-handed because they had not checked with any of the coaches to determine their opinion, but because Dr. Walter Meanwell felt that the one bounce rule in the game would be better than the dribble they followed his recommendation.

A controversial storm broke over the country with most of the coaches agreeing with me. I received 160 telegrams from various coaches, complimenting me upon my attacking the Rules Committee. I called for a meeting of all the coaches at the Drake Relays in the next two weeks. We met and set up a temporary committee and set a date for Chicago in June. At that time I was elected president. We perfected an organization and called upon the Rules Committee to rescind the action, which they did. Out of that turmoil was born the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States. Many of the coaches who had been lukewarm now jumped in the bandwagon, and it was quite the popular thing.

I will now answer your questionnaire, question by question.

(1) I discussed the 12 foot rule in 1932, but first publicly proposed it in an article in 1934. In 1935 the Kansas Aggies and Kansas played at Lawrence with 12 foot baskets, and Kansas State won the ball game. In spite of this defeat, I consistently advocated the 12 foot basket. I proposed, Harold, that a field goal count 3 points and a free throw count 1. The mimeographed copy will give you most of the reasons why I think it would help basketball.

(2) My counter charge that 12 feet for the goals would reduce scoring would be that it would reduce 60 to 75 per cent of the fouls and keep more players in the game. It would free the congestion around the basket and it would give the short man an opportunity to recapture a shot that fell short of the 12 foot basket before it went out of bounds. It would definitely give the small, fast man a great advantage. And too, a 12 foot basket adds a lot of visual pleasure to a high arching shot that splits the net, which is a decided advantage over the short tip-in, jamming and batting the ball around the basket as obtains with the 10 foot basket. The 12 foot basket will also move the guards further away from the basket on account of the high arc of dispersement when the ball strikes the backboard and bounds out from the goal.

(3) I believe the chiefest objection to the 12 foot basket would be the fact that the drive-in and the lay-up would be taken away, and most every player likes that; and the second reason is that I believe nobody would put up a 12 foot basket. That is how strong they are on research. And

third, I think people are just against change. They know what the regular order of things is and they dislike heartily to make a change. Many people ask me why I do not advocate an 11 foot basket. Well, I have explained that to you. And too, the fieldhouses and auditoria are so high, especially in the middle west and west, that a 12 foot goal would handicap none of the college administrations so far as buildings are concerned. I have said to these fellows, "You will get a 12 foot basket whether you like it or not,"and it will come because any judge or jurist would tell you that the rule that is now being proposed would be thrown out of the gemst or reason or equity or fair play. And unless they put this discriminatory rule as goal-tender in, they they have nothing else to do but to raise the basket. You will have so many arguments, which you have already had, regarding touching the ball above the cylinder of the basket, that it will be most unsatisfactory. And why hasp upon this tall player the derisive names of goon, and so forth, just because he is tall. A 12 foot basket will take care of that, and I will predict that alongside with eliminating many of the rules of prohibition regarding restrictive areas on the floor, you will also eliminate this mezzanine-peeping goon because he will be of no service to the team, any more than any other player who will be forced to shoot and not dunk or tap. You will get rid of him in a hurry, and then only athletes who can shoot, pivot, pass and guard will be in the game.

(4) The first goal-robber that I ever saw, as you call it, was Herman Bertke, of the Sioux City Y.M.C.A. back in 1904. He was 6 ft. 7 in. tall and could not jump but he could stand near the basket and jump just high enough to deflect the ball away from its course. I was then playing manager of the Kansas City Athletic Club and we played the Sioux City Giants. That was their name. We were utterly surprised because we had not met enough tall players to learn to carom the ball high on the board, or a bank shot, and we were shooting more of a low arch than we do now.

Missouri has consistently had the tallest men to contend with. Of course, your Vic Holt and Hugh Ford were fellows of that type. Ask Bruce if he doesn't remember Ford's goal-tending here at Lawrence a few years ago. And of course we had Al Wellhausen, but I am giving it to you straight now. I used Wellhausen in an effort to show the rules members that it was unfair for a tall player to stand in front of the basket and deflect a shooter's try away. In fact, I wrote an article for the Country Gentleman in February, 1935, entitled "Dunking Isn't Basketball", and in the photograph I used Al Wellhausen dunking the ball in a 10 foot basket and superimposed above the 10 foot basket a 12 foot basket showing how impossible it would be for him to reach a 12 foot basket. Under this picture it says: "Coach Phog Allen and his six foot seven inch center, Al Wellhausen, experimenting with the ten and twelve foot baskets."

I would suggest that on a 12 foot basket the backboards be moved in the distance of 6 feet instead of 4 feet. That would give an ample area for a player to retrieve and play the fall in from and around underneath the basket. But it is not imperative to use the 6 feet because the 4 feet would still do the job. I meant also to mention that I would throw the free throw from the 20 foot mark and count one point, while a field goal would count three. You and I both know that a field goal is worth a lot more than the two and one ratio that now obtains. For instance, a player underneath the basket squirms around and draws a foul by an underhand flip striking the opposing player's arms, and draws two free throws. You and I both know when we see all the fouls that the offensive player's chances of making a goal are about one in ten, yet he got two free throws, and this offensive

player, expert on throwing free throws, made both free throws because he had developed this to the point that he could make more points on the free throw route than he could on the field goal route.

(5) There were fewer of the tall boys in the early days because the junior high school coach did not have as many gymnasia to play in as he has now. In my mimeographed copy I mention that this junior high school coach discovered this skyscraper oozing ethearally down the hall and he nabbed him, not because he was a basketball player, but because all he would have to do is stand near the basket, catch the ball, and lazily and awkwardly spin the ball into the basket above the shorter and weaker high school adversary.

(6) In the old days they stopped it about the way they do now. If a fellow was awkward they placed one right under his feet. If he was good they placed one man in front of him and one man behind him, and any way he moved he was impeded in his progress.

(7) Here is the set up. The National Association of Basketball Coaches meet in conference, and I might say that about 5 per cent of the members actually work and are concerned with rules. The rest of them only rearrange their prejudices and howl over some rule that they think interferes with them. But there are a few intelligent fellows in the Coaches Association who really want to do something about the rules. The other is a tipplers' convention, but it is not as bad as the football coaches convention.

The Basketball Rules Committee is comprised, as you know, of the college and university coaches, the high school federation, the Y.M.C.A.'s, and the Canadiation Association of Coaches and Y.M.C.A.'s. The joint committee gets out a questionnaire and Mr. Porter, the secretary of the High School Federation, is a very intelligent and efficient fellow. The rules committee has a questionnaire committee. These questionnaires are sent to the high school coaches, college coaches, Y.M.C.A.'s, and the Canadian Association. By and large most members come from the High School Federation. After these questionnaires are returned the clearing house handles them, and these are the things discussed by the rules body. The Coaches Association has the right to make its recommendation, but the rules body does not guarantee that any of the recommendations will be followed. Generally some of them are. But the rules body is purely a political set-up. Major Griffith and L. W. St. John are the boys behind the scenes, with L. W. St. John the prime mover. Harold Olson is their paid stooge. He is assistant to St. John as athletic director at Ohio State. J. W. St. Clair, of Southern Methodist University, was for many years on the nominating committee of the rules committee. He naturally nominated the men that Olson and St. John dictated and for his reward in doing this he is now chairman of the rules committee. George Edwards, a fine fellow, is a part of the machine. When the word goes down the line to do this and that, the rules committee generally jumps through the hoop.

Now, I am going to tell you something that is as near the truth as I can arrive at. The year before the center jump was eliminated, Olson, St. John and all the rules body were definitely against eliminating the center jump. Then Olson and St. John made a trip to the Pacific Coast. They made arrangements for Ohio State to play football and basketball out on the coast for a number of games with the University of Southern California and other coast teams. The next year, after these gentlemen returned from the Pacific Coast,

St. John, Olson and all were in close harmony with Sam Barry and John Bunn who wanted the tip off eliminated. It is my definite confiction that St. John and Olson promised these Pacific Coast people that they would work for the elimination of the center tip and in my judgment the price was games with Ohio State on the coast. Now, I do not want you to quote me on this, but I have made this statement confidentially to a number of people, and I am in just as good a position to prove it as a fellow could be without hearing them make the deal.

That is why I say that the price of the rules committee is for what some of these fellows can get out of it. That is why I am not much interested any more in such people's activities. Life isn't worth it, and why should I worry about it. St. Clair is a fine fellow, but just another politician when it comes to office hope. Oswald Tower is an honest, square-shooting fellow, the editor of the Rules Committee, but St. John has always had June Salmon as chairman, or some fellow that he could definitely handle, and this fellow would go at the direction of St. John. The Canadian people do not oppose much. They are fine people. The Y.M.C.A.'s for a while tried to dictate but saw they were out of luck and they present little opposition. St. John uses the high school people like Floyd Rowe of Cleveland, to the best of his advantage, but H. V. Porter is a tough nut to crack, and in my opinion he is the brains of the outfit but he does not play with them only in an administrative capacity.

But here's the thing, Harold, these fellows have the majority. They have eight votes and whatever they want to put through they do. Now don't misunderstand me. They are intelligent fellows in a way, but the slate is made in the N.C.A.A. set-up. It doesn't take long to have a rule passed. You can have it passed in one year or in one hour, but unless the powers that be want it, you would have a tough time except where it is overwhelmingly in favor, then of course they would not fight it.

The reason, as I have told you, why this taller basket doesn't go over is because all the high school players like to drive in for a lay-up and they are afraid that will take too much out of the game. In fact, if you see most high school players play when they have a good shot out 20 feet from the basket they will start dribbling in for the shot, whereas if they just stood and made their shot they would have a good shot unmolested. I study these things and watch intramural games and high school teams play and I see it repeated so many times that I can understand why they are against the 12 foot basket. But that is not for the high schools, you understand.

(8) I have just covered the center jump. You stated it was preceded by a year or so of experimentation. No, they tried to put it over the first year, but they were whipped on it. Then John Bunn, Sam Barry, with the aid of St. John and Olson and the rules committee, naturally had the cards stacked to the point that it went over but it was not a popular move, and right now there is much opposition against the play without the center jump. But I do not think it will ever come back because the high school play over the nation manages, consciously and unconsciously, the doubtfulness of the return of the center jump, and the difficulty with the 12 foot basket is because high school coaches and players still think we are trying to put the 12 foot basket idea over on them.

(9) The ten second rule was o.k.'d without first trying it out as an

experiment. That was the matter of putting a division line across the center of the court and requiring the offensive team to bring the ball across in ten seconds. Then there was the three second rule which required that a player not stay in the offensive lane more than three seconds.

I have always said that basketball possessed so many qualities of a thrilling nature as it is played that perhaps we could do without the center jump and other things and still basketball would be highly interesting.

(10) I agree with Bruce Drake that the experimentation idea won't work on this goal-stealing controversy. Why should a coach give up the strongest part of his play when he is not required to do so. I will bet if we were playing Bruce and he had Ford under the basket he wouldn't take a chance of being beaten for nothing. Yes, I think he has something there, and if he had this big boy at Stillwater I'll bet he wouldn't give Hank Iba a chance, and if I were Hank I wouldn't give Bruce a chance until they put the rule in.

(11) The rules committee did pass a ruling, Harold, that no defensive man could touch the ball above the cylinder of the basket. I haven't even read the new rule, but do know that it is discriminatory. I don't see any difference between the rule that you quote and the rule that we now have in effect. I have never had enough tall fellows to bother, so they aren't going to worry me. Can't you see what this 10 foot basket is doing for the search for tall players by coaches all over the country? Any coach realizes that with a 10 foot basket if he can get a 7 foot player it is worth ten to twenty points a game offensively and defensively, whereas if they would raise this basket to 12 feet the search for this tall player would be on the wane. There are so few tall players and when you do get one the coach is practically assured of a championship. Look at this boy Schulz on the Brooklyn Dodgers, 6 ft. 7 in. He played with Hamline and won the championship in Kansas City. Almost every time a fellow like Beisser, Boykoff, Kurland, and in another year, Komenivich, is on a team the coach is assured of a championship. Why wouldn't it be better to raise the basket to 12 feet and give everybody an equal shot at the thing rather than have a few tall players who dominate the game because the basket is really within their reach. When you ask me what I think about the rules committee -- well, I won't tell you what I think, but I have told you something of what I think. You guess the rest, Harold.

(12) When I was a member of the rules committee I told them that rule was discriminatory and I think the basketball coaches association had few men who could write a rule without discrimination. I am asking you why should anyone recommend that the defense be forbidden from touching the ball in its downward flight when they allow the offense to do everything except to do a giant swing on the rim before they dunk the ball in. Can't you see that discrimination, Harold? As I told you, I haven't even looked at the new rule. Maybe I had better order a copy of the rules and see what they say.

(13) As I told you, I haven't been in the coaches association for some time. There are too many little fellows with big noses in there to suit me.

(14) I have explained to you what the questionnaire was so that doesn't mean much at the present. Ask Bruce to dig up one of the questionnaires from his files for you. He has them. The coaches Association has a questionnaire and the rules body has a questionnaire, and if you agree with me about

nine-tenths of the questionnaires are useless because the coach generally put in there what he doesn't like and somtimes the phrasing of the question would not convey the intent of the committee which wrote that question. I was on the questionnaire committee; in fact, have been on almost all of the committees and if you would see some of the questionnaires filled out you wouldn't give some of the coaches any too much credit for above normal intelligence. Don't think I am griping, Harold, I have just seen so much of it that you get very few unselfish coaches. The questionnaire committee makes a survey of all the questionnaires and reports to the rules committee their findings. If you get 80 per cent in favor of a thing it is almost sure to go over, but you know the questionnaires won't get 80 per cent.

(15) There is very little goal-tending in high school basketball because, as I explained to you, the high school player is not agile and altitudinous, and too, many principals would not stand for it, because it looks unsportsmanlike to many people. The principals still have much to do with athletics in high school, while at the universities the administrators leave it to the whims and caprices of the athletic people and sometimes there is very little of a sporting quality considered. It is more mob psychology - beat the invaders - and they all settle for a Roman holiday.

(16) No, I do not think that on account of the Y.M.C.A.'s and the Canadian associationgbeing members they mitigate against the committee's adopting changes made by the coaches association. As I told you, the dominant group is the N.C.A.A. group. Then the next most important is the High School Federation, with the Canadian Association and the Y.M.C.A. people playing a very small part.

(17) I think I have explained the 17th question thoroughly in my other statement previously.

(18) Yes, the 12 foot goal proposal was the first proposal ever made, so far as I know, for equalizing the height of a tall player. Ever since 1900 I have been closely associated with basketball and with Dr. Naismith until he passed away in 1939. I have played with and against tall players and have seen especially versatile shorter men being crowded out and hipped around by some taller fellow. It is the hipping out of these shorter players under a 10 foot basket that adds to the congestion. Some time, as a spectator, go down and watch Bruce play and watch the hipping that goes on under a 10 foot basket. Then get Bruce to put up a pair of 12 foot baskets and watch the absence of hipping. Why? Because it is not necessary. The arc of dispersement when the ball falls out further and when a goal is missed is greater with a 12 foot basket, and there is a greater area that is not congested.

All I ask is for these fellows to try it and apply the rule and see if they don't get a cleaner game. Then get officials and have them run a game and see how many fewer fouls are called. It is possible that you will see an entire game played without the referee awarding that extra free throw for the foul. Now go back in your records and see how many extra free throws are awarded on fouls when goals are attempted. It will startle you. And the more you study it the stronger you will be for a 12 foot basket.

Personally, I am not caring when they put in the 12 foot basket, nor am I caring whether they fine this giant a field goal when they touch a try for goal on its downward arc. I am satisfied that eventually we will have the 12 foot goal and until they put that rule in I will just still keep on trying to coach basketball on Mount Oread, endeavoring to win my share.

If you will check carefully on a game of basketball you will find that a great many fouls are called as the players are scrambling under a basket for a ball coming down from a rebound. It is inevitable with so many players jammed into a small space. Many of these fouls are purely accidental. And if there isn't a foul committed in the scramble for the ball the chances are great that the player who gained possession of it has stuck his toe over the end line, and the whistle blows anyway. With the 12 foot basket, the players are spread over a greater area for the rebound from the high backboards sends the ball further out in the court. The area of dispersement of players is greater; the small man has quite as good a chance to recover it as the tall one. Thus the premium is put on speed and agility instead of mere height.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

INTERCOLLEGIATE
ATHLETICS

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NORMAN · OKLAHOMA

Sept. 12, 1943.

Dr. F.C."Phog" Allen,
Basketball coach,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Coach:--

Bruce and I are going to try an article on basketball goons. I know the subject is a bit trite at this late date, but we will try to approach it from a new angle.

Bruce is high on your 12-foot basket idea. I kinda like the suggestion now before the rules committee that big men who touch the ball in its downward flight on a try-for-goal be penalized a basket. However I can't shake him on the 12-foot basket. He thinks it superior to the present proposal.

I am submitting some questions about the 12-foot bucket and other related points. I wonder if you'd have time to answer it? Pretty soon? If you don't want any of your answers to go as quotations, just designate which ones. I want to get your part all straight.

Oh yes, be sure to send back the appended list of questions. It's the only one I have.

Sincerely,

Harold Keith.

(1) When did you first propose the 12-foot goal, and how do you think it will help basketball?

(2) What is your answer to the counter charge that 12-foot goals would reduce scoring?

(3) Why do you think the rules committee did not adopt your 12-foot goal suggestion? I mean by that, what do you think was really behind it?

(4) In your long career as a player and a coach, who was the first goal-robber you ever saw(please give first name), what club did he play with, and what year did he do his stuff?

(5) Why weren't there more of them in the old days?

(6) When one was encountered, how did teams in the old days go about stopping his goal-stealing?

(7) What is the machinery one has to go through to get a new rule passed in basketball? How long does it take, usually?

(8) I recall that when the center jump was outlawed, it was preceded by a year or so of experimentation to see how it worked. Is it always the custom of the rules committee, when considering major changes, to first order a year or so of experimentation?

(9) What major changes has the rules committee ever okayed without first trying them out as experiments?

(10) Bruce says the experimentation idea won't work on this goal-stealing controversy because no coach with a big boy is going to voluntarily agree not to let his giant goal-rob. Do you think he has got something?

(11) When the rules committee finally does do something about the tall player, do you think it will simply okay the rule without first ordering coaches to experiment with it a year in advance like the Pacific Coast coaches did on the center jump elimination?

(12) Bruce says the Basketball Coaches Association since 1939 has recommended to the rules committee that it kill goal-tending by forbidding the giants to touch the ball in its downward flight and penalize them a goal if they do. Why, in your opinion, hasn't the rules committee followed this suggestion?

(13) About what percentage of the suggestions made by the coaches' association are followed by the rules committee? I mean by this, does the rules committee make it a practice of ignoring the coaches' suggestions? Do you recall any other suggestions for changes by the coaches association that the rules committee has not carried out?

(14) The new basketball guide says "among the proposals to be studied and covered in next year's questionaire" will be awarding a field goal when a tall man touches a try for goal coming down. I don't understand what this questionaire is? Who mails it out, who gets it, and what effect does it have on the rules committee?

(1) When did you first propose the 12-foot goal, and why? How do you think it will help basketball?

(2) What is your answer to the counter charge that 12-foot goals would reduce scoring?

(3) Why do you think the rules committee did not adopt your 12-foot goal suggestion? I mean by that, what do you think was really behind it?

(4) In your long career as a player and a coach, who was the first goal-tobber you ever saw(please give first name), what club did he play with, and what year did he do his stuff?

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(14) The new basketball [illegible] studied and covered in next year's quest[illegible] when a tall man touches a try for goal coming down. I don't understand what this question is? Who mells it out, [illegible] rules committee?

WESTERN UNION
PRESS MESSAGE

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1595

(15) Have you ever heard of goal-tending in high school basketball?

(16) Does the fact that the basketball committee also represents the YMCA, the high schools and the Canadian associations mitigate against the committee's adopting suggested rules changes made by college coaches who, after all, are just one of five groups the big committee represents? For example, [redacted] is there any way the high schools can influence rules changes?

(17) What is your objection to the proposed change of fining giants a field goal when they touch a try-for-goal on its downward arc before it hits the ring or the backboard?

(18) Was your 12-foot goal proposal the first proposal ever made, that you know of, for doing something about the tall player?

PRESIDENT
A. N. WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
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TWELVE-FOOT BASKET FOR COLLEGE AND INDEPENDENT TEAMS

Of late years there has been a protest on the part of the basketball public against those "mezzanine peeping goons" of the cage sport who actually come to the level of the basket rim when they reach for tip-in shots, or actually dunk the ball into the hoop instead of shooting it upward, as originally intended by Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game. No other sport puts such an outlandish premium on height as basketball.

The only reason that the height of the basket today is 10 feet from the gym floor is because the indoor running track at Springfield, Mass., College was 10 feet from the floor, and Dr. Naismith attached his basket to this running track.

Twelve-foot baskets would be only for college players who have reached their growth and maturity, and not for high school players. It is just as easy to accommodate the muscles of the eyes, wrists, hands and digits to distance in height as it is to accommodate them to distance on a horizontal plane.

It is proposed that a field goal count 3 points and a free throw from the 20-foot line (now 15 feet) count one point. This would equalize the scoring ratio. It has long been a contention of Dr. Naismith that a field goal should count more than twice as much as a free throw. An argument might be advanced that if the field goal is increased in value there would be a tendency to foul an opponent to keep the field goal from being made. The answer to that is that 4 personal fouls will disqualify a player from the game. And again, there will not be the desire to work the ball in under the goal for lay-ups on a 12-foot basket because the most disadvantageous spot under the new scheme is directly under the basket. It is much easier to bank a shot 8 and 10 feet out from the basket near the 12-foot goal than it is to work it under the goal. Research has shown that nearly 90% of all the fouls are made in close proximity to the basket. This is on account of the desire of the players to work the ball in close to the basket for a lay-up shot.

Many adherents to the elimination of the center jump rule contended that the no jump rule at center would drive the exceptionally tall player from the game. This certainly has not been true, nor should any rule be made that would be discriminatory. The higher basket would require all players to shoot for goals, whereby now only the "second story peeping Toms" can bat the ball away before it reaches the cylinder of the basket, thereby preventing the goal. Never in the history of the game have there been so many exceptionally tall men under very low baskets, comparatively speaking. Men 6'10" tall are getting to be quite commonplace. The presence of so many long fellows has reduced basketball to a freakish demonstration and has put an almost unbearable handicap on the finer athletes of a normal 6-foot height. Certainly no discrimination is asked against an exceptionally tall player. Rather uniformity is asked so that discrimination against the little fellow will be removed.

Practically all the rules that now exist against the single or double post play, against touching the ball while it is on the rim or above the cylinder of the basket, the 3-second rule, the 1-yard defensive rule, the player being awarded two free throws when fouled under or near the basket -- all of these rules will be unnecessary after a higher basket is put into effect.

The higher goal will increase spectator enjoyment, and will decrease injuries under the goal from accidents by players when driving in hard for lay-ins.

We have seen tall players in many team line-ups who were born without any special gift in basketball, but who were on the team solely on the accident of extreme height. Some junior high school coach discovered this altitudinous Brobdingnagian, sky-scraping stopper oozing ethereally down the hall and straightway the coach made for him with a pair of shorts, the stimulus being mainly his altitude and not his ability. Only a severe cardiac insufficiency will permit that basketball monstrosity to escape the coach's tentacles. Therefore, it is not beyond reasonable doubt but what we can expect players of this 6'10" altitude to become so numerous that they will be the rule rather than the exception.

An eleven-foot basket would not be out of reach of the exceptionally tall players. A twelve-foot basket would forever guarantee non-interference of the basket rim by players. In addition to this, the twelve-foot basket would contribute markedly in clearing up the congestion under the goal by increasing the arc of disbursement of the rebound of the ball much further out on the court and away from the basket. All modern gymnasia and auditoria have high ceiling clearances, but in schools that do not have high ceiling clearances ground rules could be permitted which would allow the use of the lower baskets until conditions could be corrected.

In 1934 Kansas State and Kansas played a home-and-home series using the elevated 12-foot basket. Neither team had practiced previously with the 12-foot goal, but the players seemed to have little difficulty in making goals and the spectators enjoyed the game very much. The players' only complaint was tha t they couldn't drive in and make their lay-up shots. On the other hand, they reacted quite favorably toward the elevated basket.

At the coaching school the following summer conducted by Allen of Kansas and E. J. Hickox of Springfield, Professor Hickox elevated the basket to 12 feet and the boys in the coaching school, without any practice whatsoever, played a match game. We asked Professor Hickox to write his impressions of that game. It seemed to be his opinion and that of the group who watched the game that the players had little difficulty in finding the range of the basket.

It seems to be a fair conclusion that certainly no one should criticize the elevated basket until he has at least tried it out. There are so many benefits and so few drawbacks that this experiment should be indulged in by more coaches than those who have tried it. It also seems reasonable that it might be fair to all concerned that if the 12-foot basket is found to be practical to advance the time of its possible adoption over a two year period so that none of the tall players now in college would be injured, but those oncoming players would have notice of it. This perhaps would remove an objection from coaches who might have tall men now.

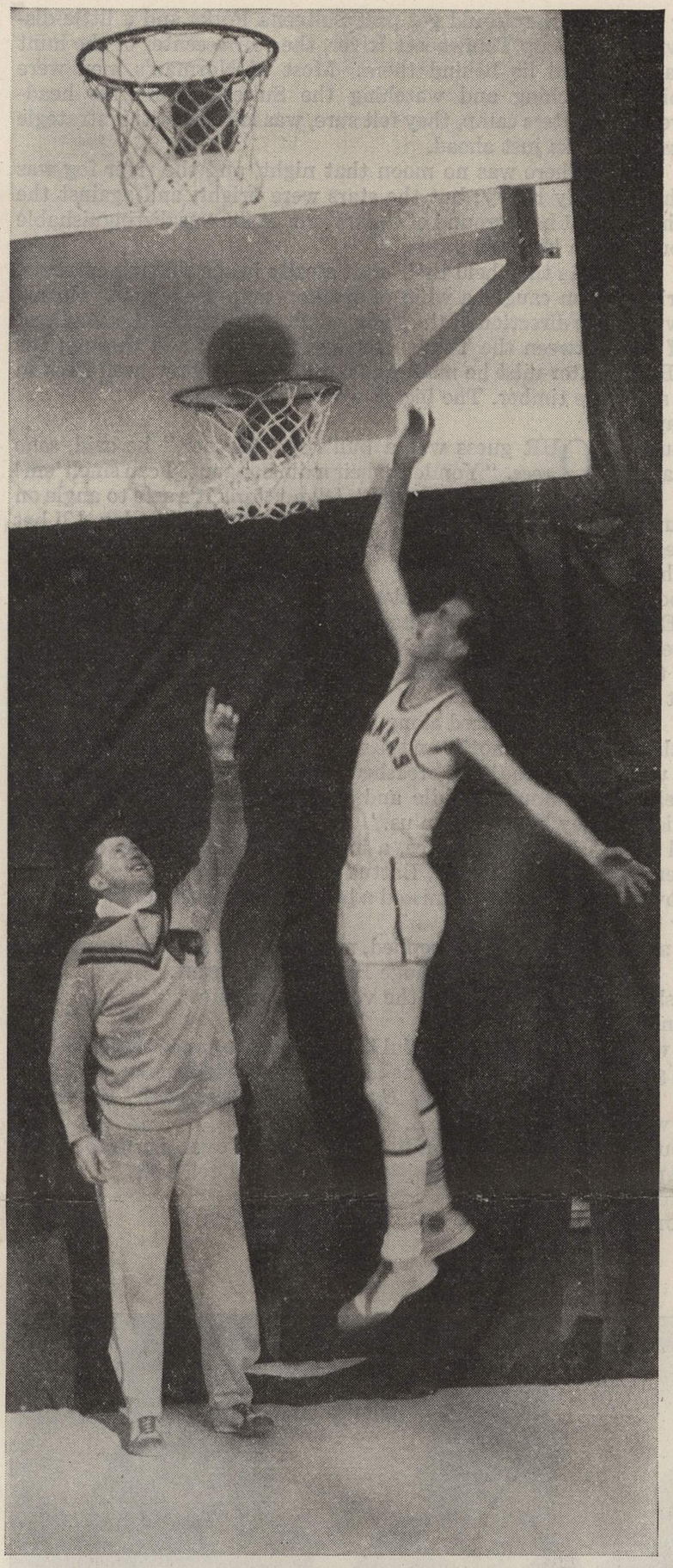
The following are a number of reasons set forth in favor of the twelve-foot basket:

1. Arc of disbursement is greater, thus freeing congestion under basket.
2. Guards are forced further away from baskets to get rebound.
3. Forwards are forced further out from baskets to obtain rebound.
4. Will encourage more shooting account greater value of field goals.
5. Will definitely reduce foul shots because of no drive-in necessity.
6. Shots are easier made 8 or 10 feet out from basket instead of directly under.

7.Will eliminate the player's effort to draw two shots by being fouled.
8. The four foul disqualifying rule will still discourage too much fouling.
9. Will require all players to shoot upward for basket as originally intended by Dr. Naismith.
10. Present congestion of tall men under basket works a hardship on short men and makes the game rough.
11. Less handicap to a short man in shooting extra distance than by jumping extra distance.
12. Will discourage using a tall man who is not as active as a shorter man.
13. No other sport puts such an outlandish premium on height as does basketball.
14. A player accommodates muscles of eyes and hands to height the same as to distance.
15. The only reason the height of the present basket is 10 feet is because of the gymnasium running track at Springfield College.
16. A 12-foot basket is a blow to the zone defense account spreading defense.
17. A convex board with 12-foot basket is another impediment to the zone defense.
18. The speedier players could recover the ball before it goes out of bounds in the 4-foot zone, thereby reducing the number of out of bounds plays in a game.

19. Is a decided aid to officials - awarding 2 shots on fouls.
20. Will do away with single and double post plays.
21. Will do away with 3-second rule in the lane.
22. Will do away with rule regarding interference of ball on or above rim.
23. Will increase spectator enjoyment by high arch shots that hit.
24. Will increase visibility for spectators by raising basket 2 feet.
25. Will decrease number of accidents under goals, driving in, not so much hipping, nudging.
26. Will actually give more rebound playing space per player.
27. Four-foot zone behind basket another fa ctor against zone defense.
28. Will make unnecessary all legislation around basket, such as 1-yard rule, etc.
29. Twelve-foot basket is coming, as sure as death and taxes.
30. An eleven-foot basket would still be within reach of 6'9" or 6'10" players.

31. Twelve-foot basket would forever guarantee non-interference.
32. In Olympic participation 12-foot basket would equalize height of two teams (desire of Olympic Committee); limited class 6'2" of under, unlimited class, any height.



Coach "Phog" Allen and his six-foot-seven center, Al Wellhausen, experimenting with the ten and twelve foot baskets.

DUNKING ISN'T BASKETBALL

by FORREST C. (PHOG) ALLEN

Director of Athletics and Basketball Coach, University of Kansas

I ONCE read a short story in which a basketball coach beat a bitter rival in the final championship game by suddenly producing an awesome giant—as I remember he was an eight-footer—who did little else in the game than stand under his own basket with his hands upraised and batted the ball off the rim of the hoop every time the enemy shot. It was very exciting, and the fact that such a procedure has always been illegal under the rules did not dismay the author at all. His facts, indeed, were stranger than his fiction.

There wasn't any fiction about his tall boy: we see some pretty big ones here in the Midwest. I've had some of them playing for me at the University of Kansas. One year I kept my eye all season on the freshman team, watching the development of the center, Harry Kersenbrock, who stood, barefooted, just a quarter of an inch under seven feet. But we lost a fine lad when he was drowned the summer before his sophomore year. One of the Indiana universities a few years back had a player so tall they couldn't get him into a Pullman berth. The problem was solved finally by taking out the end board of an upper berth, permitting the player's legs to extend into the adjoining upper, and he was able to get a fair night's rest.

Last season Dick Wells, my center, was the midget of the Big Six Conference, with his six feet one and a half inches. He was topped by every other jumper in the league. The rest of them ranged from six feet three and a half up to six feet four and a half—and they were really not big as big boys go. This season Kansas is back into the skyscraper competition with a six-foot-seven center.

Late last winter, on a basketball coach's vacation, I went to Kansas City to witness the National A. A. U. basketball tournament, which has been held there in Convention Hall for several years, and I saw what looked like a dream-come-true to a basketball coach—whole droves of stretchy six-footers, and they had power and speed to go with the height. Five men in that tournament were over six feet six; two of them ran up to six feet eight.

FIVE PROPOSED CHANGES

MANY of those tournament players were ex-college stars, seasoned veterans who knew how to handle the ball, and I expected to get a great thrill watching them play, yet I had a strong sense of disappointment in one important phase of the games. Those tall fellows were leaping at the ten-foot baskets and were literally "dunking" the ball into the hoop, just as a doughnut is inelegantly dipped into the morning coffee. And I say that is not basketball. My conception of the game is that goals should be shot and not dunked.

I'm not picking on those fine tournament players. Our big college boys are doing it, and I'm teaching my beanpoles to tally that way, as other coaches are doing. It is a fair way to score under the present rules, and there is no sense in trying a hard way when there is this easier and surer short cut to the pay-off.

Yet I would like to ask coaches, officials, players and spectators this question: Should height, figured by itself, carry such a premium as it does now? Isn't the game penalizing the fine players who fall below the six-foot mark? I've thought for several years now that the tall man has an unearned advantage and I had that in mind when, not long back, I offered to the rules committee the suggestion that baskets be raised to twelve feet.

I want it understood that I am not trying to eliminate the tall man from the game. Under any conditions I'll take a good big man over a good little man, merely because he is a bigger dish of a good thing. But I would like to see a tall man forced to shoot his baskets the same as a short man. The twelve-foot basket would level them off.

We have experimented with the higher baskets here at Kansas for two years, and the results have been interesting to observers. But before discussing our findings I want to list other changes I have offered for consideration. Some of them, perhaps, will seem radical to students of the game, but in my opinion they have merit.

I would move the backboards into the court to a distance of six feet. They are now two feet from the end lines.

I would permit an offended team to throw for the basket in the half of the court where the foul was committed.

I would have all jump balls taken to one of three spots on the playing floor—the two foul-shooting marks and the center spot. Around two-foot circles at these points I would have six-foot circles to hold other players away from the jumpers until the ball is tapped.

I would change the scoring of field goals to three points, the free throw remaining at one.

If it seems to some that a reformer wants to tamper with a successful game, I want to say that I love the game as only a person can who has played it and coached it for more than twenty-seven years. To me it's the greatest game of them all. Knute Rockne loved to roast me about basketball. He used to say: "Phog, there are two great athletic games that I don't care for, and basketball is both of them." But of course to "Rock" there always was but one game.

In proposing these changes I am not seeking a vicarious method of turning losers into winners, for we have at Kansas won championships in our Conference twelve out of the past seventeen seasons, and we have won consistently against outside big-time competition. There isn't an "Allen System" in basketball in the sense that there is a Warner System and a Notre Dame System in football; but if you will pardon the pride, I want to mention that my players have gone out to high coaching positions—to Nebraska, Stanford, Kentucky, Northwestern, Tulane, Iowa State, and to a host of smaller colleges and high schools.

As a coach I may possibly lose my "curve," as the saying is, if the game is changed; maybe it will hurt us at Kansas. I still favor one and all of the changes proposed.

If you think a game is inviolate, consider the one that Gen. Abner Doubleday built, in 1839, on the flimsy foundation of One Old Cat and some 4000 years of harum-scarum hitting of some sort of ball with some sort of club. There have been dozens of changes in baseball. In comparison, basketball has changed but little.

A baseball writer was kind enough to dig out for me a list of changes that have been made in our national game, some of them probably familiar to fans, but most of them were new to me. In 1845, for instance, the pitching distance was forty-five feet, as compared with sixty feet and six inches today. When I read this my mind turned to the dreadful predicament of a batsman today standing at the plate, with fire-ball pitchers like Dizzy Dean and Schoolboy Rowe throwing them up. I find that in those days a batter could call for a high ball or a low one, but even this would scarcely help him against fast balls thrown from forty-five feet by these big-league aces.

At one time a team scoring twenty-one "aces" or runs won the game, whether it took one inning or twenty. In 1858 a pitcher was restrained by a boundary line twelve feet long, and he could take a short run before delivering the ball. Previous to 1863 batsmen could use a bat of any size, shape and material; at that time they were restricted to wooden clubs, and thirteen years later the rules makers placed the maximum length of bats at forty-two inches. In 1864 the "out on first bounce" rule was abolished.

Those are only a few of the changes in the physical aspects of baseball. It is a made game, the product of years of trial and adjustment, although I think it has now been perfected. And I maintain basketball is no more inviolate than baseball. In some respects I feel we have outgrown the original garments of basketball, just as baseball outgrew the forty-five-feet pitching distance.

Athletics are an integral part of school and college education, and our chief aim, of course, is the physical development of our boys and to teach them to play hard, to take punishment and come up smiling and still play fair. Something is learned on athletic "battle" fields that can't be acquired in the classroom. But of importance, too, is the spectator who pays the bill and lends zest to inter-school contests. I've asked many of them about their likes and dislikes in basketball and have found that primarily they want action and scoring. I've watched lots of hockey games and have loved the action, but I have bemoaned the lack of scoring. Basketball fans dislike an abundance of whistle blowing which checks the action and breaks the interest. The perfect referee, to me, is the one who is seen but never heard—well, hardly ever.

A PREMIUM ON SPEED AND AGILITY

IF YOU will check carefully on a game of basketball you will find that a great many fouls are called as the players are scrambling under a basket for a ball coming down from a rebound. It is inevitable with so many players jammed into a small space. Many of these fouls are purely accidental. And if there isn't a foul committed in the scramble for the ball the chances are great that the player who gained possession of it has stuck his toe over the end line, and the whistle blows anyway.

With the twelve-foot basket the players are spread over a greater area, for the rebound from the high backboards sends the ball farther out into the court; the area of dispersement of players is greater; the small man has quite as good a chance to recover it as a tall one. Thus the premium is put on speed and agility instead of mere height. I have been somewhat amused while watching

"I've been keeping an eye on that Disturbing Element down there," he said. "He's taking a nap himself now. Has been all afternoon. Guess the excitement at Lac L'Outre kept him awake last night."

Joan looked around. "Where's our canoe? And our outfit?"

"I sneaked 'em out to that torrent and down to the river edge, a while ago. They're hid in some buckbrush up the shore. Figured I ought to do that while this Rip van Winkle yonder was sawing wood. I didn't take the kicker. It's cached right back of you—it and the drums. We won't dare use a motor any more. We'll have to travel silent from now on."

They ate the cold left-overs of their breakfast. Afterward, at Joan's insistence, Alan lay down, thinking to doze a little. . . .

A hand on his arm woke him, hours later.

"Alan," Joan was whispering, "maybe we'd better be starting."

Night had come. It was dark in the little tangle, so dark that Alan could barely see Joan beside him; and the chill damp fog was sifting through the pines.

Down at the river bank the camp fire of the lone watcher burned cheerily, as he cooked supper.

They dared cook none themselves, with him so close. Hungry and shivering, they rolled up their blankets, groped out to the torrent, slipped down the ravine to the landwash, and hurried up the shore to the buckbrush thicket.

A few minutes afterward they had set their canoe to water, stepped in, and were paddling on up the gray ghostly Sulteena, without benefit now of the friendly little kicker.

AT MIDNIGHT, three nights later, they reached Sulteena Forks, a hundred miles north of Lac L'Outre.

To their left the Teluwaceet River led westward into the snow-capped Teluwaceet Mountains. To their right the beautiful Lynette stretched eastward into a jumble of lesser ranges. Straight ahead the Sulteena, master river of all that country, led north-northwest toward the Yukon height-of-land.

In midstream just below the Forks, where the clashing currents of the three rivers shifted back and forth, Alan stopped to reconnoiter, suspecting that this strategic point was tightly guarded and patrolled.

So far, by holing up in the daytime and traveling only during the dark hours, like two young river phantoms, he and Joan had escaped detection. But Corporal Norman had flung his whole hunt upstream, and it was boiling all around them—a grim and determined man hunt. Twice the Police launch had returned to Lac L'Outre and brought up more men, more canoes. Posses were combing the river at night; lookouts had been posted at every narrows and headland; and canoes on silent patrol passed them in the foggy dark like hostile wraiths.

They knew that they had Norman guessing as to their exact whereabouts and that they must keep him guessing. If they were ever glimpsed, the scattered hunt would draw together, bottle them up, end their flight.

Never knowing when he would run headlong into a rifle battle, Alan had begged Joan repeatedly not to go on with him. It would have been easy enough for her to get off on an island and wait for some canoe to pick her up. But Joan flatly refused to listen. Without telling him why, she took the position that it was her *duty* to help him escape, and that her duty would end only when he and Luke Kaneewaugh were across the Teluwaceet watershed and well on their way to the Alaska demarcation.

Alan hated to think of her returning to Lac L'Outre and facing the music there. Though there was no legal evidence against her, everyone would know that she had gone with him on this wilderness hegira. The talk about her in that little settlement would be vicious. And Eric Norman, to whom she owed so much—she would have to face Norman too. But he could not deny that from the standpoint of his safety Joan had been dead right in coming along with him.

Despite their hunted existence and the hardships they endured, those three days and nights had not been unhappy. Theirs was an eager joyous partnership. Being fellow fugitives gave them a sense of closest communion; they had much in common; and they struck it off well together. In the daytime they talked for hours on end, when they should have been sleeping; they quarreled over nothing and laughed over less; and at nightfall they set out on their dangerous travel with light hearts and buoyant confidence.

But to Alan their swiftly unfolding companionship brought uneasy pain-shot thoughts. The very happiness of his hours with Joan Hastings carried a pang. He was dreading the time when he would say *Klahowya* to his girl partner, somewhere in the Western Teluwaceets.

What Joan felt toward him he did not know. She was so silent, so unfathomable. He knew she liked him, found his company enjoyable; but deeper than that he could not read. . . . She had brought him a hundred miles safely; and in a few miles more they would be through the worst.

If they could get past Sulteena Forks and a little distance up Teluwaceet River, the storm center of the hunt would lie behind them. Most of Norman's men were searching and watching the Sulteena; and his headquarters camp, they felt sure, was located at this strategic Forks just ahead.

There was no moon that night, and the river fog was fairly heavy; but the stars were bright, and against the light background of the water a canoe was distinguishable at a hundred yards.

As they held their craft steady in the shifting currents, Alan caught a whiff of smoke, camp-fire smoke. Noting the direction of the slight wind, he peered at the headland between the Teluwaceet and Sulteena; and through the water-mist he made out a dull reddish glow, well back in the timber. The big glow of a big camp.

"OUR guess was a bull's-eye, partner," he said, *sotto voce*. "Yonder's their main hangout. I can smell 'em! What're we going to do? D'you think it's safe to angle on into the mouth of the Teluwaceet? I'll bet a leg, I'll bet *both* legs, that they're patrolling all three of these river mouths ——"

"*Sh-h-h*"—a sudden warning from Joan. She turned, seized his hand. "Look!" She pointed through the mist to their left. "Look there! What's that? It's too high out of water for a drift log, and it's moving *across* the current!"

Alan glanced along her outstretched arm and saw a big shadowy mottle on the water, almost at the limit of vision.

"Canoe!" he breathed. "And headed in our direction!" He dipped paddle and started backing away. "Maybe they haven't seen us."

A cautious voice, a half-breed's voice, came across to them. "Dat you, Battu?"

Alan's heart missed a beat. For a second or two he was stunned. Then:

"*Ou' ou',*" he replied, muffling his voice and grunting as he imagined the huge Battu would grunt.

"*Froid, hein?*" the voice came again.

"*Ou' ou'.*"

Under his powerful backstroke the canoe shivered. The shadowy mottle was almost lost to sight now.

"*Les deux petits, Battu—les avez-vous vus?*" the talkative *métis* inquired.

Alan whispered to Joan: "That's over my head. What does it mean? Quick! What shall I tell him?"

"Say '*Rien du tout.*'"

(Continued on Page 26)

Within the hour the three of them shoved off, in Luke's fragile birchbark.

experimental games with the twelve-foot baskets to see the tall fellows who had been in the habit of camping under baskets, using their height to steal the ball, and then socking it in. They lost their toy with the tall baskets.

If the backboards are moved in six feet from the end lines I am sure there will be less out-of-bounds plays, which at best are slow and of little interest. And I can see no outstanding argument against this change.

For a long time there has been a feeling that something ought to be done in regard to free throws. If a team has advanced the ball the full length of the floor only to be stopped by the whistle of the referee fouling one of their players, there is a slow parade of officials and players the full length of the floor. It doesn't look good, and there is a growing feeling that a team is penalized too much under the present rules. Remotely it is like penalizing a football team the length of the field, and more nearly like the golf penalty of loss of stroke and distance. Whether there is merit in the proposal of allowing free throws to be made by the offended team in the half of the court where the foul is made only time and experiment can tell.

The six-foot circles mentioned would be a handy method of restraining players from crowding in close to jumpers on a held ball, which has sometimes been a bad feature.

Last spring, at the end of our practice period, we staged at Lawrence an experimental game, incorporating all of the changes I have mentioned. The twelve-foot baskets were moved six feet in from the end lines. Field goals counted three points and the foul throws one point. Offended players shot for the basket in the half of the court where the foul was committed. Jump-ball circles were chalked on the floor.

CHECKING UP ON A CLINICAL GAME

I LINED up my varsity against the freshman team in a regulation length game, with two competent officials and a crowd of almost a thousand persons, including visiting coaches and sports writers from near-by papers. I had an expert, with a chart of the court before him, mark the spot from which field goals were attempted, and if the shot was good he drew a circle around the player's number. There were blank spaces on the chart for out-of-bounds plays, for free throws, jump balls, fouls and so forth.

The varsity was a bit too good for the frosh, winning 46 to 38. The winners took a total of eighty-one shots at the basket, connecting for fourteen of them. The losers shot sixty-three times and scored eleven field goals. In fairness to the players I want to say they had had little or no experience with the high hoops and it wasn't strange that they would have some trouble adjusting their sights.

The varsity made good four free throws out of ten attempts; the losers scored five free throws on eight attempts. And there is a significant point—only eighteen fouls were called in the game, less than two to a man on the average. This is considerable under our average in Conference games. The referee's whistle, cutting in only at long intervals, gave a marked impression of speed and continuous action to the game.

I have before me the chart showing the spots from which goals were shot. I find that only seven were scored from points closer than the free-throw line—seven out of twenty-four. Not one was made from directly under the basket. The rest of the goals were not holy ghosters from way out on the court; mostly they were tossed from a distance approximating the foul line or slightly greater, all of them beautiful, high arching shots that always thrill a spectator. Strangely, perhaps, players were more successful shooting from the sides, fairly well out.

Another significant fact was that in the second half, after the teams got the feel of the court, the ball went out of bounds at the ends only five times. Consequently our clinical game was not stopped every minute or so with the dragging out-of-bounds play. As is readily seen, the new scoring had no effect on the outcome of the game. Counting two points for field goals and one point for free throws the scoring would be 32–27 Varsity; for comparison I repeat the score as we recorded it—46–38.

Dr. James A. Naismith, with whom I have been associated here at Kansas for many years, and who so ably designed the game in 1891, was a spectator at this game and gave his approval to the proposed changes. He told me that his original intention was not to put any premium on the tall player, and that he heartily approves of taking away from such players any undue advantage.

A good friend of mine, who coaches a high school team, came to me after this experimental game with a worried look on his face. He said: "Don't give us this twelve-foot basket now, Phog. Our ceilings are too low and it would cripple our game." And I assured him that I didn't want to see the high school baskets changed. There is no reason why they should be changed. What might be evils in college ball are not necessarily evils in high school. I pointed out to him that high school boys use a twelve-pound shot, shifting to a sixteen pounder when they get to college, and in recent years high school athletic authorities in several states have cut the height of the high hurdles several inches. It has seemed to me that many high school boys have been jumping the high sticks and not hurdling. Some seniors in high school may be able to use the high hurdles correctly, but most of the underclass boys can't. So I say, leave the high school baskets at ten feet. More than that, I favor an eight-foot basket for grade school games and possibly a nine-foot one for junior highs.

This year I am starting on my twenty-eighth year as a basketball coach, and I can recall my baptism into the teaching of this sport. I was a student at Kansas, playing on the basketball team, and since we had no paid coach I did what teaching I could. One day I came into the gymnasium to find Doctor Naismith laughing heartily over a letter he had in his hand.

BEATING THE WORLD CHAMPIONS

"HERE'S a good one," he said. "This letter asks if you would be willing to go down to Baker as basketball coach." He stressed the word coach. Baker University is at Baldwin, sixteen miles from Lawrence.

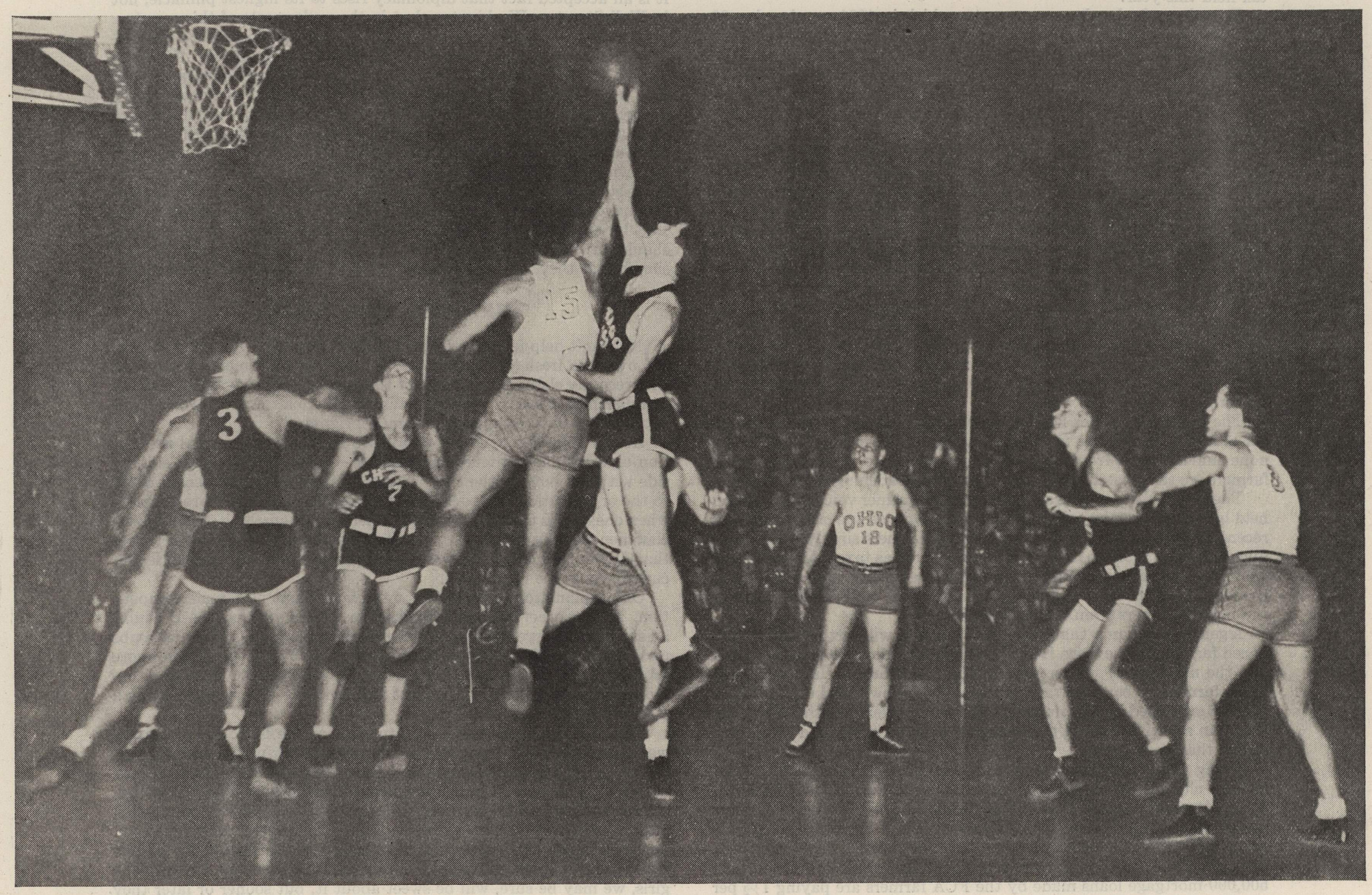
I didn't see what was funny about it, and he explained: "You can't coach a game like basketball. You just play it."

"Well," I argued, "you can teach them to shoot free throws and something about handling the ball. You can teach them to pass at angles and run in curves. You can show them how to arch their shots and how to pivot toward the sidelines instead of into the court where a guard can get at the ball." I don't think I changed Doctor Naismith's ideas on the point.

Just before coming to the University I had played guard for the Kansas City Athletic Club team for two seasons. In that day the great name in basketball was the Buffalo Germans, a Y. M. C. A. team that had defended its title of World Champions at the Pan American Exposition and later at the 1904 Olympic Games, defeating all comers. The team had then toured the country, winning something like 250 games and losing eight. They came to Kansas City and we met them in a three-game series at Convention Hall.

One of my prized mementos is an account of that series, written by a rising young newspaper man named George Creel, who was defeated last fall for the nomination for governor of California by Upton Sinclair. Full of exultant

(Continued on Page 73)



A jam-up under the basket as Chicago and Ohio State teams tangle in an important Big Ten Conference game.

EDITORIALS

PHILIP S. ROSE
Editor

A FIRMER FOUNDATION

WITHOUT being much noticed some basic readjustments have been taking place in agriculture. Among them are reduced taxes, a lower interest load and strengthened country banking conditions. These mean the savings of considerable sums as well as the removal of disadvantages that have weighed heavily upon farming.

Tax relief is of greater importance than is generally realized. Reaching their peak in 1929, farm taxes came down only slowly until 1933, when accumulated public demand forced a sharp drop. The total farm-tax levy for that year, so far as it is calculable, was more than $110,000,000 below the 1929 top. With the adoption of replacement taxes, such as sales and gross income taxes, and property-tax limitations in a number of states, the lightening of the burden has been carried still further. Indications are that the total is now close to $200,000,000 below the one-time peak.

The farm-tax cut is most pronounced in the Midcountry and Plains areas, though it is effective in some degree in fully three-fourths of the states. The figures tell the trend. In Nebraska the total tax bill for all purposes is now some 35 per cent below the maximum of the '20's. Here are the taxes paid in 1931 and in 1934 on four representative 160-acre farms in Dodge County: $227.13 in 1931, now $129.77; $189.48, now $119.21; $201.79 and $113.12; $193.56 to $104.09. Farm taxes for Oklahoma, as a whole, are more than 40 per cent below 1929. Since that year taxes on farm lands and improvements in Kansas have dropped from $31,099,920 to $19,192,770. An average 160-acre farm in Doniphan County paid $256.76 in 1931 and $155.81 last year.

Widening the tax base is helping to reduce farm taxes in Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. The sales tax enabled Illinois to eliminate the state property tax of 50 cents on the $100 valuation. Along with this came a general decrease in farm taxes through local economies. For one example, the taxes on the 736-acre property of an outstanding livestock farmer in Kane County fell from $1447.05 in 1931 to $820.02 last year. Michigan adopted a tax limitation of 1½ per cent on the assessed valuation of real property and followed it with a sales tax. This permitted the state to lift almost $20,000,000 in taxes off property.

Property-tax levies for all purposes in Iowa have fallen from $107,966,592 in 1930 to around $80,000,000. They are expected to go still lower as the state's new three-point tax system becomes fully effective. This includes a 2 per cent sales tax, a personal net income tax and a corporation income tax. The state will be entirely out of the property-tax field this year.

To reduce the burden on property, which in 1931 was bearing 80 per cent of the tax load, Indiana fixed a flat $1.50 tax limit per $100 valuation. This cut property taxes $40,700,000, too severe a reduction without other revenue to compensate, so the legislature then enacted a gross income tax and improved intangibles and excise taxes. The new tax system has provided funds for replacement purposes, especially for schools.

Reliable estimates show about a 40 per cent lowering of Ohio's farm tax level. This has been achieved by several methods: Drastic cuts in the personal-property or chattels taxes, reductions in appraised valuations, and constitutional amendments now limiting the property tax to 1 per cent. Any taxing district has to get the approval of its voters to exceed this limit, and 775 school districts sought such approval at the fall election. Either they had a bonded indebtedness or wished services beyond the revenue provided by the 10-mill limitation.

The varying financial condition of local communities makes the tax reduction uneven in all states. The biggest single cut has come through local economies, but communities with heavy fixed charges on bonded indebtedness have been unable to effect such savings. They have had also to get around reduced valuations and property-tax limitations by higher rates and special levies.

The number of states levying general replacement taxes, to the relief of real property, has multiplied rapidly in the past three years. As none suffered more from the excessive dependence on property taxes, farmers are the most directly benefited by a broadening of the tax base.

There are other benefits also. An Indiana farmer voiced the opinion held by many when he said that high taxation was one of the causes of recent overproduction. With prices falling, farmers simply had to produce more and more to meet fixed charges such as taxes. As this forced an undue emphasis on products that could be readily turned into cash, the fertility of the land was bound to suffer. The land should be one of the biggest gainers from reduced taxes.

A general opinion is that lower farm taxation will further a more balanced farming in the Corn Belt. "Lower land values, reduced taxation and the necessity of taking some of their land out of cultivation will cause farmers to consider raising more of their own beef cattle," is an opinion expressed by a prominent livestock breeder. "With lower taxes they can afford to devote their rougher or more worn land to pasture rather than cash crops."

Going along with lower taxes is a very sizeable reduction in farm interest charges. W. I. Myers, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, recently stated that "The annual interest saving to farmers under the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act and the refinancing program is over $31,000,000 a year, and most of this will be a permanent saving." This has been accomplished in several ways. On more than 500,000 mortgage loans made by the FCA farmers are paying 1½ per cent less interest than formerly.

In addition, an overhead indebtedness of more than $65,000,000 has been written off through scale-downs of farmers' debts to a point where the FCA could refinance them. Further scale-downs have been made through local conciliation committees. One can hear various comments, favorable or otherwise, about these scale-downs. But they have been made, they have reduced farm outgo appreciably and they have removed some overhanging uncertainties.

Of the money advanced through the FCA more than $325,000,000 has gone to local banks to liquidate frozen farm assets. In this and other ways the resources of country banks have increased generally since the middle of 1933. It is not uncommon to find that deposits have doubled in that time.

"Our problem now is not one of solvency but of finding profitable uses for the funds of country banks," is the way the president of one of the largest state banking groups summarized the situation.

Country banking has definitely emerged from the period of impairment caused by falling farm values which set in with 1920.

The readjustments in taxation, interest charges and banking facilities have put a firmer foundation under agriculture. The elements that make up the agricultural community are now in a stronger position. Given a continuance of recovery farmers are better situated to realize on it. More of the money they take in will be their own.

PRACTICE IN STRATEGY

A MONTH or so ago when President Roosevelt personally conducted negotiations for a couple of mules which were needed on his farm at Warm Springs, the occurrence received only incidental mention in the daily press. If the political commentators had understood, even vaguely, the niceties of mule trading, profound inferences might have been drawn.

Did the President come off best or second best in his dickering? The newspaper correspondents, of course, should have investigated. If he actually skinned the Georgia mule trader, even his enemies could no longer deny him the title of America's shrewdest politician.

And where was Mr. Farley? A good many of us naturally supposed that he would seize the opportunity to announce that here was another reason for the ascendancy of the Democratic Party. Stuffy Republicans might content themselves with trading in bonds and shares, but the foremost Democrat of all, the nation's Chief Executive, sharpened his wits in our greatest school of strategy. Among folks who know, it is an accepted fact that diplomacy rises to its highest pinnacle, not in Wall Street or Washington, but in the mule marts of this country.

Thoughtful prophets, had they been more alert, might have discovered even deeper meaning in the Warm Springs trade. Although the mule's philosophy of life has never been fully fathomed, he has long been suspected of leaning to the Left. At least, we know that he disapproves of the established order. If the President is able successfully to appraise and evaluate this rebel of the animal kingdom, then obviously there is hope that Senator Long and other recalcitrants of his own party will not prove too much for him.

It is rather astonishing that our political interpreters—who heretofore have been able to foretell the President's drift to the Right or the Left by analyzing his luncheon menus or the shade of his neckties—should have passed up the Georgia episode. The only possible conclusion is that they are better versed in social hypotheses than in mules.

THE GIRLS WILL GET IN

ONE can't help feeling a little surprised, perhaps even a bit wistful, over the fresh young courage of the Future Farmers of America, who recently slammed the door of their organization against feminine membership. Clearly, these Spartan lads have a thing or two to learn about the futility of opposing women's rights.

At the annual convention of Future Farmers—a national association of vocational agricultural students—the girls, who labor side by side with the boys in the "ag" classes, sought and were denied entry to the organization. The action of the conference is the more puzzling when one recalls that the Future Farmers are chiefly high school upperclassmen, who by all ordinary calculations should be just emerging into that quivery period of life when a silken knee or a fetching little spit curl shortens the respiration.

One explanation might be that the boys want no female competition. In that other national organization of farm youth, the 4-H Clubs, an alarmingly large number of first prizes—awarded for superior lambs and calves and fowls—have been carried off by the girls. The more probable answer, however, is that the Future Farmers have been deluding themselves with the quaint and amusing theory that this is a man's world.

The only evidence of male capitulation at the F. F. A. convention was a resolution to investigate the girl problem during the coming year. But even this grudging concession, one fancies, will prove fatal. A year is twelve months, and in the meantime there will be skating parties, after-school skylarking six deep in stripped-down flivvers, palpitating glances in the agricultural lab, hayrack rides under a melting moon. Quite obviously the Future Farmers have underestimated the cosmic wallop of the lipstick, the powder puff and the permanent wave. The girls, we may be sure, will be sweet about it, but sooner or later they will get in.

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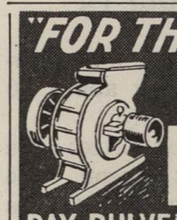

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DUNKING ISN'T BASKETBALL

(Continued from Page 19)

pride in the locals, he described how, after losing the first game 40–36, the Blue Diamonds had come back to take the second 30–28, and to swamp the champions 45–14 in the final. Those were the roughest games I ever witnessed or played in. The floor was concrete and the knees and elbows of the players were like beefsteak when the series ended. Our success in the last game was due to the quickly invented high, full-arm hook pass, which hadn't been seen before.

CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS

AFTER that I felt competent to coach a college team and I took the Baker offer, despite Doctor Naismith's amusement. I not only coached Baker but I also took over the basketball post at Haskell, the Indian school at Lawrence, working with the Baker boys in the afternoons and the Indians in the evenings.

In 1908 I went to Kansas University as basketball coach and we succeeded in winning two straight Conference championships. The seven years following I coached all sports at the State Teachers College, at Warrensburg, Missouri, winning basketball titles all seven years. In 1919 I came back to my first love, Kansas, as director of athletics and basketball coach. The gods of sports and Lady Luck have smiled on us here. Starting in 1922, when we tied Missouri for the championship, we won the title outright during the five following years, running up a string of thirty-four consecutive Conference victories before Oklahoma knocked us off in 1924. Our 1923 team was ever victorious.

That year Minnesota University invited us to come to Minneapolis during the holidays to practice with their team and it was one of the most pleasant training periods I have ever known. We appreciated their invitation more, probably, than it seemed when we defeated them 32–11 in a game that wound up our stay. They didn't mind losing that game, for it didn't count, but they did go on from there, winning five straight games when the Western Conference season opened.

WHEN STAGG RAN THE BALL

THIS past season we won the flag in the Bix Six circuit for the fourth consecutive time. Strangely enough, when I think back through the basketball wars I can't keep my mind off the 1928 season. It always pokes its head up to torment me. That's the year we lost Harry Kersenbrock, and just before the season opened our other center, Ramsey, broke his hand boxing. We were battered from pillar to post that year. We lost all but one of our Conference games; Notre Dame walloped us in both games we played them. We did get a grain of comfort in our intersectional play when we nosed out California by one point after they had whipped us twice. All the little schools around us had their day by lacing us good.

The birth of basketball has been told many times, but possibly some do not know that Alonzo A. Stagg, who coached football at Chicago University for many years, and is now coaching at the College of the Pacific, in California, was captain and forward of one of the teams that played the first game at Springfield Y. M. C. A. College, in 1891. I mentioned Coach Stagg's name to Doctor Naismith one time and he shook his head with a smile.

"Lonny was a great athlete," he said, "but he was a football player, and a grand one, and at first he wasn't much good to a basketball team, for he would forget himself and start running with the ball. In that day a foul put a man on the sideline for a time, just like a hockey penalty today, and a team had to play for a while minus one man. Incidentally, those first teams had nine men on a side."

Basketball was a child of necessity. When winter closed down and there were no more outdoor sports the students began to chafe under inactivity. In an effort to check this restlessness—and to check downright mischief—the school authorities gave an assignment to the class to bring in some plan of a game that could be played indoors, and the next day young Naismith showed up with a soccer ball and two peach baskets and a plan.

At first the baskets were nailed horizontally to the end walls, moderately close to the floor, but that didn't work so well, and almost immediately Naismith offered the idea of nailing the baskets to the rim of the running track. That rim happened to be just ten feet from the floor. The hoops have always been that height; I've wondered what would have happened if the rim of that track had been different—twelve feet, say.

18,000,000 PLAYERS

AFTER the start at Springfield the game caught on immediately and other schools in the cold winter country took it up with enthusiasm—Cornell with a little too much, at first. Thinking that teams should be big enough to accommodate everybody who wanted to play, Cornell tried it out with fifty men on a side. They were playing in a large barnlike structure—it may have been a barn. In a scrimmage some player threw the ball to the opposite end of the building and the hundred Cornellians charged after it like a herd of bison—and took out the end of the building. I do not swear to the authenticity of this tall tale.

I have seen estimates that some 18,000,000 people are playing basketball all over the world. Our baseball and football, with few exceptions, have failed to excite the Old World. Basketball is gaining here in our country and abroad. Just this winter it has been made an Olympic sport. Ernest Quigley, the famous National League umpire, wrote me from Japan one year that the game had taken an unusual hold upon the Orientals, almost as much as baseball. Quig is a basketball fan and an accomplished referee. I've seldom seen an official equal him in keeping an exciting game under control.

One year Quigley was working a game at St. Louis between Washington University and Nebraska. Ewald "Jumbo" Stiehm, the Nebraska football coach, also handled basketball, and he was up against a team coached by one of his former football stars, Dick Rutherford. With the teams tied and a fierce battle raging on the court, Quigley called a foul on a Nebraska man. Stiehm jumped from the bench and started for the floor to protest—a violation of the rules.

WARMING UP THE BATTLE SLOGAN

QUIGLEY saw him start from the bench. With his finger pointed like a pistol the official halted Stiehm and said with deadly calm: "Shoot one for every step it takes you to get back to the bench." And Stiehm, his anger dissolved, grinned and took two Brobdingnagian steps back to his seat. The penalty was two shots, anyway, so Jumbo didn't harm his team's prospects; but he didn't charge out onto the floor again either.

It's winter again and basketballs are popping against backboards, and it's sweet music to my ears. The baskets are ten feet high and two feet from the end lines. Field goals still count two points—but we're not worrying about that. What we're worrying about are Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas State and Iowa State. We've got some old scores to settle with them. And while we are waiting for them we are warming up our old battle slogan: "Hold 'em in the 'teens."

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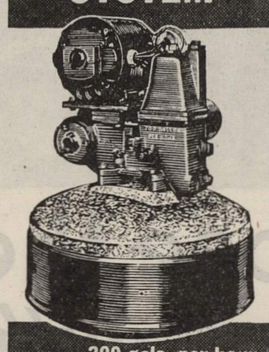

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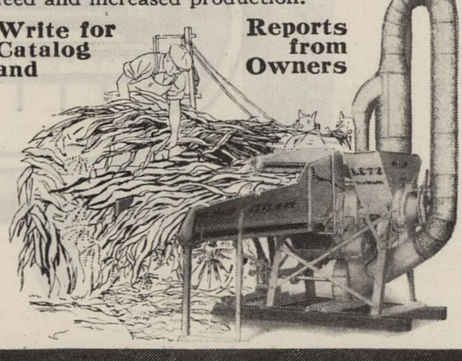

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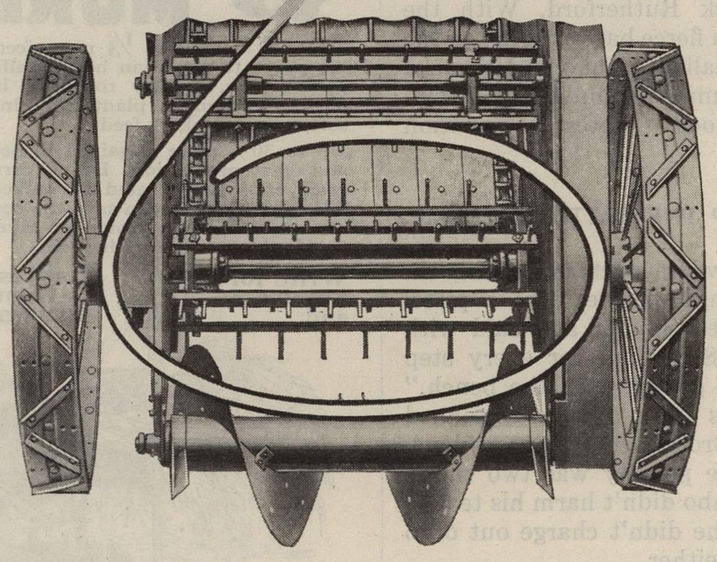

Overhead detail of rear end of John Deere Model E Spreader showing the beater-on-the-axle construction.

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CROPS

SEED DISINFECTION PAYS

TREAT seed before planting. There is no question in the minds of growers practicing seed disinfection but that it repays them well.

The blackleg and the black rot disease of cabbage and cauliflower is carried inside the seed. Surface treatment of seed will not kill this organism; therefore a hot-water treatment must be given. The most practical method of hot-water treating this seed is to fill a wash boiler full of water and heat to a temperature of 122 degrees Fahrenheit. A large volume of water will not change temperatures as rapidly as will a smaller volume. A thoroughly tested thermometer must be used to determine this water temperature. Tie the seeds loosely in cheesecloth bags, and when the water has reached exactly 122 degrees, suspend the cabbage seed in this hot water for twenty-five minutes and the cauliflower seed for eighteen minutes.

Eggplant seed that is purchased should be treated by soaking for ten minutes in a solution of corrosive sublimate—bichloride of mercury—1 to 1000, one tablet to a pint of water. Then rinse in fresh running water for fifteen minutes and plant as soon as it is dry enough to handle.

Tomato seed should be treated with corrosive sublimate, 1 to 3000—one tablet to three pints of water—for five minutes, rinsed in clean water for ten minutes and planted when dry enough to handle. Mercury materials are deadly poisons and must not be left around promiscuously. They should be destroyed immediately after using. The temperature of these solutions should be between 60 and 70 degrees.

Organic mercury dusts made especially for seed-treatment purposes may be purchased from seed stores and supply houses. By following the recommendations on the package, best results will be secured.

Seed treatment with red copper oxide dust or monohydrated copper sulphate has become popular in recent years. The seeds themselves so treated will not only be disinfected but when planted will disinfect the soil immediately around or touching the seed piece, and will offer a better protection from damping-off organisms. These materials are used at the rate of half an ounce of dust to each pound of seed treated.

Spinach growers who have experienced trouble in germinating the seed or in getting the young plants started have nearly overcome this difficulty by thoroughly dusting with red copper oxide, using half a pound for each bushel—28 pounds—of seed.

Seed treatment surely pays big dividends under many conditions. Every interested grower should write to his own state agricultural experiment station for their latest recommendation.

—C. H. NISSLEY.

(Mr. Nissley is extension horticulturist, vegetable growing, New Jersey Agricultural College and Experiment Station.)

A NEW SWEET CORN

A NEW variety of sweet corn has to be quite superior and outstanding before it will be received in the markets and on the public dining-room table. A Connecticut grower has won the distinction of producing a variety which meets all requirements. It is claimed—and trial tests support the contention—that the new member of the corn family will, after the public makes its acquaintance, attain great popularity.

This new variety, Early Pearl, is neither large nor yellow, being quite the opposite from the present popular leading varieties. As its name implies, the kernels have the appearance of pearls. The ears are miniature, probably the smallest of any corn grown. But the cobs are very tiny, the cut corn from the ears being surprisingly large. The variety has a distinctive tenderness, milky succulence and delicate sugary flavor quite apart from any other variety. The growers throughout Connecticut, who have given Early Pearl a trial, predict that it will become the leader of the sweet-corn family.

The variety is a prolific bearer, as many as twelve ears being picked from one hill. And the ears are very uniform in growth. The stalks are of small growth, permitting very close planting. —B. S. JOHNSON.

NEW SOY BEANS FOR HAY

TWO new varieties of black soy beans, introduced by the Indiana Experiment Station, are proving far superior to Dunfield, Manchu and other varieties commonly used for hay in Southern and Central Indiana, Illinois and other farms in the same latitude. These varieties, Kingwa and Pekwa, produce a very leafy, tall plant with a slender stem. They are very similar and their yield is much larger and of better feeding quality because of the fineness than the older kinds.

The first field of certified Kingwa seed was raised in Indiana in 1931. Since that time the variety has become the leader in Southwestern Indiana and is gaining much popularity in the rest of the state. It has been my experience in growing it in tests with thirty other leading varieties on a Northern Indiana farm that it outyields all but a few of the extremely late beans from the Southeastern States, but it is a little too late to mature seed well every year this far north.

The Pekwa is very similar, with a larger seed, and it has yielded slightly more for me. It was introduced in 1932 and has not been tried out so thoroughly as the Kingwa.

Less waste is experienced in feeding hay from these varieties because of the fineness of the stems. Their lateness makes a good demand for seed for farmer growers.

Because of the black seed, Kingwa and Pekwa are not grown for grain.

—BYRON L. TROYER.

(Mr. Troyer is an Indiana farmer.)

CABBAGE PROSPECTS

THE 1934 cabbage crop was an exceptionally large one, totaling about 40 per cent larger than the 1933 crop.

Because of the bumper crop, prices were very low during the past season. The carryover of cabbage in Northern States will be sufficiently large to be an important competitor for the earlier sections in the South. Early sections in the South have indicated that they will plant a much smaller acreage than a year ago.

After early March the old or storage cabbage is eliminated, and from then on prices will depend on how large the early and midseason production is. If acreages are held within reasonable limits, cabbage should prove a profitable spring and early summer crop this coming season.

Inasmuch as cabbage was unprofitable to most growers, beginning last spring and running almost to the present time, the tendency will be toward more conservative acreages. It is seldom that two bumper crops follow in succession, and there is a strong possibility that the coming year will be a much better one than the last so far as cabbage prices are concerned. This will be particularly true in the late states where cabbage was most unprofitable this past season. —COLONEL L. BROWN.

PROBABLE EFFECTS OF ELIMINATING THE CENTER JUMP

Even with the center jump virtually eliminated for the 1938 season, doubtless basketball will still possess enough thrills to enthrall her followers. The advocates of the elimination of the center jump contend that the game will be further speeded up, that about 6 or 8 min. will be added to its actual playing time, and that, with sleepers laying back for long surprise shots after goals by opponents, the fast break will be enhanced. They further contend that only a few teams ever possessed tall centers so that the game will now be more equalized; that scores will be higher; and that the center, who heretofore did most of the jumping, can now reserve his strength for better team and floor play. Fouls will be decreased, they say, and the officials will be rid of much of that troublesome bugaboo of throwing the ball up high enough and straight enough to allow both centers a fair jump and tap for the ball.

The proponents of the retention of the center jump contend that the tip-off added many additional thrills to the game. Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game, in attendance at a meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, asked a group which of the following situations gave them the greater thrill: (1) When the ball was in the air about 2 ft. above the basket; (2) when the ball went through.

Most of them said, "When the ball went through the basket." "You are wrong," quoth Dr. Naismith, "Your highest pitch of expectancy or interest was when the ball was just above the cylinder of the basket and you wondered, 'Will it go through or not?'"

"And so with the tip-off," says Dr. Naismith. "When the ball is tossed up at center there is the same intense interest and the same parallel question is asked, 'Will it go to the team controlling the tip-off or will the opponents get the tip-off from the controlling team?'"

On the other hand, under the new rules, when a field goal or free throw is scored one knows just where the ball is going in so far as possession is concerned. It will go to the opposite team. Heretofore, many have contended that under the eliminated rule the tall player won the game, not at the center tip-off but rather under the offensive or defensive basket, and that the elimination of the tip-off will have no bearing on the tall player's potency.

But the proponents of the center jump contend that the rule makers have placed a premium on mediocrity rather than upon excellence. Now the team scored upon automatically secures possession of the ball out of bounds, whereas heretofore both teams had to fight for possession at center after each goal and free throw. The weaker team will now have a bettee chance to hold the score down, for with the ball in its possession it will have the option of either driving down rapidly or delaying the offensive to suit its play situation.

As a result of this new ruling, scores should be higher, now necessarily on account of faster play, but because 6 or 8 min. of action will be added to the actual playing time. Previously, there were letups in action on the center tip-off plays. These additional minutes of playing time in this already strenuous game may prove too great a physical strain on the heart and the kidneys of the players. Heretofore, the spectators had an opportunity to relax for a few seconds while the ball was being brought back to center for the tip-off after an exciting field goal. Now, only strong hearts that can stand long-sustained excitement should venture out to the games.

There will still be held balls during the game because research has shown that, in games played with the tip-off in use, there were held-ball plays for every three tip-off plays. In the future, the jumpers will be players of unequal heights, whereas the center jump invariably brought together the tallest men and the best jumpers of each team.

The proponents of the elimination of the center jump contend also that the team having the shorter center fought harder for the possession and control of the ball, and thereby added fight to the whole team, while the team controlling the tip-off usually, because of a tall center, counted too much on its height advantage and unconsciously loafed on the job.

"Just a lot more of out-of-bounds plays at the endline added to what you had before," is the analysis of one coach. The defense will soon learn to drop back fast enough to thwart any so-called quick break. And as for that rapid-fire offense allowing sleepers to work against them, there still will be a premium on good ball handling and on all-around fundamentals. Any time that a sleeper, awaiting a pass from his teammates, tries to drop out of the defensive picture, he will discover to his sorrow that the added man on offense will be too strong for the weakened defensive team to cope with.

Gone perhaps is the thrilling last-minute finish of the game-winning goal-rush, for the defense will now have possession of the ball as soon as the offense scores. The elimination of the center jump has denied this old thriller to the crowds of the future. Formerly with two or three minutes remaining to be played, a team behind in the score would capture the ball after each tip-off and sometimes shoot two or three field goals to win and to send its followers away hysterical. This cannot happen now, because possession automatically resides with the team scored upon. And, too, there is now a rules provision which prohibits a team behind in the score from fouling intentionally after a successful free throw, in order to gain possession of the ball.

Feb. 15, 1941
The Athletic Journal

Twenty Years of Gains and Changes in Basketball

What a galaxy of events in the history of basketball is this year, 1941 A. D! The Golden Anniversary of Basketball! The Silver Anniversary of the Joint Basketball Rules Committee! Two decades of phenominal progress in basketball.

What has inspired the phenomenal growth and progress of this great game? How have the offense and the defense changed? Why the great popularity of this sport? These are a few questions for which we find the answers.

From the inventor's peach basket to the present iron rim; from a soccer football to a full-sized regulation basketball; from the large rectangular 6' x 4' backboards, that were first made of chicken wire, then glass, then wood, to the present streamlined fan-shaped pressed-steel backboards, the game of basketball has steadily forged ahead to become one of the most popular amateur sports. The original purpose of the large backboards was to keep spectators and partisans of the game from kicking or batting the ball away from the basket. Later the players learned to bank the ball from these large boards. The Research Committee of the Rules Body, by cutting away the dead wood, retained only the fertile area of the board. The radical reduction in size of the backboard has aided spectator visibility, back of the basket, more than fifty percent.

From the small low-ceilinged gymnasiums to the massive field houses of today; form the audiences of a few hundreds to crowds of from 12,000 to 20,000; from nine, then seven to five players on a side unfolds the unprecendented growth of the fifty-year-old indoor game of basketball.

Everyone knows that the distinguished Dr. James Naismith, former Professor of Physical Education at the University of Kansas, while a student at

the International Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, Massachusetts originated the game in 1891. A photostatic copy of the original thirteen rules are encased in a frame in my office. As a medium of comparision the original rules are given herewith.

1. The ball may be thrown in any direction with one or both hands.

2. The ball may be batted in any direction with one or both hands, never with the fist.

3. A player cannot run with the ball; the player must throw it from the spot where he catches it, allowance being made for a man who catches the ball when running at a good speed.

4. The ball must be held in or between the hands; the arms or body must not be used for holding it.

5. No shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping, or striking in any way the person of the opponent is to be allowed. The first infringement of this rule by any person shall count as a foul; the second shall disqualify him until the next goal is made, or if there was evident intent to injure the person, for the whole game; no substitute allowed.

6. A foul is striking the ball with the fist, violation of Rules 3 and 4, and such as described in Rule 5.

7. If either side makes three consecutive fouls it shall count for a goal for the opponents. (Consecutive means without the opponents making a foul.)

8. A goal shall be made when the ball is thrown or batted from the grounds into the basket and stays there, providing those defending the goal do not touch or disturb the goal. If the ball rests on the edge and the opponent moves the basket, it shall count as a goal.

9. When the ball goes out of bounds it shall be thrown into the field, and played by the person first touching it. In case of a dispute, the Umpire shall throw it straight into the field. The thrower is allowed five seconds; if he holds it longer, it shall go to the opponent. If any side persists in delaying the game, the Umpire shall call a foul on them.

10. The Umpire shall be the judge of the men, and shall note the fouls, and notify the Referee when three consecutive fouls have been made. He shall have the power to disqualify men according to Rule 5.

11. The Referee shall be judge of the ball, and shall decide when the ball is in play, in bounds, and to which side it belongs, and shall keep time. He shall decide when a goal is made, and keep account of the goals, with any other duties that are usually performed by a Referee.

12. The time shall be two 15-minute halves, five minutes between.

13. The side making the most goals shall be the winner. In case of a draw, the game may, by agreement of captains, be continued until another goal is made.

Important fundamentals of the game as played today are found in the original thirteen rules. This fact is a remarkable tribute to the sound judgment and foresight of their author.

How have the Offense and the Defense Changed? Due to Dr. Naismith's uncanny vision in his first thirteen rules, the fundamentals of the game have changed but little, if any. But the rules makers have legislated rules since which have affected both the offense and the defense.

The three-second rule, the ten-second rule and the elimination of the center jump have all contributed to the present hurricane, heart-splitting game that we have at present. But the fundamentals have remained about the same. The accepted unified terminology of the game, the formation of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Research Committee, both of the Rules Body and Coaches Association have been a definite factor in stabilizing and improving the rules and administration of basketball.

Why the great popularity of the sport? Basketball has had truly an amateur as well as a sound educational and a real missionary background.

(1) The genuine amateur sports promoters of America are the Boards of Education of the high schools and the Boards of Regents of the universities and colleges. There are 27,474 high school buildings in the United States. There are 9,158 junior high schools, 918 colleges and 600 junior colleges.

It is reasonable to suppose that most of these educational institutions have gymnasia. These gymnasia are built and maintained by public tax money. The maintenance of a basketball court is small and the equipment is inexpensive. Due to the fact that no cancellations of basketball games occur on account of weather conditions, the games can be played in all climes at regular times. Basketball can be an individual game as well as a team game. Children of practically all ages, therefore can play it without serious consequences.

In the words of the great inventor who said, "Basketball is a game easy to play but difficult to master." The ball is always out in the open. It is not hidden from view as it is in football, when mass play is in the order. Many midwestern university coaches have told me that they have checked every able-bodied boy entering the university and have failed to find a single active boy who has not played basketball in high school.

(2) Perhaps by accident or by place of invention the game of basketball has a real missionary significance. At the International Y.M.C.A. College, Springfield, Massachuetts, "the cradle of basketball", physical directors, medical missionaries and general secretaries were trained. These emissaries of good will planted the game early in our century in many foreign countries and islands of the sea. The United States soldiers, in 1900, introduced basketball in the Philippine Islands. The American army of occupation taught it to the German populace in 1919. During the Inter-Allied games in Paris, June, 1919, the United States, France, and Italy played for the championship, which the United States won rather handily. After the Armistice was signed, two American teams, by invitation from the British government, demonstrated basketball in the British area of the war zone. The British took to it readily.

Practically every foreign country has fashioned its basketball rules after our American game. They look to us as the mother country of the sport.

and expect our guidance in formulating their rules and in shaping their ideals of the game.

In an official check-up with Dr. Naismith, we found that 49 nations and territories are now playing basketball; Africa, Alaska, Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hati, Hawaii, Honduras, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, The Philippines, Poland, Porto Rico, Portugal, Rumania, San Salvador, Siam, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the United States, and Uraguay.

Portugal, which introduced the game in 1927, went mad over it. In less than two years 24 basketball clubs were in existence and matches were being played every Sunday and were well partonized. Competition in the game was so keen that a team immediately began training for the European championship competition. This team was confident of victory because some of its players had learned the game in the United States and had figured in some important contests here.

In America, according to the All Sports Book for 1935, basketball outdrew all other sports with a total of 80,000,000 paid attendances. Baseball was next with 50,000,000; football third with 40,000,000.

The author of this article, working with Dr. Karl Diehm of Berlin, Germany and Sohaku Ri of Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, had the pleasure of having basketball played on the Olympic calendar in Berlin in 1936. Prior to this action, The National Association of Basketball Coaches, through their President, William Chandler, sold to the Basketball-conscious public of the United States the idea of giving to Dr. Naismith and his family an honorarium, so that they might go to Berlin to see basketball in its great demonstration before the nations of the earth. Since Dr. Naismith had never made a penny from

this great game that he had so gladly given to the youthful posterity he was deeply grateful for the gratuity and affectionate contribution of his friends toward the Olympic trip. His epic statement at that time was, "Do not be afraid to serve humanity and wait for your reward."

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September 17, 1943

Dr. F. C. Allen
Basketball Coach
University Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Coach:

You can't imagine how grateful I was to receive your nice long letter and also the telegram. I immediately looked for the citations in your book. Found a lot of meat there. We intend to give you a good plug on the 12-foot goal. You certainly have command of all phases of the history of basketball. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harold Keith
Director Sports Publicity

bv

Day Letter
Sept. 15, 1943

Harold Keith,
Athletic Department,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Okla.

In my special delivery letter I meant to call attention to 12 ft. basket section in Better Basketball, pages 23 to 26. Please refer to your copy.

F. C. Allen.

SCHOLASTIC COACH

MARCH 1935 25c

In this issue: Moving Pictures of Percy Beard

Blood alkalinity

HERE BELOW

When they talk of throwing out the center jump, Dr. Allen suggests raising the baskets

EXHIBIT A
Dunking by Seward of Purdue

"DUNKING isn't basketball," says Dr. Forrest C. Allen in an article in the February *Country Gentleman*. Dr. Allen is the leader of a movement to raise the baskets to a height of twelve feet, to give the player of average height a more equitable share in the rewards of under-basket play. As it is now, it is "shooting for the little fellow and dunking for the big boy," as the Kansas coach puts it. (See Exhibit A above.)

The chances that 12-ft. baskets will be adopted by the National Basketball Committee at its spring meeting are not very great. Even if the change were imminent, there is little likelihood that it would apply to high schools. Evidently, there are not enough tall high school players to make dunking the problem to high school basketball that it is to the college game.

Dr. Allen would perhaps be less active in promoting 12-ft. baskets were it not for the strength of another reform movement which favors the elimination of the center jump. There is a question of relative values bearing on these two "tall-man" situations. We asked Dr. Allen for some comment on this question and he responded as follows:

"So long as coaches talk of eliminating the center tipoff, then I use the 12-ft. basket argument to show the real cause of dissatisfaction over the tall man. I have always maintained that the tall man beats you under the rebound at either the offensive or defensive basket, and my argument for raising the basket to twelve feet is that the area of dispersion from the rebounds is much greater on a 12-ft. basket than on a 10-ft. basket. Therefore, the players must be further out on the court, and not under the basket as many of them are now, to play a rebound on a higher basket. And, by having a 12-ft. basket, the tall players could not dunk them in as they are doing now.

"My added argument is that with 12-ft. baskets the little fellow could easily arch his shot two feet further, and the big fellow would have to *shoot* the ball instead of dunking it.

"Moreover, to eliminate the center jump and retain held balls as we now have them, is to disregard the real source of disadvantage arising from all toss-ups. Statistics on our home games this season show that held balls occurred two-thirds as often as center jumps. And for the center tipoff the two jumpers are more evenly matched than any other two jumpers are apt to be on the court. Each coach gets his best jumper for the center tipoff, while on a held ball jump you may have the shortest man on the team jumping against the tallest. This would never obtain on the center jump proposition."

Complaint Dep't

EARL E. OLSON, coach of the high school at Balaton, Minnesota, writes in to call a personal foul on us for our interpretation of the strip of continuous-action pictures on page 23 of the February issue, which showed a set out-of-bounds play under the basket. Mr. Olson says we presented as a legitimate maneuver that which is in reality face guarding, for which a personal foul should have been called. In case you do not recall the strip of pictures in question we are reproducing one frame from the strip herewith (see Exhibit B). Players 1 and 3 are teammates, facing their own basket. Player 1 has just received a high pass from a teammate out-of-bounds under the basket. Player 3 has taken a well-spread position behind Defensive Player 2, with his back to him. Player 3 stands with his back to Player 1 and his guard because it is part of the deception of the play for Player 3 to fake reception of an imaginary pass which his out-of-bounds teammate fakes to him. The mechanics of the play are apparent: In moving to cover Player 1's diagonal dribble, Defensive Player 2 is screened off by Player 3, who, as all the pictures showed, stood perfectly still. A player cannot commit face-guarding as long as he stands still, regardless of whether he disregards the ball. And if personal contact ensues between Player 3 and Defensive Player 2 when the latter moves to cover Player 1, the foul, if any is called, should certainly not be on Player 3, who has stood still, but on Defensive Player 2 who unwittingly bumped into him. Now, this may not be fair, but at the current writing it is law.

So, as long as Player 3 does not move there cannot justly be a foul called on him. And even though he moved and became a moving screen no foul could justly be called on him for face-guarding unless he was facing an opponent and disregarding the ball. No doubt it was something we wrote in the caption to the pictures in which

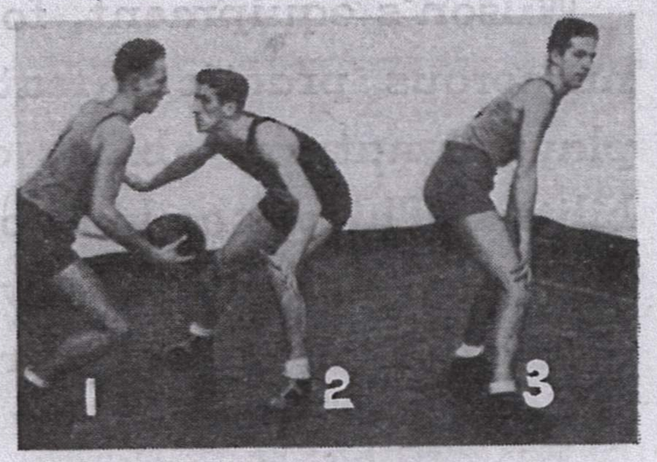

EXHIBIT B
Is 3 Face-guarding?

Mr. Olson saw face-guarding. The pertinent part of the caption said: "If the screen player sees that a successful defensive switch is about to occur, he can become a moving screen to discommode the switchers." In event the play took this turn (which it did not in the pictures) Player 3 would, if he were clever, protect himself against a charge of face-guarding by turning in such a way that he would not be facing either defensive player, and at the same time would avoid causing personal contact by the move.

We are glad that Mr. Olson brought up the point, because it gives us a chance to show off our technical knowledge of a game which is becoming more and more like a game of chess. Pretty soon it will be necessary for a player to jump over an opponent if he wants to get around him.