

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-