

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 game on 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 heap 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 ball 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