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June 23, 1943.

Mr. Norman Keller,
Wilson & Co.,
Lubbock, Texas.

Dear Mr. Keller:

In answering your communication of June 16th I will answer you from personal knowledge and not by going back through the basketball records to make it absolutely authentic as to dates.

Yes, there has been a rule that prohibited the dribble but I do not know whether you would call it modern or not. This prohibition was up to 1905, the A.A.U. rules prohibiting dribbling, but the colleges began in 1906 to permit dribbling. We had separate rules for the colleges and separate rules for the A.A.U. and Y.M.C.A. groups. The Joint Basketball Rules Committee, which now comprises the colleges and the Y.M.C.A.s is not the same as the present A.A.U. rule. But up until a few years ago all rules were the same under the Joint Basketball rules committee.

Along about 1928 Dr. W. E. Meanwell, from the University of Wisconsin, proposed and made a motion to the effect that the dribble be limited to one bounce. That was in the latter part of March, and I believe the meeting was held in New York. In the first week in April Knute Rockne and I spoke before the National Education Association at Des Moines, Iowa. Knute spoke on "The Pedagogy of Football" and I spoke on "The Pedagogy of Basketball". These meetings were held in the Drake Field House in Des Moines, and in our demonstrations a discussion arose regarding the new rules. I flayed the autocratic and high-handed method of the National Basketball Rules Committee in putting in a rule about which they had not queried the coaches. Immediately I got a great number of wires from coaches who agreed with me, and I called a meeting of the basketball coaches in Des Moines during the time of the Drake Relays. The meeting was held and they elected me chairman and requested that the Rules Committee rescind their action.

A further meeting was called for Chicago in June, at the time of the N.C.A.A. track meet, and at this time the basketball coaches of the country elected me the first president to serve until the time of the next basketball coaches meeting in March, 1929. That meeting was held in Chicago, and I was elected president for the 1929 term. The Rules Body promptly rescinded the action deleting the dribble, and it has remained a part of the game ever since.

The National Basketball Coaches Association as an organization was formulated in Chicago in March, 1929, and the Coaches Association the following year re-elected me as president. So the Coaches Association as a body was formed as a protest against the deletion of the dribble by the Rules Committee.