

Dec. 7, 1940

Our Chancellor of the University as well as a great number of business men and some professors told me that they cannot stand the emotional present-day strain of a basketball game. They love the game but they find themselves in such a nervous state after a game of this sort that they resolve to stay away from the next one to guard their health. Certainly if this is true to spectators it is bound to have many fatiguing qualities on the players and I am in very hearty accord with your criticism, especially when we consider the intermediate, the junior high school and the high school youth.

However, I am not so sure that the restoration of the center jump would eliminate all the troubles, when we endeavor to put our fingers on the cause of the physical breakdown in youth.

I am sending you a copy of some work done by one of our Physical Education students the past year, Ernst A. Uhrlaub, who was captain of the basketball team in 1921. He has had many years of experience in teaching and coaching in the Kansas High Schools and last year returned to the University to take his Master's Degree in Physical Education. This study of his, which is being sent under separate cover, largely refutes the charge that physicians complain of, but on the other hand, we have eminent medical authorities who are emphasizing the possible injury to the youngsters of our nation.

I agree with you that it is high time that we intelligently cooperate with each other, and that all of us willingly present our data for serious study. I am very glad to cooperate fully in endeavoring to find anything in our game that is detrimental to the health of our youngsters, and so far as I am concerned, I for one would be glad to hasten to recognize such an emergency and change the rules to the point that there could be no criticism. Our games should be health builders not destroyers.

While I am not a member of the High School Basketball Rules Committee, I do see a much greater danger to the growing youth in the high school game than occurs to a more mature individual in a collegiate game.

There has been a great desire toward unification of rules in our Joint Basketball Rules Committee. This Joint Committee comprises the National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, Young Men's Christian Association, Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union and the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association. I see no reason why the fundamental rules could not be followed with certain modifications for the high school youngsters who need all their vitality to mature their bodies.

I am of the opinion that junior high school youngsters should not have interscholastic competition. The intramural games, it seems to me, are sufficient to stimulate the best in them in the way of body building and in the way of self-denial without the strain of out-of-town trips and interscholastic competition. The emotional strain is too severe on the growing boy. Personally, I am in favor of a limitation in the number of games that the youth of our high schools should play in any one year.

Assuring you of my interest and of my full cooperation and thanking you for your communication, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation  
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

CC: Floyd Rowe