

December 7, 1940

Dr. Charles H. Keene
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Buffalo, New York

Dear Dr. Keene:

Your mimeographed sheets entitled "Health Service Problems in Basketball" were delivered to me last spring by Mr. Floyd A. Rowe, Chairman of the National Basketball Rules Committee, Cleveland, Ohio, together with the May issue of the "Journal of School Health."

I wrote Mr. Rowe, as of July 15, stating that I would write you a letter touching upon the points that I considered very important from a high school standpoint, but my administrative work after returning from my vacation has been exceptionally heavy and it has prevented me from writing sooner. However, since this is the beginning of the basketball season, doubtless this communication regarding basketball will be quite apropos at the present time.

May I state that Mr. John Bunn, at present Dean of Men at Stanford University, played on my Varsity team back in 1919-20. Later he was my assistant coach after which he went to Stanford University as Director of Basketball.

Personally, I have very definitely opposed the elimination of the center jump, but as a member of the Rules Body I have always believed in the democratic way of doing things, that of registering a protest, but if you are out-voted to go along in good faith with the majority. I believe it would be a very difficult thing to restore the center jump in basketball. Several years have passed now with the elimination of the jump and it would of necessity require some modification or some change to have it restored.

I protested vehemently against the elimination of the center jump because the pause that it took for the official to put the ball in play again gave the spectators a mental breathing spell as well as the somewhat exhausted players. I thought it was a good thing for the game to have this let-up, from all angles concerned. Personally, I view the game as a shuttle-game as it is now played, entailing much greater strain on the heart and emotions and adding several minutes to the playing time, because the rules, as they were played formerly, did not provide for a time-out when the referee retrieved the ball and brought it to the center of the court for a toss-up.

At the end of last year's basketball season I suggested the possibility of rotating the center jump in the same manner as we have the batting order in baseball. Before the game the coach would list the jumping order of the players, just as the coach gives the batting order of the baseball team, and after every field goal by either side the ball would be tossed up at the center circle. The free-throw could be handled in one of either two ways; either the ball could be out-of-bounds and given to the opponents or it could follow the same rule as the field goal. By such a plan we would break the almost hysterical spell that we find our spectators in after one of these games.