

3 Armstrong Lane  
Germantown Phila Penna.  
Aug. 22, 1939.

Mr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have read, with a great deal of interest, your all-inclusive book, Better Basketball. Needless to say I have found a wealth of material in its pages and have found in its author, not only a basketball coach, but rather a teacher of men.

Of particular interest to me was the chapter devoted to Officiating. There are many truisms expressed in the pages of this chapter which I think many of our officials should read. The fault which I believe is found in much of the officiating today is the lackadaisical manner shown by many of the officials working school and college games today. Many of these officials treat their work as an avocation instead of a vocation. Like the successful coach who tirelessly spends hours perfecting a system of play for a certain opponent, so must the successful official make his acute study of the game. As in other life work I would again speak those words of wisdom given to us so long ago, "Many are called, but few are chosen."

Speaking from the viewpoint of a young official I must admit that you have expressed a grievous fault of the young official who, in endeavoring to please his employer, will go out of his way to inquire as to how the game is going. Such a man is foolish in that he leaves himself wide open for criticism. Better, I think, is the method of being prepared both physically and mentally to give his best and to ask no questions--for after all his word is law.

The attitude of a judge is far better, for what judge does not have a deep and abiding knowledge as well as interest in those whose faults and mistakes come under his jurisdiction. What judge, no matter how sober he must be, does not at some time or other show a twinkle of merriment in his eye? So I believe the young official or older man too, must be kind, yet firm and unyielding in his decisions.

I believe, too, that an official should try his best to help the younger player and to fully explain his mistakes so that in future games the boy will not falter again. Many school coaches neglect to point out a certain fault and often the official will notice the mistakes that are being repeated. Not that the official should endeavor to coach the players at any time in the game, but after the game he may take the opportunity of expressing himself. In the college game I do not think much can be done along these lines for the majority of college coaches and players alike have had the preliminary training which will make them better students.

In officiating a school game a few years ago I called attention to the fact that a boy on each of the opposing teams had three personal fouls charged against him. There remained but a few minutes of play and the score was close. On cautioning one of the players I said, "I