May 4, 1938.

Mr. Robert L. Gray, President,
Sheffield Steel Corporation,
Kansas City, Missouri.

My dear good Friend:

It seems that every time I contact you I am asking a favor. However, I assure you this is nothing personal.

I am interested in the success of young men and the progress they make, just like you are.

7

Carl Johnson, a member of our Big Six Championship basketball team here at the University, is very desirous of obtaining office experience in some large corporation. He has been told that such positions are open in the summer time at your place. He has spoken to me about the matter and has sought my friendship in asking that I write you so it would be possible for him to have an interview with you toward accomplishing his purpose.

Carl has mentioned to me that he has often hoped that when he gets through college he could work for Sheffield Steel. He expects to graduate from the School of Business here at the University next spring, a year from this date. While at Northeast High School Carl made an exceptionally excellent record in his academic, athletic and other school activities.

He has taken many of the basic accounting courses and practically all of the courses in the financial section of the School of Business.

You were especially kind to give Carl and George Golay jobs in the mill last summer. It was fine of you to do this, and I want to again thank you for doing it. Now Carl is wanting to gain some business experience, and naturally he turned to friends of his whom he hoped could help him.

Carl has also made an excellent record here. He is one of the outstanding students and one of the finest athletes at the University. I have great confidence in the ability of this young man to go places in the business and financial world. He is clean, capable, and an exceptionally hard worker. He is very sincere in everything that he undertakes. I would consider it a personal favor if you would give this young man any consideration that business conditions will warrant.

It was good to see you the other week at the Union Station. It seems our salutations are generally caught on the run.

With every good wish to you, and with kindest personal regards to your good family, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

August 30, 1938.

Mr. Lloyd T. Johnson,
576 Center Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I ask pardon for the delay in responding to your very kind letter of the 15th instant. Our office has been closed for a couple of weeks on account of vacation, which explains why I have not answered your letter sooner.

I have just written a new book on basketball, entitled "Better Basketball", published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, which I feel would be most beneficial to you in your coaching. All the latest developments of the game are thoroughly explained in this book, and it is fully illustrated with diagrams and photographs. Frankly, I feel this book incorporates everything a coach, player, official, or trainer of a team needs to know about his own special phase of the game.

I am enclosing some pamphlets which explain the contents of this book more in detail. You will be able to secure this book at most sporting goods houses. I am sure you will find this a most valuable book on coaching methods.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Salt Lake City Utah
Aug 15, 1938.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
University of Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I am coaching a group of promising basketball players and feel the need of more knowledge in this line. I have had ten years of playing experience, but I wish to know more of the science of the game, and of coaching a team.

Last year I had the same team in the Mormon Church League and finished in fifth place in the Salt Lake District.

Would you please recommend some books on this subject?

Enclosed you will find a self-addressed envelope. Thanking you in advance

Yours truly,
Lloyd T. Johnson
576 Center St.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

July 27, 1938.

Mr. L. E. Johnson, Supervisor,
Douglas County WPA Educational Project,
1823 Barker Avenue,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have your favor of the 23rd instant, and I assure you that we are very happy to welcome you and the Adult Educational Project group here for the Institute, August 8 to 27, inclusive.

We are very glad to permit you to use the swimming pool, but as I explained to you, the University does not provide funds for hiring a life guard during the summer months. We have a very definite rule that no one can use the pool unless there is a life guard in attendance. I would not be willing to open the pool unless there was a Red Cross life guard supervising the swimming. This is only for safety's sake, and of course the proper protection for your group and for us who bear the responsibility of opening the pool to swimmers.

You are very welcome to the gymnasium and the playgrounds. Again, of course, I explained to you that for perishable stuff, like ping pong balls and paddles, volley ball nets, and so forth, we do not have the funds to loan this type of equipment to outside groups. Doubtless you can call on your recreation leaders to bring their own volley ball nets and tennis nets with them.

You are perfectly welcome to all the facilities we have here, but I am sorry that our budgetary allowance does not permit us to check out equipment for visiting groups. No doubt your recreation leaders can provide basketballs and other balls for the various sports. We are very happy to have you use our pool and all of the fixed physical equipment of the gymnasium and playgrounds. We have a ping pong table, and it would only be necessary for you to furnish the balls and paddles. This table is always set up and accessible to your group in the gymnasium.

If you wish us to provide a life guard, and if you wish to rent or purchase perishable equipment we will be glad to cooperate with you fully. If this scheme would speed matters and save you the expense of bringing in equipment we would

be glad to have you use ours and charge you with only the stuff used or the supervision necessary for life guarding and so forth.

Assuring you of our desire to have you avail yourselves of all our facilities, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Lawrence, Kansas.
July 23, 1938.

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Director of Athletics,
Kansas University,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Confirming our conversation in your office, the Adult Educational Project will hold and Institute for some of its workers and supervisors in Lawrence, in the University Buildings, from August 8th. to 27th. inclusive.

We will have a larger number of workers here for this Institute, and we should like to furnish them with some recreational activities while they are here. We are particularly interested in having access to such equipment in-doors for the hot afternoons and out-doors for early evening. This I believe, might consist of such as Shuffle Boards, Ping Pong, In-door Tennis, Volley Ball etc., including the use of the swimming pool, provided a life-guard can be provided by the University, as we do not have a life-guard on our project. I do not believe that this group in so short a period would be particularly interested in highly skilled games such as Archery etc.

I shall be glad to hear from you relative to what accommdations you can furnish us, and what expense if any, would be connected with this, in order that we may complete our plans as quickly and all inclusive as possible.

Yours very truly,
L. E. Johnson.
L. E. Johnson,
1823 Barker Avenue.

July 29, 1938.

Mr. L. E. Johnson,
1823 Barker Avenue,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 28th instant.

I think it a fine scheme if you can have the lady who is a qualified Red Cross life guard and someone to help her do the swimming pool duty. We may find some difficulty in getting someone to do the life guarding as school will be out and most everybody will be on vacation. We never pay a life guard more than 50¢ an hour.

In regard to the perishable equipment, I am wondering if it would not be better if you could collect play equipment from some of your units and use it. It would be very difficult for us to check this equipment in or out, or to supervise it, and I believe it could better be handled by your using equipment from your service. I am sure that you can call on the various units to contribute some play equipment.

As I told you, you are perfectly welcome to use the gymnasium and all fixed equipment here or on the grounds. Don't you think this the better plan?

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

Lawrence, Kansas.
July 28, 1938.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach,
Kansas University,
Lawrence, Kansas.

My Dear Dr. Allen:

I have your letter of July 27th. relative to the use of the gymnasium and equipment for the workers on Educational Project while they are attending the Insitute from August 27th. to 27th. inclusive.

Since talking with you recently in your office, I have been informed by the State Office of Topeka, that there is a lady in our group who is qualified as a Red Cross life guard. It is the thought of the State Office that if the group using the pool were a small group, doubtless this lady could take care of this situation for us. And again, since we find that there is one qualified workers as a life guard, it is possible that another or a man and woman could handle this for us.

May I ask, should the State Office desire the University to furnish a life guard on what basis would the University be able to do this ? Also, on what basis could some of the more perishable equipment be obtained ?

I shall be glad to hear from you as early as is convenient for you in order that I may relay the information to the State Office for their final disposition.

Yours very truly,
L. E. Johnson,
L. E. Johnson,
1823 Barker Avenue.

July 7, 1938.

Mr. F. Ellis Johnson,
Dean, School of Engineering,
University of Missouri,
Columbia, Missouri.

My dear Friend Johnson:

Along with the thousands of other good wishes from your many friends I desire to tell you what extreme joy it gave me when I read of your promotion to the deanship of your alma mater at Wisconsin.

Your rapid and continued rise is indicative of your training and character. You deserve every honor that has come to you, and I, along with your other friends, greatly admire you and want you to know how happy we are in your climb to success.

With sincere good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA: AH

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

July 11, 1938

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

Dear Doctor Allen:

It has always been a pleasure to me to receive word from you because I feel that in each letter there has been evidence of the fine sportsmanship and loyalty which I have always felt marked your personality. I value, indeed, your good wishes and only regret that I have not been able to see more of you.

I shall look forward and hope that you may find it convenient to call upon me at Madison.

With personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. Ellis Johnson
Dean

FEJ:vwb

13

January 4, 1938.

Mr. George J. Johnson,
345 North Walcott,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo inquiring about my attitude regarding the elimination of the center jump. I am sending you an excerpt from my new book on basketball, "Better Basketball", which is just off the press of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, of New York.

This was written last summer concerning the probable effects of eliminating the center jump. You can see by this article that I have written that I still think basketball has enough thrills to enthrall her followers.

And so far as the argument which is brought out in your postscript is concerned, that the fans would leave the country's fieldhouses in droves should the center jump be re-introduced, I might say that last year was the biggest year that basketball ever had so far as spectator attendance was concerned. So, from my angle of reasoning, I do not believe the postscript holds much logical argument.

I would not want to be quoted on this statement because it might cause some reflection on the Pacific Coast games, but here is my analysis why the Pacific Coast has been so strong for the tipless game of basketball. Out west football is king, and just after the New Year's game out on the coast it is not surprising to see blazing banner streamers across the front pages of some of the sheets making a statement something like this: Only 270 more days until the next football game on the Golden Coast!

It sounds like a bargain counter shoppers alluring ad. So the Golden Coast people, being so enamored of football, put it up to the basketball group to hockeyize basketball to attract attention. By eliminating the center jump, they made it the rambling, scrambling, fire-wagon game, sans finesse and adroit playing. Outside of Mr. Luisetti and one or two other boys, the coast players admittedly are not up to the caliber of sections where the game has been played year in and year out.

Sam Barry, of course, came from the Big Ten, and stimulated basketball on the coast. John Bunn played his last year here under me in 1920, and was then my freshman coach and assistant coach until he went to Stanford nine years ago.

Sam Barry is the only man on the coast that uses set plays. John Bunn, Nibs Price and the rest of the boys hurry the ball back and forth across the court without any design on offense or defense. John Bunn uses what he calls the freedom offense, and I think with Mr. Luisetti in the line-up he seems like he is generally free.

So I have always said that the coast boys of necessity had to do what they did in eliminating the center jump to have the game attract attention. I am not criticizing their game in the least, and I do not want this published in this manner because it would look like we were openly criticizing the game.

I would kindly refer you to our chapter on Practical Research in Basketball on page 19 and running through to page 29, of "Better Basketball". The kidneys and the blood stream have always told the answer scientifically regarding strain. There is no question in my mind that the present game of basketball will wreck the player who endeavors to play through a full season and participate in all the games without much substitution.

1 The proponents of the new rules state that the new rule has increased the playing time seven minutes. This is an impossibility because they have not increased the playing time one iota. The ball is dead when the ball goes through the hoop. And had the rule-makers last year declared the ball dead after a field goal was made and tossed the ball up at center the game would be identically the same length this year as it would have been last year had that rule been adopted.

2 As for speeding up the game, it may or may not speed up the game. It is merely owing to how the opponents play the ball. If the side scored upon desires to take the five seconds out of bounds before he throws the ball in he may also take ten seconds in addition to the five before he crosses the division line. In other words, it is possible to withhold the ball from the offensive court from 13 to 14 seconds after the goal is made.

Another argument. There has never been any effort made to try to equalize the jump. By the rotation jump it is possible to have the jumpers rotate the same as you would have the batting order in baseball. There is no difficulty experienced in the players getting lined up in their batting order in baseball. If you had a rotation of jumpers for the tap you would have just as little difficulty here as you would have in the batting order in baseball.

In the Big Six here on every held ball on the court during play the ball is tossed up in one of the three 6-foot-radius circles. It is always tossed up in the circle that is nearest to the held ball when the official declares it.

Many coaches argue about the tall fellow that bats the ball in the air. You and I both know that it is the tall player under a low basket that is the real difficulty. The tall fellow still beats us under a low basket, because the basketball rules do not permit the defensive side to pull the arms down of a tall player to push him out of position. The rule-makers have not yet gotten to the seat of the trouble, because it is the rebounds under the basket by a tall man that defeats the shorter man.

I still argue for a 12-foot basket which makes the beanpole player impossible of scoring under the basket. The referee awards the player driving in under the basket two free throws. And the big, tall, husky fellows nudge with their hips the smaller men around the basket. By raising the basket to 12 feet for college players and leaving it at 10 feet for the high school players, most of the difficulty would be eliminated.

I would count a field goal for the 12 foot basket 3 points and a free throw 1 point. There would not be the urge or the tendency to foul for a player driving in under a 12 foot basket, because with the 12 foot basket a goal is more advantageously scored out away from the basket at an angle, than it is close up and under. The arc of dispersement of rebound from the 12 foot basket carries the ball further out on the court, and this fact would cause the guards to upll further away from the basket. A looping shot that would miss the 12 foot basket and fall under the basket would give the small man an added advantage of driving in and recovering the ball before it went out of bounds.

Now, back to hockeyized basketball. This rapidfire shinny game that is now being played also gives the small man a chance because the big man can not stand up under driving for a full game under the conditions that the game is being played. This game makes for more substitutions and for a larger squad. The coach who does not have a large squad this year is out of luck. He may have a championship team under the old game without reserves, but this year he must have a flock of reserves to carry on.

In another year I look to see the wise coach swinging to a very slow set and tantalizing offense. Certainly if I had no extra reserves I would play the slow set, screening game on the offense, and on the defense I would break rapidly back and set my defense for the fast break ball handler. My contention is that this game as now played is entirely too mechanical. There is a break up the floor and then a break down the floor, exactly like hockey. The center play offered some variation.

The game is for the players first, and for the spectators secondly. I say the players first, because it is the health of the players that is foremost to be considered.

The writer has already coached 30 years of actual and continuous college basketball. At the present time I am the oldest coach in the United States in point of service who is now coaching collegiate basketball. I have seen a good many rules changes since 1900, since I have been playing high school, college and independent basketball, and have also coached high school, independent and college basketball. But in the 30 years I have coached 30 years of college basketball. During that time I have seen many rules changes.

I played in a college game when the colleges could not dribble but just play the one bounce, and then they permitted the colleges to dribble, and changes have come thick and fast. The rules makers have been saying to leave the rules alone, but just this last year the rules makers legislated into the game the most drastic change that has been made in years. Ten years ago the rules committee legislated the dribble out of basketball. The dribble was so spectacular - it is akin to the broken field fun in football - that I personally took a shot at the rules committee for doing it.

Knute Rockne was lecturing at Des Moines before the National Education Association on the pedagogy of football, and I was lecturing at the Drake field house before the same body on the pedagogy of basketball. It was just after the rules body had made their change in April, and I flayed them on account of their dictatorial and uncompromising attitude in not ascertaining the wishes of the coaches before the rule was made.

This was before the organization of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. I received 160 telegrams from coaches over the United States who were adverse to the elimination of the dribble. We, the coaches, met in Des Moines at the time of the Drake Relays in the latter part of April, and voiced our disapproval of the rules bodys' change. We further agreed to meet in Chicago at the time of the National Collegiate A.A.U. Track meeting in June and form a coaches' association. By this time the rules body had changed the rule back to reinstating the dribble.

In June I was elected first president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. I was re-elected the second year. At no time have I ridden the hobby of trying to get through some pet rule. I have considered in my estimate of the changes what would be good for the players and also what would be good entertainment for the spectators.

Dr. Naismith says to me that he is not standing in the way of progress, but wants to be sure that the rules makers are going in the right direction. This is his answer to my query of him after I received your letter and put the question to him of the "peach basket stage". Dr. Naismith is not hidebound, nor is he contracted in any way. Doctor has never really coached

basketball but he travels all over the United States each year and witnesses basketball from the girls and boys game to the high school, college and independent basketball, wherever played in the U. S. It is my opinion that he is much more mellow and much more responsive than most any coach in the country.

It is his contention that they have now eliminated many fine plays around the center, making the game entirely too mechanical. Dr. Naismith is a man of fine temperament, fine balance, and fine personality.

It is interesting to me to see how spectators at a hockey match are satisfied with a score of 1 to 2, or 5 to 3, and yet they want scores up in the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, or even 90's in basketball, as Stanford scored against Duquesne, much over 100 points for both teams.

I have a feeling that spectators will become satiated and entirely too much fed-up on the ball being rolled through the basket. Apparently the defense has surrendered to the offense and now it looks like the trend is to fill the baskets continuously full of basketball.

I still go back to the same statement that I made at the beginning. It makes very little difference to the team that is well versed in proper technique, proper ball handling, whether they play the slow break, set plays, or fast break. The good ball handlers will still come out on top, in the majority of cases.

However, there was such a thing as a beautiful basket of spectator enjoyment after the goal was made and until the ball was brought back to center for a toss up. Now it is a shinny game and there is no time for spectator enjoyment unless it is lightening fast, and then the game is not fully able to satisfy.

I have tried to present every argument, both pro and con. I do not think the skills can be as highly developed, nor the plays as classic, nor do the spectators have time to enjoy a beautifully executed play as well in the new game. I have observed this, however - that the coach that is generally doing most of the kicking on changes in the rule is the fellow who is generally not winning consistently. If a coach has a good lineup, good material, he will win a big percentage of his ball games if he is a good coach and takes advantage of everything. I certainly am not kicking on the changes, although I think it was a mistake. I have gone along with the rules body because they wanted to try it out.

However, I restate that in my opinion they have put a premium on harum-scarum, war cry, fire engine basketball, wherein many of the players cover a multitude of mistakes by incoherent

action and not by well-played designing plays that a discerning public eventually desires to see.

I am sending you some dope on the new book, so that you can see how the details are handled.

Very cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Varsity Basketball Coach,
Director of Physical Education.

PROBABLE EFFECTS OF ELIMINATING THE CENTER JUMP

Even with the center jump virtually eliminated for the 1938 season, doubtless basketball will still possess enough thrills to enthrall her followers. The advocates of the elimination of the center jump contend that the game will be further speeded up, that about 6 or 8 min. will be added to its actual playing time, and that, with sleepers laying back for long surprise shots after goals by opponents, the fast break will be enhanced. They further contend that only a few teams ever possessed tall centers so that the game will now be more equalized; that scores will be higher; and that the center, who heretofore did most of the jumping, can now reserve his strength for better team and floor play. Fouls will be decreased, they say, and the officials will be rid of much of that troublesome bugaboo of throwing the ball up high enough and straight enough to allow both centers a fair jump and tap for the ball.

The proponents of the retention of the center jump contend that the tip-off added many additional thrills to the game. Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game, in attendance at a meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, asked a group which of the following situations gave them the greater thrill: (1) When the ball was in the air about 2 ft. above the basket; (2) when the ball went through.

Most of them said, "When the ball went through the basket." "You are wrong," quoth Dr. Naismith, "Your highest pitch of expectancy or interest was when the ball was just above the cylinder of the basket and you wondered, 'Will it go through or not?'"

"And so with the tip-off," says Dr. Naismith. "When the ball is tossed up at center there is the same intense interest and the same parallel question is asked, 'Will it go to the team controlling the tip-off or will the opponents get the tip-off from the controlling team?'"

On the other hand, under the new rules, when a field goal or free throw is scored one knows just where the ball is going in so far as possession is concerned. It will go to the opposite team. Heretofore, many have contended that under the eliminated rule the tall player won the game, not at the center tip-off but rather under the offensive or defensive basket, and that the elimination of the tip-off will have no bearing on the tall player's potency.

But the proponents of the center jump contend that the rule makers have placed a premium on mediocrity rather than upon excellence. Now the team scored upon automatically secures possession of the ball out of bounds, whereas heretofore both teams had to fight for possession at center after each goal and free throw. The weaker team will now have a bettee chance to hold the score down, for with the ball in its possession it will have the option of either driving down rapidly or delaying the offensive to suit its play situation.

As a result of this new ruling, scores should be higher, now necessarily on account of faster play, but because 6 or 8 min. of action will be added to the actual playing time. Previously, there were letups in action on the center tip-off plays. These additional minutes of playing time in this already strenuous game may prove too great a physical strain on the heart and the kidneys of the players. Heretofore, the spectators had an opportunity to relax for a few seconds while the ball was being brought back to center for the tip-off after an exciting field goal. Now, only strong hearts that can stand long-sustained excitement should venture out to the games.

There will still be held balls during the game because research has shown that, in games played with the tip-off in use, there were held-ball plays for every three tip-off plays. In the future, the jumpers will be players of unequal heights, whereas the center jump invariably brought together the tallest men and the best jumpers of each team.

The proponents of the elimination of the center jump contend also that the team having the shorter center fought harder for the possession and control of the ball, and thereby added fight to the whole team, while the team controlling the tip-off usually, because of a tall center, counted too much on its height advantage and unconsciously loafed on the job.

"Just a lot more of out-of-bounds plays at the endline added to what you had before," is the analysis of one coach. The defense will soon learn to drop back fast enough to thwart any so-called quick break. And as for that rapid-fire offense allowing sleepers to work against them, there still will be a premium on good ball handling and on all-around fundamentals. Any time that a sleeper, awaiting a pass from his teammates, tries to drop out of the defensive picture, he will discover to his sorrow that the added man on offense will be too strong for the weakened defensive team to cope with.

Gone perhaps is the thrilling last-minute finish of the game-winning goal-rush, for the defense will now have possession of the ball as soon as the offense scores. The elimination of the center jump has denied this old thriller to the crowds of the future. Formerly with two or three minutes remaining to be played, a team behind in the score would capture the ball after each tip-off and sometimes shoot two or three field goals to win and to send its followers away hysterical. This cannot happen now, because possession automatically resides with the team scored upon. And, too, there is now a rules provision which prohibits a team behind in the score from fouling intentionally after a successful free throw, in order to gain possession of the ball.

December 23

Dr. F. C. Allen,
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

In February of this year, I asked your cooperation in a survey I was then making concerning the popularity of a move on foot to take the center jump out of basketball. At that time, you were kind enough to furnish me with much material which proved to be very valuable.

Now, with the tip-off play legislated out of the rules, I'd like to have some additional comment from both you and Dr. Naismith, since you have now had an opportunity to observe the tip-less game in widespread use. From press reports, you still are against the type of basketball now being played. Might I ask if you think the rule--eliminating the jump--would be all right if applied only to colleges? There are many observers who believe that removal of the tip was a forward move in college ball, but that the tip-less game is toomuch, too hard, too fast for prep basketballers.

I have also heard the criticism that Dr. Naismith is still "in "his peach-basket days." Mind you, that is not my opinion, hence I would like to have Dr. Naismith answer this charge of the opposition.

Enclosed is a copy of an article written from the material I collected by Bernard Crandell, a United Press staff writef, which may prove to be of some interest to you. I would appreciate any comment you care to make about the article.

Although trying to remain unbiased so as to make an honest approach to the various coaches' opinions, I find myself disapproving of the super-speed of this year's games. Therefore, I will await your answer with considerable expectation, hoping that you or Dr. Naismith may have some more effective approach to getting this ruling stricken from the basketball rulebook.

Yours,

George J. Johnson
345 North Walcott
Indianapolis, Indiana

P.S. I am making a new canvass of all those men whom I contacted last February in the hope of shedding more light on what seems to be the most difficult problem which basketball has faced in many years. It has been said that the fans like the present type of game much more and would leave the country's fieldhouses in droves should the center jump be re-introduced. What do you think about this?

G. J. J.

FOR CHICAGO ONLY

BY BERNARD CRANDELL

UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., DEC. 23--(UP)--CENTER JUMP-LESS BASKETBALL, HAVING TAKEN THE BITTER CRITICISM GIVEN ALL RULE CHANGES, GRADUALLY IS FINDING THE HEARTS OF MOST OF THE NATION'S BEST CRITICS.

THE CHANGE, MADE LAST SPRING BY THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE, ELIMINATED THE CENTER JUMP BY GIVING THE BALL TO THE TEAM SCORED UPON OUT OF BOUNDS UNDER THE OPPONENT'S BASKET.

BASKETBALL'S INVENTOR, JAMES NAISMITH, HAS MADE THE STERNEST OBJECTIONS TO THE NEW RULE. A CRITIC OF THE GAME SINCE RULE CHANGES SHOVED OUT HIS ERA OF "PEACH BASKET" PLAYING, NAISMITH THINKS THE GAME LESS SPECTACULAR WITHOUT THE SURPRISE OF "WHO'S GOING TO GET IT" AT THE JUMP.

CONSISTENTLY HIGHER SCORES AND WHIRLWIND PLAYING FEATURED IN GAMES THUS FAR THIS YEAR HAVE CHALLENEGED NAISMITH'S ARGUMENT.

FORREST "PHOG ALLEN," DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, SAYS THE "DASH AND COLOR" HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY THE CHANGE.

"YOU ARE JUST MAKING ANOTHER OUT OF BOUNDS PLAY WHEN YOU GIVE THE OPPONENTS THE BALL OUT OF BOUNDS UNDER THE BASKET," ALLEN SAID. "YOU HAVE REMOVED THE DASH AND COLOR AND YOU HAVEN'T SPEEDED UP THE GAME."

ALLEN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD FAVOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL JUMP BALLS, INCLUDING THE CENTER JUMP, TO MAKE THE GAME CONSISTENT.

AMONG EASTERN COASHES, NAT HOLMAN, OF CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK, IS "DECIDEDLY IN FAVOR OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE CENTER TAP," BECAUSE TEAMS WITH TALLER CENTERS NO LONGER OBTAIN AN "UNEARNED" ADVANTAGE.

CLAIR BEE, OF LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, DOES NOTLIKE IT BECAUSE NO "BREATHING SPELL" IS GIVEN AFTER A SCORE FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS. HIS OBJECTION IS THE STRAIN OF CONTINUOUS PLAY.

OTHER COACHES HAVE ANSWERED THAT THE STRAIN IS UNNECESSARY IF A TEAM FEELS LIKE SLOWING DOWN OR TAKING A TIME OUT.

ON THE WEST COAST, WHERE THE CENTER JUMP WAS ABANDONED TWO YEARS AGO, COACHES HEARTILY PRAISE THE NEW STYLE GAME.

JOHN W. BUNN, COACH OF THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY FIVE, IS "MOST ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT THE ELIMINATION. UNDER THE NEW RULE, BUNN DEVELOPED ANGELO "HANK" LUISETTI, WHOSE SHOOTING BLOTTED OUT THE NAMES OF TELL, OAKLEY AND MIX AND GAINED A NATIONAL SCORING RECORD OF 410 POINTS LAST SEASON.

SAM BARRY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, ALSO HAS HIGH REGARD FOR IT.

IN THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE -- THE NATION'S HOT-BED OF CAGE ACTIVITY -- COACHES HAVE ADOPTED JUMPLESS BASKETBALL LIKE A LONG LOST CHILD.

EVERETT DEAN OF INDIANA AND ROLLIE WILLIAMS OF IOWA CONTEND THERE IS NEW EQUALIZATION OF TEAM STRENGTH. DEAN SAYS THAT THE RULE TENDS TO "LEVEL" TEAMS AND CHECK ROUGHNESS AROUND THE CENTER CIRCLE. DOUG MILLS OF ILLINOIS LIKES THE PROTECTION IT AFFORDS FROM THE UN-NATURAL TIPPING ABILITY OF "SKYSCRAPER" CENTERS.

NOTRE DAME'S GEORGE KEOGAN AND HIS IRISH QUINTET, RIDING ON THE CREST OF A LONG VICTORY WAVE, PRAISE IT FOR "BALANCING" GAMES BETWEEN TALL SQUADS AND ONES WITH LITTLE HEIGHT.

CRITICISM IN THE SOUTH, CANVASSED BY CLEMENT M. EYLER, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL RULES COMMITTEE, AGREES ALMOST 100 PER CENT THAT ABOLISHING THE CENTER JUMP "SAVED" THE SPORT BY MAKING THE GAME MORE EXCITING.

MOST FAVORABLE POINTS BROUGHT OUT AFTER ONE-THIRD SEASON OF PLAY ARE:

1. CONTINUOUS ACTION HAS MADE HIGHER SCORES AND A MORE INTERESTING GAME FOR SPECTATORS.

2. DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF BASKETBALL "GIANTS" HAS GIVEN SMALLER PLAYERS A CHANCE.

OPPONENTS TO THE RULE ARGUE THAT:

1. THERE IS A LOSS OF ACTION IN MIDCOURT.

2. FATIGUE FROM THE FASTER PLAY INJURES PLAYERS.

JM--

Increase playing time 7 min
impassibility - ball dead -

Speeds up game

May or may not

Out of bounds play -

Never tried to equalize centers

Football equalized
BB - not equalized

Now Eliminated fine plays around center
making the game mechanical

Dr Naismith

Publoy
Ways
Okla Parks
(Colo
Nevada)

"not standing in way of progress
But wants to be sure that
they are going in right
direction -

B

January 4, 1938.

Mr. George J. Johnson,
345 North Walcott,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo inquiring about my attitude regarding the elimination of the center jump. I am sending you an excerpt from my new book on basketball, "Better Basketball", which is just off the press of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, of New York.

This was written last summer concerning the probable effects of eliminating the center jump. You can see by this article that I have written that I still think basketball has enough thrills to enthrall her followers.

And so far as the argument which is brought out in your postscript is concerning that the fans would leave the country's fieldhouses in droves should the center jump be re-introduced, I might say that last year was the biggest year that basketball ever had so far as spectator attendance was concerned. So, from my angle of reasoning, I do not believe the postscript holds much logical argument.

I would not want to be quoted on this statement because it might cause some reflection on the Pacific Coast games, but here is my analysis why the Pacific Coast has been so strong for the tipless game of basketball. Out West football is king, and just after the New Year's game out on the coast it is not surprising to see blazing banner streamers across the front pages of some of the sheets making a statement something like this: Only 270 more days until the next football game on the Golden Coast!

It sounds like a bargain counter shoppers alluring ad. So the Golden Coast people, being so enamored of football, put it up to the basketball group to hockeyize basketball to attract attention. By eliminating the center jump, they made it the rambling, scrambling, fire-wagon game, sans finesse and adroit playing. Outside of Mr. Luisetti and one or two other boys, the coast players admittedly are not up to the caliber of sections where the game has been played year in and year out.

Sam Barry, of course, came from the Big Ten, and stimulated basketball on the coast. John Bunn played his last year here under me in 1920, and was then my freshman coach and assistant coach until he went to Stanford nine years ago.

Sam Barry is the only man on the coast that uses set plays. John Bunn, Nibs Price and the rest of the boys hurry the ball back and forth across the court without any design on offense or defense. John Bunn uses what he calls the freedom offense, and I think with Mr. Luisetti in the line-up he seems like he is generally free.

So I have always said that the coast boys of necessity had to do what they did in eliminating the center jump to have the game attract attention. I am not criticizing their game in the least, and I do not want this published in this manner because it would look like we were openly criticizing the game.

I would kindly refer you to our chapter on Practical Research in Basketball on page 19 and running through to page 29, of "Better Basketball". The kidneys and the blood stream have always told the answer scientifically regarding strain. There is no question in my mind that the present game of basketball will wreck the player who endeavors to play through a full season and participate in all the games without much substitution.

The proponents of the new rule state that the new rule has increased the playing time 7 minutes. This is an impossibility because they have not increased the playing time one iota. The ball is dead when the ball goes through the hoop. And had the rule-makers last year declared the ball dead after a field goal was made and tossed the ball up at center the game would be identically the same length this year as it would have been last year had that rule been adopted.

As for speeding up the game, it may or may not speed up the game. It is merely owing to how the opponents play the ball. If the side scored upon desires to take the five seconds out of bounds before he throws the ball in he may also take 10 seconds in addition to the 5 before he crosses the dividion line. In other words, it is possible to withhold the ball from the offensive court from 13 to 14 seconds after the goal is made.

Another argument. There has never been any effort made to try to equalize the jump. By the rotation jump it is possible to have the jumpers rotate the same as you would have the batting order in baseball. There is no difficulty experienced in the players getting lined up in their batting order in baseball. If you had a rotation of jumpers for the tap you would have just as little difficulty here as you would have in the batting order in baseball.

In the Big Six here on every held ball on the court during play the ball is tossed up in one of the three 6-foot-radius circles. It is always tossed up in the circle that is nearest to the held ball when the official declares it.

Many coaches argue about the tall fellow that bats the ball in the air. You and I both know that it is the tall player under a low basket that is the real difficulty. The tall fellow still beats us under a low basket, because the basketball rules do not permit the defensive side to pull the arms down of a tall player to push him out of position. The rule-makers have not yet gotten to the seat of the trouble, because it is the rebounds under the basket by a tall man that defeats the shorter man.

I still argue for a 12-foot basket which makes the beanpole player impossible of scoring under the basket. The referee awards the player driving in under the basket two free throws. And the big, tall, husky fellows nudge with their hips the smaller men around the basket. By raising the basket to 12 feet for college players and leaving it at 10 feet for the high school players, most of the difficulty would be eliminated.

I would count a field goal for the 12 foot basket 3 points and a free throw 1 point. There would not be the urge or the tendency to foul for a player driving in under a 12 foot basket, because with the 12 foot basket a goal is more advantageously scored out away from the basket at an angle, than it is close up and under. The arc of dispersement of rebound from the 12 foot basket carries the ball further out on the court, and this fact would cause the guards to pull further away from the basket. A looping shot that would miss the 12 foot basket and fall under the basket would give the small man an added advantage of driving in and recovering the ball before it went out of bounds.

Now, back to hockeyized basketball. This rapid fire shinny game that is now being played also gives the small man a chance because the big man cannot stand up under driving for a full game under the conditions that the game is being played. This game makes for more substitutions and for a larger squad. The coach who does not have a large squad this year is out of luck. He may have a championship team under the old game without reserves, but this year he must have a flock of reserves to carry on.

In another year I look to see the wise coach swinging to a very slow set and tantalizing offense. Certainly if I had no extra reserves I would play the slow set, screening game on the offense, and on the defense I would break rapidly back and set my defense for the fast break ball handler. My contention is that this game as now played is entirely too mechanical. There is a break up the floor and then a break down the floor, ~~Thus~~ exactly like hockey. The center play offered some variation.

The game is for the players first, and for the spectators secondly. I say the players first, because it is the health of the players that is foremost to be considered.

The writer has already coached 30 years of actual and continuous college basketball. At the present time I am the oldest coach in the United States in point of service who is now coaching collegiate basketball. I have seen a good many rules changes since 1900, since I have been playing high school, college and independent basketball, and have also coached high school, independent and college basketball. But in the 30 years I have coached 30 years of college basketball. During that time I have seen many rules changes.

I played ina college game when the colleges could not dribble but just play the one bounce, and then they permitted the colleges to dribble, and changes have come thick and fast. The rules makers have been saying to leave the rules alone, but just this last year the rules makers legislated into the game the most drastic change that has been made in years. Ten years ago the rules committee legislated the dribble out of basketball. The dribble was so spectacular - it is akin to the broken field run in football - that I personally took a shot at the rules committee for doing it.

Knute Rockne was lecturing at Des Moines before the National Education Association on the pedagogy of football, and I was lecturing at the Drake field house before the same body on the pedagogy of basketball. It was just after the rules body had made their change in April, and I flayed them on account of their dictatorial and uncompromising attitude in not ascertaining the wishes of the coahces before the rule was made.

This was before the organization of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. I received 160 telegrams from coaches over the United States who were adverse to the elimination of the dribble. We, the coaches, met in Des Moines at the time of the Drake Relays in the latter part of April, and voiced our disapproval of the rules bodys' change. We further agreed to meet in Chicago at the time of the National Collegiate A.A.U. Track meeting in June and form a coaches' association. By this time the rules body had changed the rule back to reinstating the dribble.

In June I was elected first president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. I was re-elected the second year. At no time have I ridden the hobby of trying to get through some pet rule. I have considered in my estimate of the changes what would be good for the players and also what would be good entertainment for the spectators.

Dr. Naismith says to me that he is not standing in the way of progress, but wants to be sure that the rules makers are going in the right direction. This is his answer to my query of him after I received your letter and put the question to him of the "peach basket" stage. Dr. Naismith is not hidebound, nor is he contracted in any way. Doctor has never really coached basketball, but he travels all ~~ow~~ the United States each year and witnesses basketball from the girls and boys game to the high school, college and independent basketball, wherever played in the U. S. It is my opinion that he is much more mellow and much more responsive than most any coach in the country.

It is his contention that they have now eliminated many fine plays around the center, making the game entirely too mechanical. Dr. Naismith is a man of fine temperament, fine balance, and fine personality.

It is interesting to me to see how spectators at a hockey match are satisfied with a score of 1 to 2, or 5 to 3, and yet they want scores up in the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, or even 90's in basketball, as Stanford scored against Duquesne, much over 100 points for both teams.

I have a feeling that spectators will become satiated and entirely too much fed-up on the ball being rolled through the basket. Apparently the defense has surrendered to the offense and now it looks like the trend is to fill the baskets continuously full of basketball.

I still go back to the same statement that I made at the beginning. It makes very little difference to the team that is well versed in proper technique, proper ball handling, whether they play the slow break, set plays, or fast break. The good ball handlers will still come out on top, in the majority of cases.

However, there was such a thing as a beautiful basket of spectator enjoyment after the goal was made and until the ball was brought back to center for a toss up. Now it is a shinny game and there is no time for spectator enjoyment unless it is lightening fast, and then the game is not fully able to satisfy.

I have tried to present every argument, both pro and con. I do not think the skills can be as highly developed, nor the plays as classic, nor do the spectators have time to enjoy a beautifully executed play as well in the new game. I have observed this, however - that the coach that is generally doing most of the kicking on changes in the rule is the fellow who is generally not winning consistently. If a coach has a good line-up, good material, he will win a big percentage of his ball games if he is a good coach and takes advantage of everything. I certainly am not kicking on the changes, although I think it was a mistake. I have gone along with the rules body because they wanted to try it out.

However, I re-state that in my opinion they have put a premium on harum-scarum, war cry, fire engine basketball, wherein many of the players cover a multitude of mistakes by incoherent action and not by well-played designing plays that a discerning public eventually desires to see.

I am sending you some dope on the new book, so that you can see how the details are handled.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

July 16, 1938.

Judge Harold E. Johnson,
420 Lord Street,
Osage City, Kansas.

Dear Judge Harold:

I certainly will be glad to send you the check that is due you just as soon as I can get it. I had a memo in my desk to do that very thing, and this morning I called the Business Office to see if the checks were in yet. It seems the checks have been expected for several days, but as yet have not been received from Topeka. I'm sorry for this delay, Harold, but just as soon as the checks come I'll send yours on to you.

Your summer work sounds very interesting and pleasant. I know you must be getting a lot of good experience. Do you plan to take up the study of law some time? If so, I know this kind of work you are doing now would be invaluable to you when you get ready to hang out your shingle.

With all that fine equipment you have to work with there I wonder if you will be able to come down to earth in the fall and work with such poor tools as we have to get along with here. I have tried one of these electric typewriters but didn't use it long enough to get accustomed to the change. It should speed up one's work, I imagine.

I have been using your Royal here in the intramural office for a week or more. The carpenters have been enlarging my cubby hole and my desk, etc., had to be put in the hall. I am hoping by Monday that I can move back. There will actually be room in the office for two or three people at one time! I know its going to be much nicer.

You might be interested in a few happenings here, so I'll give you a paragraph on personalities. . .A card received from Herb Allphin this morning says they will be at Nashville, Tenn., until about August 19th. . . . A letter from Nelson Sullivan tells me that he is serving in the capacity of floorwalker, elevator operator and detective (!) at Greenberg's clothing store in K. C. - Dr. Allen now calls him "Hawkshaw" Sullivan, the gum-shoe sleuth. . . . Maurice Cannady has the Physical Education job at the Lawrence Junior High School, and is he tickled! . . . . Frosty Hardacre is getting a job coaching at Ness City, way out in western Kansas, I think. . . . Howard Engleman is still the big boss of the Big Six National Baseball League, and has three games to run off yet, I believe . . . There are just 2½ weeks of school. . . . We're having a lovely rain today, and it is quite cool.. . . I've reached the end of the page . . . so . . . be careful, Judge! You may be sure I'll send your check as soon as it is available at the Business Office.

GEORGE E. RAMSKILL
JUDGE

COUNTY COURT PROBATE COURT JUVENILE COURT

OSAGE COUNTY LYNDON, KANSAS

July 14, 1938.

Mrs. Alberta Hulteen,
Secy. Phys. Educ.,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Hulteen:

Would you do me a big favor? I am badly in need of the check for the work that I performed during the last payroll terminating on June 20th. Would you please get the check from the business office when it arrives and mail the same to me in Osage City.

I began work for the probate judge on the 1st of July and the next day I took the oath of office of pro tem judge for the summer months so that I might act in that capacity in the absence of the judge--that is issue marriage licenses, perform wedding ceremonies (believe it or not) and sign and place the seal of the court on other legal instruments that are filed in the probate or county courts. The judge was out of town the other evening so I was called over to Lyndon to handle the preliminary hearing of three men arraigned into court on misdemeanor charges. The county attorney was also out of town so the only manner I had of determining "even a guess on the fine and costs of the action" was to refer to a previously recorded case in the docket of similar nature.

My regular duties, however, are stenographic and recording in nature. The county has a new Underwood wide carriage typewriter with an electric carriage return and an electric shift key that make typewriting a pleasure. Also I have a "Error? No" copyholder with a sort of a magnifying glass attachment. Please excuse my unnecessary divulging into how my summer months are being spent, but I thought you might be interested and I do enjoy writing about it.

I would deeply appreciate it if you would oblige me by sending my check to my Osage City address. I am living in Osage City and I commut to Lyndon daily with the co. supt. of schools whose home is also in Osage City.

Please give Dr. Allen my personal greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Harold E. Johnson

Harold E. Johnson,
(420 Lord Street, Osage City, Kansas.)

GEORGE E. RAMSKILL
JUDGE

COUNTY COURT PROBATE COURT JUVENILE COURT

OSAGE COUNTY LYNDON, KANSAS

July 19, 1938.

Mrs. Alberta Hulteen,
Secretary to Dr. Allen,
Department of Physical Education,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Hulteen:

This is to acknowledge receipt of letters of the 16th and 18th with check and interesting news. Certainly glad to receive the good information about "Hawkshaw" Sullivan, the gum-shoe sleuth. Thanks!

Sincerely yours,

Harold E. Johnson

June 24, 1938.

Mr. J. H. Johnston,
Route 3, Box 331,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It looks like they will engage Mr. Dean Nesmith, a former football player and a major in the Department of Physical Education, as the trainer. Nothing has been said about the situation, but I have a notion that is what will come to pass.

If there is any way that I can help you at any time I assure you that you can count on my sincere support.

Now, regarding those youngberries. Don't worry about those. I would just like to see you have a break once in a while, and the fact that the crop is bad only makes me feel bad for the break that you get.

Yes, I got the money from the state O.K., and it came in very handy, I assure you. I am wondering if the money that I advanced you covered your expenses. If it did not you let me know, because I do not want you to lose under the conditions. I assure you it was a pleasure to help you, and if I can help you further in any way please command me.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

June 12, 1938

Dr F. C. Allen
Robinson Gymnasium
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

I saw by the papers that Mr. Dees has a job at A.+M. Mr Aba talked to me about him several weeks ago, I told him that Dees was a clean cut fellow and that he was a smart and clever trainer. With Dees hired that eliminated me from that job. I am writing to Mr Henry and Adrian Lindsay also Mr E.C. Mc Bride.

I have been trying to get some youngberries to send you as I promised last spring, but the freeze kill practially all the buds and what few I have had the grasshoppers eat as soon as they start to turn ripe, we have had rain nearly every day and that makes the berries soft, so you will have to wait another year for berries.

Did you get your money from the state? I have ben using some of the information I received from you, and have had wonderful success.

Thanking you again for your courtesy and intrest in me, I remain

Very truly yours
J. H. Johnston
Rt. 3 Box 331
Okla City.
Okla.