

February 11, 1941

Mr. John Bunn  
Dean of Men  
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Dear John:

I did not make any statement to the official bulletin or anyone else regarding Floyd Rowe's findings.

While in New York at a basketball luncheon Ned Irish gave to the basketball coaches and officials at the Piccadilly Hotel, I made the statement that I had heard Floyd Rose, who is now chairman of the Rules Committee, and who was then a member of the Committee, make a statement that some of his schools in Cleveland had struck out competitive basketball for junior high school boys in the Cleveland system. Some of his principals had studied the problem and had arrived at certain findings that it cut the stature of the boys, due to upsetting their emotional equilibrium. The strain and tension of interscholastic competition interfered with the normal processes of growth.

I was under the impression that Floyd made this in a conversational way while we were all seated at the Rules Committee table, and I was under the impression that it was the time when you were a member of the Rules Committee, John.

Personally, I share very definitely the opinion of a great many physicians; that the game is entirely too strenuous, even upon high school boys, but certainly intramural games should be played by junior high school youth.

I am told that the system of physical education in the Japanese schools has increased the stature of the Japanese youth about an inch or two over a period of ten to twenty-five years; I am not certain of that, however.

I quite agree with you that changes in anthropometric measurements would not show in a short while, but I am also quite sure that such emotional strain as many of our junior high school youth are subjected to would definitely affect their growth.

I quite agree with you on another point; that most of our statements are but opinions or wishful thinking, and so few of them are based on sound facts. I remember pretty distinctly that the sponsors of the elimination of the center jump stated that if we eliminated the center jump we would eliminate the tall player in basketball. It has done nothing of the kind; in fact, players are increasing in stature at all times and it did not do the thing that the