

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 15, 1941

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

Dear "Doc":


Thank you for your letter of February 11. I felt quite sure that you had been misquoted, but I don't like to see statements of this kind broadcast, and that was why I called the matter to the attention of Floyd Rowe and sent a carbon of the letter to you.

I am sure that we will all admit that basketball is one of our most intense games from the standpoint of the players, the coaches, and the spectators. It was not my purpose to argue the elimination of the center jump in my letter to Mr. Rowe because it is only one of many changes that have been made in the game in recent years. However, with respect to the statement concerning tall players, I do not believe that you will find in any report that I have made to the Rules Committee or the Coaches Association any mention of the elimination of good tall men.

I do remember that Dave McMillen of Minnesota sneeringly reflected upon what he called "the big clowns," but he was not one of those who originally advocated the elimination of the center jump. As a matter of fact, I was not one of that number but just happened to be one who had collected some facts in connection with this phase of the game. I certainly have no desire for any credit, or even discredit, for the change in this part of our rules.

I have not heard from Floyd Rowe as yet, but am hoping that if he does have any statistics he will present them. I have a feeling that it would be rather difficult for him to substantiate the statement concerning the effect of basketball on stature unless some rather carefully controlled experiments had been carried out, in which basketball playing was the only experimental factor.

Cordially yours,


John W. Bunn,
Dean of Men.

Just heard from Floyd. His study was made many years ago, even before the center jump & other changes were made. He says there is no such statement on stature in his report. He is sending me a copy of the report.