

France  
11 May 1945

Dear Mr. Allen,

My aunt had told me to expect a letter from you, but what I got far exceeded my expectations. I really did appreciate your letter, because I realize that, as director of physical education and basketball coach, you have plenty of work to keep you busy. As for this answer being even a reasonable facsimile of a presentable argument, there are two strikes on me to start with. I'm a cinch to lose when in discussion with a coach of your experience and recognized ability.

Your letter did bring many interesting factors to my attention. However, one point which you stress as being favorable to the shorter man strikes me as being more of an advantage for the taller boy.

You state, that with the 12 ft. basket, the shorter player has more time to get into position and fight for the rebound. That seems to me to be even more of an advantage to the tall man. While I never saw George Mikan play, several sports writers have stated that he was extremely agile for his height. I believe the added time would give a man of his height and agility the opportunity to recover nearly every rebound within a 6 or 8 ft. radius of the basket.

You also mention the 12 ft. basket requiring a greater arch on the shot, said arch being pretty much lacking as the game stands today. On that point, I certainly agree. When I was a sophomore in high school, we had baskets where the ceiling was only 9 inches above the backboard. The longest possible shot was from the free throw circle, and that was like a line drive. The building was such an antiquated construction that it was condemned as a public hazard and we played no home games that year. In spite of these handicaps, superior teamwork in the short passing game led us to the championship semi-finals of the state tournament before we were dropped out. As a longer shot will be required with the higher basket, I believe that the short passing game will become a thing of the past.