

January 12, 1940.

Mr. Jerry Bronfield,
NEA Service, Inc.,
1200 West Third St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Jerry:

I was in Chicago when your letter was written, but I am back now and am happy to comply with your request.

The reason why I consider basketball has gone ahead so rapidly is that basketball is played in all the high schools and colleges, and the boards of education of our schools in the United States are the real amateur sports promoters of America.

The basketball court is built as a part of the equipment of a school building, and there is so little maintenance and upkeep to the basketball court. The janitors of the school building keep the playing floor in shape, and basketball is a sport in which very little expensive equipment is needed. Sneakers and a gym shirt are about all that is necessary as equipment to play basketball.

Basketball is like the medley relay in track. One tall fellow, one little fellow, and a couple of medium sized fellows and you have the ideal combination for a good basketball team and a medley relay.

The fact that eighteen million people play basketball is due to the fact that the Y.M.C.A. secretaries and physical directors went out of Springfield into all parts of the world and taught basketball to the populace. Fifty-two nations are playing basketball today. You doubtless know that over eighty million people attend basketball in the United States. This is from the bulletin of the U. S. Department of Commerce, so it is authentic. Sixty million attend baseball and about forty million attend football. So you see basketball is played by more people than any other game and it is attended by more people than any other game.