

Lawrence, Kansas  
May 13, 1939.

Mr. H. V. Porter,  
11 So. LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

This will acknowledge receipt of your mimeographed letter as of May 9th, together with the minutes of the annual meeting of the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada held in New York on May 1 and 2, 1939.

The diagram shown in your letter seems to me to be about the size that the committee members discussed concerning the modified back-board. I am not sure that I am enthusiastic regarding the 3" surface below the basket. There may be some difference in the bankable area between the 3" fly and the 6" fly. Since all the older baskets take a 6" attachment, giving that much more of the board to bank upon, I believe that thing should be considered. If the extra 3" does not hinder bank shots from underneath, then certainly there can be no objection, but I believe some research should be done on that by building a board and trying it out before we should agree on the lesser surface.

You will remember, Mr. Porter, that your streamlined board looked beautiful until the boys started shooting at it. And then it was found that it was entirely too small. They were in the habit of banking many shots just at the area where the board was cut off, and so many of the boys hit the edges of that board. I believe that there would be a mental hazard to the player who stands underneath and banks his shot up near the edge of that board.

If my notations are correct from the research committee, I was instructed to work with a flat board with a surface 3' by 4', and also to consider alterations on a convex board with a width of 4'6" to 5', with the radius of either 2'3" or 2'6". This was to be in the shape of a fan. My notations indicate that all the members of the committee liked a larger board than the streamlined one, but Mr. Tower, as I remember, expressed himself in favor of the smaller board.