

April 25, 1939.

Mr. R. E. Weinzettel,
Park Central Hotel,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

I owe you an apology for not answering your letter sooner, but we had the Kansas Relays here Friday and Saturday, and I was deluged by visiting people so that I did not get to my desk long enough to answer your letter. However, I fully expected to wire you Saturday night, but again I was overpowered and failed to do so.

I will be at the McAlpin Hotel where the rest of the Rules Committee members are staying. I expect to get in there some time Sunday and I will be glad to see you and Mr. Medart when it is convenient.

I am sending you all of the information that I have on the program of the Rules Committee - their meeting time, and so forth. It will go about according to this schedule. Since there are not many changes proposed by the Rules Committee I believe that your backboard will receive quite a bit of attention.

May I offer this suggestion. It would be a good idea to get each one of the members of the Rules Committee out there and get them to take a ball and try the backboard out. Of course, not many of them are great players, but by their taking a ball and banking it on the board I believe you can stimulate their interest more. Then by arranging this scrub team, that you speak of, for a scrimmage on the demonstration, I think that will be a good idea. I believe the demonstration on Monday night, May 1, is the proper prescription. As you can see by the notes, Monday evening was to be held open, and if they put on this demonstration at that time it is my opinion that it will receive the full attention of the Rules Committee. I believe if you communicate with Porter as soon as you arrive in New York that he can set up this scrub team with Owen Reed, and so forth. It is my opinion that he can take on this work.

I will look for a call from you some time Sunday morning. If I should happen to be out of the room, leave a message and I will get in touch with you and Mr. Medart. It will be a pleasure to see you both.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

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AIR MAIL

ST. LOUIS, MO.

April 24, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
Director of Physical Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Just a last minute message before we head East.

I intended to ask you where you will be staying in New York. I take it that it will be the McAlpin Hotel but I wish you would drop me a line, C/o Park Central Hotel, New York City, where I will arrive Thursday morning, advising where I can get in touch with you, as Mr. Medart and I would like to see you some time prior to the opening of your meeting on Monday, or at least talk to you over the telephone.

Word has reached me from New York that final details have not yet been worked out but that it appears the demonstration of the three backstops will be in one of the gymnasiums of the New York University. This has not been definitely confirmed but I expect to hear within the next day or two.

Can you tell me, Dr. Allen, who among your associates at this meeting will decide when the members of your Committee will agree to attend the demonstration of the special backboards? Naturally we are anxious to know the day and hour decided upon as quickly as possible so we can make some plans for a scrub team to play on the demonstration boards, and with the basketball season over, this may not be so simple a task.

Anticipating the pleasure of seeing you again next week, I am

Cordially yours,

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.

R.E.Weinzettel/AC

R.E. Weinzettel
Sales Promotion Manager

P.S. Since dictating the above I received a letter from Mr. Porter, reading, in part, as follows: "Owen Reed states he has arranged with the authorities at New York University for the demonstration Monday night, May 1. I think you will be safe in assuming that the demonstration will be held at that time, probably at 7 P.M.". Looks like that is the answer!

Thought you would be interested in the attached A.P. articles covering your visit with us in St. Louis.

CURVED BACKBOARD PROPOSED

St. Louis, March 31. — (A. P.) — A new basketball backboard curved convexly to make field goals possible from the deep ends of the court was proposed Friday to increase the game's scoring opportunities.

Coach Forrest C. (Phog) Allen of the University of Kansas, who saw the convex board demonstrated, called it a "marvelous idea" for increasing scoring and action—"That's what puts over any sport."

Altho at present a basketball

court may extend from two to four feet behind the backboard, the four-foot extension has been recommended to the national rules committee, which will meet in New York May 1 and 2.

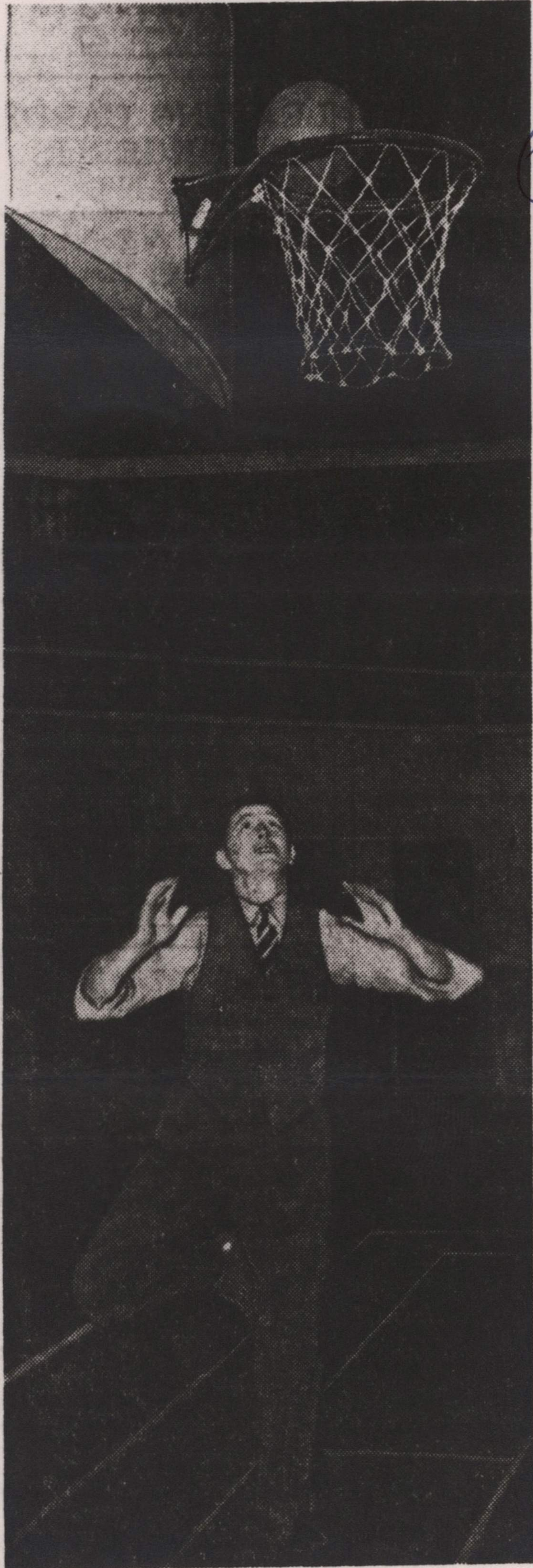
A player in this zone finds it almost impossible to score with the present flat backboard. The suggested board, curving back four inches on each side, eliminates the "blind spots."

It was invented by two St. Louisans, Len Maune and George Chervenko.

Evening Paper Times
Denver Post
March 31st, 1939

Des Moines Paper

NEW BACKBOARD



ST. LOUIS
(AP) — A new basketball backboard curved convexly to make field goals possible from the deep ends of the court was proposed Friday to increase the game's scoring opportunities.

Coach Forrest C. (Phog) Allen of the University of Kansas (shown here with the board), who saw the convex board demonstrated, called it a "marvelous idea" for increasing scoring and action — "that's what puts over any sport."

A player in the new 4-foot extension zone finds it almost impossible to score with the present flat backboard. The suggested board, curving back four inches on each side, eliminates the "blind spots."

It was invented by two St. Louisans, Len Maune and George Chervenko.

May 19, 1939.

Mr. R. E. Weinzettel,
Medart Manufacturing Company,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

Your letter of May 17th arrived yesterday afternoon just before Dr. Allen left for Sabetha, Kansas, where he was to deliver a commencement address last evening. From Sabetha he went on to Ames, Iowa, for the Big Six Conference track meet. He will return Monday morning, but in the meantime he asked that I acknowledge receipt of your letter.

I note that you suggest coming to Lawrence on May 24th to see Dr. Allen. If it would be possible for you to arrange to come on the 25th I believe this would be much more satisfactory for him. On the afternoon of the 24th there is to be a Sasmak Club (Physical Education majors) picnic, and of course Dr. Allen expects to be in attendance at the picnic. He has no conflicts on either the 25th or 26th, Thursday and Friday, and I know he will be very happy to see you.

In your letter to Mr. Porter, a copy of which you enclosed, you make an inquiry as to the identity of Mr. A. A. Schabinger. He is the promoter for the Last-Bilt ball for such sporting goods companies as Reach, Lowe and Campbell, Wilson, and so forth. He promotes the sale of this ball for these people.

Mr. Schabinger was here in Lawrence at the time of the Kansas Relays when Dr. Allen conducted a basketball demonstration. There were over a hundred players and coaches present to see the new backboards. Dr. Allen has been using these boards in spring practice, and most of the boys like them except for a slight bulge near the basket where the boys attempt to put "English" on the ball. Dr. Allen expects to give you a report on that.

I am enclosing a copy of a newspaper clipping which came from Ohio State University, in which you might be interested.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen.

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ST. LOUIS, MO.

May 17, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
Director of Physical Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Many thanks for your two letters of May 13 and enclosures, all of which have received the careful attention of several of us here in St. Louis.

First of all, I have arranged to get a copy of the Standard Oil Company bulletin mentioned in your letter, but am at a loss to get a copy of "Collegiate News" and if you have an extra copy available I would certainly appreciate having you send it on; or, if you can tell me where I could get a copy of this "Collegiate News", I would appreciate that information.

We are writing Mr. Porter, per copy of letter attached, which I believe is more or less self-explanatory and I shall not repeat our position in this letter to you because a perusal of the attached will reveal how we have acted on the information you have given us together with the letter from Mr. Porter, dated May 11, copy also attached.

If you think we are not following the right procedure, as outlined to Mr. Porter, please give us your opinion, as we do not want the interest that has been aroused in the new backstop to lag because of a wrong approach on our part, or for lack of follow-up to the interested parties.

I note the dates on which you will be away from Lawrence, and with the idea in mind of dropping over to see you for a discussion not only of our backboard but of the new game of junior basketball - or whatever we might decide to call it - I am wondering whether it would be satisfactory with you for me to drop in on you Wednesday, May 24. I could leave here Tuesday night, May 23, and be in Lawrence some time around 10 o'clock the following morning, arriving via Santa Fe from Kansas City. Apparently the 24th and 25th are open dates on your calendar and that is why I have suggested them. Of course, there is a possibility of some last-minute change at this end, which would necessitate my cancelling the above, but at this writing it appears I could make this trip on that date, subject, of course, to your wishes.

Meanwhile, I am enclosing a draft of the game as we tried to interpret it, and would like to have you give this game some thought. The more we think of it, the more we believe there is an opportunity for some one, in this case you, to

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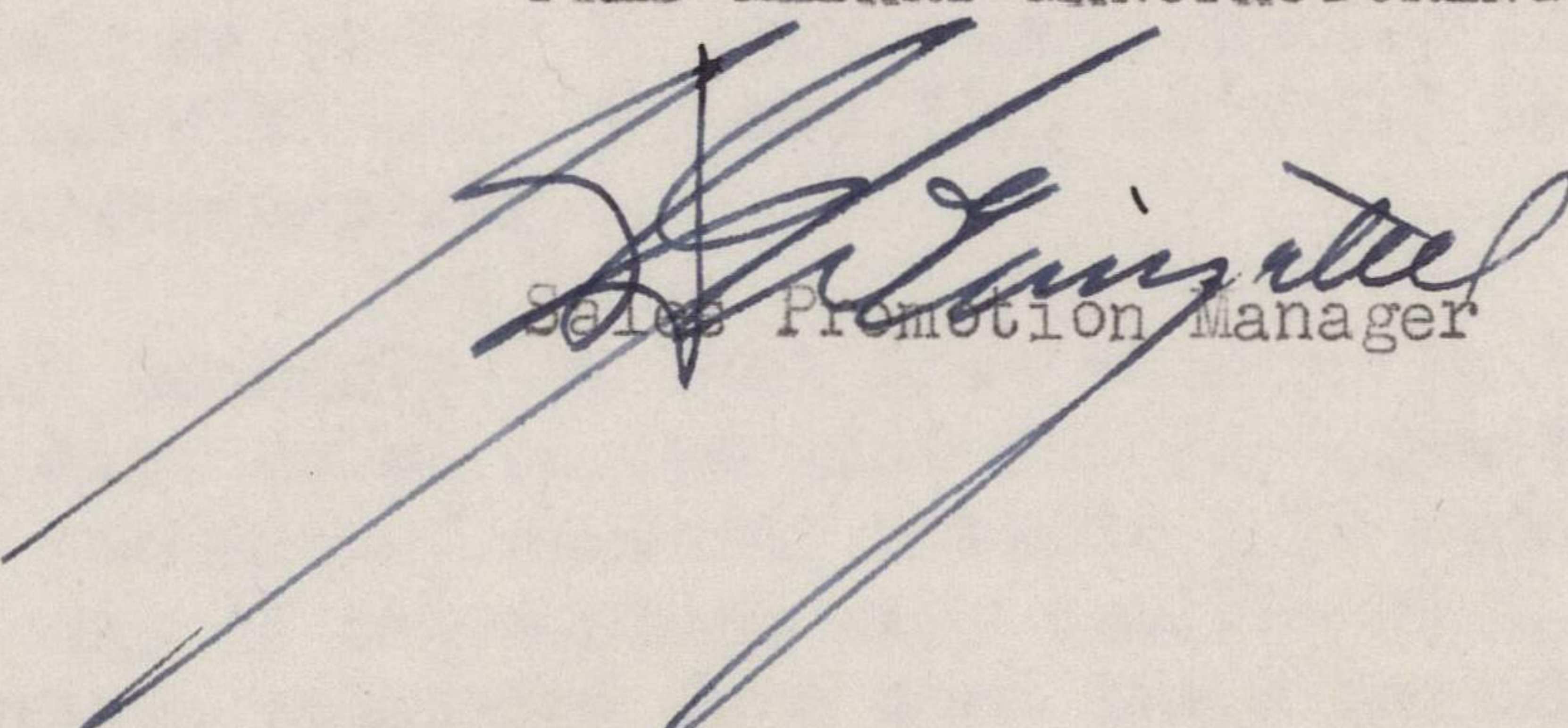
Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Lawrence, Kansas

develop a game much as Dr. Naismith originated basketball; and subject to our final decision, which, of course, will be based on the opinions of all of us here, together with your valued opinion and any others that might be solicited, we are prepared to throw the full weight of our sales promotion efforts behind this new idea, with the thought of selling a game as well as a piece of equipment. We, of course, would want to have a thorough discussion on the game when together in Lawrence on the 24th or whenever we can arrange to get together.

Anticipating further word and with the writer's kindest personal regards, we remain

Cordially yours,

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.



Sales Promotion Manager

R.E. Weinzettel/AC
Enc.

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

May 17, 1939

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

Dear Mr. Porter:

We have given considerable thought and discussion to the contents of your letter of May 11, which we acknowledged under date of May 13, and, as promised, want to give you our opinions at this time.

First, we wish to assure you again that it is our desire to co-operate with you and the members of your Committee toward a solution to the problem of a modified backboard. At the moment, however, we find ourselves stymied because of the variation in suggested sizes that came to us from one source and another. We feel, however, that as soon as you obtain an answer to your questionnaire concerning the question of size, and supply us with that information, we shall be in a position to go forward with this experimental work.

The thought has been advanced that possibly the best move to make in the immediate future is to develop a backboard based on the size finally agreed upon, and supply it to the coaches who are conducting coaching schools this Summer, as no doubt that would be an excellent way of acquainting many coaches with the thought before your Committee, and, likewise, obtaining from them their reactions as a result of actual play on these backboards. Inasmuch as such boards as we might manufacture would be more or less of a hand-made nature, and because some of these coaching schools are scheduled to get under way early in the Summer season, it is necessary that we obtain the information on sizes as quickly as possible. This is particularly true in view of the 3 inch fly, indicated on the questionnaire going to your members, because the adoption of this design would necessitate a special goal, which we are prepared to make. I might add at this point that such special goals as we would manufacture for the few experimental backboards supplied the coaching schools this Summer, would necessarily be hand-made and possibly a little crude, but for the purpose of experimentation they would no doubt be satisfactory.

While on this question of a 3 inch fly, it is of course apparent that all existing goals with a 6 inch support would be worthless to the owner when making a change-over to the new designed backboards with the 3 inch fly. I mention this merely to bring this thought before you for possible future consideration.

In the event your Committee sanctions a smaller board, it will, of course, be necessary to supply stringers with which to attach these smaller boards to existing pipe supports, wherever they may be tested, and one of our engineers advanced the

#2

H.V. Porter
Chicago, Ill.

thought that it might be permissible to build these special, small size backboards, out from the pipe supports about a foot so that the stringer would not be so prominent, as was the case in Chicago and in New York, as you will remember. Of course this would result in the length of the playing court being shortened at both ends, and I am wondering what your opinion of this change is, as far as tests this Summer in the coaching schools are concerned. In other words, do you think it would make a great deal of difference to the coaches if the playing floor was reduced by this construction of the test backboard to the existing pipe supports. We are of the opinion that in order to give the special backboard a fair test, without the hindrance of the necessary wood stringer being immediately behind the board, this suggested extension of the board a foot from the stringer would be the lesser of two evils. Would you care to give us your opinion, Mr. Porter?

Further, in connection with the coaching schools, it would be our intentions to supply a pair of the special size backboard - one of them with a flat surface and the other with a convex surface. We lean toward the convex surface as a result of the expressions we have had from a number of interested basketball authorities, including those who were in New York, even though, as you say, the transition from a flat surface to a convex surface may offer some obstacles. By following this thought we, of course, could thus enable the coaches to gain an appreciation of not only the flat surface backboard of the modified size but also of the possibilities of the convex board, against the day when one or the other are presented for the consideration of your national membership.

It is the opinion of our Engineering Department that a smaller board, in new installations, could be supported by a single pipe drop, but that in the case of existing installations, there would be considerable expense involved in rearranging present pipe supports designed to support a 4'x6' backboard, to accommodate this smaller size as is now being considered. It is respectfully suggested that this thought be given serious consideration because the cost of moving the existing pipe supports would undoubtedly be considerably more than the cost of the new backboard.

We are very much interested in your suggestion concerning Mr. A. A. Schabinger, and shall keep him in mind as soon as the question of size of the backboard is determined. Incidentally, would you mind telling us who he represents? We note you advised that he covers the central states for a group of sporting goods manufacturers, and I am wondering how we may work together with him to best advantage. I assume he is a salesman for these sporting goods manufacturers.

A review of the foregoing indicates that we have about covered our position and until we hear further from you regarding sizes we are at a loss to proceed. We appreciate your offer to keep us posted on the returns from the members of your Committee.

Kindest personal regards.

Cordially yours,
FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.

R.E. Weinzettel/AC

Sales Promotion Manager

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May 11, 1939

Mr. R. E. Weinzettel
Fred Medart Manufacturing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

I have your letter of May 9 and am enclosing copy of that section of the minutes of the National Basketball Committee meeting which deals with the modified backboards.

You will note from the enclosed sheet that I am attempting to get definite agreement on the part of members of the committee relative to the board size and shape toward which we should work. It is my belief that one approximating the proposed diagram will be sanctioned. Note that the cut out space below is contingent on developing a basket which will clamp to the bottom of the board with only metal braces extending below. Of course, if such a basket cannot be satisfactorily developed, it will be necessary to leave at least three inches below the level of the basket. However, the board space below the ring is entirely waste and if it can be eliminated, it will allow much better vision from behind the backboard.

In my opinion, boards of several years in the future will be of this type although no one could guarantee that this prophecy is an accurate one. Probably the best way to secure the transition is to encourage those who are erecting new equipment to arrange the braces in such a way that they will be not more than 54 inches from left to right and not more than 30 inches vertically. I believe this is a wide enough spread to support the smaller board since its weight will be considerably less than the present one.

As far as the convex surface is concerned, I believe this has just as much merit as the smaller size. However, it is my belief that it will be more difficult to make a transition from the flat surface to the convex surface. If it is purely a matter of size a team could very well practice on the large board and not be handicapped when playing on a floor which might have the small board. This is not the case if the surface is changed. It would probably take a team some time to get adjusted to a convex surface after having practiced on a flat surface. For this reason it might be necessary to proceed on the assumption that the first change which might be made is the change in size and shape. If desirable, the convex board could then be substituted at a later date for the other..

You will understand that I am attempting to look at this from the standpoint of practice in making the transition as well as in connection with the theory underlying the desirable features of both the changed size and contour.

As far as curvature is concerned, I believe that a curvature such that the middle part of the board will be from four to six inches thicker than the edge (measured on the board which is 6 feet wide) is about right. It may be that the six inch curve would be more desirable than the four in case the carrower board is used.

Today I talked with A. A. Schabinger, 211 South State St., Chicago. He is greatly interested in the modified boards and demonstrated with one set of them before a group of coaches a week or two ago. He covers the central states for a group of the sporting goods manufacturers and before the opening of next basketball season he will attend many clinics and will have charge of a considerable number of demonstrations of playing technique. He is enough interested in the modified boards so that if you should choose to work with him, he would be willing to carry one of these smaller boards with him and put on demonstrations at the various clinics. I believe it would be worthwhile for you to give careful consideration to his offer to do this. If you should be willing to provide him with such a board, it would probably be best to make it in the form of the one proposed on the enclosed sheet as soon as the sanction of the committee has been secured.

I shall be glad to keep you posted as soon as I have returns from the members of the committee relative to the proposed size and form. I am convinced that a real service can be performed by promoting experimental work of this kind and I am very glad to cooperate with you in anything which may enable the basketball men of the country to inspect boards of this type.

Yours truly,

Signed - H. V. Porter

Secretary

May 9, 1939.

Mr. R. E. Weinzettel,
Sales Promotion Manager,
Medart Manufacturing Co.,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

Thank you very much for your good letter, air mail special, which was received by me this morning. I also beg to acknowledge receipt of the description of the "New Type Backboards Tested".

I find this is very satisfactory for the purpose, and am sending this on to Oswald Tower so that he may make suitable cuts and make the necessary insertions for the Rules Guide. This is very nice of you, and I am sure that it will arrive in time. I trust that he will give it a very favorable location.

It was good to see you and Mr. Medart in New York, and it will be a pleasure to see you again at your convenience.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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ST. LOUIS, MO.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

May 8, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

Just returned this morning from the trip that brought us together in New York and I hasten to prepare and send to you, in this air mail letter, the short article on the tests made in New York University of the several backstops we supplied.

I find that our Advertising Department has come through with the drawing of the small convex surface board that was built on specifications supplied us by your organization.

I am also forwarding a copy of the photograph made at the University City High School when you were in St. Louis, thinking that possibly this photograph can be used to illustrate the convex surface better than the smaller illustration, which, of course, is primarily intended to inform the reader of the general size and shape of the smaller bank.

I shall write you within the next day or two, as soon as I can clear away some of the things that have piled up on my desk.

Kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.


Sales Promotion Manager

R.E. Weinzettel/AC
Enc.

NEW TYPE BACKBOARDS TESTED

During the New York meeting of the Rules Committee, three new types of backboards were exhibited and tested in the gymnasium of New York University ~~by~~ ^{before} the members of ~~the~~ ^{this} Rules Committee.

One of the boards was of the conventional 4' x 6' size with a convex surface; the second board was substantially the same but with the four corners rounded; and the third board, which was built on specifications drafted by the research body of that Committee, differed considerably from the backboards in use today.

As illustrated, this 'fan shaped' board, which also has a convex surface, is approximately 48" wide x 27" high and has a curved 24" radius top. The latter board received considerable attention. Use of the convex surface increases the scoring zone for a straight shot to the goal by 27 sq.ft. and will undoubtedly overcome many of the complaints that have resulted from the optional use of the 4' end line in relation to the many offensive movements that have been developed in the past several years.

Likewise, the use of a rounded surface reduces considerably the mental hazard of a player in direct line with the edge of the conventional flat surface board. Increased visibility for spectators is likewise a favorable factor of this backboard. It is thought that much of the space in the conventional 4' x 6' backboard is seldom used and could be eliminated, by the possible adoption of a board approximately of the size mentioned above.

The clean cut, streamlined appearance of this new thought in backboards, received considerable favorable comment, and further investigation of the smaller and convex surface idea in backboards is being made by the research ~~party~~ ^{body} of the Rules Committee.

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St. Louis, Mo.

May 20, 1939

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 19 from your Secretary.

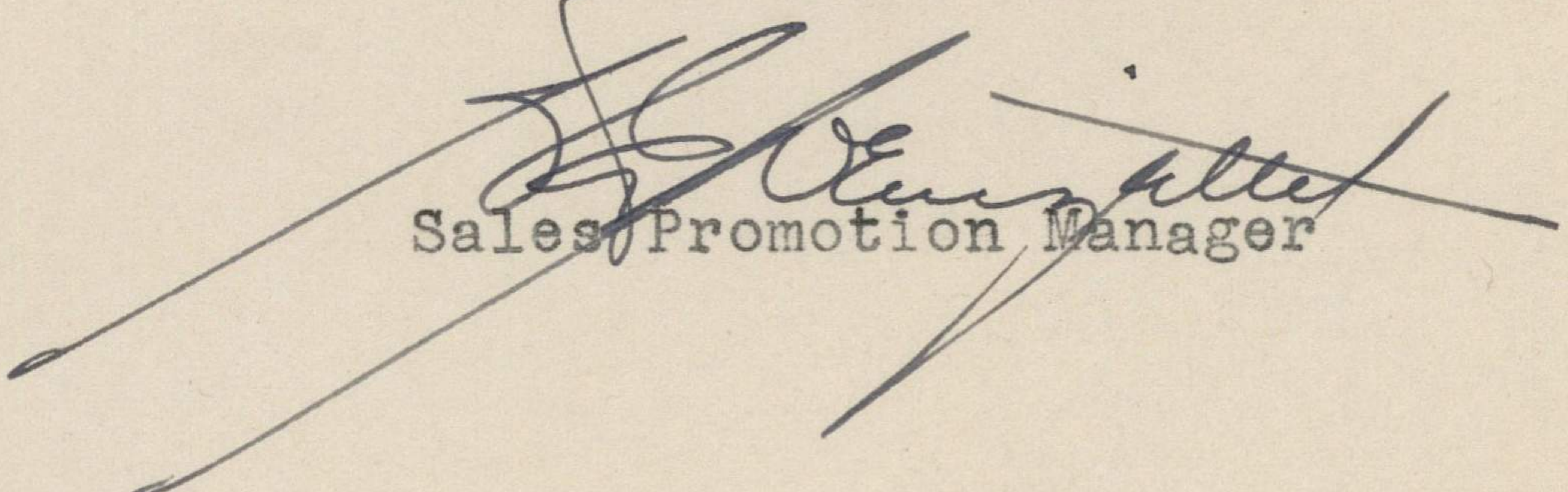
I plan to leave here Wednesday night which will bring me to Lawrence Thursday morning May 25, arriving at 11:26 A.M. Santa Fe.

Unless you hear from me to the contrary, prior to that date or if you find impossible to meet with me Thursday, in which case, I request that you please wire me accordingly, it looks as if we will be able to get under way on the program discussed when together in New York.

Kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.


Sales Promotion Manager

R.E. Weinzettel/MR

WESTERN UNION

St. Louis, Mo.
May 24, 1939.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen.

Arrive Lawrence 8:53 a.m. Santa Fe tomorrow.

R. E. Weinzettel.

May 18, 1939.

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

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am just leaving for Sabetha, Kansas, where I am to deliver a commencement address this evening, and from there I go on to Ames, Iowa, for our Big Six Conference track meet. I will return to the office Monday, and at that time will answer your letter of the 15th instant more fully.

However, I might say that I am a little confused. I thought directions were given by the Rules Committee to the chairman of the Research Committee, and that I was to work through the summer and up until next year on the backboard. I have already sent to Mr. Tower a photograph of the convex board and an article on that.

I do not believe we can determine the size until we can get some people to try them out. I do not think the Medart people should spend money on that until we are pretty certain as to the size. For instance, your streamlined board was a little too small. I think the boards that are already made should be tried out, and that Medart's should not go to the expense of making up any more. This experimentation should be at our expense, rather than Medart's.

I expect to write you Monday when I return, but I desired you to have this information.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Executive
H. H. SALMON, JR.

Publication
OSWALD TOWER

Research
FORREST C. ALLEN

Questionnaire
H. V. PORTER

Game Administration
SUMNER A. DOLE

CHAIRMAN, H. H. SALMON, JR.
40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

SECRETARY, H. V. PORTER
11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

VICE CHAIRMAN, JOHN BUNN
Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, Cal.

TREASURER, FLOYD A. ROWE
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER
Andover, Massachusetts

May 15, 1939

Complete List of
Committee Members

F. C. Allen
Univ. of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

John Brown
347 Madison Ave.
New York, New York

John Bunn
Stanford Univ.
Palo Alto, California

J. H. Crocker
Univ. of Western Ontario
London, Ont., Canada

M. C. Cunningham
High School
Desloge, Missouri

Sumner A. Dole
Connecticut State College
Storrs, Connecticut

H. D. Edgren
George Williams College
Chicago, Illinois

E. J. Hickox
Springfield College
Springfield, Massachusetts

Frank P. Maguire
Dept. of Public Instruction
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

W. E. Meanwell
Shorewood Hills
Madison, Wisconsin

Curtis Parker
Centenary College
Shreveport, Louisiana

H. V. Porter
11 So. LaSalle St.
Chicago, Illinois

Samuel Rogers
210 Confederation Life Bldg.
Toronto, Ont., Canada

Floyd A. Rowe
Board of Education
Cleveland, Ohio

J. W. St. Clair
Southern Methodist Univ.
Dallas, Texas

H. H. Salmon, Jr.
40 Wall St.
New York, New York

Oswald Tower
Andover, Massachusetts

Willard A. Witte
Univ. of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

Mr. F. C. Allen
Univ. of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have your letter of May 13th.

You will note that the diagram I submitted for the backboard outlines a board considerably larger than the small board which was exhibited. Also it is about halfway between the fan shape and the traditional rectangular shape. We can always increase the size if it is found desirable. However, if a change should be made, I think it would be a great mistake if we did not eliminate all possible waste surface. My only thought in submitting this diagram was to get some action in time for use by the various manufacturers who might be willing to cooperate and in time for some mention of this in the copy of the book which is going to the printer within the next few days. It is an easy matter to let something like this drag along until it is too late to get any reaction in time for use during the new season. I have had returns from about half of the committee relative to the proposed diagram and all of those who have replied indicate that the diagram seems to summarize the sentiment expressed at the meeting. This does not preclude the making of changes in case the Research Committee should decide that it is desirable to make such changes. The only thing I am concerned about at this time is that we be able to reach some sort of an agreement in time for the matter to be called to the attention of the manufacturers and of the schoolmen through the medium of the books which are now being made ready. Otherwise, as far as the high schools are concerned, a whole season will have been lost.

I note your comment relative to the 3 inch surface below the ring. I agree with you that we are not sure that this is a sufficient space although the experiments we have already conducted indicate that less use is made of the surface below the ring than has been generally thought. Also there isn't any doubt but that the surface directly below the ring is entirely wasted and that it is this part of the board which gives most obstruction to the view from the end of the gymnasium. If more than three inches below the ring are desirable, it is only on that space on either side of the ring rather than directly under it. In my opinion we should attempt to cut out all possible space in this area. I believe it will be entirely possible to develop a bracing such that the basket flange will clamp to the lower edge of the board although it may be necessary to extend metal braces from behind the board and recurved so that they will extend some distance below the lower edge in coming up to give support to the ring. Even so, this would make much less obstruction to vision than the solid eighteen inches of board.

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of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

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H. H. SALMON, JR.

Publication
OSWALD TOWER

Research
FORREST C. ALLEN

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Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

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Andover, Massachusetts

Page two -

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Sumner A. Dole
Connecticut State College
Storrs, Connecticut

H. D. Edgren
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Oswald Tower
Andover, Massachusetts

Willard A. Witte
Univ. of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

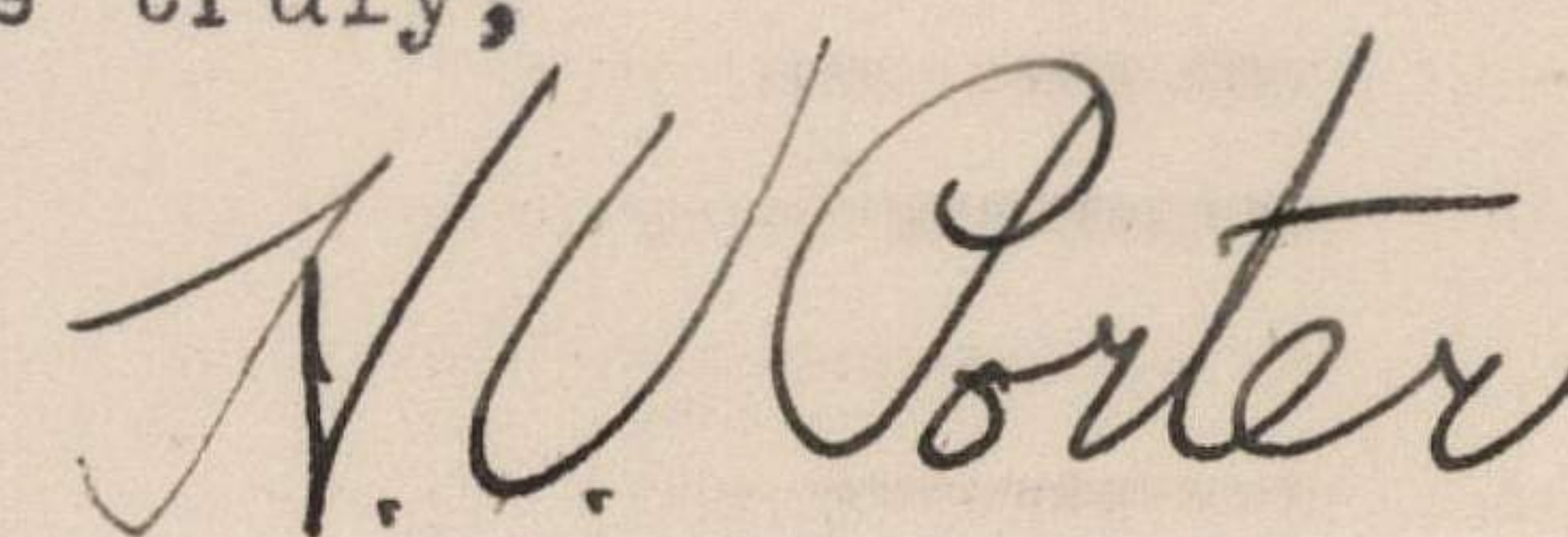
I have no desire to go ahead with a diagram for the almanac edition of the guide provided you will go ahead with preparation of such a diagram on behalf of the Research Committee. As a matter of fact, I would be glad to have such a diagram for the early edition of the guide but, if it is to be included, it will have to be ready within the next few days.

The same thing applies to instructions to the Medart Company relative to the baskets for summer coaching schools. In reply to ~~your~~ correspondence from them I have furnished them information as to what has been done in connection with the diagram submitted to the members of the committee. They understand that this diagram is in the nature of a proposal and that it may be modified before actual construction work is authorized. If you desire, I shall refer them to you for further directions.

I think we are all agreed that no one is prepared to designate the exact shape and size for the board but we should be able to designate a type that will enable us to collect necessary statistics. If you have dimensions that in your opinion are more desirable than those proposed, let me have them so that mention can be made in the early edition of the guide.

I am giving some consideration to the matter mentioned in your other letter and I might have something to propose in the next day or two.

Yours truly,



Secretary

HVP/j

copy

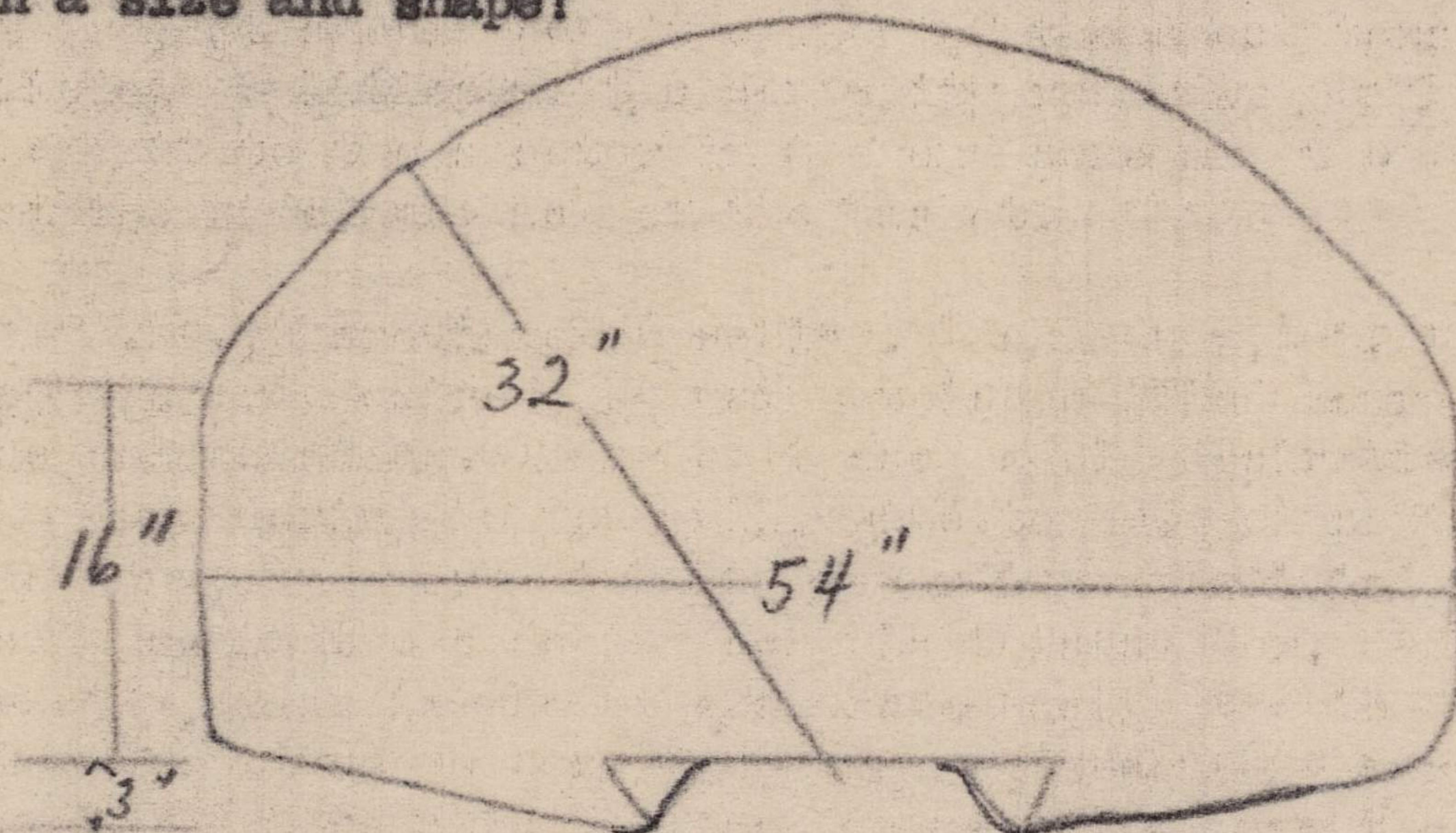
May 9, 1939

To Members,
National Basketball Committee;

PLEASE ANSWER

The diagram below is an attempt to crystallize the sentiments expressed by committee members relative to a modified backboard. The cut-out below the basket ring is contingent on developing a basket which will fasten to the lower edge of the board with braces to the 3 inch fly.

As a guide for experimentation and for inclusion in the almanac section, would you sanction such a size and shape?



TO KEEP YOU POSTED

The Editor and Secretary labored in the wee hours in the days following the meeting to fit the jig-saw modifications into a bug-proof picture (we hope). Copy for the summer school edition is now in the hands of the printer. In ten days or two weeks, each member will receive book with the ink still wet.

* * * *

No special effort is being made to advertise the summer school edition. Each member may choose to pass the word along to coaching schools in his locality. Would-be purchasers may write the National Federation, 11 South LaSalle St., Chicago. The price will be 20¢ per copy or \$1.65 per dozen copies.

The Play Situations Book will be ready about June 1st.

Yours truly,

(Signed) H. V. PORTER

Secretary.

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.

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ST. LOUIS, MO.

May 8, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

Your letter of April 27 addressed to Mr. Chervenka has been held pending my return and, as requested, I am enclosing a folder announcing our Climbing Ball, which is the apparatus you saw in our plant when in St. Louis.

The net cost of one of these Climbing Balls, f.o.b. St. Louis, would be \$89.60, with delivery in about six weeks. As you know, we were just getting into this product when you were in St. Louis, and now that we have it satisfactorily constructed, there will be some delay in getting material and parts together, which accounts for the six weeks delivery mentioned above.

Concerning the question of lighting for your playground, as was discussed when together in New York, I note that the Crouse-Hinds Company of Syracuse, New York, manufacture a night flood-light, and that Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, Lighting Division of Cleveland, Ohio, also manufacture flood-light equipment. Whether or not these two companies could give you a wire screen, electrically charged, for the purpose of exterminating insects, is something I was unable to learn at this end. No doubt an inquiry to them would bring you the desired information.

Cordially yours,

FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.

R. E. Weinzettel
Sales/Promotion Manager

R.E.Weinzettel/AC

Electrasicle Insect Exterminator Co. Rochester N.Y. offer something that may interest you.

May 13, 1939.

Mr. R. E. Weinzettel,
Medart Manufacturing Co.,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

Thank you very much for the information you have given me in your letter of May 8th regarding your "Climbing Balls". I believe this gives us the desired information, and I thank you for it.

The Standard Oil Company, in their bulletin which goes to all their service stations over the country, had this new backboard photograph which was taken in St. Louis with me shooting from underneath the basket. It also appeared in the "Collegiate News", the collegiate rotogravure section that is used as an insert in all college papers. So they are really getting some publicity on this board.

In my letter to Porter I tried to impress upon him that what our committee members wanted was a convex board and not a flat board according to these dimensions.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

June 3, 1939.

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

Dear Mr. Porter:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 29th. As soon as I received your letter of May 9th showing the diagram of the proposed backboard I sent a copy on the Medart people.

Mr. Weinzettel, of the Medart Company, came through here on a trip a short time ago, and I told him of the one objection to the convexity of the backboard. The same of the convexity appeared about 12 inches to the side of each basket in a perpendicular plane, and the English shots that were laid up there seemed to take off rather badly. I got this from the research work that our varsity did in spring practice. This was one objection that the boys had, and Mr. Weinzettel said he would take it up with their research engineer and see if they could move the so-called hump further out on the dead part of the board.

We are writing Medart again asking that they work on the specifications, although I think that 3 inch flange will cause too many changes. I believe this is a reasonable criticism.

I take it that all of us on the Research Committee will go forward with this plan. I am writing each member of the Committee to work on this size board, both flat and convex.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:MH

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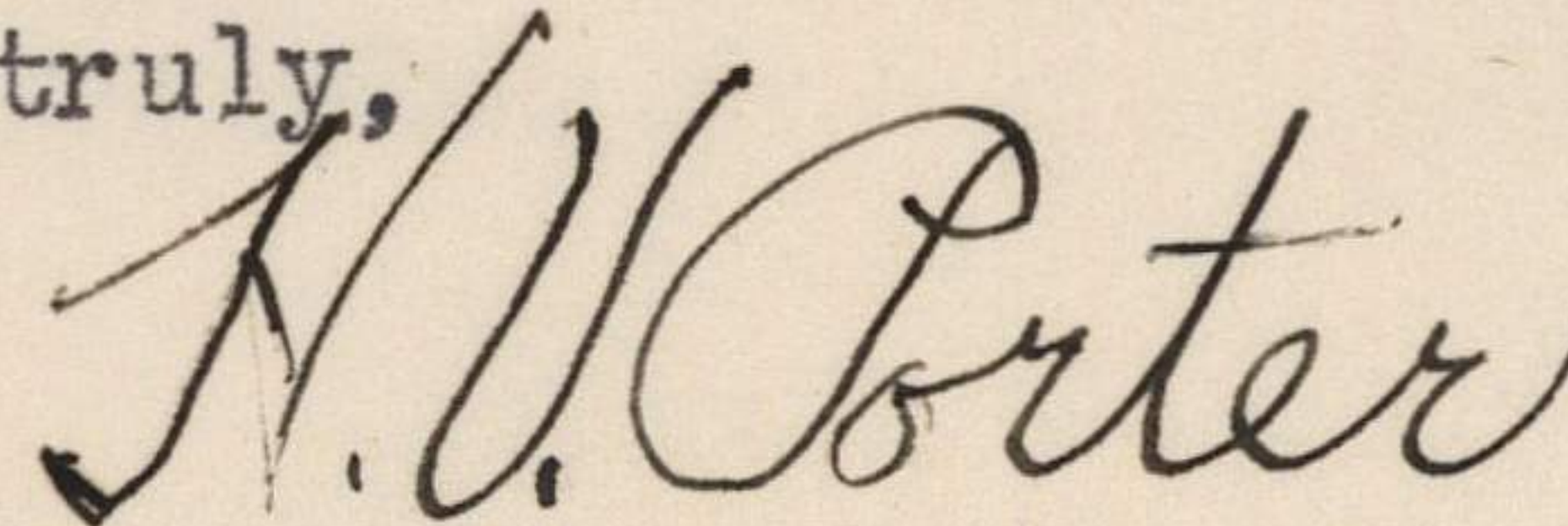
Page two -

The Medart people and other manufacturers have indicated that it would not be an especially difficult matter to design a basket which will clamp on the lower edge of the board. The Medart people have indicated that they are enough interested in this whole project to make up boards of any shape or size which might be suggested by the Basketball Committee. I assume that you are planning to keep in contact with Medart and that you will give them something definite to work on. They state that they are now at a standstill until such time as the committee may indicate the direction the experimentation should take.

I note your comment to the effect that the Medarts should not be expected to finance all of this work. I agree with you that it would be more desirable for the constituent bodies of the rules committee to take care of such financing provided funds can be made available for the work. My thought in the matter has been that for the boards which may be used in this locality, we will depend upon manual training shops for the construction or we will continue our practice of asking some of the high schools that are erecting new gymnasiums to pay the manufacturing cost for a pair of boards which may be used on the practice courts, these boards to be made up in accordance with the design agreed upon by the committee. When such boards are installed as a definite part of the gymnasium equipment they should be such that the technique of shooting will not be appreciably different. This would be true with boards of a different size and shape but would not apply in case the surface of the board is changed. Consequently I would hesitate to ask any school to pay the costs of installing the convex boards.

The main problem at the present time seems to be to attempt an agreement on the design toward which we should be working. If you think the data at hand are not sufficient to warrant our centering attention upon a board such as that which was outlined, I suggest that an attempt be made to outline another form for the guidance of the various manual training departments or equipment manufacturers who may be interested in this work over the slack summer month season.

Yours truly,



Secretary

HVp/j

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Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER
Andover, Massachusetts

May 29, 1939

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40 Wall St.
New York, New York

Oswald Tower
Andover, Massachusetts

Mr. F. C. Allen
Univ. of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

Here is a summary of the sentiment relative to the proposed backboard which was diagrammed in a former letter which went with the basketball minutes. A few of the men have not answered but of the twelve who did, the proposed diagram appears to be satisfactory except for the following suggestions.

Salmon thinks the proposed board is satisfactory except that he would eliminate the "cut-out" directly behind the ring and would extend the straight edges at the side a trifle higher.

St. Clair desires to make some further observations before committing himself.

I thought you would be glad to have the results so that they might serve as something of a guide in your further studies relative to the matter.

As far as the Interscholastic Edition of the Basketball Guide is concerned, I felt it desirable to include a few comments relative to the matter. These comments are in the supplementary pages of the guide and not in the body of the rules. Since copy had to be sent to the printer at about the time I last wrote you, the best I could do was to confine my comments to the minimum and maximum dimensions as outlined at the rules meeting. You will, of course, use your own judgment as to what diagrams or pictures are included with your article in the almanac section of the guide.

Since we have already spent one year in experimental work connected with the part of the old board that is actually used, it seems to me desirable to continue the work with boards somewhat similar to that which I diagrammed. We have already had a number of schools making up boards of various sizes in the manual training departments. Such boards were in use during the latter part of the past season. Unless we can give these men something fairly definite a great deal of the benefits of work which has already been started will be lost. It seems to me it would be a mistake for us to confine our efforts to boards of the present shape and size but with a convex surface. The work which has already been done indicates that a great deal of the value in any change would come from elimination of a considerable portion of the board below the level of the ring.

attached

May 29, 1939

Fred Medart Mfg. Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

Atten: R. E. Weinzettel

Dear Mr. Weinzettel:

The answer to your letter of May 17th has been delayed until returns from the members of the Basketball Committee were in. A summary of these returns have now been forwarded to F. C. Allen, Chairman of the Reserach Committee, and you will probably hear from him in the near future.

I agree with you that the various summer coaching schools are a good medium through which to get these boards demonstrated.

As far as installation is concerned, I see no reason why the modified board could not be made so that it could be attached to the pipe supports and extend a foot or so in front of the stringers. This would make a better looking job but, of course, would make the board too near the free throw line. I do not believe this is a detriment as far as demonstration is concerned. If any group desired to actually play with the board it would be an easy matter for them to mark a temporary free throw line at the proper distance from the backboard.

I note your comment to the effect that if a smallerboard were used, it might necessitate rearranging the present supports. On the other hand, it is not probable that if the new type board were to be made from 54 to 60 inches in width that there would be any great difficulty in making the change because that would necessitate bringing the supports in only six to eight inches on either side and in most cases the supports are not at the extreme edges of the board. All of these things will have to be taken into consideration as experimental work progresses.

Yours truly,

Secretary