

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