

c

February 15, 1943.

Mr. Whitney Martin,
Associated Press,
50 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

Dear Whitney:

I noticed your article out of New York quoted by the A.P. stating that you liked the idea of Ben Flora, coach of Roseland, Kentucky, high school who advances the idea to have the officials distinguish between an intentional foul and a non-intentional misdeed.

You know, Whitney, that is one thing rule makers try to get away from, - and that is not to permit any official to rule on intent. I tell a yarn about an eastern official, when a western team went east, a player passed the ball in one direction and after passing the ball the player cut diagonally across the court. When he was in mid-court, going away from the progress of the ball, the official blew his whistle and shouted, "On you - pick! (pick-off)". The startled western player turned in amazement and said, "Why, I haven't done anything." "Yes, I know that, but I detected evil in your eye," said the official.

That illustrates exactly what you would have if you allowed a fellow to rule on intent.

Whitney, you know the old penalty box idea was Dr. Naismith's, but they only played with four men when they were in the penalty box.

Here's your evil if you would permit a fellow to go back for the fifth foul. He would only ease up in his fouling at the fourth foul. Suppose you disqualified no one for any number of fouls - what do you think you would have? You would have mayhem. It is much easier for an opponent to grab on and hold a player in the middle of the court than it is to allow him to go in and shoot for two points. If you would not have a limitation on personal fouls you would have an unbearable situation. That is why the four-foul rule has never been taken out of the book.