

Perhaps when you read this letter you will feel that I am unalterably opposed to the glass bank. I have no objection to them if they are painted white, but it is very difficult to have the different reflections of the glass bank interfere with the black rim. In other words, there are no contrasting colors to set out the rim for the shooter. The net is white, the backboard is supposed to be white, and with a black rim it gives you a mark to shoot at. If you paint the glass backboard then you have a slicker surface. Already the ball manufacturers have changed from a real leather ball to a vulcanized "beach ball" wherein the leather covering is so thin on this vulcanized ball that the vulcanizing process is pushed through until the life of the leather is lost and it becomes a slick sphere that is difficult to handle. And when you combine this with a glazed backboard then you have no surface that will take the English of the ball, and they skid up there off of that board like wet rubber. For that reason I have been strong for a grained plain surface where the roughness of the leather and the grain of the backboard would give the shooter some power of English.

As chairman of the Research Committee of the National Basketball Rules Committee, I want you to know that there has been much research along these lines, and it is not based on mere haphazard guessing. I understand there are some members of the Rules Body in favor of the glass backboards, but those members are largely in the east where the gymnasiums are small and where a majority of the people are forced to sit behind the backboards. In the west where more spacious field houses are built the majority of the spectators are sitting along the sidelines, and with the origination of this convex backboard with the reduction in size due to the fact that the dead corner spaces have been deleted, there has been a definite improvement in visibility for the spectators. Doubtless the Madart people will give you the information you desire regarding the size of their board and the plan of it.

The National Basketball Rules Committee will meet in Kansas City on March 30, 31 and April 1, and the National Association of Basketball Coaches on March 28, 29 and 30. It happens that the National Collegiate Basketball Championships of America will be played in Kansas City also; the finals on March 30, and the semi-finals on March 22 and 23. It would be a fine opportunity for you to present your board to the Rules Body and the Coaches Association at their meetings.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.