

W O R
MONDAYS
WEDNESDAYS
and FRIDAYS
7:15 P. M.

ALBERT MITCHELL
THE ANSWER MAN
STATION WOR—1440 BROADWAY
New York, N. Y.

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March 28, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

My radio program is of an educational nature. I attempt to answer any question submitted by the radio audience.

One of my listeners has written me:

"A well known sports writer stated in his column recently that the average basketball player runs from six to seven miles per game. This statement has caused no end of controversy between my friends and myself.

The question I would like you to answer is, 'do you believe it possible for the average basketball player to run six to seven miles a game.' In making your reply, here are a few facts you can consider. The record for the 5,000 meter run is 14:27. Although it is hardly possible, we will say that a distant runner could cover the 10,000 meters (six to seven miles) in thirty minutes. A basketball game is consisted of two 20 min. halves. The average basketball player, therefore, covers the same distance in just ten minutes more than the champion runners of the country. At the same time he must dribble, jump, shoot, pass, catch, stop, and also turn a ball. He also loses a good part of the forty minutes because of scrimmages, falls, jump balls, etc.

We can appreciate the fact that a basketball player runs in sprints while a distance man runs a paced race, also that a ball player has time outs in which he is able to catch his breath. A distance runner is deprived of this privilege.

We are anxious to settle this dispute as soon as possible, and we assure you that your immediate attention will be greatly appreciated."