

Baker

NAVY V-12 UNIT  
WABASH COLLEGE  
CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

April 5, 1944

Mr. J. C. Allen,  
Dir of P.E.  
Army of Kansas

Dear "Doc"

I have your letter of April 3, in regard to Alou Baker.

I very well remember the boy as a faithful attendant at football and if he failed to get a numeral after Edwin Acury & I said he wanted, I do not know what happened to cause it to fail to go through —

I'd like to look at the matter in this manner — if it is the opinion of the committee that he was



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to get one and that if so  
doing would assist in  
assisting his return to health  
I most certainly recommend  
that his case be reopened  
and that my recommendation  
be stated to affirm the  
awarding of a numeral  
1946 to the boy -

I believe the university is  
a place for men to look for  
assistance in cases just  
like these for it forms a  
part in the boys heart that  
can never be broken -

All things here are  
moving in a progressive



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sort of manner - Administering  
a fast moving Mass athletic  
program has taught me a  
great deal - I have read a  
great deal of history - Have  
continued painting and have  
finished over 20 pictures  
in 10 months -

But my heart belongs to  
Kansas and to Kansas University.  
That place has been my guiding  
star since my first visit in  
March 1919 to the Basket Ball Journey -  
I have a lasting, profound and  
sacred love for K.U.

Sincerely, your friend  
"Bill"

Hello to the Gang

Warne D. Repley



April 3, 1944.

Mr. Wayne F. Replogle,  
Navy V-12 Unit,  
Wabash College,  
Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Dear Wayne:

Saturday Mr. Don H. Baker, the father of Pvt. Don H. Baker, Jr., USMCR, Base Dispensary, Ward 7, MCB, San Diego 40, California, called and said that his son was in the hospital there with rheumatic fever. He stated that he called for a numeral for his son in football, but was told his son was not on the list.

Mr. Baker told me that both Gwinn Henry and you had told Don that without a doubt he would be recommended for a numeral since he had never missed one day of practice with the freshman football squad. Of course, he was broken hearted about the thing and said that if it was still possible for you to recall him and make a recommendation, then he would be notified that he would have his numeral, and in this way it would raise his morale tremendously while he is lying in sick bay at San Diego.

I know nothing about the matter and since there are no athletic people of the old regime here now, naturally I get all of the applications, supplications, and near-complaints.

Please do not feel that I am forcing any issue, but I am trying to carry on for father and son in this instance. I will appreciate an early reply.

I trust that everything is going well with you, old fellow.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



April 3, 1944.

Mr. Wayne F. Replogle,  
Navy V-12 Unit,  
Wabash College,  
Crawfordsville, Indiana.

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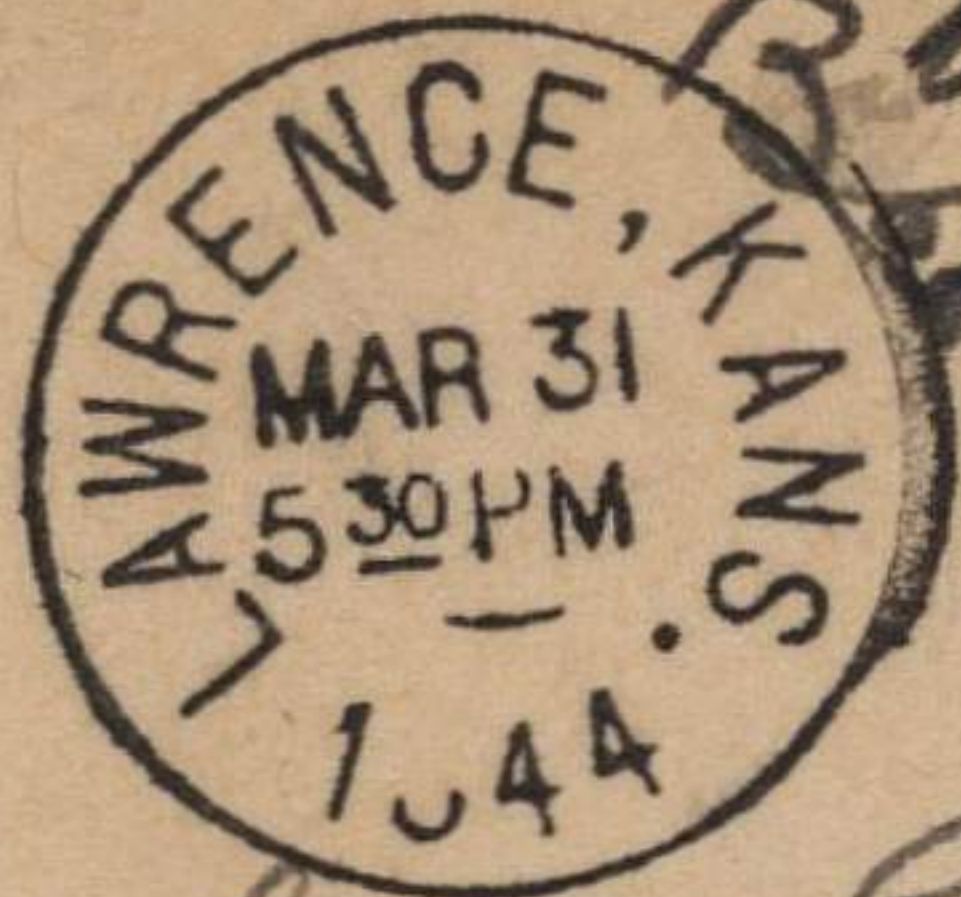
Cpl Hagt Baker 17083081  
Battery "B" 140th AAA Bn  
Camp Greber, Okla.



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LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Ent. - M.M.C.R

Frost F.B.



Don Jr  
Wayne Repley

G. Henry Pearsall  
Ward #7  
M.C.B.

Don H Baker

3373

Extension 427-

M.M.C.R.

140 Forrest Callen

801 La

City

San Diego 40  
Calif

Rheumatiz  
Travel



Camp Gruber, Oklahoma  
August 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Allen,

I received your last newsletter a couple of weeks ago. I thought I would write so you would have my new address.

I'm stationed down here at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma about twenty miles southeast of Muskogee. I was up in Camp Phillips at Salina for about three weeks before I came down here. I get home a couple of weekends and get some of that good home cooking.

Fred Parelle and his Phillips CC baseball team played in at Muskogee last week. I was planning on



②  
seeing the game but  
Uncle Sam gave us a little  
night work so couldn't  
make it.

It won't be long now  
before Mr. Sherk will  
be starting football practice  
there on the hill. Gosh,  
what I wouldn't give to  
be back. Sports are one  
thing I really miss in  
the army. Its been so  
long since I've played any  
game I've probably forgotten  
how.

I guess my time has  
come. We will be leaving  
the states very soon. Our  
outfit has been together  
now almost year so I  
guess it is about time  
we're seeing the other side.

My battery commander



③  
is Capt. Norman Carter.  
He is a former K. U. man  
and I think he comes from  
Berkeley, Kansas. I don't know  
if he was an athlete while  
in school or not. He sure  
is big enough to have  
been one.

I must close and get  
this in the mail. Hope  
all is fine and tell Dean  
hello for me.

Always  
Neyt.





42ND DIVISION

Monday 1/12/44

Dear Mr. Allen,

I received your very welcome letter this morning. I'm sorry I haven't written you sooner, <sup>but</sup> this army keeps one jumping. I want to thank you for the wonderful compliment you paid me. I just hope I'll have the chance to play ball under you, so I can justify those remarks. I would really like to attend N. U. after the war, but like a million other guys, I'll be dead broke when this mess is over. I imagine it would cost plenty to go to school there, but I'll sure do my best to make it. Thanks also for the copies



of the "Jayhawk Rebounds." I like to  
read about the boys and I especially  
liked the dope on the Madison Square  
Tournaments. I've always had the am-  
bition to play ball in the Garden.  
I'll probably be located here for several  
months yet, so I'll write once in a  
while and let you know how I am.  
Be sure and tell Mr. Austin I said  
"hello" and that I have one of his  
T-shirts. He can have it if he'll  
come after it. He! I must close  
now wishing you the best of luck  
and thanks again for everything.

Sincerely

Red Bean



Pvt. Ted Bean - 15109155

A Btry - 232 F.A. Bn.

H. P. O. 411

Camp Gruber, Okla.



Free

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



July 8, 1944.

Sgt. D. E. Blair,  
Hq. 1289th Engr. C. Bn.,  
Camp Maxey, Texas.

Dear Don:

Congratulations on your promotion, Don. We are proud of the fine work that you are doing, and glad to have your new address for our Jayhawk Rebounds mailing list. A number of our boys are in Texas, and although Texas is a large state, you may run into each other occasionally.

I have on my desk a letter from Schhelly, who is at Hondo, Texas, and he is still hoping that he can return to school in September, 1945. We hope so, too.

Yes, I remember Tom Porter who was in some of my classes last summer. I hope he is getting along splendidly at Midshipman's School at Columbia.

We are starting some basketball for the boys next week. A number of the 17-year-olds who have enrolled in the summer semester are anxious for some practice, and we want to give them every opportunity to play. Henry Shenk will begin summer football practice in August. At the present time he and Reg Strait are on a two-weeks' fishing trip in Colorado - the first vacation they have had in over a year. Dean, Elmer and the rest of us are carrying on.

With best wishes to you, Don, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



23 June 1944

Dear Dr Allen:

After some maneuvering the last Rebound reached me today. It seemed to me that "Kirkpatrick I mean Fitzpatrick" really hit the nail on the head when he said that some days you think that the Rebound ought to be coming any day and in a few days it does arrive. Last week I thought that it should be coming any day and today I did receive it.

I am really ashamed that I haven't written sooner but I have been changing camps, changing jobs, etc. and the time has really flown the last couple of months. Guess I should start at the beginning.

I left Camp Butner, North Carolina around the first of May to come on cadre for this new Engineer Combat Battalion here in Camp Maxey, Texas which is located here in the north east corner of Texas. I see by the Rebound that "Joco" Ballard is only about 100 miles across the prairies of Texas and I sure am going to try to contact him. I came on cadre as a classification clerk and expected to go to Fort Washington, Maryland for a course in that work.

At the last minute my name was withdrawn and I was placed in the Battalion Sergeant Major position. It was really a fine break and came as a complete surprise to me. This was followed by the recent promotion to sergeant. I now have the three stripes up and now am working for those "rockers" that go on the bottom.

Our battalion does not have it's fillers as yet and so we are now in cadre training.

My older brother, whom you will remember fell on his ankle last year, went back to the Springfield General Hospital in Missouri for an examination in late April. The doctors seemed to be satisfied with his progress although they said it will take time for it to get back to normal again. They gave him another six months limited service and then he will go back to the hospital for another examination. He is now in New York City acting as an instructor in a Signal Corps Photographic School.

My younger brother now makes me look like a runt. He is now 6' 4" plus and does <sup>not</sup> seem to be letting up a bit so far. I was home on a 3 day pass a couple of weeks ago and I think I would really have my hands busy to try to handle him now.

I think you remember Tom Porter from Ottawa who took a course under you last summer on the hill. He is now in Columbia University Midshipman's School in New York. He likes the Navy fine but he thinks the Indian's got the best end of that famed \$24 transaction.



Well that seems to be about all the news from Texas. I was glad to hear about "Rope Jr". He will no doubt be dropping them thru the hoop before that new desk calendar is too old. Give my regards to all the athletic office crew and Dean. Hope that I will be able to drop in on all of you sometime later this summer.

Sincerely

*Don Blair*

New Address:

Sgt D.E.Blair  
Hq 1289th Engr C Bn  
Camp Maxey, Texas



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 12, 1944

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have not been able to answer your good letter at an earlier date because we have recently been so involved in the new draft regulations that it has kept us busy trying to get out the necessary certifications.

I dug through my basketball files and found a somewhat worn copy of the study I made of baskets at different heights. I am enclosing this for your information.

In connection with the fatigue about which you have asked, you should know that this material is entirely of a subjective nature. As stated in the report, it was obtained from the statements of those who participated in the tests. It was not possible at the time to set up any plan for objective measurements along this line. So far as I know, there has been no follow up of my study anywhere here on the coast.

As I mention in the report, I think a great deal of additional study is necessary before we reach any definite conclusions. From what I have seen to date, I am not entirely sure in my mind that raising the baskets is the solution to our problem. I am not at the moment advocating any particular change but rather I am in a state where I feel I need additional objective information to either substantiate or change my present trend of thinking. Somehow I have a feeling that the twelve foot basket will make as much of a freak of the game as the seven foot player. I would like to be more certain of my grounds before I take a definite stand.

I read your letter to Mr. Fullerton with considerable interest. You certainly covered a wide range of territory so far as a projection of basketball rules is concerned and as usual you did it in your typical dynamic and



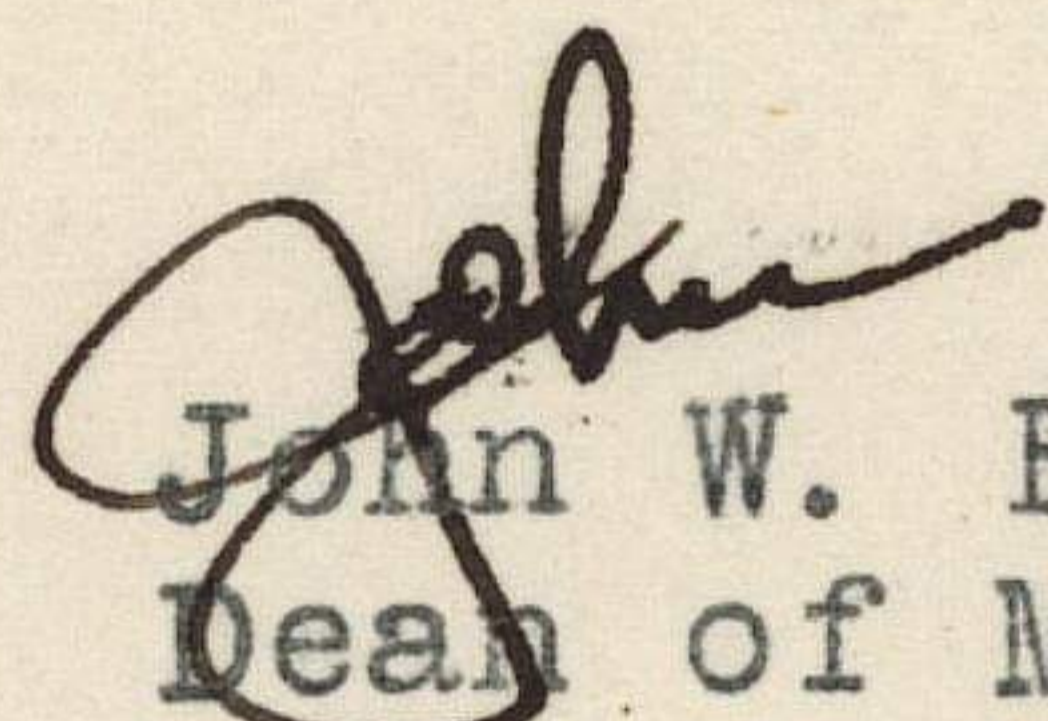
Dr. Allen: p. 2

dogmatic fashion. I don't agree with you entirely but I am not going to attempt to argue the points by correspondence. Rather I expect to be through Lawrence sometime in April and will look forward to a good session along this line at that time.

We certainly enjoyed our visit with Mrs. Allen when she was here on the coast, and as a result you probably know we put her to work when she got home to help with our Christmas shopping.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

  
John W. Bunn,  
Dean of Men.

Dean Mallott was here yesterday  
and spent the day with me.



## A STUDY OF BASKETS AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS

### The Problem and Methods

At the 1931 meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches a research committee was appointed to investigate suggested changes in the rules. This report deals with the suggested change in the height of the baskets and backboards.

Agitation for a change in the height of the goals was initiated by Dr. Forrest C. Allen of the University of Kansas. His suggestion was a counter to the move to eliminate the tip-off. The action in both of these instances was brought about through the desire to equalize the alleged advantage of the tall player over the short one. Doctor Allen's original suggestion was to raise the baskets to twelve feet above the floor.

This suggestion was presented to the National Association of Basketball Coaches assembled in New York on March 28, 1931. It was not presented as a change for the season of 1932, but for the consideration of the coaches and rules committee during that season. The matter will be formally presented at the next meeting of these two groups for their decision.

This report submits statistics and opinions for comparison of goals at three heights, 10, 11, and 12 feet. Data and observations were recorded concerning not only the observed and measurable effect of the different heights of goals upon the tall player, but also concerning



the following points:

1. The effect upon scoring and shooting generally. Basketball is an attraction because of its action. Action and scoring are almost synonymous in this sport. Basketball is a greater attraction than hockey, for instance, at the present time because there is more scoring in basketball. Anything, therefore, that will tend to decrease the amount of scoring is a questionable change. As a type of scoring the maneuvering which produces the set-up shot is the most thrilling to the spectators. The answer to this question was sought by charting shots both during competition and during practice shooting without opposition. From the tabulated data down below it can be readily seen that in this particular investigation the scoring was very decidedly reduced when the higher goals were used.
2. The effect on roughness under the basket. Will raising the baskets tend to open up the play around the basket and decrease the crowding, blocking and incident fouling that inevitably occurs? If the play seems to be less congested because of the higher baskets does such a change seem to be a desirable one? The answer to these questions was sought through charting the rebounds from the baskets at the three different heights by noting the distance that the ball tended to rebound from the backboard. Also the general congestion or lack of it under the basket during actual scrimmage was observed for the different baskets. The conclusion drawn was that crowding and massed play under the basket was largely eliminated but the result was hardly desirable. See tabulation and comments on rebounds.



3. Fatigue effects upon the players as a result of the baskets at different heights.

This information is entirely subjective and was secured from observation of the play and interviewing the players. It is discussed below.

4. What effect would raising the goals have upon the courts and playing facilities throughout the country.

Problems of expense, relation of the height of the ceiling to the height of the baskets, etc., must be considered. This information was secured through inquiry. A summation is shown at the end of the report.

The data that is presented was taken from the work of classes in basketball during the spring and summer quarters of 1931-32 at Stanford University. The spring classes were composed of freshman and varsity players and also a group of novices, while the summer classes consisted of coaches attending the summer coaching school. All groups were required to perform all the drills so that the differences in ability would be reflected equally in all the data that was taken. Approximately thirty players are represented in the data.

#### RESULTS

A tabulation of shots during scrimmage for the different height goals produced the following results:

<u>Height of Basket</u>	<u>% of Shots Made</u>
10 feet -----	306
11 feet -----	133
12 feet -----	108



A similar tabulation for shots made at various spots on the court without any opposition produced the following results:

<u>Height of Basket</u>	<u>% of Shots Made</u>
10 feet -----	.290
11 feet -----	.254
12 feet -----	.246

For obtaining the above data each player was required to make one hundred shots and each made an equal number from specified areas on the court.

The shots during scrimmage do not represent an individual player tabulation, but rather a team result. It would be expected that some players would shoot more often than others but it is assumed that these players would shoot approximately the same number of shots at the different goals under similar playing conditions which were provided.

A tabulation of rebounds from the goals at the three different heights showed the following results:

<u>Area of Rebound</u>	<u>% of Rebounds in Area</u>
	Goal Heights 10 - 11 - 12
14 ft. semi-circle -----	44 - 38 - 41
Outside of semi-circle -----	56 - 62 - 59

Note: The center of the circle was located at the mid-point of the end line.

From the standpoint of shooting and recovering the ball from the backboard it was observed that the higher goals eliminated very largely the advantage of the tall player under the goal. His accuracy on tip-in shots was very decidedly affected. He could not reach up and lay the ball in the basket. He was required to make a shot in the same way that a shorter player found it necessary to shoot. The tall man could not merely reach above the heads



of his shorter opponents and obtain possession of the ball as readily as under the lower goals. The fact that the goals were higher gave more time for the players to get into position for rebounds and thus permitted the shorter players to fight more effectively for the ball. They had opportunity to recover after jumping and then spring again for the ball. With the ten foot basket the exceptionally tall player would never lose his position because he would seldom jump from the floor.

On the other hand it was observed that the tip-in shots and the pleasing play incident to the set-up shot was practically eliminated when the higher baskets were used. With the goals at the added heights the players seemed to be unable to control their shots when coming in toward the baskets at a rapid rate of speed. They, therefore, resorted to the more set shots a little farther out from the baskets and even to the longer shots which were equally as easy to make. Thus a game with less passing and more long shooting resulted. This factor might be overcome as the players became more accustomed to the changed heights of the goals.

From the standpoint of roughness, there seemed to be less contact under the higher goals. This was due largely to the shooting being longer, which fact in turn spread the players over the court and made less concentration under the basket.

Fatigue was more noticeable in the case of the higher goals than in the case of the lower one. Without asking for information in this connection, the players complained that their fingers and wrists seemed to cramp and to tire after shooting at the high goals for a time. They felt that the shots at the higher goals required so much more force than the shots at the ten foot goal that in addition to the fatigue which materially affected the accuracy of the shots, the push shot became more of a heave than a snap shot.



Finally there is the effect of the higher goal on the playing facilities of the different organizations which participate in the sport. There are still many localities where adequate playing facilities are not available. Many teams play on courts with exceptionally low ceilings so that the raising of the goals would mean discarding of such facilities. It is a most difficult problem to determine the extent to which this factor would affect the different localities. The following information was obtained from state supervisors of physical education in sixteen different states and gives a fair cross section of opinion on conditions for the United States. The information received from these different states has been summed up under the following three heads:

1. The majority of the letters indicate that the supervisors are absolutely against any change in the height of the basket. They see no need for such a change in the rules and from the standpoint of the high school teams they think that the plan is highly impractical. Viewed from the standpoint of the present facilities of the high school throughout the country, they feel that such a change would be impossible in the majority of cases of high school gymnasias.
2. There were some who felt that the change in the height of the basket might be an advantage to college teams but a very decided disadvantage and an impractical procedure on the part of high school teams and the teams of even lower grades. Therefore, these individuals suggested a graded system of heights for the goal to conform to the group involved. This height would range from eight feet in the case of the elementary school player to twelve feet for the college team.



In the State of Maryland this scheme has been tried out and with what the people of that state felt to be unusual success and satisfaction. A backboard has been designed which can be raised and lowered with comparative ease. This backboard can be manufactured and marketed for a reasonable cost. It was the feeling of those representing this point of view that unless the scheme of graded heights for the goal, depending upon the size of the team, were made, that the game of basketball was due to lag as far as its interest and attractiveness to the players was concerned. The opinions from the states of Maryland, Kansas, and California were noteworthy in this second group.

5. Reports from Missouri and Ohio gave the opinion that the present facilities in the high schools would not accommodate a raise in the height of goal, but nevertheless they felt that such a change might be desirable feature, not only from the standpoint of improving the game, but also from the standpoint of securing better playing facilities in the high schools of the country.

#### Conclusions

The writer does not feel that definite conclusions should be drawn from the data that is here presented. The investigation should be carried out more extensively. It is hoped, however, that sufficient information has been presented here to suggest some of the problems that should be considered, and to stimulate others to contribute their thinking and work. A change of this kind in the rules has such a far reaching effect that no action should be taken until the results can be predicted with a great deal of accuracy.

One might draw the conclusion on the basis of this report that the raising of the goal is undesirable from practically every standpoint that was investigated. If a change in the height is to be made then it is felt



that an eleven foot goal will meet every need for a higher goal, and if such a change is made it would be practically obligatory to adopt a graded plan of goal heights for teams below the college grade.