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April 30, 1945.

Mr. C. E. McBride, Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

My dear Mac:

I am sending you a carbon copy of Henry Iba's letter to me regarding a game in the Auditorium next winter and a copy of my reply to him. Frankly, there is no use with the Big Six eligibility rules as they now are, of a team competing with Henry Iba's outfit.

I am not at all afraid of meeting him, but when you have 7 ft. and 7 ft. 3 in. boys competing against six-footers -- well, that just isn't basketball, or cricket.

The ten foot basket is making the hunt for the 7 ft. and 7 ft. 3 in. boys more manifest. The moment they raise the basket to 12 feet the hunt for the big boy will be practically over because no more could he stand and merely flex his fingers and push the ball in the basket. The poorest place in the world for a 7 ft. boys is directly under the basket. You have no idea the difference that it makes. We had 12 ft. baskets installed here and have had them for 15 years, and we have tried it out. But the majority of coaches are so dumb that they still desire the drive-in and the lay-up for their shorter boys in pleading for a 10 ft. basket. And at the same time they give the coach the exceptional advantage of scouring the land for 7-footers, and this 7-footer defeats the efforts of the five other medium-sized boys.

Cecil Hankins and Bob Kurland, together with three ordinary basketball players, can beat a five of scintillating stars, none of the five stars being over 6 ft. 4 in. The only teams that got into any of the finals or semi-finals for the championship play had a man taller than 6 ft. 7 in. That shows that it is the low 10 ft. basket, and not the tall 6 gy. 7 in. fellow that wins the ball game. Or would win the ball game if they had a 12 ft. basket.

I don't want you to give any publicity to this, but I am trying to convert you to this thought - that the hunt would be definitely over for these extra tall boys if the rules committee would do something about the height of the basket. I realize, Mac, that you think I am overzealous on this point, but I give you my word and definite conviction that I have tried this out with tall men and they cannot score under a 12 ft. basket with anything comparable to the dunking methods they now pursue.