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January 15, 1943.

Mr. C. E. McBride,
Sports Editor,
Kansas City Star,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Confirming my phone conversation regarding Kelleher, etc., Mr. Kelleher states that I was endeavoring to drive a wedge between the east and the west. I told you over the phone that I was the organizer of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. This came about when the Basketball Rules Committee deleted the dribble from the rule book. Dr. Meanwell, L. S. St. John and the old guard were then running the rules committee.

I was speaking before the National Educational Association in Des Moines at the Drake field house along with Knute Rockne. Knute Rockne spoke on "The Pedagogy of Football" and I spoke on "The Pedagogy of Basketball". Two days prior to this meeting at the field house the Basketball Rules Committee had abolished the dribble. In my speech on "The Pedagogy of Basketball" I assailed the National Basketball Rules Committee as autocratic and high-handed because they had not checked with any of the coaches of the country to determine their opinions; but because Meanwell felt that the one bounce in the game would be better than the dribble they followed his recommendation.

I received about 160 telegrams from coaches over the country stating that they desired the dribble retained, and for me to voice their protest. My contention was that the dribble in basketball was synonymous with the broken field run in football. It was spectacular and also it permitted a closely guarded player to break into the open for a better pass. It also permitted a player to carry the ball to vantage points to set up a play. It added sparkle and color to the game and a clever dribbler was a cross between a fine hurdler and a broken field runner.

The Kansas Relays came on in about ten days and the Drake Relays were a week after this, so I called for a meeting of all the basketball coaches of the country to be held at Des Moines at the time of the Drake Relays. We had a great turn out and the coaches elected me chairman of that group. We protested to the rules body and set a meeting for the Coaches Association to formulate an organization at Chicago during the time of the N.C.A.A. track meet. Before the N.C.A.A. track meet in June the Rules Committee rescinded their rule regarding the dribble and left the rules as they were. The deletion of the dribble took place in April and the Rules Committee put the rule back in May.