

HITS AT CAGE SCORING

PITT COACH ADVOCATES THREE POINTS FOR A FIELD GOAL.

The Change Would Eliminate Games Being Decided on Free Throws Awarded by Officials, H. C. Carlson Says.

(By the Associated Press.)

PITTSBURGH, March 31.—A revision in basket ball scoring—counting three points for a field goal instead of two—has been advocated by Coach H. C. Carlson of the University of Pittsburgh.

He said the reform would be proposed at the meeting of the joint basket ball rules committee in New York April 6, 7 and 8, pointing out that it would curtail the number of games decided by foul shots, which in turn are governed by the decisions of those officiating.

"The 1932 rule book shows that 55 per cent of games last year were decided by foul throws," Dr. Carlson said. "Fouls, of course, depend on the judgment of officials. Games often depend 70 per cent on the opinion of those who interpret the rules. The 3-point field goal and the 1-point foul would eliminate a good portion of that unfavorable ratio."

Dr. Carlson foresees a battle royal on basket ball rule changes at the New York meeting. The recent withdrawal of the National Collegiate Athletic Association from the rules committee is the climax of a long-brewing disturbance in the national structure of basket ball rule-making, he said, adding:

"There are several rule changes which I would like to see made this year, but with the present unsettled conditions among national basket ball organizations the outcome is doubtful."

Carlson said his experiment this year with the center-jump elimination has met with favor among some coaches and has drawn criticism from others.

Fights Last Night.

(By the Associated Press.)

Savannah, Ga.—George Annarino, Cincinnati, knocked out John Kennedy, Charleston (2); Ralph "Smokey" Maggard, Cincinnati, outpointed John Singly, Fort Benning, Ga. (10).

'SPORT NOT ENOUGH NOW'

TANGIBLE VALUE OF ATHLETIC SKILL HAS PASSED, LINDLEY SAYS.

Ten Years Ago a Star Would Have Been Offered Work on His Record, but Not Now, Chancellor Asserts.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

WICHITA, KAS., March 31.—The passing of tangible value for athletic prowess was the basis of a talk today by Dr. E. H. Lindley, chancellor of the University of Kansas, before the third general session of the annual convention here of the Midwest Physical Education Association.

"Red Grange's fame was writ on water," Dr. Lindley said, "and Jim Thorpe's name was washed away when the tide came in."

Eddie Tolan, Olympic champion in the sprints, hung up his racing shoes just the other day, he pointed out. He is a young man, beginning his adult life, and he has discovered the terrific speed he possesses cannot avail him a living. His experience is not unique, he said, it is the rule of sports.

"Ten years ago," Dr. Lindley explained, "many men would have offered a man work on his athletic record. Today these same men demand scholastic grades."

The K. U. chancellor explained he was not belittling athletic prowess. The good things of civilization, he said, had grown out of men possessing energy greater in its power of application than that of the ordinary man.

"We have reason, in this part of America, to be proud of our young men and their strength. It was the corn-belt young men who proved to be the most skillful, and possessing the greatest energy at the Olympic games in Los Angeles last summer."

West End at For-
st 12— Park at West End,
Ingleside at Marietta, Forrest Hills at
Chattahoochee.

BASKET HEADS URGE OPEN GAME

(Continued From 1st Sport Page.)

practice, but were impressed with:

(1) The abolition of the 10-second rule and an enforced man-to-man defense, and

(2) Allowing only four men on defense against the five offensive men, which would revive the old "sleeper" play as the best means of speeding up the game. Condemnation of the variations of the five-man defense and the zone defense that have come into wide use and have clogged the one-time speed of the sport was unmistakably strong. The coaches want, it seems, a fast-moving, fast-breaking game as indeed do most basketball fans.

Specific recommendations to the joint rules committee were to:

(1) Increase the time out period from one to two minutes.

(2) Urge officials strictly to enforce present rules governing the huddle.

(3) That the official be required to hand the ball to the man outside.

(4) That a smaller ball between 29½ and 30¼ inches in circumference be adopted instead of the 30-31-inch ball now in use.

(5) All front courts must be a minimum of 40 feet long.

The coaches referred questions of painting the ball black, of elevating baskets to 12 feet and other proposals to the research committee for further study.

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Coaches reported increased attendance in the East and Middle West and slightly decreased attendance in the South, the latter condition being attributed to inferior teams.

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NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

of the UNITED STATES AND CANADA

ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is sent annually to representative basketball men of the country in order that their views may be presented at the annual meeting of the National Committee. The Committee will be grateful if you will check these answers and RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE PROMPTLY to _____

The Committee Member whose name appears above will send all replies received up to March 25 to H. V. Porter, 11 South LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois.

1. (a) Has the new note on held ball resulted in a better game?
Yes 595 No 113
(b) Should a held ball be declared whenever a player in control is touching the floor with any part of his body other than hands or feet?
Yes 183 No 609
(c) when a team is attempting to consume time by holding the ball near the division line should a held ball be declared whenever a closely guarded player holds the ball for three seconds?
Yes 428 No 392
2. Player in possession near the sideline sometimes intentionally hits the opponent on the leg with the ball so that it caroms out-of-bounds. There are other similar situations. Should these be regarded as legitimate plays and allowed without penalty?
Yes 512 No 294
3. Check the court size which you regard as best:
(a) For high school play 283 48x75 299 48x84 27 50x94
(b) For college play 4 48x75 220 48x84 415 50x94
4. (a) Has the removal of the "due allowance" clause in the traveling rule caused any difficulty?
Yes 96 No 708
(b) It is claimed that few players in starting a dribble drop the ball before the pivot foot leaves the floor. Do you favor rigid enforcement of this rule?
Yes 231 No 575
5. Would you favor taking time out after each basket?
Yes 231 No 557
6. The new rule for starting second and fourth quarters reduces the number of center jumps. Would you favor further gradual reduction?
Yes 403 No 393
7. Would you favor allowing play to proceed at the end of a quarter until the play which is in progress when the signal sounds is completed?
Yes 69 No 712
8. There is some sentiment in favor of moving the backboards 6 feet inside the end lines. Assuming that over a period of years such a change might be made, in your opinion
(a) Would it relieve the crowding in front of the basket?
Yes 219 No 530
(b) Would it result in fewer out-of-bounds balls?
Yes 574 No 206
(c) would it result in more play in the center floor zone and in more tries from there?
Yes 367 No 357
(d) Would the increased possibilities for offensive strategy be desirable?
Yes 332 No 355
9. Would you favor a plan whereby a free throw for a personal foul would be made from the spot where the foul is committed (with proper adjustments for unusually long or short distances)?
Yes 86 No 687
List other suggestions on reverse side.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE,

J. H. CROCKER,
E. J. HICKOX,
A. A. SCHABINGER,
F. A. SCHMIDT,
OSWALD TOWER,
H. V. PORTER, *Chairman*

This questionnaire checked by _____

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Andover, Mass.

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OF THE

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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Committee on Research and Visual Investigation

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Oswald Tower

Honorary Members

James A. Naismith
Ralph Morgan

March 26th, 1934

Mr. F. C. Allen
Univ. of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I appreciate having the several letters from you dealing with the work of the committee on research and with proposals for matters to be considered at the coaches' association meeting.

With respect to the pictures I will say that I shall be glad to bring along several reels of pictures which we may be able to project on Friday before the meeting of the rules committee. It is rather difficult to carry a projector that far but I am sure we can arrange to rent a suitable one after we get to New York.

I have considerable data which is along the line of research work but which has been done by the sub-committee which was formed to investigate the merits in floors of various sizes. Incidental to this investigation other interesting data has been secured. I have no doubt that we can go over some of this on Friday and I am trying to arrange a meeting of the sub-committee on floor sizes for that day. Wherever the work overlaps or where there are incidental data that might be of interest to the research committee this can be used in research work.

I note your comment relative to the setting up of a pair of baskets which will be higher than the present 10-foot limit. I think it would be a good plan if it can be arranged although it is not probable that we can reach any final determination from a practice scrimmage. However, it is a step in the right direction. A few years ago at a time when the scores were running so low as to detract from the interest of spectators I had two baskets with a diameter of 20 inches made up. I rather think these are stored away in one of the high schools here in the state. If they can be secured, would you be at all interested in having them sent down to be worked into this experiment? As stated above, I am not sure they can be located but I shall make some inquiries so that in case there is enough interest in the matter they could be shipped.

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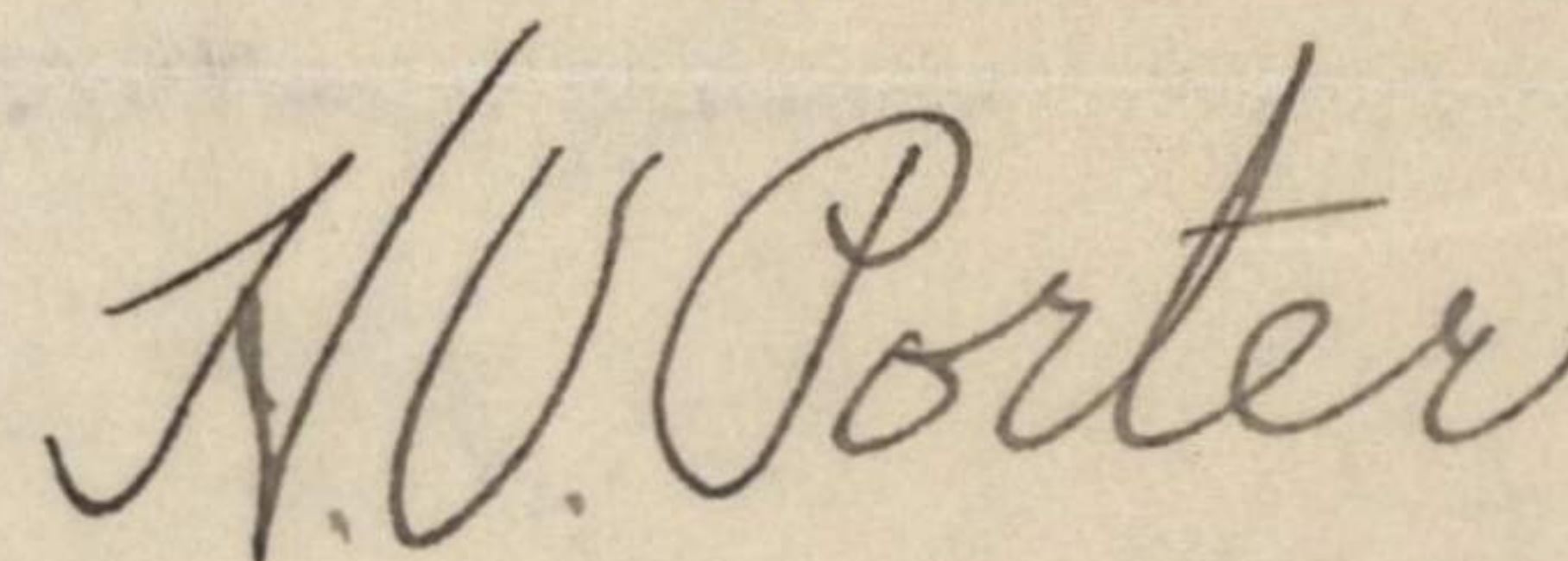
Page two -

I am heartily in agreement with your belief that the minimum size of a basketball should be reduced to 29½ inches. I have noticed that almost invariably the best ball handlers are boys who have abnormally long fingers. If we decrease the size of the ball slightly we will have a greater number of players who can perform artistically with a basketball. I believe the weight should be left the same as it is at present. With the size of 30 inches or above it is a difficult matter for manufacturers to produce a ball lighter than 22 ounces without skiving the leather so thin that it does not have great wearing quality. If the size is slightly reduced and the weight left the same it will simplify the manufacturer's problem and I believe there is no advantage to be gained in making the ball any lighter.

The only other suggestion I have relative to the rules is that something should be done relative to the crowding around the center circle. We were bothered considerably by this at our state final tournament.

It will not be possible for me to attend the coaches' association meeting at Atlanta. But I am planning on going to New York a day early and will be there Friday, April 13th.

Yours truly,



H. V. PORTER

HVP/j

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Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Vice-Chairman, WM. MCK. BARBER
24 Broad Street, New York City

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97 Elmdorf Ave., Rochester, N. Y.

JOINT BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

OSWALD TOWER, *Editor*

ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

March 27, 1934.

Dr. F. C. Allen,
c/o Mr. Roy Mundorff,
Georgia Tech,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Phog:

This is in reply to your letter of March 24.

My investigations this year have been largely in the nature of general observation, rather than experimentation with proposed changes. I have some data on the ten-second rule which are interesting and favorable. Major Griffith has given me permission to reproduce Craig Ruby's pictures of various legal and illegal plays if we wish to use them in the Guide. I will take copies of these to New York for study by your committee.

There has never been a season when there has been so little demand for changes in the Rules and such general satisfaction with the game. Of course there is scattered criticism of this or that phase, but no widespread complaint or general request that some particular change be made.

I am sorry that I cannot be in Atlanta this week. Saint is urging that the center jump be abolished and I hope the coaches will discuss this carefully. I have opposed this change in the past but am ready to be convinced or converted if I can be shown that there is any widespread and well-founded opinion in favor of it. Until I received Saint's letter I had considered this almost a dead issue, although it has cropped out frequently. I shall be interested in learning what the Coaches Association thinks about it now.

One situation still bothers me and my correspondence indicates that we ought to do something to improve it. I refer to the situation in which calling a foul works to the disadvantage of the offended team. We have discussed this often but have never reached a solution because any plan of declining

penalties seems impracticable. It does seem feasible, however, to provide for withholding the whistle when the player with the ball is fouled in his front court, the official merely signalling the foul by raising his arm and pointing to the offending player, the whistle to be blown thereafter as soon as the ball is dead or the ball goes into possession of the defence. I have in mind several possible objections to this idea, but it may be worthy of consideration.

I have not received the agenda for our annual meeting and therefore am not sure when I shall go to New York. You may be sure, however, that I shall be there early enough to have a conference with you before the big meeting. I shall stay at the McAlpin.

Trusting that you will have a fine trip and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you again, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Donald Tower.

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C O P Y

March 21
1934

Mr. Roy Mundorff, President,
National Ass'n. of Basket Ball Coaches,
Georgia Tech.,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear President Roy:

I am wondering if it would be possible to arrange a pair of goals 12 ft. in height at the Atlanta Athletic Club or wherever you plan to work your test games, for the purpose of trying out the 12 ft. baskets so that the coaches might see a game in action under those conditions.

If it would be possible to have a sliding scale for this game, say an adjustable basket, that we could try a game at 11 ft. and one at 12 ft., it would give the coaches a definite idea as to what the possibilities might hold by incorporating for the future a consideration of a possible change in the height of the basket.

I claim that it will decrease the number of fouls by at least 30%. On all lay-up shots and cuts for the basket, the higher basket will do away with these. It will diminish or practically exterminate the pivot post play. Big, husky, powerful guards will not be able to block opponents out away from the basket under this proposition.

Dr. Naismith has O.K.'d the suggestion of raising the baskets and I believe that the quest for tall players, especially centers, that the elevation of the basket will equalize the height more proportionately between the extra tall man and the medium individual and it will also serve to clear up the congestion under the basket.

I am also just throwing out a suggestion as to a possible increase in the width of the court to a maximum of 56 ft. instead of 50 ft. as a blow against the so-called zone defense or mass defense throwing itself around the basket. This will make fewer out of bound balls.

And, by moving the back-boards 4 to 6 ft. inside the end line with the raised basket, this will further tend to decrease the number of out of bound plays. Under these conditions it might be necessary to increase the field goal to three points, leaving the free throw at one point and the four personal foul rule as it is.

#2 Mr. Roy Mundorff
March 21, 1934

If we don't raise the basket or do anything about the side or end-line, I am in favor of prohibiting the pivot post man from shooting at a basket when he receives the ball with his back to the basket in the free throw lane. Allow him to handle the ball in this area with the three second restriction as now.

Further, I would be in favor of taking no time out for substitutions in the last minute of each half as is the case in the football rules. I have seen this thing abused this year and I believe before the abuse gets too flagrant, we should crop this play situation closely at the start.

Also, I believe it is well to consider the minimum size of a basket ball. Most coaches want it smaller and by discussing that at the present time, we could agree on something that would not be hazardous to the manufacturers of balls.

Further, I think it would be well to take up the booing situation and see if we can't as coaches cooperate with the newspaper men and the athletic authorities in downing some of the more rabid manifestations of disapproval.

For several years, we have had two 12 ft. baskets installed at the ends of our practice court and I use these in emphasizing the necessity of the arch. Then, after going back to our regulation 10 ft. basket, our boys roll them in there readily.

You will please understand, Roy, that I am not fighting for any of these proposals to take effect this year. The game is splendid as it is, but why not use some of these items for trial and research and see if an improvement cannot be made in the game?

I am planning to be with you all three days and I know that you are going to have a fine turnout. I am trusting that Mrs. Allen will drive down with me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director.

FCA:IW

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The State College of Washington

PULLMAN, WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

March 30, 1934

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

In Reply to This Letter
Please Address

Department of
Physical Education and Athletics

State College of Washington
Pullman, Washington

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Education and Athletics
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

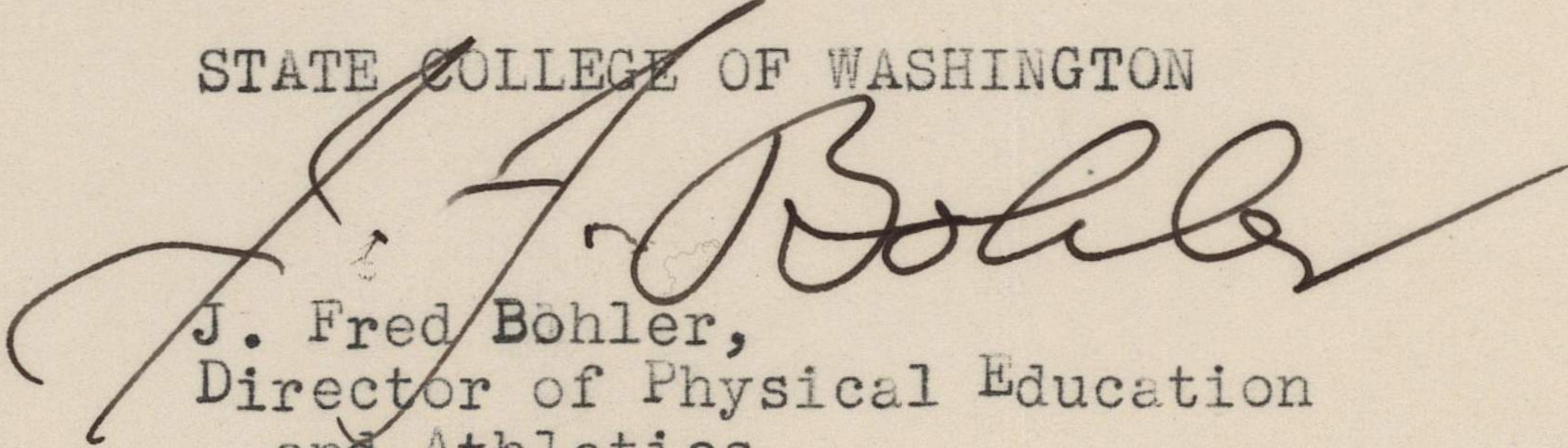
I received your letter together with a copy of the letter you had sent to the President of the Basketball Coaches concerning some suggestions on changes. I was glad to get this information and feel there is considerable merit in a number of the things you had to suggest. I will be glad to have an opportunity to talk these things over April 14 and 15.

There was one suggestions that was made by our basketball coach, Mr. Friel, which I think has some merit in that it would eliminate some of the crowding under the basket and would, no doubt, eliminate the zone defense. His suggestion is to compel one forward and one guard to remain in the back court. This also would open the way for a quick break game. As a matter of fact, it would seem to me it would open the game up and would do away with a lot of the confusion and fouling under the basket.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

STATE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON



J. Fred Bohler,
Director of Physical Education
and Athletics.

jfb;d

N.B.B.C.
Assn
F

February 1st
1 9 3 4

Mr. H.V. Porter,
Asst. Mgr. Ill. High Sch. A.A.,
11 South LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Porter:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the January-February issue of the Illinois High School Athlete. I was tremendously interested in your "Effects of the New Rules on Basket Ball" on pages 69 and 70 and I think you have hit that pretty well on the head.

My opinion would be that we should still hold to the ruling on the illegal starting of the dribble, because if we permit them to attempt more of a change than they are, it will put such a great burden on the guard that very soon there will be a cry raised against the use of the dribble and there will be an effort to disbar the dribble from play. For that reason I am in favor of protecting the dribble as much as possible by endeavoring to hold the dribbler down and not give him much of an advantage over the defensive man.

I imagine Fred Young of Bloomington, Illinois gets your magazine, but I have written him today calling attention to some of your timely comment and asking him to get hold of one. I wonder if you would be kind enough to send him one, if he is not already receiving it.

By the way, I have written C.E. McBride of the Kansas City Star also, calling attention to your summarizations and I told him I was going to ask you to mail him a copy. Would you kindly write to Mr. McBride, calling attention to the article on pages 69 and 70. I think this article is very much worth while and I also thank you for calling my attention to it, also, for your thoughtfulness in mailing me a copy.

#2 Mr. H.V. Porter
February 1, 1934

I am hoping that things let up a little here, so that I can get into some of this very necessary research work that needs especial attention.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director.

FCA:IW

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Oswald Tower

Honorary Members

James A. Naismith
Ralph Morgan

January 24th, 1934

Mr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

Under separate cover I am sending a copy of the January-February issue of the Illinois High School Athlete. The reason I am sending this is that I thought you might be interested in the comments on basketball rules on pages 69 and 70. These are not necessarily unusually good articles but they at least represent some thoughts in which I believe any rules committee member will be interested. No acknowledgment is necessary and if you do not find time to go over them no harm will have been done anyway.

Yours truly,

H. V. Porter

H. V. PORTER

HVP/j

A. G. Spalding & Bros.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT
SPORT CLOTHING

105 Nassau Street

NEW YORK, - N. Y.

B/B
Rules
S

Extract from Minutes of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING of the JOINT BASKETBALL COMMITTEE held at the Hotel McAlpin, New York City, June 23rd, 1932. Copy of this extract also sent to the press associations of United States and Canada.

Minutes of the Executive Committee will be sent shortly.

After a six hour session at the McAlpin today the Executive Committee of the Joint Basketball Rules Committee voted to adhere to the changes made in the basketball rules at the Annual Meeting last April. This means that the much-discussed ten-second rule and the curb on the so-called "pivot block play" will be retained as originally adopted, and that they will become part of the Basketball code for the season 1932-33. All criticisms and suggestions received since last April were discussed thoroughly, including the points raised by the Eastern Group of coaches and officials as a result of their demonstration game and conferences. Of the five recommendations made by the latter group, four were already covered in substance by the rules adopted last April. The recommendation that the ten-second rule be disregarded in the last three minutes of the game was not approved, but in connection with face guarding it was voted to accept the suggestion that this rule read, "Face guarding takes place when a player - - - obviously interferes with the progress of an opponent."

The reaction of the country as a whole to the changes has been favorable. The ten-second rule in particular has been well received and is expected to speed up play materially. This rule was originally sponsored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and came to the Committee as a unanimous recommendation of that body. It is expected that the basketball public will recognize in these changes an attempt to correct certain undesirable tendencies in the game, and will accept them in that spirit. At the end of the next season the Committee will welcome further suggestions.

H

March 26th
1 9 3 4

Mr. John W. Bunn,
Basket Ball Coach,
Stanford University,
Calif.

Dear Johnny:

I was happy indeed to hear from Louis Moore by remote control. Yes, I remember him very well. Please give his son my kindest regards. I was always very fond of June Bug, as we called him. Tell young Moore when he writes his father to tell him that Phog said hello to June Bug.

I am sorry that I did not get to see him, when I was in Los Angeles, during the Olympic Games.

Please find enclosed one of Dr. Naismith's percentile charts. If you need any more, please command me.

I am terribly dissatisfied in learning that you will not be at Atlanta. I had counted on seeing you and having a visit with you. Mrs. Allen and Eleanor are going to drive to Atlanta with me and I was hoping you might bring Bonnie.

I will be interested to hear your report on the Research Committee. I am wondering just how many of our Research group will be there. Anyhow, I will be in there pitching and having some fun.

I am sure the Pacific Coast is making a mistake in not paying the expenses of their men, although I never have gotten anything from the University of Kansas. But, I think this year I am going to see what I can do. I am going and then, if they want to reimburse me for part of my expenses to Atlanta, I will not be too modest to take it.

I, too, am sorry that I cannot talk to you regarding the 12 ft. basket. It is the tall man that

#2 Mr. John W. Bunn
March 26, 1934

they are fussing about under the offensive and defensive baskets. I am sending a copy of a letter I have written Roy Mundorff, President of the Nat'l Association of Basket Ball Coaches. I wish you would study it and offer your criticism.

I would say that we should not raise the basket any more than it would be possible under the rules according to the height of the ceiling. You will remember for years we played on a much narrower court than the rules called for. I can appreciate the difficulty that a discrepancy in the height of the basket would cause in a league, but I didn't know that the Pacific Coast Conference was troubled in having low ceilings. In our conference we could go to 12 ft. without any difficulty.

But, you can see that I am not trying to force a rule through. I am merely calling something to the attention of the public that in my opinion they are overlooking. They are fussing about the tall center at the jump. It is the big, tall boy under the offensive and defensive baskets that licks you. The basket is too low. Move it up 2 ft. and all of the lay-in shots, the post pivot play shot, the tip-in shots, the bat-ins, and all of that stuff is eliminated.

As far as the expense of installing a basket 2 ft. higher over the others, I think it is minimal. It would reduce the number of goals, but it would also reduce greatly the number of fouls. Play would be continuous and sustained; by moving the basket in, fewer out of bound plays would result and with this added advantage of fewer out of bound plays, your scoring would pick up. You would still work the ball in but not in as close as under the old regime. And, what murder these guards get away with - hiping the forwards out under the basket in the present set-up.

John, it is not the difficulty of the skills or the finger coordination that would make these shots difficult. It is really a matter of the accomodation of the muscle of the eye to the height and this adjusts very rapidly. Lots of these passes would be worked in under and behind the basket, if you moved the basket in the court 6 ft. I would certainly like to have a good long chat with you on this subject.

#3 Mr. John W. Bunn
March 26, 1934

I can appreciate how much difficulty you are having on your exact findings on the relative value of fatigue, or rather recovery from fatigue, after exercise.

I am sorry that you are not coming into Lawrence, because I have enjoyed your visits very much. I believe your conference will make a mistake if they do away with the tip-off, because the tip-off has only a percentage of jump balls during the game. If they do away with the center jump, why not do away with all jump balls?

I had Elbel and Frosty working on a project but I fear it is not authentic enough to give a report on. So, I will wait until my data is more assured.

Again regretting that I will be unable to see you and wishing you the best of success, I am

Sincerely yours,

Chairman, Committee on Research
and Visual Investigation

FCA:IW

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Division of Physical Education (Including Athletics)
Division of Informational Hygiene

Men Students' Health Service
University Health Service

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

March 19, 1934

Dr. Forrest C. Allen, Director
Division of Physical Education and
Intercollegiate Athletics
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doctor Allen:

I have just learned that it will be impossible for me to attend the Coaches' meeting at Atlanta. Sentiment seems to be crystallizing against the voting of funds for meetings of this kind. Personally, I feel that this is very much to the detriment of our school and the Pacific Coast, but I have not yet been able to get this idea across.

I note from the newspapers that you are again advocating the twelve foot basket. I am sorry, but I do not share your point of view. There are just any number of courts that would find it impossible to install these baskets. The expense to many others would make it prohibitive, and I feel very definitely that it would retard the action of the game because it would reduce scoring, encourage long shooting altogether, make set-up shots as doubtful as long shots, and therefore discourage all maneuvers that would aid in working the ball in close to the basket. It seems to me that these facts overbalance all the disadvantages that the present arrangement causes.

With respect to the report of the research work for the year, as chairman I have written to all of the members of the Research Committee, asking them for reports of any investigations that they may have carried out during the past season. As yet I have had no replies from them. Our own work out here consists of four projects. The most important to me is fatigue, or rather the recovery from fatigue after exercise. I am hoping sometime to get comparisons between the strenuousness of basketball and other sports. This is a long, tedious job, and while I have been working periodically at it, I still do not have anything that I can report at the present time. I shall be here all this summer and expect to do a great deal of work then. The results of this work will constitute my thesis for my Master's Degree at Kansas, so I am hoping to finish it up within the near future. The second point that has been drawing my attention during the past two years is a method of rating players. It has always appealed to me that one of the most difficult problems that a coach must face is that of choosing the players for his team. I have been attempting to get some tangible basis by which one may be governed in the selection of his team. You may recall that Bill Chandler has done some work along this line. I have been using a little different method of attack. I am enclosing for your information the chart which I have used for the past two years.

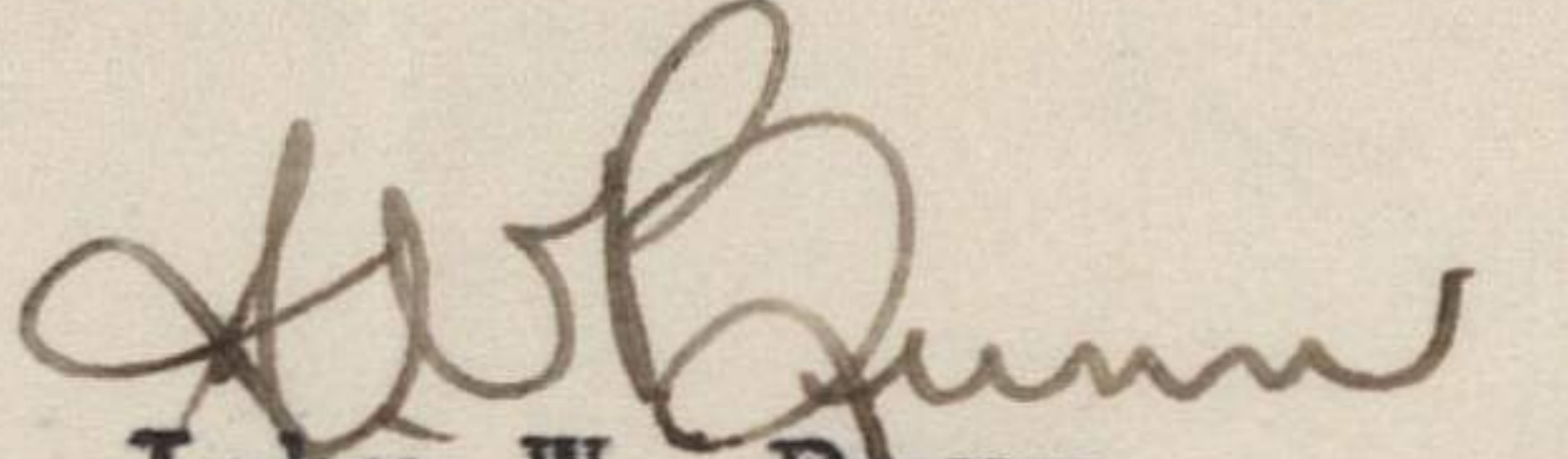
March 19, 1934

At the present time, I am not ready to draw any definite conclusions from the data I have accumulated. I need to have a winning team in order to get any valuable comparisons. Probably by the end of next year, I shall be able to judge the value of this chart a little better. The third point is concerning the value of the present rules. It is our feeling out here that the attention that has been put upon the bad effects of calling too many held balls has produced the desired results. You may be interested to know that in our games here, the number of held balls last year ranged from twenty to thirty per game, whereas the number this year ranged between ten and fifteen per game. This is a very noticeable and remarkable reduction, and my own feeling is that the difference is due very largely to the attention that has been called to held balls by the rules committee. I have felt that there has been this same general improvement in our officiating this year all along the line. We have been making earnest attempts for greater uniformity, and also to team men together who work most harmoniously. As a result, a great deal of improvement has been shown. In this regard, however, we have made only a beginning, and a whole lot is yet to be accomplished. The fourth point is concerning rule changes for next year. The particular one that I wish to call to your attention is concerning the center jump. Our conference here is, with the exception of my negative vote, unanimously in favor of eliminating the center jump. My teams have never controlled the tip-off since I have been here on the Coast. Nevertheless, I am very enthusiastic about the center jump. However, as a result of this rather concerted opinion, our conference will in all probability do without the jump next year. So far as I know, this will be the first time that a major organization has attempted an experiment of this kind with the rules. For this reason, it should prove very interesting, and the results should be most useful as a guide to our Rules Committee. I shall include these items in my report to the Coaches' Association, but you have this advanced information. May I have the results of any work that you have done this last year so that the report will be truly representative of our whole committee.

Thank you a lot for your interesting letter.

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,


John W. Bunn

JWB:W

Do you know Louie Moore a classmate of yours in law. He lives in L. A. now and his boy was my fresh captain this year. Would you mind having the office send me one of Dr. Kaismith's percentile charts immediately.

I

March 26th
1 9 3 4

Mr. L.W. St. John, Chairman,
Nat'l Basket Ball Comm. of
the U.S. and Canada,
Ohio State University,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Saint:

Thank you for your good letter of
the 21st inst.

I am sending you a copy of the letter that I wrote to Roy Mundorff, President of the National Association of Basket Ball Coaches and varsity basket ball coach at Georgia Tech.

I still contend, Saint, that the center jump is not the main difficulty. It is the tall, husky boy under a 10 ft. basket that is causing the trouble. If you will raise that basket 2 ft., the center jump won't be the difficulty, I will wager.

You see, Saint, we will still have the jump for held ball just the same and in many games the jump for held balls exceeds the number of tip-off plays at center.

You know in our questionnaire this year there is no mention of doing away with the center tip. I believe that many of the people would consider it an inferior bit of legislation, to strike at one of the old institutions of play without a definite and early discussion of such change.

If a circle were drawn around the larger circle, that would help the situation. Of course, such

#2 Mr. L.W. St. John
March 26, 1934

a change as that always makes a busy evening for the officials. I always think of the tip-off at center, the same as the kick-off in football. I know the Pacific Coast Conference is not sold on the center jump, but they will still have the big boy in there for the rebounds and the follow-ups on both the defensive and offensive baskets.

As far as we are concerned in our section this year, the game continued to improve in interest both from the spectator and player standpoint. You know, Saint, I think the greatest difficulty we are having with officiating is the inability of our audience to be decent to our officials. Immediately, when a game starts, a certain percentage of the audience declare themselves audibly for one team against the other and their cleavage to their friends is emphasized by their loud guffaws in the form of booing against an official who may be doing a pretty good job of it. At the first slight fault or error of an official, a part of the crowd turns loose with an awful boo. Then, if an official does something displeasing to the other part of the crowd, they voice their disgust in the same vocal fashion. It seems as if the crowd is competing in booing, while the players are competing for field goals and free throws.

As far as I am concerned, I would like to see the Coaches' Committee and the Rules Committee ask that where practicable, 12 ft. baskets be installed with 3 points for a field goal and 1 point for a free throw. You will be surprised just what will happen. Then, I would like to see the baskets moved in 6 ft. from the end line, if they raise the baskets, and where possible, where you have plenty of room, widen the court 3 ft. on either side. And, if they want to draw that circle around the larger circle, O.K. But why, should I continue to write you this letter, when I am sending you a copy of the letter I wrote Roy Mundorff.

I feel that after our meeting at Atlanta with the coaches and hearing their arguments, I will

#3 Mr. L.W. St. John
March 26, 1934

enjoy my sessions, sitting in with the meditative and efficient Rules Committee.

I am of the opinion that our annual questionnaires are out a little too late for us to get the greatest benefit from an annual study of these rules. I have listed and codified all of the answers that have come in this year. And, from my study of this group, I know how next to impossible it would be for any Questionnaire Committee to agree on such an important thing in so little time left before the rules are acted upon. I received about 125 of the questionnaires and immediately sent them out. To date I have received 46 odd in return.

I have listed after the coach's name C for college, U for university and H.S. for high school. I am sending you a copy of this chart, which I have compiled, so you can look it over. It is interesting. If you took a total of the questionnaires in the United States, it looks as if it is an almost impossible situation to arrive at a satisfactory ruling to favor the entire country.

Don't you think that we should adhere to our policy that unless we get an overwhelming opinion in favor or dis-favor of the rule that we should recommend to the groups that they should try projects out before we agree on a change.

For instance, John Bunn wrote me that he thought that the Pacific Coast Conference might do away with the center tip. Unless there is an over-whelming vote in favor of the center tip, why not leave the rule as it is, even though a conference or a section does away with it, and see how they get along with it before we change the rule. Perhaps, sentiment in that way will crystallize one way or another and the fellows who did away with the center-tip may be just as much dissatisfied with the game under the change and they may want to

#4 Mr. L.W. St.John
March 26, 1934

go back to the old rule.

I still maintain that unless you do away with all jump balls, you have treated the matter only palliatively, if you eliminate the center tip and still have the jump balls and other situations.

I plan to go to New York a day or so early and trust that we can have some frank and friendly discussions.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director.

FCA:IW
Enc. 2.

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March 21, 1934

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

My dear "Phog":

Last week-end I sat through a number of the sessions of the finals in our State High School Basketball Tournament. My personal observations there supplement the conclusions I have been coming to for some time.

First, so far as an actual rule change goes, I believe that I am ready to go along with some change tending to eliminate pretty largely the center jump. A great deal of crowding around the center circle, massing of players in the center of the floor at the time of the jump, a considerable number of fouls called on the jumpers, at times irregular and uncertain tossing of the ball, no particular interesting or scientific set plays from the center bat-off, all conspired to lead me to the conclusion that those people who are actively campaigning against the center jump and the domination of possession of the ball by the extremely tall center, have a good deal of merit. Perhaps the tossing of the ball in the center at the start of the game and at the beginning of the second half might be retained, and at other times give the ball out of bounds to the team who has been scored on. The more I study this situation, the more ready I am to go along with some proposal of this sort. That is the only change I can see as logical in the rules for the coming year.

The other big thing that is needed is a better and more common sense

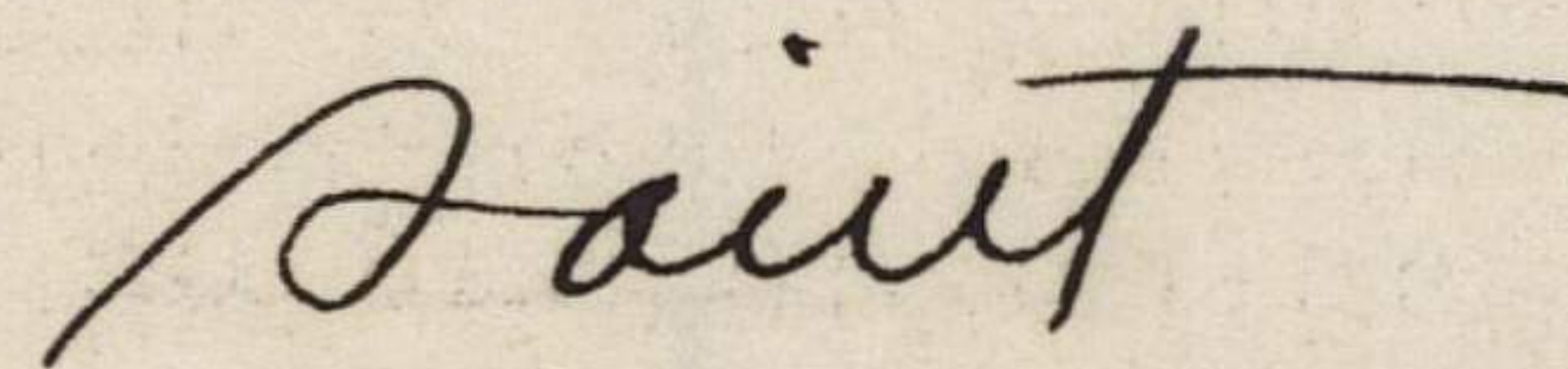
Dr. Forrest C. Allen #2

March 21, 1934

administration of the game by officials, which exercises judgment in the calling of fouls. The calling of a lot of trivial, inconsequential fouls that do not affect play needs to be done away with, but there is no way you can legislate on this matter. Propaganda and a campaign for better and more common sense officiating will be about the best and only way to get results in this particular matter.

I do not wish to influence too greatly your thinking nor your judgment in the matter of what is good for the game of basketball. I do wish you to know, however, lines along which I am thinking at the present time.

Cordially yours,



L. W. St. John,
Chairman.

LWS:MF