

December 14, 1940

Mr. Roy E. Weinzettel
Fred Medart Manufacturing Co.
Saint Louis, Missouri

Dear Roy:

I was sure that I would get a chance to answer your letter regarding Sam Barry sooner than this, but the same old story--not enough hours to go around in the day.

I have always liked Sam Barry very much, but Sam does take a stand on certain things and he is pretty hard to whip. But as far as the new fan-shaped modified basketball backboard being recalled at the next meeting is concerned, Sam is all wet.

I thought that Sam must have made a statement similar to that because Jack Gardner, one of Sam's U.S.C. coaches, who is not coaching at Kansas State, came out against the backboard--the only one of the coaches in the Big-Six that did--but our conference voted to adopt it and Jack Gardner has a set of them now.

There is not a chance in a million that the new basketball backboard will be recalled at the next meeting of the Rules Committee. The Committee are silently behind them and there will not be an opportunity of it being renewed. The longer this board is in use the more popular it will become. I predict there will be 25 years or more before the backboard is changed again.

I noticed the Big-ten did not make a chance, but they are always afraid to make a chance on a lot of things.

With so many of the high schools using the new board you will find that it will not be long before all the youngsters coming up from the high schools will be using them and they will like them. In that manner, the Universities will soon want them because the high school crop coming on will be University students and they liking them will demand them when the time comes. So take it easy, Roy, and do not worry. I think the fan-shaped backboard is here to stay without much kick from anybody.

The new board has too many things in its favor, and there is nothing in favor of the big, old, gaudy board; it was ugly and stole space from the spectators and the players.