

NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

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Andover, Massachusetts

Chairman, L. W. ST. JOHN
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Vice-Chairman, H. H. SALMON, JR.
40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

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11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

November 17, 1937

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Lawrence, Kansas

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Shorewood Hills
Madison, Wisconsin

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11 So. LaSalle St.
Chicago, Illinois

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210 Confederation Life Bldg.
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L. W. St. John
Ohio State Univ.
Columbus, Ohio

H. H. Salmon, Jr.
40 Wall St.
New York, New York

Oswald Tower
Andover, Massachusetts

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Univ. of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

I appreciate having your letter of November 15th with comments relative to the molded ball. I have a great deal of respect for your opinion in any matter of this kind and naturally I have given these opinions considerable thought.

I hope you will continue to study the new type ball because these balls are constantly being improved. It may be that the defects you mention can be eliminated. As a matter of fact, I wish you could try one of the Cord-Bilt balls which has ribs of a contrasting color and of a different material between the leather panels. As you probably know there are two types of balls. One is the ball made under the "Last Bilt" patent and marketed by Spalding, Reach, Goldsmith and Wilson. This ball is entirely smooth and is supposed to be blown to a seven pound pressure in order to react properly. This ball is entirely smooth and is quite a bit livelier than the sewed ball.

The other type ball is the Cord-Bilt ball which has been developed through the efforts of the National Federation. This ball is usually blown to a pressure of about ten pounds and at this pressure reacts almost the same as the sewed type ball at thirteen pounds. This ball is made either entirely smooth or with ribs to give the appearance of the old ball and to give a slight gripping surface. It may be that these ribs will build up the same sort of air cushion on a long pass as that of the sewed type ball where the air is caught by the depression at the seams. At any rate, I hope you will be able to give some study to both types before reaching a definite conclusion that these balls will not be satisfactory. In the next day or two I hope to be able to see one of the men who is interested in the ribbed type ball and I shall recommend that he send you one of these for experimental purposes. As you probably know the Cord-Bilt ball is being marketed by the Dubow Manufacturing Company and by the Rawlings Manufacturing Company.

We are especially interested in the new type ball because if it can be satisfactorily developed it will mean a great saving to schools and also it will insure their playing with a ball which is a perfect sphere. At the present time they use a spherical ball only while the ball is new. The sewed ball soon stretches out of shape and consequently most high school teams are forced to practice with a pumpkin or egg shaped ball. The molded ball is being used quite extensively in this territory and at a recent meeting of our state basketball committee they