

Wednesday,  
January 12th.

Dear Mr. Allen:-

Thank you very much for writing me on December thirtieth and please permit to extend profuse apologies for the delay in acknowledging same. I know you must be busy and want you to know that I really do appreciate your kindness in writing to me.

I read with great interest the article regarding your new book and plan to obtain it at my very first opportunity. I enjoyed your Basketball Bible and am certain the new book will prove of great interest to everyone interested in basketball.

Our team has had more success than we anticipated by winning three of our first four games. To be honest about however I must say that the competition was not stiff. Am afraid that when we meet up with the strong teams we will have a tough job on our hands in trying to defeat them. After all with the very limited practice we enjoy I am surprised that our shooting has been as accurate as it has thus far proved to be. Of course, the physical condition is not what it should be were we practicing and playing at least several times each week.

Perhaps it is because I am old fashioned but to tell you the truth I do not care for the game as now played. Seems to me that right now most games consist of running first in one direction then in the other with but very little time and effort spent on using set plays and a proper defense. Evidently most teams operate on the theory that a good offense is the best defense. While that may be true to a certain extent nevertheless I enjoyed much more the old game. I have always enjoyed playing with men who keep up a short fast passing game working the ball around with a weave and screening until a player is broken open. From my observations the average player now dribbles in as far as he can get - if blocked from going under the hoop - he leaps into the air and ~~tryxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ attempts a one handed shot. The other players are never certain as to just when he is going to shoot hence are in poor position to follow.

I dislike intensely the player who dogs it on defense - he is constantly playing for sleeper shots - never plays more than half of the court. In the former game the player who lagged on defense was quite readily seen by the spectators. Under the present set up his lack of defense ability or at any rate his lack of desire to do his part by guarding his man is not so readily apparent - do you not agree? Of course, in say your game - the players know you are watching them and that such tactics will not be tolerated hence they make at least a stab at guarding - but in the independent game there is seldom a coach - or if a coach one who will stand up and face to face accuse such a player because in most cases that player is the main scoring threat. And why shouldn't he be when he only participates in the offensive feature of the game?