Worcester, Mass.
March 17, 1939.

Mr. F. C. Allen
Univ. of Western Ontario.
London, Ontario.

ans 4/5 - 3.9 ack'd

Dear Sir.

I have had splendid reports of my steel nets from the colleges testing my all steel nets and am interested to know the results of the tests made at your University.

Providing the tests were satisfactory I will appreciate anything you may be able to do for me at the National meeting in order to have the nets approved. I am

Very truly yours Joseph H Bennett

20 Richards St.
Worcester, Mass.

March 22, 1939.

Mr. Joseph H. Bennett,
20 Richards St.,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Your letter of March 17 addressed to Dr. Allen has been received during his absence in San Francisco. He will return within a few days, and it will be brought to his attention at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen.

Lawrence, Kansas
January 13, 1940.

Mr. H. V. Porter,
11 So. LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am very much interested in your letter of the 11th instant. In regard to research on the 11-foot basket, Floyd Rowe told me that he would do this problem for the Research Committee not for the high school people, but for the college people, feeling that the 11-foot basket in the high schools was comparable to the height of the 12-foot basket for colleges. He is doing this only as a research project. I heartily agree with you that the 10-foot basket is high enough for the high school players because they haven't developed as to agility and coordination.

I also agree with you regarding the expense item of the backboard.

I think the Research Committee should consider some type of uniform floor. For instance, the University of Oklahoma has one of the worst floors in the conference, but they claim they can't do anything about it. A ball has a bouncing resiliency of 49-50 inches on an ordinary floor. Why should we not test the floor as to its resiliency the same as we test the ball? We have done some research on the lighting of the floor, and I believe it is time we conducted some tests on the floors. I would like to have your reaction on this suggestion. Since you have the facilities, would you be willing to conduct some research along this angle?

In regard to the modified board, we found that the convexity is accentuated too much at the center of the board. If this curve could be spread out more toward the ends of the board I believe the productive area would be increased. This is one criticism that I have.

Yes, I did receive your notice. We were in Chicago playing Loyola on the date you wrote. I wanted to call you up but we got out of town right away and I had no chance to see you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, Research Committee, N.C.A.A.

Lawrence, Kansas
January 13, 1940

Mr. H. V. Porter,
11 So. LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

Accompanying your letter of January 11th is a diagram of a backboard. Is this the flat board, and if so, where did you get it?

We have one of the smaller boards here on which we have assembled data regarding use of the various parts of the board, but we find the board too small for practical use.

Perhaps it would be well to continue some research on the flat board. They could be easily made by the manual training departments of the high schools.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman of Research Committee, N.C.A.A.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
of the UNITED STATES *and* CANADA

CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Executive
H. H. SALMON, JR.

Publication
OSWALD TOWER

Research
FORREST C. ALLEN

Questionnaire
H. V. PORTER

Game Administration
SUMNER A. DOLE

CHAIRMAN, H. H. SALMON, JR.
40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

SECRETARY, H. V. PORTER
11 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

VICE CHAIRMAN, JOHN BUNN
Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, Calif.

TREASURER, FLOYD A. ROWE
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER
Andover, Massachusetts

January 11, 1940

Complete List of
Committee Members

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

John Brown, Jr.
347 Madison Ave.
New York, New York

John Bunn
Stanford Univ.
Palo Alto, California

Forrest Cox
Colorado University
Boulder, Colorado

J. H. Crocker
Univ. of Western Ontario
London, Ont., Canada

M. C. Cunningham
High School
Desloge, Missouri

Sumner A. Dole
Connecticut State College
Storrs, Connecticut

J. Mark Good
Sun-Gazette Co.
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

E. J. Hickox
Springfield College
Springfield, Massachusetts

A. F. Jefferess
114 Carrick Ave.
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Frank P. Maguire
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

H. G. Olsen
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Curtis Parker
Centennary College
Shreveport, Louisiana

H. V. Porter
11 S. LaSalle St.
Chicago, Illinois

Floyd A. Rowe
Board of Education
Cleveland, Ohio

J. W. St. Clair
Southern Methodist Univ.
Dallas, Texas

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

Oswald Tower
Andover, Massachusetts

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have your letter relative to research work on the eleven-foot basket. I would be willing to encourage some experimentation along this line but, frankly, our men have looked upon this as primarily a college problem. I have never been able to work up very much enthusiasm for raising the baskets for high school play, although I think most of our men are of the opinion that there is merit in the suggestion for college players. Up to the age of nineteen or twenty, where high school eligibility ends, there are not a great many unduly tall players or, if they do exist, their muscles are not coordinated to the extent where they become great scoring threats. It is exceedingly rare to find a six foot five high school boy who is also well enough coordinated to make a defense against him an impossible problem. I may be able to stir up enough interest at one or more of the schools to persuade them to collect actual data on this matter, but I am not sure I can do it.

With respect to other research problems, I will say that we have been concentrating on the problems which I mentioned in a former letter, i.e.

1. The problem of the effect on the game through use of the modified backboard as outlined in the back of the rule book.
2. The proper bouncing reaction of a ball.
3. The advantages and disadvantages of eliminating more of the jumps which follow held ball.

In my opinion, the most valuable work the Research Committee could do at this time would be to stress experimentation with the backboard of modified size and shape. I note that you mention this in your form letter to members of the committee. As far as I am concerned, I am attempting to maintain an open mind in connection with the convex backboard. I am not yet ready to commit myself as either favoring or disapproving the change. I do feel that even if the convex type of board should prove to be of enough advantage to warrant the change, it is very doubtful whether it would be wise for the committee to consider such a change this year. In my opinion, the adoption of such a board would practically force every school in the country to make a change, not only in their backboard but in the bridgework which

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must support it. There is also the matter of a patent being taken out on such a board. In my opinion, the construction of a board with a cylindrical surface is not patentable but the manufacturers of this board contend that it is. This matter would have to be ironed out before we went too far in committing ourselves to such a change.

These things do not apply to a board with a flat surface and with a modified size and shape. It is my opinion that if the advantages seem to warrant it, the committee could authorize a gradual change which would not be a hardship on any school. If such a board were legalized as optional equipment, it would permit schools to make the change at their convenience and I do not believe that it would greatly handicap a team if they were to practice with a board of the present size and shape and then play a game with the smaller board. The only difference would be in appearance and my experience leads me to believe that any team could adjust itself to this difference in appearance during the five or ten minute warm-up period. One of the phenomenal things about basketball players is their ability to quickly adjust themselves to varied conditions. I could cite any number of cases where actual figures have proven this to be true. This has been strikingly illustrated in connection with balls which have a different bouncing reaction and with floors which vary greatly in resilience. We have carefully charted the percentage of successful tries where these conditions differ widely and it is surprising how quickly the boys adjust themselves to these slight differences.

All of this leads me to believe that the Research Committee should expend every effort in getting work done along these lines and, if actual experimental use indicates advantages such as we think exist in the modified board, there is no reason why some action should not be taken in the near future, possibly at this year's meeting of the committee.

Even if the convex backboard should ultimately prove to be desirable, probably the best method of changing over would be to do it in steps, first through optional use of the flat board of modified form and shape and in later years through the final change to the convex surface. This second change would then involve no modification of bridgework and the only expense would be in the cost of a couple of boards. Incidentally, with the size reduced it should be possible to stamp out a steel or composition board at very little expense. There is not the opportunity for warping and twisting that exists when a board of the present size is used.

By this time you have received notice relative to reservation for the March meeting. You will note that I have taken your figures on room rates at the Continental Hotel. These seem very reasonable and I have no doubt that they are made on the basis of group rentals.

Yours truly, H. V. Porter

Secretary

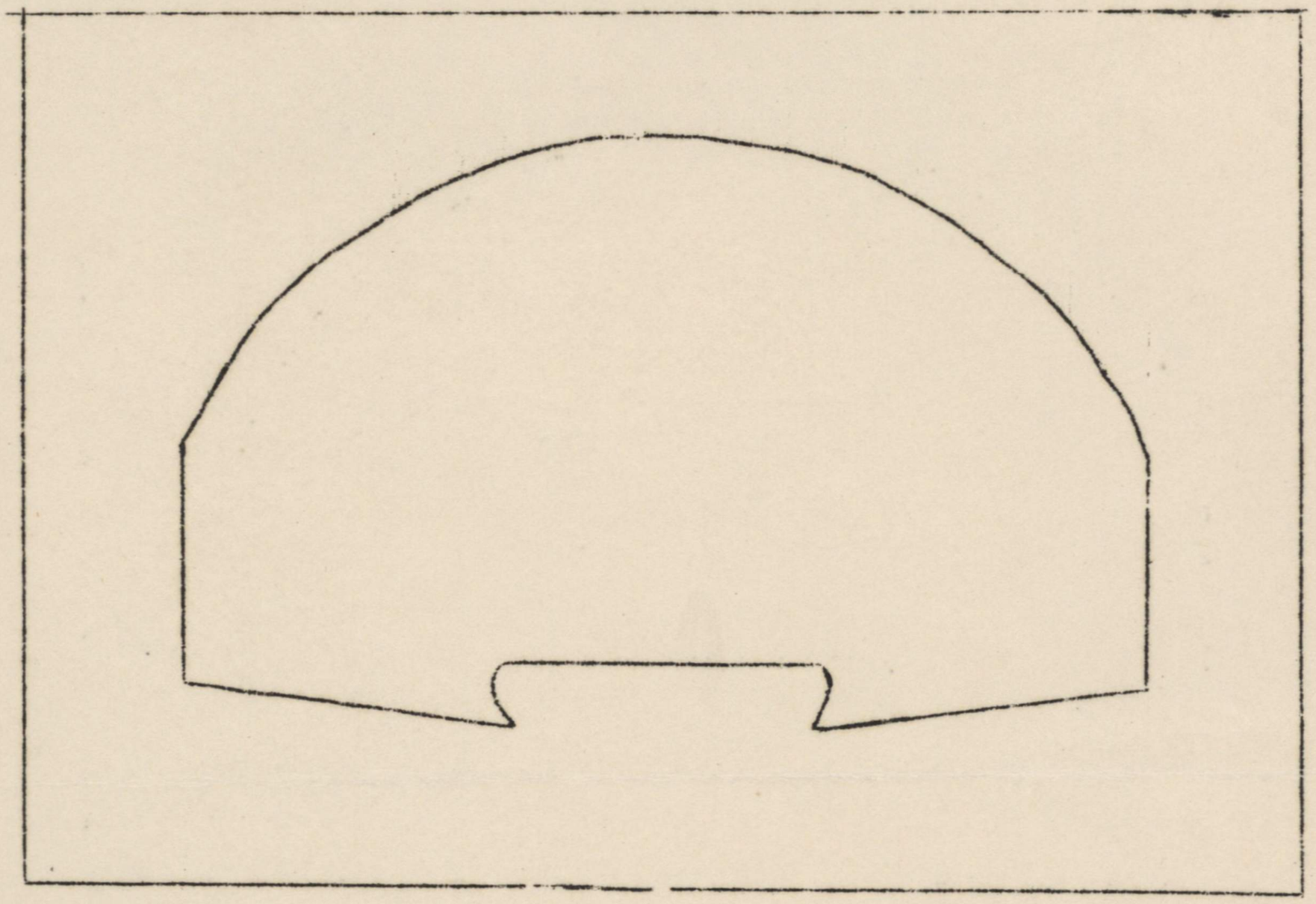
HVP/j

USE OF BACKBOARD

For one or more games, please appoint responsible statisticians to gather data on the use that is made of various parts of the backboard.

PREPARATION: Statisticians should train themselves by making test observations to become familiar with the surface of the present backboard which is included in the proposed board shown in dotted lines on page 47 of the rules book. With practice, the observer should be able to estimate the spot on the board where the ball strikes.

METHOD: In gathering data, a dot should be entered in the proper place on the diagram each time the ball strikes the backboard. If the ball caroms into the basket for a goal, a small cross should be placed over the dot. If the ball strikes the edge of the board, a check mark should be placed outside the board diagram at the proper place.



SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES AUTHORIZED BY THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA FOR 1940-1.

NOTE TO MEMBERS: This is a preliminary statement of the major actions of the Committee at their annual meeting at Kansas City, Missouri, on March 30th and 31st. This is issued for your convenience and for the purpose of giving the press some needed information. The detailed actions of the Committee will be included in the complete minutes which will be sent to each member as soon as they can be made ready.

H. V. PORTER, Secretary

Court Diagram. No change is to be made in the diagram of the court. It will be made clear that during a free throw the player who occupies the space marked H or V is entitled to the entire space from the first alley mark to the end line.

Rule 2. The smaller streamlined backboard which was outlined for experimental purposes by the Committee last year will be legal at the option of the home team. The new style board will be as outlined on page 47 of the Interscholastic Edition of the 1939-40 basketball guide. It will have an over-all width of 54 inches, the top will be an arc having a radius of 32 inches. The lower edge of the board directly behind the ring will be on a level with the ring. Directly under the extreme left and right edges of the ring, the board will extend downward three inches below the ring and from that point the lower edge will slope upward to the corners of the board which will be on a level with the ring. The edges of the board at each side will beperpendicular to the floor and will extend upward until they meet the arc which forms the top border. The board will contain no sharp corners or edges.

This board will be considered legal wherever the management may choose to use it. It should be understood that no organization will be compelled to make the change. It is felt that no team will be handicapped by practicing on one type board and playing on the other. The new board will have a plane surface, the same as the old. The part which has been eliminated has been waste space for many years and, because of more recent changes in the game, has become a detriment to free use of all the playing space. It is suggested that when an organization chooses to keep its present backboards and finds that they will play some of their games on courts having the new board, the unused space on the traditional board be blocked out with a dark paint to give the target the same appearance as that of the new type board.

Rule 4. The rule relative to the size, color and reaction of a legal ball will remain exactly as it was last year. The questionnaire which was nationally circulated indicates an overwhelming satisfaction with the present ball situation. Any difference in opinion relative to which of the various types of official balls is most satisfactory is a healthy condition which will result in continued improvement of equipment and ultimate use of the best.

Rule 5-3. Several minor changes were made in connection with the proper time and method for making substitutions. A substitution will be permitted any time the watch is not running except during the interval between the time the ball is placed at the disposal of a free thrower and the time the free throw is successful or unsuccessful. It will also be permitted any time the ball is dead with the watch running except after a field goal.

Rule 5-6. It is strongly recommended that players be numbered consecutively beginning with the number 3 and that ranking players wear the lower numbers. It will also be prescribed that wherever possible, the home team wear suits of a light color and the visitors suits of a dark color.

Rule 6-2, 11 and 12. Slight changes have been made in these rules which deal with timing and scoring in an attempt to eliminate some of the irregularities which have been common in connection with these important matters. Comments by the Games Administration Committee will emphasize a trend toward the use of a checker or supervisor who will be primarily responsible for these matters and who will be assisted by one Official Timer and one Official Scorer.

Rule 7. Several changes in wording and arrangement will be made in an attempt to modernize this rule. The Editors are authorized to provide for consistent rules relative to cases where the ball touches or is touched by a player who is on or outside a boundary line. An attempt will be made to place the responsibility for causing the ball to go out of bounds on the player who is himself out of bounds before touching the ball.

Rule 8-1. In high school or junior high school games, an automatic time-out is to be declared in the middle of the second and fourth quarter, provided neither team has taken a charged time-out during the first four minutes of these quarters. This official's time-out is to be of two minutes duration.

Rule 9-3. When a high school game ends in a tie, one overtime period of three minutes duration will always be played. Thereafter the sudden death method of breaking a tie will be used.

Rule 9-4 and 5. When a game is forfeited, the score at the time of forfeiture will be considered the official score in cases where it would be to the disadvantage of the offended team to have the score declared 2-0.

Rule 10-1-Note to Officials. When the ball is awarded to a team out of bounds from its front court, the Official must have actual possession of the ball and then hand it to the proper player.

Rule 13-1 and 2. These sections will be brought up to date and a definite procedure for the Official when a foul is called will be prescribed. Also the rule relative to who shall make the free throw will be made consistent in cases where an injured player is to leave the game, or a player is illegally in the game, or a player is disqualified on the play. In such cases, the substitute will be expected to attempt the free throw.

Rule 14-2. If a free thrower who is attempting a throw for a technical foul steps over the line too soon, the point shall not be counted and whether the throw is successful or unsuccessful, the ball will be awarded to the free thrower's team out of bounds at mid-court.

Rule 14-11. This section will be rewritten to include the provision relative to the use of the restraining circles during jumps and the interpretation of the rule will be to the effect that a player may not jump through the cylinder above the circle before the ball has been tapped by a jumper.

Rule 15-12. In Penalty (a) a new question and answer or an addition to the Rule Comments will give more specific information as to what constitutes a "foul from behind".

In penalty (b) the provision for the extra free throw for a deliberate foul will be further emphasized.

In penalty (d) the right to waive a free throw will exist only until the ball has been placed at the disposal of the free thrower. A definite procedure will be outlined for the referee's duties relative to this matter.

Comments. The comments will include the recommendation of the National Basketball Coaches Association that no conference adopt rules which deviate from the official rules except in cases where such modifications are authorized by the National Committee for experimental purposes. Also a 98-foot court for college play will be legalized in those cases where it is impractical for the local management to use the four-foot end line without making the court longer than the previously authorized 94 feet.

The Editor and Secretary were authorized to make certain changes in wording or arrangement for purposes of clarification or amplification.

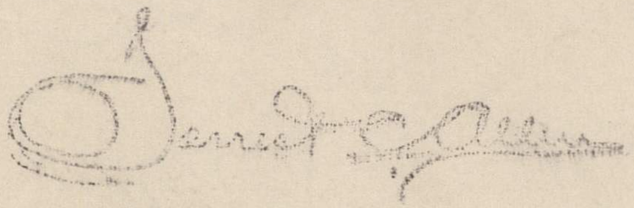
Dear Coach:

I am enclosing herewith the annual questionnaire of the National Basketball Committee. Will you please fill it out and return it to me at an early date, as I have to make my report to Mr. H. V. Porter, Secretary of the Committee. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Garrett C. Allen

Chairman, 5th District, N.C.A.A.



LATE RESEARCHES IN BASKETBALL

by

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach,
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

(Presented to the Men's Athletic Section of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation at their national meeting in San Francisco, California, April 3-6, 1939.)

For years the generally accepted method of choosing a team has been upon the judgment of the coach, reinforced by the performance of stellar players who were outstanding in scoring field goals on the offense and by superior guards smothering the scoring opposition. Many times a coach removes a player from the game merely on the coach's own judgment. By the same token other players do not get an opportunity to play because this particular individual did not attract the coach's attention.

Baseball has had its batting and fielding averages computed for years, thereby making it easy to weigh the ability of the dominant players in this sport. Using the same procedure in basketball, it is the opinion of the speaker that a relative rating of basketball players can be had. We call this the "batting and fielding averages" because this terminology elicits the interest of these competing players on account of their previous experiences in baseball. Most every able-bodied boy in America has played either hard ball or soft ball. I think this is also true in basketball. The problem was to link up the interest of those boys and get them to enter into a scheme that indicated their prowesses definitely in basketball as has been done in baseball.

The development of a list of offensive elements was the first step. With that idea in mind a list of offensive elements was made and each activity or play was weighed subjectively. The weight of the item was carefully considered as it related to an important part of offensive tactics and also insofar as it contributed to the execution of sound fundamentals and to winning success. Of course, the objective was to stimulate the learner to make as few mistakes as possible. Experience has shown that it is the repetition of mistakes that defeats a player or a team. The same mistake made too many times always proves disastrous.

Under the heading, "The Kansas Basketball Evaluation Study", is shown the positive items as opposed to the negative items. Every play of importance, both in the positive and the negative offensive study, has been weighed in evaluation points. The old kindergarten theory of a good reward for a good deed and a poor reward for a bad deed has been carried out.

In the above offensive study the data were collected by former varsity players well versed in the meaning of these evaluation points, by mature majors in the Department of Physical Education, and by some other well qualified student assistants. Twelve men students were used in the collection of facts, six for

each team. The men worked in pairs, one acting as a recorder and the other as an observer. One pair made a record of all the passes and catches, one pair made a spot record of all the shots taken by players' numbers, and the other pair recorded the remaining material. Data were collected during all the home games on both the Kansas team and the visiting teams. The technique used in the collection of these data is the same as described in the first evaluation study.

It will be observed that in the first year only the offensive evaluation chart was used. In the second year of the study, 1938-'39, the evaluation technique was extended to include a defensive rating system for both the team and the individual players. A new term, "defensive efficiency", is used in the defensive rating which is comparable to the first study on the offensive rating. You will please note that in Table III the term "defensive efficiency" is the result of the formula:

$$\frac{\text{total positive defensive evaluation points}}{\text{sum of positive and negative defensive points}}$$

We now have a form of study which incorporates the offensive and the defensive rating comparable to the batting and fielding averages in baseball.

It is the conviction of the speaker that research of this type is worth while. The accuracy of this study depends upon the efficiency of the recorders. As stated heretofore, the selections were carefully made and the same individuals performed their tasks in all games. Therefore, there is every reason to believe that the results were very nearly correct. The great benefit accruing to a coach from this type of study is that the mistakes made during the game are pointed out, thus causing the players to be more conscious of them. This chart will enable the coach to link up the practice period value of executing proper fundamentals with matched game or competitive situations.

For instance, we teach our players before receiving the ball when going down the court never to get closer to the sideline than 8 feet because should that player fumble the ball when very near the sideline it will go out of bounds and the player will lose evaluations points; whereas the same ball thrown to him when he is within 8 feet of the sideline can properly be recovered for no loss of evaluation points to the player and to the team.

Again, in our offensive set up we insist that our offensive players do not retreat toward the division line nearer than 8 or 10 feet, because when the offensive team is forced back collectively by a defensive team, the player on the offensive team having the ball is in danger of getting "tied up" if he were closer to the division line than 8 feet.

Innumerable instances such as the two outlined above are always presenting themselves to the coach, enabling him to forcably teach better fundamentals to his proteges. The coach can say - By overcoming certain self-evident faults you can increase your batting and fielding averages. And in the discussions that always follow when the players and their coach are huddled around the batting and fielding average chart in the dressing room the following day these above mentioned points always come out during the "bullfest".

Further, it stresses the additional importance of game fundamentals and it also provides an itemized history of the contest which is intensely interesting to the players in the upper brackets. It stimulates those in the lower brackets to better their fundamentals. And too, it makes it possible for a coach to select his men on a more accurate basis. His judgment is reinforced by the itemized history of the contest.

The speaker is indebted to Dr. E. R. Elbel and Dr. V. W. Lapp, of the Department of Physical Education, for their aid in working out the rating of the basketball players. To Dr. Elbel for his invaluable assistance in an a dvisory capacity in weighing the offensive and defensive elements and in the careful selection of the recorders. To Dr. Lapp for his painstaking work in compiling the statistics and presenting the results in readable form. Dr. Lapp initiated the thought of writing to each player on the varsity squad, asking them to evaluate each of their teammates according to their individual playing efficiency. It is through Dr. Lapp's untiring devotion and indefatigable patience that this research is possible.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

January 12, 1938

Dr. F. C. Allen
Basketball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

Your letter to members of the Research Committee concerning floor markings is very interesting. My personal feeling is that so far as the rule book is concerned we should not change the present statements.

However, I do feel that schools should have complete freedom in the laying out of their courts, so long as they do not follow procedure which will be confusing or disadvantageous to their opponents. It seems to me that your idea would be very helpful to environments similar to yours.

You may be interested to know that our court here has a wide border of deep red, so that the playing surface stands out in bold relief. Our procedure is similar to that in Madison Square Garden. I have found this type of marking very helpful and the officials seem to have less trouble with out-of-bounds decisions. Therefore, I go back to my original statement that anything which will help the players in a particular situation may be used, but that the rules probably should remain unchanged.

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours

John Bunn
Dean of Men

JB/L

February 16, 1938

To Members,
National Basketball Committee:

Under separate cover I am sending a supply of the annual questionnaire. In order that there will not be too much overlapping, I suggest that a plan similar to that of last year be used for securing distribution.

In brief, this was to the effect that each representative of the N.C.A.A. attempt to get the questionnaire in the hands of college and independent coaches in his own district. Messrs. St. John and Tower will use their own judgment as to distribution.

Messrs. Brown and Hickox will make their own arrangements relative to taking care of the Y.M.C.A. group for that part of the country east of Illinois. Mr. Edgren will take this group west.

In the Canadian group, Crocker will circularize the schools and Rogers the other organizations.

Of course, it is understood that any of the groups may choose to make their own arrangements by mutual agreement of the representatives for that group.

Each of the high school representatives will be responsible for the high school men in the territory as outlined on a map which is being sent to them.

Yours truly,

H. V. Porter

Secretary

HVP/j

See attached list.

C

January 14, 1939.

Mr. Curtis Parker,
Athletic Director,
Centenary College,
Shreveport, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Parker:

I have your letter of the 12th instant and I am happy that you will try out the floor markings. I think you will like them.

I have not been so enthusiastic about the white ball because the backboard is painted white and I have always thought that the white ball would not be as clearly set out against the backboard as a ball of any other color. Either a yellow or orange or any color, other than white, seemed to appeal to my fancy. We have tried out the white ball, both in football and basketball, and we find that there seems to be a difference in the texture of the leather, which is probably due to the tanning. I presume tanning makes the leather tougher, and the white ball seems to be spongy, and has never made a hit with me personally.

I have had correspondence with Dr. Carlson, of Pittsburgh, and J. W. St. Clair, of S.M.U., and a great number of other outstanding coaches, and none of them like the lastbilt ball. I certainly do not like it, and no member of the Big Six Conference is using it.

I also think you will like the four foot option if you will try it out, because it prevents fewer balls from going out of bounds, hence the necessity of using an official tooter to start the game again.

I am also very open-minded as to the matter of allowing a substitute after scoring a field goal.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SHREVEPORT, LA.

January 12, 1939

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Chairman, Research Committee
National Basketball Committee
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have your letter of January 4th in regard to floor markings which I will try on our bloxonend wood floor.

I have a copy of Mr. Floyd A. Rowe's letter to you of the 6th relative to the white ball. We used a white ball Tuesday night and to me this type ball put more color into the game. The spectators liked it a lot. We played in white uniforms which made a nice color scheme. I think that we should standardize on a certain type ball. The majority of our players do not like the last-bilt ball. Personally I do not think it matters what type they use. Statistics in our scrimmages under game conditions bear me out.

We have not played on a court where the extentions are four feet from the backboard. I rather like the option.

I think that we should give considerable thought to allowing a substitution after scoring a field goal.

Sincerely,

Curtis Parker

Curtis Parker,
Athletic Director.

CP:mb

Lawrence, Kansas
January 12, 1939

Mr. H. V. Porter,
11 So. LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am glad to have your interesting letter of the 9th instant. I have had some correspondence with Coach Browne, of Nebraska, relative to lighting conditions on the basketball court. In our conference the lighting has been improved considerably, so that on most courts it is 12 to 18 foot candle power. We have 18 on our court here.

I think it would be very helpful to have something in the rule book along this line, and doubtless the Research Committee should lead the way. Since we have had some experience here we could perhaps draft a letter. This might well be written up in the rule book the same as the markings of the court, size of the court, and other architectural requirements. I am glad you mentioned this, and think something should be done.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman, Fifth District,
National Basketball Committee.

FCA:AH

NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
of the UNITED STATES *and* CANADA

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H. H. SALMON, JR.

Publication
OSWALD TOWER

Research
FORREST C. ALLEN

Questionnaire
H. V. PORTER

Game Administration
SUMNER A. DOLE

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40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

SECRETARY, H. V. PORTER
11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

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Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, Cal.

TREASURER, FLOYD A. ROWE
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER
Andover, Massachusetts

January 9, 1938

Complete List of
Committee Members

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Lawrence, Kansas

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New York, New York

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Stanford Univ.
Palo Alto, California

J. H. Crocker
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High School
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Connecticut State College
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Chicago, Illinois

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Frank P. Maguire
Dept. of Public Instruction
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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Shorewood Hills
Madison, Wisconsin

Curtis Parker
Centennary College
Shreveport, Louisiana

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11 So. LaSalle St.
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New York, New York

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Andover, Massachusetts

Willard A. Witte
Univ. of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

I hope you will pardon the couple of days delay in my answer to your recent letter. However, I note that your letter is dated January 9th, which is today, so possibly no apology is necessary.

I am very much interested in your comments relative to the alternate black and white method of marking the lines and hope that further study will be made.

Along with this, I think we might very well interest ourselves in a study of lighting conditions. We have made recommendations relative to height of ceiling, size of floor, etc., but no attention has officially been given the matter of what constitutes proper floor lighting. It seems to me that it should be possible to determine what constitutes the most desirable amount and type of light for the basketball court. If there is some way of measuring this, a statement in the rule book would be very helpful.

I note your comment about the fan shaped backboard. We have many coaches giving consideration to this matter and some of them are still collecting statistics. Of the various forms which were proposed, the fan shaped board with the lower edges sloping upward seems to be the more popular type. We do not yet have enough statistics to warrant drawing definite conclusions relative to the advantages and disadvantages but early returns and comments do indicate rather conclusively that from one-third to one-half of the present board is practically useless. Within the next couple of months I hope to have enough statistics to indicate some of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed new shape.

Yours truly,

H. V. Porter

Secretary

HVP/j

dated Jan. 4

GRAND CENT. ANNEX. N.Y.
JAN 19
9 - PM
1939

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

Jan.19,1939

Dear Dr.Allen:

Your letter of January 17th with copy of your letter to Mr.Tower on a uniform interpretation of basketball rules, has come to Dr.Brown's desk during his absence.He will return the end of next week, when this communication will come to his attention.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Grace W Smith

Office Secy., Natl.Assn.of
Approved Basketball Officials.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE A. A. - NATIONAL FEDERATION H. S. A. A. - Y. M. C. A. - CANADIAN I. A. U. - CANADIAN A. B. A.

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PART I. Concerning rule changes made last spring:

NOTE: Vote yes or no on general principle involved. Suggestions for slight modifications may be made in Part III or on back of sheet.

1. Is the rule which prohibits a substitution after a goal satisfactory? Yes 32 No 8
2. Are length and number of time-outs and intermissions satisfactory? Yes 38 No 2
3. The removal of the three-second limitation for player in the outer half of the circle without the ball has resulted in: (a) A better game 27 (b) A worse game 1 (c) No noticeable difference 11
4. Have you had direct experience with a court having the end line four feet behind the backboard? Yes 31 No 7
   If the answer above is 'Yes', check the following:
   (a) Were there fewer out of bounds balls? Yes 31 No 1
   (b) Was the space often used for tries for goal? Yes 11 No 20
   (c) Was there less crowding after rebounds? Yes 25 No 6
   (d) Were visiting teams noticeably handicapped? Yes 7 No 25
   (e) Do you recommend encouraging use of the four-foot space? Yes 31 No 3
5. Is the rule which prescribes the "sudden death" method in the first overtime in high school games satisfactory? Yes 13 No 15

PART II. Concerning general trend of game:

6. The present average total score for High School play is 55 points and for College 70 points. This is (a) About right 31 (b) Too low 5 (c) Too high 3
7. (a) The interpretation of "travelling" rule is (1) About right 31 (2) Too loose 6 (3) Too rigid 2
   (b) Use of a zone defense is (1) About right 30 (2) Too great 6
   (c) Officiating in my locality is (1) About right 23 (2) Too loose 16 (3) Too strict 1
8. The most desirable color: (a) for court lines is black 28 red ..... white 6 broken black and white 4; (b) for fixtures which attach basket ring to backboard is black 30 white 6; (c) for ball is tan 28 white 5
9. Do you favor conference experimentation with:
   (a) A smaller fan shaped backboard? Yes 4 No 34
   (b) Basket without a backboard? Yes ..... No 38
   (c) A basket ring 10 or 12 inches from the backboard? Yes 2 No 36
   (d) A heavier basket ring? Yes 7 No 31
   (e) A short metal chain basket net? Yes 2 No 35
10. Is "face guarding" causing enough difficulty to warrant further restriction? Yes 1 No 39

PART III. Concerning rules for 1939-40:

11. Do you favor allowing the offended team to keep possession after: (a) a successful free throw following a deliberate personal foul? Yes 14 No 25; or (b) after any throw following a deliberate technical foul? Yes 14 No 23
12. Do you favor a method of timing whereby the clock would be stopped each time the ball is dead (with proper shortening of periods)? Yes 2 No 37
13. Do you favor a ball that bounces near the present: (a) Minimum 48" 8; (b) Maximum 55" 2; or (c) Median 52" 22?
14. Do you favor making it a violation when an unsuccessful free throw misses the ring even though it touches the backboard? Yes 18 No 20
15. (Check this only if you are connected with College or Independent games)
   (a) College and Independent games should be played in 10-minute quarters. Yes 18 No 20
   (b) College conferences should be urged to experiment with baskets 12 feet above the floor. Yes 5 No 34
16. (Check this only if you are connected with Junior or Senior High School games)
   (a) Have you had actual experience with the 29" ball? Yes 1 No 1
   (b) Do you favor use of the 29" ball for Junior High School? Yes 2 No .....
   (c) Would you favor permitting optional use of a 29" ball for Senior High School play? Yes ..... No 2
17. Assuming that proper safeguards would be made against any sudden compulsory use of equipment whose use would involve considerable expense, do you favor permitting the **optional** use of:
   (a) A backboard with several inches removed from the lower edge? Yes 13 No 22
   (b) A transparent backboard with small area behind basket painted white? Yes 8 No 25
18. Deliberate pushing of a player in the act of throwing for goal should result in additional penalty for the unsportsmanlike phase of the foul? Yes 26 No 9
19. Reverse side may be used for comments.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

F. C. Allen - J. H. Crocker - H. D. Edgren
W. E. Meanwell - Oswald Tower - H. V. Porter, Chr.

Signed: ..... (Coach .....) (Official .....) (Administrator .....) (Other .....)

Institution Represented: College ..... High School ..... Y. M. C. A. ..... Other .....

City ..... State .....

Big Six

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE A. A. - NATIONAL FEDERATION H. S. A. A. - Y. M. C. A. - CANADIAN I. A. U. - CANADIAN A. B. A.

CHAIRMAN, H. H. SALMON, JR. 40 Wall St., New York, N. Y. | VICE-CHAIRMAN, JOHN BUNN Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, Calif. | SECRETARY, H. V. PORTER 11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. | TREASURER, FLOYD A. ROWE Board of Education, Cleveland, O. | EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER Andover, Mass.

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PART I. Concerning rule changes made last spring:

NOTE: Vote yes or no on general principle involved. Suggestions for slight modifications may be made in Part III or on back of sheet.

1. Is the rule which prohibits a substitution after a goal satisfactory? Yes 11 No 1
2. Are length and number of time-outs and intermissions satisfactory? Yes 111 No
3. The removal of the three-second limitation for player in the outer half of the circle without the ball has resulted in: (a) A better game 11 (b) A worse game (c) No noticeable difference 1
4. Have you had direct experience with a court having the end line four feet behind the backboard? Yes 111 No
   If the answer above is 'Yes', check the following:
   (a) Were there fewer out of bounds balls? Yes 111 No
   (b) Was the space often used for tries for goal? Yes 11 No 1
   (c) Was there less crowding after rebounds? Yes 11 No 1
   (d) Were visiting teams noticeably handicapped? Yes No 111
   (e) Do you recommend encouraging use of the four-foot space? Yes 111 No
5. Is the rule which prescribes the "sudden death" method in the first overtime in high school games satisfactory? Yes 1 No

PART II. Concerning general trend of game:

6. The present average total score for High School play is 55 points and for College 70 points. This is (a) About right 111 (b) Too low 1 (c) Too high
7. (a) The interpretation of "travelling" rule is (1) About right 1 (2) Too loose 11 (3) Too rigid
   (b) Use of a zone defense is (1) About right 11 (2) Too great
   (c) Officiating in my locality is (1) About right 111 (2) Too loose (3) Too strict
8. The most desirable color: (a) for court lines is black 111 red white broken black and white; (b) for fixtures which attach basket ring to backboard is black 11 white 1; (c) for ball is tan 111 white
9. Do you favor conference experimentation with:
   (a) A smaller fan shaped backboard? Yes 1 No 11
   (b) Basket without a backboard? Yes No 111
   (c) A basket ring 10 or 12 inches from the backboard? Yes No 111
   (d) A heavier basket ring? Yes No 111
   (e) A short metal chain basket net? Yes No 111
10. Is "face guarding" causing enough difficulty to warrant further restriction? Yes No 111

PART III. Concerning rules for 1939-40:

11. Do you favor allowing the offended team to keep possession after: (a) a successful free throw following a deliberate personal foul? Yes No 11; or (b) after any throw following a deliberate technical foul? Yes No 11
12. Do you favor a method of timing whereby the clock would be stopped each time the ball is dead (with proper shortening of periods)? Yes No 111
13. Do you favor a ball that bounces near the present: (a) Minimum 48" 1; (b) Maximum 55"; or (c) Median 52"?
14. Do you favor making it a violation when an unsuccessful free throw misses the ring even though it touches the backboard? Yes No 111
15. (Check this only if you are connected with College or Independent games)
    (a) College and Independent games should be played in 10-minute quarters. Yes 1 No 1
    (b) College conferences should be urged to experiment with baskets 12 feet above the floor. Yes 1 No 11
16. (Check this only if you are connected with Junior or Senior High School games)
    (a) Have you had actual experience with the 29" ball? Yes No 1
    (b) Do you favor use of the 29" ball for Junior High School? Yes 1 No
    (c) Would you favor permitting optional use of a 29" ball for Senior High School play? Yes No 1
17. Assuming that proper safeguards would be made against any sudden compulsory use of equipment whose use would involve considerable expense, do you favor permitting the **optional** use of:
    (a) A backboard with several inches removed from the lower edge? Yes 11 No 1
    (b) A transparent backboard with small area behind basket painted white? Yes 11 No 1
18. Deliberate pushing of a player in the act of throwing for goal should result in additional penalty for the unsportsmanlike phase of the foul? Yes 11 No 1
19. Reverse side may be used for comments.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

F. C. Allen - J. H. Crocker - H. D. Edgren
W. E. Meanwell - Oswald Tower - H. V. Porter, Chr.

Signed: (Coach) (Official) (Administrator) (Other)

Institution Represented: College High School Y. M. C. A. Other

City State

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NOTE: Vote yes or no on general principle involved. Suggestions for slight modifications may be made in Part III or on back of sheet.

1. Is the rule which prohibits a substitution after a goal satisfactory? Yes ✓ No.....
2. Are length and number of time-outs and intermissions satisfactory? Yes ✓ No.....
3. The removal of the three-second limitation for player in the outer half of the circle without the ball has resulted in: (a) A better game ✓ (b) A worse game..... (c) No noticeable difference.....
4. Have you had direct experience with a court having the end line four feet behind the backboard? Yes..... No ✓
   If the answer above is 'Yes', check the following:
   (a) Were there fewer out of bounds balls? Yes..... No.....
   (b) Was the space often used for tries for goal? Yes..... No.....
   (c) Was there less crowding after rebounds? Yes..... No.....
   (d) Were visiting teams noticeably handicapped? Yes..... No.....
   (e) Do you recommend encouraging use of the four-foot space? Yes..... No.....
5. Is the rule which prescribes the "sudden death" method in the first overtime in high school games satisfactory? Yes..... No ✓

PART II. Concerning general trend of game:

6. The present average total score for High School play is 55 points and for College 70 points. This is (a) About right ✓ (b) Too low..... (c) Too high.....
7. (a) The interpretation of "travelling" rule is (1) About right ✓ (2) Too loose..... (3) Too rigid.....
   (b) Use of a zone defense is (1) About right ..... (2) Too great ✓
   (c) Officiating in my locality is (1) About right..... (2) Too loose ✓ (3) Too strict.....
8. The most desirable color: (a) for court lines is black ✓ red..... white..... broken black and white.....; (b) for fixtures which attach basket ring to backboard is black..... white.....; (c) for ball is tan ✓ white.....
9. Do you favor conference experimentation with:
   (a) A smaller fan shaped backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (b) Basket without a backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (c) A basket ring 10 or 12 inches from the backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (d) A heavier basket ring? Yes ✓ No.....
   (e) A short metal chain basket net? Yes..... No.....
10. Is "face guarding" causing enough difficulty to warrant further restriction? Yes..... No ✓

PART III. Concerning rules for 1939-40:

11. Do you favor allowing the offended team to keep possession after: (a) a successful free throw following a deliberate personal foul? Yes..... No ✓; or (b) after any throw following a deliberate technical foul? Yes..... No ✓
12. Do you favor a method of timing whereby the clock would be stopped each time the ball is dead (with proper shortening of periods)? Yes..... No ✓
13. Do you favor a ball that bounces near the present: (a) Minimum 48"....; (b) Maximum 55"....; or (c) Median 52" ✓ ?
14. Do you favor making it a violation when an unsuccessful free throw misses the ring even though it touches the backboard? Yes..... No ✓
15. (Check this only if you are connected with College or Independent games)
    (a) College and Independent games should be played in 10-minute quarters. Yes ✓ No.....
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16. (Check this only if you are connected with Junior or Senior High School games)
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    (b) A transparent backboard with small area behind basket painted white? Yes ✓ No.....
18. Deliberate pushing of a player in the act of throwing for goal should result in additional penalty for the unsportsmanlike phase of the foul? Yes ✓ No.....
19. Reverse side may be used for comments.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE
F. C. Allen - J. H. Crocker - H. D. Edgren
W. E. Meanwell - Oswald Tower - H. V. Porter, Chr.

Signed: E. J. Cassell (Coach ✓) (Official.....) (Administrator.....) (Other.....)

Institution Represented: College JAMESTOWN High School..... Y. M. C. A..... Other.....

City Jamestown State N. Dak.

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1. Is the rule which prohibits a substitution after a goal satisfactory? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
2. Are length and number of time-outs and intermissions satisfactory? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
3. The removal of the three-second limitation for player in the outer half of the circle without the ball has resulted in: (a) A better game..... (b) ~~A worse game~~..... (c) ~~No noticeable difference~~.....
4. Have you had direct experience with a court having the end line four feet behind the backboard? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
   If the answer above is 'Yes', check the following:
   (a) Were there fewer out of bounds balls? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
   (b) Was the space often used for tries for goal? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
   (c) Was there less crowding after rebounds? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
   (d) Were visiting teams noticeably handicapped? ~~Yes~~..... No.....
   (e) Do you recommend encouraging use of the four-foot space? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
5. Is the rule which prescribes the "sudden death" method in the first overtime in high school games satisfactory? ~~Yes~~..... No..... use time limit equivalent with game time

PART II. Concerning general trend of game:

6. The present average total score for High School play is 55 points and for College 70 points. This is (a) About right..... (b) ~~Too low~~..... (c) ~~Too high~~.....
7. (a) The interpretation of "travelling" rule is when properly called (1) About right..... (2) ~~Too loose~~..... (3) ~~Too rigid~~.....
   (b) Use of a zone defense is (1) About right ..... (2) ~~Too great~~.....
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8. The most desirable color: (a) for court lines is ~~black~~..... ~~red~~..... ~~white~~..... broken black and white.....; (b) for fixtures which attach basket ring to backboard is black..... ~~white~~.....; (c) for ball is tan..... white.....
9. Do you favor conference experimentation with:
   (a) A smaller fan shaped backboard? ~~Yes~~..... No.....
   (b) Basket without a backboard? ~~Yes~~..... No.....
   (c) A basket ring 10 or 12 inches from the backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (d) A heavier basket ring? Yes..... ~~No~~..... steel ring about 1" on edge
   (e) A short metal chain basket net? ~~Yes~~..... No.....
10. Is "face guarding" causing enough difficulty to warrant further restriction? ~~Yes~~..... No.....

well to experiment if possible

PART III. Concerning rules for 1939-40:

11. Do you favor allowing the offended team to keep possession after: (a) a successful free throw following a deliberate personal foul? Yes..... No.....; or (b) after any throw following a deliberate technical foul? Yes..... No..... same - doubtful
12. Do you favor a method of timing whereby the clock would be stopped each time the ball is dead (with proper shortening of periods)? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
13. Do you favor a ball that bounces near the present: (a) Minimum 48"..... ; (b) ~~Maximum 55"~~.....; or (c) ~~Median 52"~~.....?
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18. Deliberate pushing of a player in the act of throwing for goal should result in additional penalty for the unsportsmanlike phase of the foul? Yes..... ~~No~~.....
19. Reverse side may be used for comments.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

F. C. Allen - J. H. Crocker - H. D. Edgren
W. E. Meanwell - Oswald Tower - H. V. Porter, Chr.

Signed: Andrew J. McDonald (Coach.....) (Official.....) (Administrator.....) (Other.....)

Institution Represented: College S.W. Mo. St. C. High School..... Y. M. C. A..... Other.....

City Springfield State Mo.

49 returns

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE A. A. - NATIONAL FEDERATION H. S. A. A. - Y. M. C. A. - CANADIAN I. A. U. - CANADIAN A. B. A.

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PART II. Concerning general trend of game:

6. The present average total score for High School play is 55 points and for College 70 points. This is (a) About right..... (b) Too low..... (c) Too high.....
7. (a) The interpretation of "travelling" rule is (1) About right..... (2) Too loose..... (3) Too rigid.....
   (b) Use of a zone defense is (1) About right..... (2) Too great.....
   (c) Officiating in my locality is (1) About right..... (2) Too loose..... (3) Too strict.....
8. The most desirable color: (a) for court lines is black..... red..... white..... broken black and white.....; (b) for fixtures which attach basket ring to backboard is black..... white.....; (c) for ball is tan..... white.....
9. Do you favor conference experimentation with:
   (a) A smaller fan shaped backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (b) Basket without a backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (c) A basket ring 10 or 12 inches from the backboard? Yes..... No.....
   (d) A heavier basket ring? Yes..... No.....
   (e) A short metal chain basket net? Yes..... No.....
10. Is "face guarding" causing enough difficulty to warrant further restriction? Yes..... No.....

PART III. Concerning rules for 1939-40:

11. Do you favor allowing the offended team to keep possession after: (a) a successful free throw following a deliberate personal foul? Yes..... No.....; or (b) after any throw following a deliberate technical foul? Yes..... No.....
12. Do you favor a method of timing whereby the clock would be stopped each time the ball is dead (with proper shortening of periods)? Yes..... No.....
13. Do you favor a ball that bounces near the present: (a) Minimum 48"..... (b) Maximum 55"..... ; or (c) Median 52"..... ?
14. Do you favor making it a violation when an unsuccessful free throw misses the ring even though it touches the backboard? Yes..... No.....
15. (Check this only if you are connected with College or Independent games)
    (a) College and Independent games should be played in 10-minute quarters. Yes..... No.....
    (b) College conferences should be urged to experiment with baskets 12 feet above the floor. Yes..... No.....
16. (Check this only if you are connected with Junior or Senior High School games)
    (a) Have you had actual experience with the 29" ball? Yes..... No.....
    (b) Do you favor use of the 29" ball for Junior High School? Yes..... No.....
    (c) Would you favor permitting optional use of a 29" ball for Senior High School play? Yes..... No.....
17. Assuming that proper safeguards would be made against any sudden compulsory use of equipment whose use would involve considerable expense, do you favor permitting the **optional** use of:
    (a) A backboard with several inches removed from the lower edge? Yes..... No.....
    (b) A transparent backboard with small area behind basket painted white? Yes..... No.....
18. Deliberate pushing of a player in the act of throwing for goal should result in additional penalty for the unsportsmanlike phase of the foul? Yes..... No.....
19. Reverse side may be used for comments.

QUESTIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

F. C. Allen - J. H. Crocker - H. D. Edgren
W. E. Meanwell - Oswald Tower - H. V. Porter, Chr.

Signed:..... (Coach.....) (Official.....) (Administrator.....) (Other.....)

Institution Represented: College..... High School..... Y. M. C. A..... Other.....

City..... State.....

x John Sterrett, St Louis U.
C. P. Harris, Cape Girardeau