

Worcester, Mass.  
April 23, 1939.

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter received yesterday, and I am unable to determine just what was broken as in paragraph 1 it seems to be in the hoop and paragraph 2 seems to be in my net and to clarify this will you please send a pencil sketch of what really broke.

This is the first complaint I have had from any source, and if the breakage was in the hoop, that happens quite often with the string nets and most always happens where the lower supporting brace is welded to the bottom side of hoop. These hoops I understand will stand a working strain of over two hundred pounds and the total weight of my net is less than two pounds, and this weight being distributed over a fifty six inch area it should not weaken the hoop, at all, and after two full seasons in the Worcester Boys Club which is a very busy gym, there has never been a repair or service of any kind, and I believe this test is equal to several years in the average college gym.

If the breakage was in any part of my net it must have been a defect in the loop if you mean the U hook or may have been done in the straightening machine, or it may be because these hooks and links were formed by hand and closed by hand with heavy pliers, which will not happen when I assemble them on small presses and the loops on the links will be formed over a perfectly circular die which I could not have done on such a small order as my initial order had to be.

To use the grade and quality of steel which I am using, in any quantity and the fact that they will have to be assembled by hand they will be expensive and I must get twelve dollars per pair F.O.B. Worcester. I will guarantee to replace any broken parts for a period of five years. Comparing this with the cost of good string or cord nets in replacing them three times per season which seems to be the average life of a net in a busy gym, if you wish to have them looking respectable at all times this will cost you fifteen dollars plus the labor and inconvenience.

If the nets are approved I plan to manufacture and sell direct to colleges, schools and clubs direct as you can see if the jobber and retailer have to be considered the price will have to be around twenty five dollars at least

I would like to go to N.Y. next Sunday and return the same day to save expense if you think it will be worth while as I understand many will check in Sunday or I will come over on the midnight Sun. night to be there Monday morning. I will take your advice on this matter and stay home or go as you see fit to suggest.

Mr. Hickox does not think it will be necessary for me to have a basket at the meeting this year as Mr. Tower showed it to the group last year, however I will have a good picture as well as a section of the net waiting for you.

Win or loose I wish to thank you and the rest of the research committee which have all been courteous to me during this testing period.

Very sincerely yours

*Joseph H. Bennett*

20 Richards St., Worcester, Mass.