

March 23, 1938.

Mr. Clair F. Bee,  
Director of Athletics,  
Long Island University,  
300 Pearl Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Clair:

I am very happy that you are going to contact some of the western coaches with the idea of stimulating the thought for the return of the center jump and the elevation of the basket. Be sure that you take a 12 foot basket on your 10 foot backboard. All that is necessary is to get some 4 by 4 or 2 by 4 and use the 10 foot basket to extend 2 feet up. I think you get the idea.

You will find that a tall man is impotent under the 12 foot basket. He can still drive in and lay it up, but not like he can under a 10 foot basket. And if this tall player catches the ball directly under the basket he is in the poorest place in the world to shoot a basket. About 15 to 18 feet out in front is the best place to hit the basket. The poorest place is under the basket. The rebounds will come a lot further out under a 12 foot basket, and that will make the big, tall, husky guard more impotent, especially when he uses his hips to bump the offensive man away.

This driving in and the referees giving two fouls for the player who is being fouled going in under the basket will also be done away with, as you will not drive in under the 12 foot basket, but will play back farther and shoot out in front. In other words, almost every drawback to the 10 foot basket is enhanced by the 12 foot basket. The rule about interfering with the ball on the rim will also be taken care of by this change.

Be sure that you tack a basket up and then have a game before any of the fellows even practice under the 12 foot basket. You will be surprised. Then you could give 3 points for a field goal and one for a free throw, which is proper equalization that should obtain between field and foul goals. Just try a game before the boys have shot much, and you will be surprised.

I maintain that the player accommodates the movements of his eyes and his fingers to height in shooting the same as he does to distance. It will be only a little while until a boy can loop shots into those 12 foot baskets just as easy as the 10 foot baskets, and another thing, the arch of the shot gives much better spectator