

To the Officers of the National Basketball Committee of the U.S. and Canada

Gentlemen:

The writer desires to report on the increasing number of tall players in intercollegiate basket ball this past year.

Whereas players six feet five were rare a few years ago, they are now common. Now the player who is six feet ten is not so uncommon.

This increase in average height is due to the constant search for tall players, and the encouragement to become basket ball players offered boys who have not had any particular liking for the game. Even in junior high schools, the extra tall boy finds a source of satisfaction in being able to capitalize on his height, and does so.

For several years, I have advocated that the baskets be placed 12 feet instead of 10 feet from the floor, making all players - tall or short - perform the same scoring act, shooting for the basket rather than having the extremely tall man hover over the basket and either tip the ball in or dunk the ball into the basket. By having the higher basket the arc of disbursement or rebound of the ball comes further out on the court, making it extremely difficult for a husky, altitudinous guard to block opponents away from the basket and still capture the rebound.

Much research work has been done by using the 12 ft. basket placed 4 ft. inside of the end-line. This arrangement strikes hard at the zone defense because a guard is utterly useless camping underneath a 12 ft. basket. As a matter of fact a forward under a 12 ft. basket is in the poorest scoring position of any player on the floor.

The writer is not promoting unduly a 12 ft. basket for this year but he desires to have the Rules Body scan the following list of tall college and university players who are now playing this year, with a view of looking far enough into the future to find the six-six and six-seven basket ball player a very common occurrence.

Kansas had a player playing in his second year this past season who not being an adept at scoring was placed under the opponent's basket. Any ordinary arch shot that did not strike the backboard for a rebound could be either captured or batted away from the opponent's basket.