

A
May 10, 1945.

Mr. Jacob Podoloff,
The Podoloff Insurance Agency, Inc.,
Arena Building,
20 Grove Street,
New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Mr. Podoloff:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter and was interested in reading your comment.

I have not been one of those individuals who are against the ten second rule. Many coaches stalled in the back court and then used the pick off in the back court, then raced for the other end of the court for their own basket. I have always thought of this as basketball in the reverse. The strategy in this game, of course, came about to see who would score first and then they would go into a stall game if they were ahead, making the team behind come and get the ball, then use their pick-off.

I have advocated a 12 ft. goal because now the hunt is on for 7 ft. players and they place him under the basket where he camps. I agree with you that if they would zone him off, that would take care of the situation. But why have all those zoning rules and three-second rules when all you would have to do is raise the basket?

It is an interesting thing how unprogressive many people are. They will never try anything which requires a very simple experiment like raising the basket to try it out. Of course, they want the drive-in and lay-up. Eighty-two per cent of all the fouls are made within an arc of 15 feet of the basket. For that reason it seems to me appropriate to raise the basket. Sure, it would eliminate some of the drive-ins and lay-ups, but it would immediately open up the area where the congestion is. Rebounds would come out higher and the short shots would fall down under the basket, permitting a smaller, faster man to capture the ball.

A player accommodates the muscles of his eyes to height the same as he does to distance. You will understand that I am not advocating a 12 ft. basket for high school players. They are immature and do not have the height and stamina that independent and college teams have. The only teams that were in the championship hunt last year were teams that