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March 8, 1940.

Mr. A. W. Olsen, Vice President,
A. G. Spalding & Bros.,
Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Thank you for your kind letter of the 5th instant concerning a change in the size of basketballs.

While Mr. H. V. Porter, secretary of the National High School Federation, has wanted a smaller ball for the junior high schools (29 inch), I am not promoting or spreading the propaganda for a smaller ball. When Coach Edwards, of the University of Missouri, wanted a larger hoop I said a smaller ball would proportionately make a larger opening without changing the size of the hoop.

But as chairman of the Research Committee of the N.C.A.A., I assure you that I am not pushing this at all. It was only my idea that we could have a smaller ball to go through the hoop with less expense than if we bought new baskets, and I offered it only as a suggestion in answer to Coach Edwards' idea.

There is a definite feeling that a smaller ball could be handled easier by the smaller boys, and the larger boys would be more skillful with a smaller ball. The ball has already been reduced from 32 inches to 29½ inches, and I doubt not that there will be a greater reduction in due time. As you know, the original ball which Dr. Naismith used, a soccer ball, was only 27 inches. I feel that a 28 or 29 inch ball will come into use some day.

I am very happy that you wrote me, and before I would agree to any change we would discuss the matter with the manufacturers.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH