



A.G. Spalding & Bros

CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

March 5, 1940

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

My dear Dr. Allen:

It has come to our attention that there is being considered by the Basketball Coaches' Association Research Committee, and by the Basketball Rules Committee, a proposal to reduce the size of the present Official Basketball.

Before any step of that nature is taken, we respectfully request that serious consideration be given to the costs of such a change to all manufacturers of basketballs, both of the conventional sewn and the new molded types. All manufacturers have heavy investments in dies and other equipment necessary for the cutting of the conventional type balls, and for the molded balls they have extremely expensive equipment, so expensive in fact that complete amortization cannot take place in a single year, but must be spread over a period of many years. A sudden and ill-timed change would, therefore, be very unfortunate for manufacturers.

In addition to the loss on equipment which manufacturers would take, if a change in the size of the ball were made, would be the loss on finished stocks which would promptly and automatically become obsolete. Dealers all over the country would also have to take losses.

It is, therefore, hoped that sympathetic consideration will be given to the plight of the manufacturer in the event that new specifications for Official Basketballs are adopted. Many complicated manufacturing problems would have to be solved in producing a smaller ball; hence ample time should be allowed. Much money would be lost, if the change were ill-timed.

Very sincerely yours,

A. W. Olsen
Vice President