

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Lawrence, Kansas

February 26, 1940.

Dear Colleague:

The advocates of the 12-foot basket for college players make the claim that by using this higher basket the arc of disbursement on rebound carries the ball further out on the court and clears up the congested area around the basket. All of these suggestions and changes are to offset the unusual height of the exceptionally tall player who, being entitled to his position on the floor, cannot be interfered with, and during this non-interference his exceptional height permits him to tap or dunk the ball in the basket with the shorter player being unable to do anything about it.

It is for this reason that this higher basket proposal was made. The higher basket strikes at both the offensive and defensive altitudinous player, while the 8-foot radius circle strikes only at the offensive giant.

This circle may be painted on any floor within ten minutes. By using a mixture of white show card color and LePage's glue, this composition which quickly dries becomes impervious to wear and yet can be washed off the floor readily with warm water.

Three years ago the enthusiastic advocates of the proposal to eliminate the center jump from basketball made the claim that if the center jump were eliminated this rule would drive the exceptionally tall man from basketball. They claimed that the importance of the center jump was sufficient cause alone for the presence of the altitudinous player.

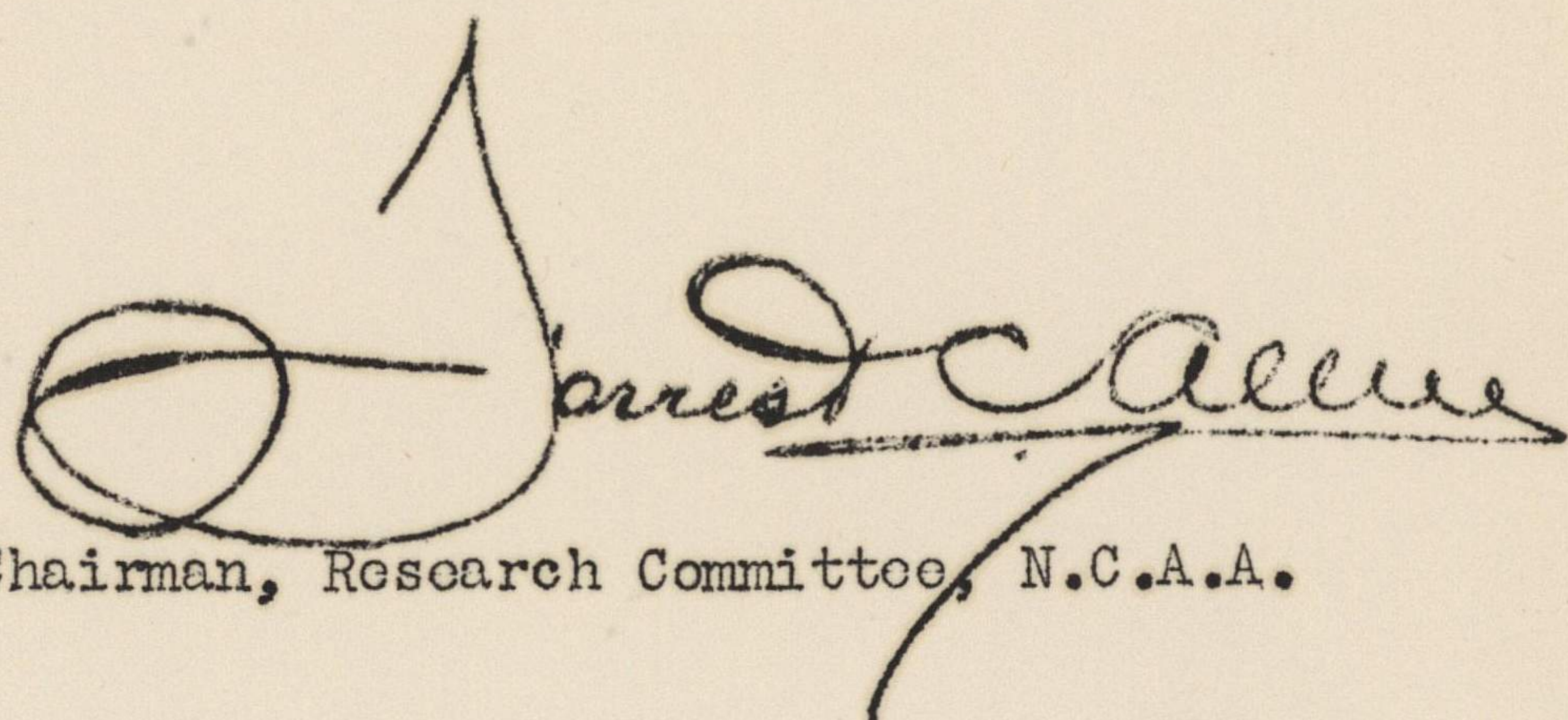
The center jump was eliminated for the 1937-38 season and has been in effect since. The six-foot-four and six-foot-five player was the average height of the tall player at that time. Instead of driving this tall player out of the game, the demand for tall players is even greater than it was before. At least, there are a greater number of tall players in the game today than ever before. The six-foot-seven, the six-foot-eight and the six-foot-nine player is not a rarity.

Not alone does the Big Six Conference and the Missouri Valley have exceptionally tall players, but practically every winning team in the country at the present time possesses an extremely tall player among its first flight personnel. The University of Oregon, under the guidance of Howard "Hobby" Hobson, won the National Collegiate championship last year with three players under the rebound at six-foot-four, six-foot-five, and six-foot-six. This year the same team has two players six-foot-seven, and another who plays under both baskets is six-foot-four. So the hunt for the tall player is increasing rapidly.

A team is not defeated in the center of the court at the jump, but it is defeated at the backboards of the defensive and offensive basket.

Will you not try out in a clinic practice game this rule? If coaches and rule members do not want to raise the basket, something should be done to alleviate the almost impossible opportunity that a shorter man has against the exceptionally tall man immediately under the basket.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest Allen

Chairman, Research Committee, N.C.A.A.

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