

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

September 23, 1938.

Dr. F. C. Allen,
Director of Physical Education,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kan.

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have been studying your letter of the 16th relative to reduction of the size of the backboard, and find that I am unable to answer the proposal by a simple "yes" or "no".

If a smaller size would decrease construction costs and increase spectator enjoyment without a material decrease in scoring efficiency I would be heartily in favor of the change. But if the decrease in size would be a handicap to offensive play my answer would be "no". In other words, my reply will depend upon the results of adequate tests made in practice and game conditions.

This fall I am running some experiments with the effects on shooting accuracy of a two inch increase in diameter of the rim. I expect to check results from about 20,000 test shots taken from various angles and distances. If it will aid any I will draw a line on the board outlining the decreased size of the backstop and record the number and effect of shots which hit outside that area. Should such a test appear to have any value I would appreciate suggestions as to dimensions to be given the smaller board.

Also I would like to report that a local electrician has been experimenting with a switch to be placed in the net of the standard basket which will give all of the results of the Baske@-Lite goal. He has had it patented. It consists of two small coil springs which narrow the bottom of the net so that when a ball passes through the expansion of the springs closes the switch and either will turn on a light or ring a gong. The contraption is invisible, attaches to any net, and has no effect upon the net action or the basket. He estimates the price of the equipment to be about \$10 for a pair of goals if the lights are used but the cost of gongs increases the price according to the size of the gong used. A set of these switches is to be installed on our baskets and additional reports will be sent to you after they have been thoroughly tested.

Yours truly,

George R. Edwards.
George R. Edwards.