

B.B.
Research

February 8th
1 9 3 7

Mr. George J. Johnson
418 North College
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In reply to your inquiry concerning my reaction on the possibility of eliminating the center jump I beg to state that I am not in favor of eliminating the center jump on account of several reasons.

First, every game has certain fundamental qualifications. Jumping is one of the fundamentals of basket ball. If you could eliminate the jump after held balls and the jump when the ball goes out of bounds when two men simultaneously touch it, then I say if you could eliminate all jumps from the game I would be in favor of being consistent and eliminating the center jump.

I have done quite a bit of research on the center jump and found that the center jump comprised but two-thirds of the total jumps in a game and this was when they jumped at center after a successful free throw following a personal foul or a technical foul.

Even though you should eliminate these center jumps after field goals, it would still be necessary to start the first and second half of any game by tossing the ball up at center. This shows how absolutely necessary the jump rule is from a fundamental standpoint.

Now, take the thing that the jump contributes to a game. It contributes definite high expectancy as to who will recover the ball on the tip-off. The crowd is not sure but what the opposition may dart in and steal the ball from a center who controls the tip but places it at a spot that the opposition is able to steal the tip.

I distinctly remember Dr. Naismith asking a group of coaches as to what they thought was the high spot or the highest thrill to spectators when a field goal was