

June 25, 1938.

Mr. John Bunn,  
Director of Basketball,  
Stanford University,  
Palo Alto, California

Dear John:

Yes, I recall rather vividly the discussion at the last rules meeting concerning our experiment on the widening of the free throw lane. When I met with our coaches I found that three of the coaches are expecting to use a double post, and I deem this very inadvisable for me to ask them to try widening the free throw lane. I am sure that you will not have to extend your imagination very far to see that this would have put me in a very bad light in asking them to do this.

Our conference has used three circles for all held balls and when the rules committee did not put that in they went back to the original rules, feeling that there was no longer any use in continuing a practice the rules committee did not think worth while to adopt in their code. Our conference has done a lot of experimenting, and they feel like perhaps we had better play according to the rules this year and not attempt any deviation from the rules.

You and I see eye to eye on this proposition. Personally, I feel that permitting the man in the outer half of the circle without the ball will have many repercussions, but so many of them wanted it that the only thing to do was to put it in. I trust that you will see my point of view in not asking that this be done under the very rare conditions. I can still press the matter in December when we meet for the rules interpretations, but I think it unwise for me to do so.

I brought the matter up when Mr. St. John was present during the rules discussion, and I felt, and so expressed myself, that since it was his idea it might be well for him to make a statement asking that some conference try it out. Why would it not be a good idea for you to take it up with June Salmon and have June ask some conference to do it, or you, as vice chairman, might ask some