

B B Rules

July 23, 1941.

Mr. Valentine Lentz,
U. S. Military Academy,
West Point, New York.

Dear Val:

I am writing you pursuant to your mimeographed request of some time ago concerning the fan shaped backboard.

I might say that I had nothing to do with the fan shaped backboard aside from sitting in committee meetings and hearing it discussed at the beginning. The fan shaped backboard was promoted by the National High School Federation.

However, I want to say that I have tried it out and I have been extremely favorable to the board. Our Big Six Conference used it last year, and instead of cutting down the scoring it increases it. It adds nearly fifty per cent visibility for spectators who are behind the basket, and for those courts in which seats are located at the ends of the court it opens up the entire field to these people for both baskets due to the arch cutting away under the backboard. We do not have people sitting at the ends of our court, therefore it does not affect us either way. But it gives the shooter much more liberty and presents an agile, versatile player with the ball many advantages to score that the old board did not.

In passing for an out of bounds into the court that lower point of the backboard which interfered with so many pass-ins is eliminated. So from every standpoint I favor the board.

You will understand that glass backboards are prohibited unless they are painted white. That destroys the glass backboard's usefulness. There is not a glass backboard in the west outside of the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium, and they are not used in college play. They have a municipal league that uses them, but there are no college teams that use them in the west. Glass backboards were used out here from 1906 to 1910 or 1912, then they were out and nobody used them. Only places like Madison Square and the municipal auditorium in Philadelphia and the Chicago Coliseum are they used. Personally, I do not believe that the glass backboard will find any favor in this part of the country, and on the other hand the small fan shaped backboard will constantly grow in favor.