

Interview with C. E. McBride

Many of those eastern coaches cannot talk a good college basketball game, let alone coach it. For instance, they constantly harp on the "pic" or "pick", meaning pickle. There is no such word in standardized basketball nomenclature as set forth by the Research Committee of the National Basketball Rules Committee, or the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The proper term is "screen" or "block".

A screen is a legitimate play and a block is a foul. But the professionals call it "pick", which means a foul or a block. Out west you never hear of a "pick" because it is not in amateur basketball terminology, but in professional terminology.

Nat Holman and Joe Lapchick were both professional coaches and that is the only terminology they know. In explaining the wide divergence between the eastern and the western game, I have often pointed out that many of the original basketball coaches in the east were professional players and they taught their college players the professional game. The professional plays to win for his meal ticket depends upon it. The amateur plays to win, but the gate receipts go to the college instead of the player. Therefore, the objective is entirely different.

Professional basketball has never thrived in the west. The professional game is now dead in the east because the professionals killed it and these professional players turned to coaching college teams so they could make a living. Therefore, you have a different game in the east as compared to that played in the west.