

OWLS' NATIONAL TOURNEY VICTORY

BOON TO WIDE OPEN TYPE OF PLAY

By Courtesy of -
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Temple's victory in the national intercollegiate basketball tournament was, in a way, a victory for Coach Frank Keaney of Rhode Island State, for the Owls, who employ the fast break and wide open tactics, play the same type of game as do the Rams.

Ever since the promulgation of the new rules, eliminating the centre tap there has been debate as to whether the extreme fast break, built on long range passing, was more effective than the more deliberate attack, evolved from short passing.

The Owls scored a convincing victory for the "open play advocates" through their victory in the national tournament. Competing against nation's supposedly ablest college quintets, they swept through the field with surprising ease.

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A trend towards the more open game may be effected as a result of Temple's victory in the New York tournament - a victory tantamount to the national intercollegiate championship. Some veteran basketball critics have termed coaches still using the deliberate style of play as "being behind times", a stand given added significance by the records of teams employing the wide open game, such as Temple and R.I.State.

There was no questioning the effectiveness of the deliberate, slow passing game under the old rules, but the new code, giving the team scored upon immediate possession of the ball under its own basket, has eliminated the advantageous features of this style of attack.

Speed is the essential factor in the game under the new rules - the ability to get the jump on the other fellow. The team that constantly uses the short pass and which advances the ball in a deliberate, methodical manner loses the jump it had when it took possession and enables the opposition to get its defence set. On the other hand, the team that resorts to the long pass when the opportunity presents itself and which is constantly advancing at top speed retains its advantage - an advantage that oft times give its players the chance to get set before shooting.

The one concession advocates of the deliberate style of play made from the start is that the open attack leads to a more colorful game that would further popularize the sport with the general public, but it would now appear they might make a few concessions regarding the technical advantages of the "open game."