

February 21, 1946

Of course, the people who are at fault in this thing are the people who eliminated the center tap. In this article that I wrote for this magazine I suggested a rotation of the center jump comparable to the batting order in baseball. Every man on the team would jump for the tip-off exactly the same number of times. It would be just as easy to administer the rotating center jump as it would be to enforce the batting order in baseball. Each coach would give the line-up to the score keeper with the jumping order of the players. Should any player jump out of order a technical foul would be assessed against the offending players. The coaches, of course, would teach the players to jump in order and the game officials would not be hampered unduly by this rule any more than any other rule in the book.

The game is in need of a breathing spell for both players and spectators. This proposed new rotating center jump tip-off play would supply the necessary interlude so important to the jaded nerves of both spectators and players under the present fire wagon game. Time, of course, would be out while the ball is being brought to the center circle for the tap.

Philosophically speaking, this wild game will run its course and then new rules of some sort and a new pattern of play will follow. Change is eternal and we will have it, but now we have nobody on the Research Committee, that I know of, who is researching unselfishly for the good of the game. Most of the coaches, that I know of, who are on the Rules Committee are searching and researching for that seven-foot basketball player, rather than to find the answers to many of the game's perplexing problems.

I wish that I could write more and give you more data on the subject about which you expect to write, but I personally believe that the Rules Committee are responsible for a barnacle on the game. Remember this, the Rules Committee did not make the popularity of the game, the originator, Dr. Naismith, is responsible for this because his brain child incorporated all the finer points of the game. The Rules Committee members in their confusion to do something about a low ten-foot basket have groped aimlessly in the dark and they have come up with some poor suggestions. I would not be surprised if they do not stumble repeatedly. They are still like the Mayor of Norway during the war--they are confused.

Sincerely,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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