

A higher basket that could not be touched by either player would be just for all concerned. Just because Dr. Naismith tacked the peach hamper on the running track of the gymnasium at Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., and that running track happened to be 10 feet from the floor is the only reason why we have a 10 foot basket at the present time. Why should not the basket be raised with the increasing height of the players? And players in basketball are getting constantly taller all the time.

We played Oklahoma A. & M. two games last year with 7 foot Bob Kurland, and we won both games, so I am not one of these coaches who are crying because we can't beat mezzanine peeping basketball hurdlers, but rather I am thinking of the game. I call these big boys "mezzanine hurdlers" because they are tall enough to touch the mezzanine floor.

It made me laugh audibly to see what some of these coaches said in their objections to a 12 foot basket. One, that it would make a little man shoot further than the taller man. A player shooting for a higher goal accommodates the muscles of his eyes to height the same as a player accommodates his eyes to distance. A player standing 20 feet out on the court and shooting for a 12 foot basket would arch the ball a little higher and further than he would for a 10 foot basket. The same parallel argument is always good when a player is standing 20 feet out on the floor and shooting for a 10 foot basket he will arch the ball a little higher and further than if he were standing out on the floor 15 feet from the basket. A player arching his shot for a 10 foot basket 15 feet out would not arch it as high as he would for a 12 foot basket at the same distance.

Some coaches have raised the objection that a short man going in for a lay-up would be forced to jump two feet higher, which would be a disadvantage to a small man. This shows one thing, Ralph, that none of these coaches have tried a 12 foot basket. There would be no lay-ins on these shots because each player would be required to shoot at a 12 foot basket and none of them could accomplish a lay-in on account of the height. The poorest place to shoot at a 12 foot basket would be directly underneath the goal. That is emphatically the strong point of the 12 foot basket - in that they may not dunk it in the basket nor bat it away.

A hard drive toward the basket which produces 80 per cent of all the fouls by the defense in basketball are made for this very obvious reason -- because a player driving in for the basket is fouled or draws a pair of fouls and the official awards the offended player two free throws. If you could cut out 80 per cent of the fouls and practically all of the double shots caused from players throwing these fouls, then you would have a much cleaner, open game where field goal shooting would be the dominant point rather than foul shooting which seems now to be the case. A field goal would count 3 points and a free throw would count 1, which was Dr. Naismith's idea as to the evaluation of a field goal and a free throw. The whistle blowing of the officials would be cut down immeasurably because there would be fewer fouls on account of the