

We continued to give the boys vitamins and told them to go to school and forget basketball. We figured that they had learned fundamentals during the regular playing season and we could better afford to give them a rest and take a chance on their knowing the play situations rather than to slowly fatigue them in a short work-out for a post-season game. The fact that we only practiced twice in that nearly three-weeks time, shows we realized our boys were worn to shreds and we desired to conserve their health rather than to even win a championship at their expense.

I was a member of the Rules Committee when the elimination of the center jump was made a rule. I opposed it but when the majority of the Rules Committee were for it I was not militant and said that perhaps basketball without the center jump would retain enough of its attractions to make it a fine and interesting game.

Running, jumping, leaping, vaulting and climbing are the fundamental activities of man. We still jump for the ball on held balls, and there is no possible way of equalizing the height when two men come in contact with a held ball. By rotating the jumping process, as in the batting order in baseball, each coach would have a chance to list his jumping order just the same as you list your batting order, for strength and strategy. It would be a very simple matter in the administration of the game to handle the jumping order from the scorer's bench. If any player jumped out of order he would suffer the same type of penalty as the batter who bats out of order in baseball. We would have no trouble there.

I maintain that when they eliminated the center jump all they did was to add another out-of-bounds play without giving the players an opportunity to gain their physical breath and also they do not allow the spectators to gain their mental or emotional equilibrium or breath. The game is entirely too exciting for the spectators at the present time. We could still retain all the fine qualities of the game and not injure our players merely on the pretext that it is a box-office attraction and the public likes it. The public has liked it with the center jump, and with any modification of the center jump it still would be a fine game.

Certainly a better rule than the one now in force would be to give the ball at the division line to the side scored upon. But I have never been much in favor of giving the ball out-of-bounds to the team scored upon. I am still one of those rugged individualists who believe that when a team scores by cleverness or by its power that the opponent should never have the ball, but both teams should have a fair and equal chance to gain possession of the ball. Dr. Naismith was exactly of the same opinion.

I am not going to push the twelve-foot goal to any embarrassment to anyone because I know someday it is going to be accepted. Simply because Dr. Naismith tacked a basket on a running track that happened to be ten feet high should be no reason why intelligent legislators should continue to refuse to elevate the basket two feet. We have done everything else to the