

shooting. This new rule would obviate the necessity of enlarging the basket ring as some coaches have advocated. Even if the basket rim were increased two inches, this would make the basket larger in proportion to the proposed change, and in addition would have expert ball handling which is difficult with a larger ball. The reason for the development of the skillful one-hand shot has been on account of the reduction in size of the ball. Previously it was too large for one-hand shooting.

If you think that a game is inviolate, consider the one that Gen. Abner Doubleday built in 1839 on the flimsy foundation of One Old Cat, and some 4,000 years of harum-scarum hitting of some sort of ball with some sort of club. In 1845 the pitching distance for baseball was 45 feet, as compared to sixty feet and six inches today. What is so sacred about the height of a ten foot basket? Some of the big boys are bumping their heads against them now. Any great game is the result of years of trial and adjustment. In some respects I think that we have outgrown the original garments of basketball just as baseball outgrew the 45 feet pitching distance.

A twelve foot basket is a positive aid to short players. Why? Because the big fellow dunks, while the little fellow still has to shoot. And too, the twelve foot basket will move the tall boy further out on the court to get the farther out rebounding ball and then the speedier man can close in on the ball more quickly than the taller, less speedy big boy. I would like to see a tall man forced to shoot his basket the same as a short man. The twelve foot basket would level them off. I am not trying to eliminate the tall men from the game. Under any conditions I'll take a good big boy over a good little man, merely because he is a bigger dish of a good thing.

You doubtless will recall that after the Olympic Games in Berlin the height of the American team caused a storm of disapproval among the Olympic competitors. Many teams, with the exception of the American teams, were unanimous in asking two heights for basketball in the Olympic Games. The maximum height for one group was six feet three inches, and then they suggested an unlimited height for the other team. The Orientals and other European teams objected to continuing basketball with an unlimited height.

I have never recommended a 12 foot goal for high school players. This always happens when you do recommend something for college players - there is always an erroneous impression that carries over in some other field of activity. But for college players, men of maturity - then I can see nothing sacred about the height of a 10 foot basket. Also, my suggestion always has been if and when such a rule should be enacted in elevating the basket that there should be a moratorium of three years in order to permit any player now in the game full play under the 10 foot basket. The oncoming tall players would naturally play under the new rule.

I was rather interested in the AP article out of New York in which Henry Iba, the coach of Oklahoma A. & M., with his 7 foot Bob Kurland, and Joe Lapchick, coach of St. John's College, with his 6 foot 9 inch Harry Boykoff, came out against the goal-tending type of defense. Sure, both