

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, is 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 fact that it would be to the advantage of a player to shoot at the basket from a distance of 8, 10 or 12 feet rather than have the big boys camp under the basket and jab or dunk them in.

The added height of the basket would measurably clear up the congestion that always exists under the 10 foot basket. The big, rugged guard who sets himself to block out the incoming man and the tall mezzanine hurdler who camps near the basket would of necessity have to move back on account of the higher arc of dispersment of the bounding ball from a 12 foot basket. This would clear up that congested area, and it would give the shorter man a decided advantage because, when a ball is arched for the goal, if by striking the basket the arc of dispersment would cause a further rebounding of the ball, the big man moves back away from the basket. Then the small man, should the ball miss the basket and drop down to the floor, could dart in and quickly steal the ball before the big man could cover this added space that he now protects and reserves for himself under this lower basket. By forcing the defensive man further back and away from the basket it would naturally give the shorter and speedier man more area to operate in without molestation. I believe that you can easily visualize this point.

Many of these proponents of the 10 foot basket, who are opponents of the 12 foot basket, remind me of a young short-sighted farmer east of Kansas City who complained that his father was the most short-sighted man he had ever seen. He left him five hundred acres of the finest farming land in the county that was worth a thousand dollars an acre. But the son complained that the father did not leave him one darned thing to farm it with! That reminds me of these basketball coaches who would much rather inherit a tall player after their annual intensive search for mezzanine hurdlers than they would actually go to the trouble to install a 12 foot basket and try the game out under these conditions.