

I believe that I can say without fear of contradiction that not ten per cent of all the coaches of the United States have ever seen a 12 foot basket in operation, and not one per cent have ever put up a 12 foot basket. Therefore, some of these coaches who have derived their life income from the game have never put anything into it, but have been constantly taking out. They sit around and complain about their players going out on four personal fouls, and yet they do no more about improving the game or correcting the difficulty than this young farmer.

We have two 12 foot baskets in our gymnasium, and have had them installed for fifteen years. We use them for the purpose of teaching our players correct arching of the ball. And as for the cost of raising a goal two feet - that is a rare joke. Most goals are suspended from the ceiling and all you would have to do is shorten the pipe two feet. The bill for basketballs each year doubly exceeds the cost of raising the basket to 12 feet, so this plea for economy is rare. These coaches speak as if the cost of raising the baskets would come out of their own pockets, and just try to get it from them.

Again, may I emphasize that I would not suggest the 12 foot basket for high school players. Many of the gymnasiums in the East do have low ceilings, but this is not true in the West, and there is not a college gymnasium in America or a large auditorium in the big cities that holds any sizeable crowd but what could stand a 12 foot goal elevation without any difficulty. And by asking a raise to 12 feet this even keeps the 7 foot 6 inch player shooting for a goal and not dunking a goal. This height basket would for all time seal the fate of the gangling, inept player; -- but for the good, big, tall man - he would still be in the game and he could pass and shoot along with the rest of them. The premium on height would not amount to the great advantage that it does at the present time under the 10 foot basket.

There are some conferences so unprogressive that they are still using the "horse-and-buggy" four by six backboard rather than the new stream-lined board. Maybe some of those fellows couldn't hit a stream-lined board and they need that large area to stop the ball from going out of bounds. And the joke of it is that the board was never put up for a rebound board by Dr. Naismith, but rather it was to keep the spectators away from the basket. They would reach over the balcony and kick or knock the ball away from the basket, so they built a wooden barrier large enough to keep the crowd away, which proved to be the four by six backboard. Anyhow, the Big Ten and some of the unprogressive conferences still need that backboard to keep their players from throwing the ball out of bounds.

Much of this backboard is unfertile banking area and it obstructs the view of more than fifty per cent of the people who sit behind it. One coach says, "The worth of the 12 foot basket has not been demonstrated in connection with the tall 'goon' problem, and such a change would have many disadvantages -- chiefly the expense of changing the height of baskets all