

Revolutionary ideas in this sports world come a dime a dozen but once in a great while an idea comes along that is fondled by experts and actually put into effect. Take for example, the forward pass in football, the lively ball in baseball and so forth down the line.

Right on the heels of the hotly arguments on the disadvantages of the zone defense, comes a new suggested change--one advanced by Lt George Wells, former basketball mentor of Upper Iowa University and Kirksville Missouri Teachers' College and now athletic director of the 1907 Service Command Unit organization here at Fort Lewis, Washington. His new idea will completely rub out the unpopular zone defense of today, and, if ever put into effect would completely revolutionize the game, adding more speed both to the offense and defense and giving the general public an excitement it has seldom experienced.

Here's the whole gist to Lt Wells' idea:

(1). Give the offensive side an option to shoot at either goal with a standing rule that must cross the center line before it can turn back.

*It* In other words, as the game is played today, Team A has the ball on its own side of the court following a goal by Team B. According to Lt Wells' rule, Team A must advance past the middle of the court before it can, so to speak, try for "its own goal."

The advantages of this suggested new rule are many. For one thing, it would definitely throw out the fans' No. 1 nemesis--zone defense, which not only slows the game down to a snail's pace but also makes it quite uninteresting in the spectators' viewpoint. Another thing, it would regulate play and distribute it more evenly in the court. Today, much of the playing is congested around the two baskets, but given the option to shoot at either goal, the middle of the court would definitely become a more distinct area of play than it is today. At present there are two so-called defensive areas--namely, under the two baskets. The new ruling would provide a third defensive area--the center of the court.