

rule through that will help their cause and not help the game, and I can say straightforwardly and conscientiously to you that I have steadfastly worked for the best interests of basketball, regardless of whether that rule helped me or not. I have felt that I knew enough basketball fundamentals that I could teach my boys to play the game so that any rule that was put in would eventually give me a chance to get even with my opponents.

I cite the dribble rule. In the second week of April, 1928, Knute Rockne and I were speaking before the National Education Association at Des Moines, Iowa, at the Drake fieldhouse. Knute spoke on The Pedagogy of Football and I spoke on The Pedagogy of Basketball. Two days prior to this meeting at the fieldhouse, the Basketball Rules Committee had abolished the dribble, putting in the one bounce rule. In my speech on The Pedagogy of Basketball I assailed the National Basketball Rules Committee as autocratic and high-handed because they had not checked with any of the coaches to determine their opinion, but because Dr. Walter Meanwell felt that the one bounce rule in the game would be better than the dribble they followed his recommendation.

A controversial storm broke over the country with most of the coaches agreeing with me. I received 160 telegrams from various coaches, complimenting me upon my attacking the Rules Committee. I called for a meeting of all the coaches at the Drake Relays in the next two weeks. We met and set up a temporary committee and set a date for Chicago in June. At that time I was elected president. We perfected an organization and called upon the Rules Committee to rescind the action, which they did. Out of that turmoil was born the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States. Many of the coaches who had been lukewarm now jumped in the bandwagon, and it was quite the popular thing.

I will now answer your questionnaire, question by question.

(1) I discussed the 12 foot rule in 1932, but first publicly proposed it in an article in 1934. In 1935 the Kansas Aggies and Kansas played at Lawrence with 12 foot baskets, and Kansas State won the ball game. In spite of this defeat, I consistently advocated the 12 foot basket. I proposed, Harold, that a field goal count 3 points and a free throw count 1. The mimeographed copy will give you most of the reasons why I think it would help basketball.

(2) My counter charge that 12 feet for the goals would reduce scoring would be that it would reduce 60 to 75 per cent of the fouls and keep more players in the game. It would free the congestion around the basket and it would give the short man an opportunity to recapture a shot that fell short of the 12 foot basket before it went out of bounds. It would definitely give the small, fast man a great advantage. And too, a 12 foot basket adds a lot of visual pleasure to a high arching shot that splits the net, which is a decided advantage over the short tip-in, jamming and batting the ball around the basket as obtains with the 10 foot basket. The 12 foot basket will also move the guards further away from the basket on account of the high arc of dispersement when the ball strikes the backboard and bounds out from the goal.

(3) I believe the chiefest objection to the 12 foot basket would be the fact that the drive-in and the lay-up would be taken away, and most every player likes that; and the second reason is that I believe nobody would put up a 12 foot basket. That is how strong they are on research. And