

TWELVE-FOOT BASKET FOR COLLEGE AND INDEPENDENT TEAMS

Of late years there has been a protest on the part of the basketball public against these "mezzanine peeping goons" of the cage sport who actually come to the level of the basket rim when they reach for tip-in shots, or actually dunk the ball into the hoop instead of shooting it upward, as originally intended by Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game. No other sport puts such an outlandish premium on height as basketball.

The only reason that the height of the basket today is 10 feet from the gym floor is because the indoor running track at Springfield, Mass., College was 10 feet from the floor, and Dr. Naismith attached his basket to this running track.

Twelve-foot baskets would be only for college players who have reached their growth and maturity, and not for high school players. It is just as easy to accommodate the muscles of the eyes, wrists, hands and digits to distance in height as it is to accommodate them to distance on a horizontal plane.

It is proposed that a field goal count 3 points and a free throw from the 20-foot line (now 15 feet) count one point. This would equalize the scoring ratio. It has long been a contention of Dr. Naismith that a field goal should count more than twice as much as a free throw. An argument might be advanced that if the field goal is increased in value there would be a tendency to foul an opponent to keep the field goal from being made. The answer to that is that 4 personal fouls will disqualify a player from the game. And again, there will not be the desire to work the ball in under the goal for lay-ups on a 12-foot basket because the most disadvantageous spot under the new scheme is directly under the basket. It is much easier to bank a shot 8 and 10 feet out from the basket near the 12-foot goal than it is to work it under the goal. Research has shown that nearly 90% of all the fouls are made in close proximity to the basket. This is on account of the desire of the players to work the ball in close to the basket for a lay-up shot.

Many adherents to the elimination of the center jump rule contended that the no jump rule at center would drive the exceptionally tall player from the game. This certainly has not been true, nor should any rule be made that would be discriminatory. The higher basket would require all players to shoot for goals, whereby now only the "second story peeping Toms" can bat the ball away before it reaches the cylinder of the basket, thereby preventing the goal. Never in the history of the game have there been so many exceptionally tall men under very low baskets, comparatively speaking. Men 6'10" tall are getting to be quite commonplace. The presence of so many long fellows has reduced basketball to a freakish demonstration and has put an almost unbearable handicap on the finer athletes of a normal 6-foot height. Certainly no discrimination is asked against an exceptionally tall player. Rather uniformity is asked so that discrimination against the little fellow will be removed.

Practically all the rules that now exist against the single or double post play, against touching the ball while it is on the rim or above the cylinder of the basket, the 3-second rule, the 1-yard defensive rule, the player being awarded two free throws when fouled under or near the basket -- all of these rules will be unnecessary after a higher basket is put into effect.