

I mentioned in a previous paragraph that Dr. Meanwell made the motion. It was passed by the National Basketball Rules Committee. This clarifies any ambiguity that might exist regarding the rule as it existed, for two months but it was never printed and never became a part of the printed rule. As I told you previously, the A.A.H. rules prior to 1905 permitted but one bounce.

You are correct. Along from 1905 and earlier than that and up until the early twenties any person on a team could make the free throws - all or a part of them, as he desired. In fact, anybody on the team could shoot the free throws, so free throwing became a specialty during those days.

Yes, traveling was called a foul in the early days and a free throw was awarded. The latter became a violation. There is no specific mention of a foul when two men guarded one. The only violation was when there was bodily contact with a man who was guarded on one side and it was contact that made the foul, not the two men guarding one.

I am sending you a carbon copy of the original rules of basketball written by Dr. Naismith in 1891. I have a photostatic copy of those rules here in my office. I thought you might be interested in having a copy. These hung on the wall of the gymnasium in Springfield College, and written at the bottom of the rules in Dr. Naismith's own handwriting is the following: "First draft of basketball rules, posted in the gym that the boys might learn the rules. Feb., 1892. James Naismith." The typewriter used by Dr. Naismith in those days is rather unusual. The size of the type is twice the size of the present. I only mention these points because I thought from your inquiry you might be interested. If I have failed to answer any of your inquiries, please write me and I will be happy to follow through.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH  
Enc.