THE "CENTER-PIVOT BLOCK" (This statement was sanctioned at the rules meeting)

The phase of so-called "blocking" that caused most trouble last season is the center-pivot play that occurs so frequently at or near the free throw line. Because of the widespread use of this play and its many variations it is thought that the following general statement may be of assistance in emphasizing certain features that should be observed by coaches and officials.

In such a situation the pivoter, in turning for a dribble pass or try for goal, must move in such a direction that, had his guard remained stationary, no contact would have ensued. The pivoter should not be allowed to shoulder or hip his guard out of position, nor to interfere with his freedom of movement by the use of extended elbows or arms after he has got rid of the ball.

Neither should the guard be allowed to throw the pivoter off balance by the use of the knees or any other part of the body, nor should he be allowed to interfere with the movement of the pivoter by the use of widely spread arms when the pivoter does not have the ball.

Forms of Screening

There are several forms of screening for which fouls should be called even though no contact occurs. These include the following:

1. FACE GUARDING

If either a defensive or an offensive player turns his back to the ball and maintains a position between his opponent and the ball by shifting with his opponent with the apparent intention of cutting off his chance of advancing toward the ball or receiving a pass, a foul should be called for screening. It is obvious that a man who has his face toward and who is giving his sole attention to the movements of an opponent, whose attention is on the ball, has too great an advantage over the opponent. In such a situation a foul should be called even though no contact takes place.

2. THE ILLEGAL USE OF WIDELY EXTENDED ARMS OR ELBOWS

The use of widely extended arms or elbows in front of a man who does not have the ball except in an attempt to reach the ball is a form of screening that should be penalized even though no contact occurs. A defensive man may hold his arms in any position in front of an opponent who has the ball but if the offensive man runs against the rigid arm, holding by the defensive man will usually occur.