

Carlson

Basket Ball becomes more popular each season and its welfare naturally becomes of more interest. This questionnaire was sent out in good faith and in most cases was answered in the same spirit. In no wise is there a political maneuver or propaganda to be furthered. The purpose is to ascertain the amount of accord and to try to establish grounds for absolute accord in interpretation of the rules, and with this in view, the questionnaire was sent to coaches and officials. In Basket Ball as in any other activities there will always be honest differences of opinion but established facts will tend to temper and lessen these differences. Basket Ball is supposed to be a non-contact game and in bodily contact or blocking, there comes contention as to responsibility. The outstanding fact to be established is that both the offensive and defensive men have equal rights and to define these rights. In face of common limitations of expression, the attempt was made to word the questions so that the answers would be clearcut yes or no. The questionnaire was divided into two parts namely blocking and miscellaneous, for cross checking. To the ordinary fan, the officiating is the only drawback to the game but to the students of the game there are two menaces to its welfare, blocking by both defense and offense and stalling. It is the hardest game to officiate and this feature serves to confuse players and coaches as well as spectators, hence this attempted help to the game.

The pivot play was ruled out of one professional league and is not clearly defined consistently in the minds of officials, players, or coaches. In conversation with one of our leading officials I have heard that the offensive pivot man could back the defensive man off the court (while assuming an offensive position) and then hastened to the conflicting statement that the offensive man should stop backing as soon as he made contact with the defensive man. Also I was left to wonder if the pivot man could flail his elbows back and forth because he kept his hands on his hips or if a pivot man could jump back against his opponent after passing out the ball. Opposed to the preceding favor to the offensive man is the privilege given a defensive man to block out a dribbler or cutter. This inconsistency of first giving all advantage to the offensive man and then switching to give the advantage to the defensive man confuses everyone, either on or off the court and is the cause of 90% of trouble in officiating.

The matter of stalling is strictly one of coaching and the National Coaches Association has defined it as a lack of aggressive action by the low score team, so that anyone should be able to denote the guilty parties. Along with uncertain officiating, massed or zone defense, the leading team cannot be blamed for hesitating to risk their earned advantage by continued aggressive, energy-spending action while the defensive team passively waits in advantageous position.

Compend of answers

1. If offensive and defensive men are to be placed on equal bases, either should be allowed to assume any position on the floor, so long as he does not project himself against another. Any man should be entitled to a position by priority. Some may question the intent of assuming a position, but a player in changing his assumed position in order to make or avoid contact brings up a second question. Obviously then, it is policy to allow a man to stand in his assumed position.