

News Release:

April 12, 1932

Two rules were passed by the Joint Basket Ball Rules Committee in New York, April 7-8 and 9 that not only will curb stalling and encourage aggressive play with the result that spectator enjoyment will be raised to a higher level.

The first rule reads -

- "(1) A two inch line known as the center line be drawn laterally across the court bisecting the center circle;
- (2) When a team obtains possession and control of the ball in its own back court, that team must advance the ball over the center line within a period of ten seconds unless the ball has been touched by an opponent. In this case a new play results and timing begins again when possession and control is regained in back-court;
- (3) when the ball has been advanced over the center line it must not be returned back over center line until a try for goal has been made or possession of the ball has been lost. When the offensive team obtains possession and control of the ball in their offensive half of the court or if the offensive team shoots for the basket and recovers the ball they may pass or dribble the ball back over the center line but once. PENALTY - failure to comply with sections 2 or 3 constitutes a violation - loss of ball to the opponents out of bounds at nearest side line;
- (4) rulings on touching the center line shall be made in accordance with the present practice in regard to out of bounds decisions. Touching the center line shall be construed as 'over'."

After this rule was passed I charted a game between the Purdue All Stars, composed of Woodin, the sensational star of the Purdue team this year, Stretch Murphy, the phenomenal center, Harmeson, Boots and Porter. These five Purdue players played on "Piggy" Lambert's team in 1931 and two of them again this year. They challenged this Chicago professional team, The Chicago Bruins, composed of old college players who have been in the game the last 8 or ten years.

The pros used the passing game and the Purdue All Stars the dribbling game. The game was won on the last two free throws by the Bruins. I only mention the free throw angle to bring out a point that I will make later; namely, that the majority of games are won on free throws. With the line across center which will first force the ball into the offensive territory more often than has before been employed, there will be more tries for baskets with a consequent larger number of field goals. This will naturally reduce the value of the free throw as it now is.

May I quote from the Chicago press regarding the stalling. It runs as follows:

"With a minute to play the Bruins forced the ball into the offensive territory. Harmeson fouled Feed Murphy, the old Loyola star center, who scored a time point. Seconds later, Miller (Bruins) dashed in and was fouled by Harmeson. His free throw put Chicago in front and