

Many coaches argue about the tall fellow that bats the ball in the air. You and I both know that it is the tall player under a low basket that is the real difficulty. The tall fellow still beats us under a low basket, because the basketball rules do not permit the defensive side to pull the arms down of a tall player to push him out of position. The rule-makers have not yet gotten to the seat of the trouble, because it is the rebounds under the basket by a tall man that defeats the shorter man.

I still argue for a 12-foot basket which makes the beanpole player impossible of scoring under the basket. The referee awards the player driving in under the basket two free throws. And the big, tall, husky fellows nudge with their hips the smaller men around the basket. By raising the basket to 12 feet for college players and leaving it at 10 feet for the high school players, most of the difficulty would be eliminated.

I would count a field goal for the 12 foot basket 3 points and a free throw 1 point. There would not be the urge or the tendency to foul for a player driving in under a 12 foot basket, because with the 12 foot basket a goal is more advantageously scored out away from the basket at an angle, than it is close up and under. The arc of dispersement of rebound from the 12 foot basket carries the ball further out on the court, and this fact would cause the guards to upll further away from the basket. A looping shot that would miss the 12 foot basket and fall under the basket would give the small man an added advantage of driving in and recovering the ball before it went out of bounds.

Now, back to hockeyized basketball. This rapidfire shinny game that is now being played also gives the small man a chance because the big man can not stand up under driving for a full game under the conditions that the game is being played. This game makes for more substitutions and for a larger squad. The coach who does not have a large squad this year is out of luck. He may have a championship team under the old game without reserves, but this year he must have a flock of reserves to carry on.

In another year I look to see the wise coach swinging to a very slow set and tantalizing offense. Certainly if I had no extra reserves I would play the slow set, screening game on the offense, and on the defense I would break rapidly back and set my defense for the fast break ball handler. My contention is that this game as now played is entirely too mechanical. There is a break up the floor and then a break down the floor, exactly like hockey. The center play offered some variation.

The game is for the players first, and for the spectators secondly. I say the players first, because it is the health of the players that is foremost to be considered.