

But the proponents of the center jump contend that the rule makers have placed a premium on mediocrity rather than upon excellence. Now the team scored upon automatically secures possession of the ball out of bounds, whereas heretofore both teams had to fight for possession at center after each goal and free throw. The weaker team will now have a better chance to hold the score down, for with the ball in its possession it will have the option of either driving down rapidly or delaying the offensive to suit its play situation.

As a result of this new ruling, scores should be higher, now necessarily on account of faster play, but because 6 or 8 min. of action will be added to the actual playing time. Previously, there were letups in action on the center tip-off plays. These additional minutes of playing time in this already strenuous game may prove too great a physical strain on the heart and the kidneys of the players. Heretofore, the spectators had an opportunity to relax for a few seconds while the ball was being brought back to center for the tip-off after an exciting field goal. Now, only strong hearts that can stand long-sustained excitement should venture out to the games.

There will still be held balls during the game because research has shown that, in games played with the tip-off in use, there were held-ball plays for every three tip-off plays. In the future, the jumpers will be players of unequal heights, whereas the center jump invariably brought together the tallest men and the best jumpers of each team.

The proponents of the elimination of the center jump contend also that the team having the shorter center fought harder for the possession and control of the ball, and thereby added fight to the whole team, while the team controlling the tip-off usually, because of a tall center, counted too much on its height advantage and unconsciously loafed on the job.

"Just a lot more of out-of-bounds plays at the endline added to what you had before," is the analysis of one coach. The defense will soon learn to drop back fast enough to thwart any so-called quick break. And as for that rapid-fire offense allowing sleepers to work against them, there still will be a premium on good ball handling and on all-around fundamentals. Any time that a sleeper, awaiting a pass from his teammates, tries to drop out of the defensive picture, he will discover to his sorrow that the added man on offense will be too strong for the weakened defensive team to cope with.