

It is his contention that they have now eliminated many fine plays around the center, making the game entirely too mechanical. Dr. Naismith is a man of fine temperament, fine balance, and fine personality.

It is interesting to me to see how spectators at a hockey match are satisfied with a score of 1 to 2, or 5 to 3, and yet they want scores up in the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, or even 90's in basketball, as Stanford scored against Duquesne, much over 100 points for both teams.

I have a feeling that spectators will become satiated and entirely too much fed-up on the ball being rolled through the basket. Apparently the defense has surrendered to the offense and now it looks like the trend is to fill the baskets continuously full of basketball.

I still go back to the same statement that I made at the beginning. It makes very little difference to the team that is well versed in proper technique, proper ball handling, whether they play the slow break, set plays, or fast break. The good ball handlers will still come out on top, in the majority of cases.

However, there was such a thing as a beautiful basket of spectator enjoyment after the goal was made and until the ball was brought back to center for a toss up. Now it is a shinny game and there is no time for spectator enjoyment unless it is lightening fast, and then the game is not fully able to satisfy.

I have tried to present every argument, both pro and con. I do not think the skills can be as highly developed, nor the plays as classic, nor do the spectators have time to enjoy a beautifully executed play as well in the new game. I have observed this, however - that the coach that is generally doing most of the kicking on changes in the rule is the fellow who is generally not winning consistently. If a coach has a good line-up, good material, he will win a big percentage of his ball games if he is a good coach and takes advantage of everything. I certainly am not kicking on the changes, although I think it was a mistake. I have gone along with the rules body because they wanted to try it out.

However, I re-state that in my opinion they have put a premium on harum-scarum, war cry, fire engine basketball, wherein many of the players cover a multitude of mistakes by incoherent action and not by well-played designing plays that a discerning public eventually desires to see.

I am sending you some dope on the new book, so that you can see how the details are handled.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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