

The simple rectangular shape was adapted to unskilled methods of construction. It was not uncommon for country schools to construct backboards by using the bumpboard from a corn husking wagon or some similar contraption. The simplest type of carpentry is required in the making of a rectangle. It merely required a hammer, a saw and a square. In fifty years many changes have occurred. More care is given the accurate construction of playing equipment and inexpensive boards made of steel, plywood, bakelite or other synthetic materials have been developed. An improved type of basket without projecting brace rods has been perfected and engineers have designed flanges which made attachment of baskets to the backboard a simple matter. There is no difficulty in producing any shape and there seems no good reason for not eliminating the waste space which is found at the corners and margins of the old rectangular board.

Changes in the location of the backboard with reference to the end wall and the end line and the development of new skills in throwing field goals from behind the plane of the backboard have made the waste space on the large board a detriment. It also interferes considerably with the vision of spectators who may be compelled to sit in parts of the building which are not between the planes of the two backboards. The game has developed in such a way that it is a real problem to provide a sufficient number of seats from which the game may be viewed. Basketball courts have a maximum of only eighty six feet for seats on the sidelines between the planes of the two baskets. There is almost no other game that has this handicap in visibility. Anything that can be done to relieve this difficulty is worthwhile.

(Insert halftone here 3 by 4)

#### The Transition Period

The transition to the smaller backboard may be gradual. As far as expense is concerned, there should not be a great deal of waste in making the change. Very few schools, clubs or playgrounds have a sufficient number of backboards. In case new ones are to be installed, the old boards can be moved to a cross court to permit additional use of the playing space by greater numbers of players. Players adjust themselves quickly to the slight difference in appearance and a few minutes practice is usually sufficient to allow the players to make proper adjustments.

In order to make easy transition from the rectangular board to the smaller board, the National Committee recommends that where boards of the rectangular size are used, the space which is not to be found on the smaller type board be painted with a dark paint so that the white portion on the large board is the same size and shape as the entire smaller board. This will give the boards somewhat the same appearance and should remove any handicap which might develop through playing on courts equipped with boards of different sizes.

All in all, it looks like a great season for the greatest of indoor sports. The game is keeping pace with developments in related fields of endeavor. Progressive athletic departments are making plans to bring their equipment up to date.