

# ARMY COACH REPORTS RESULTS OF STANDARDIZED EQUIPMENT

## Questionnaire Suggests Rules Committee Study Situation

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LAST SPRING, at its annual convention in New York, the National Association of Basketball Coaches recommended to the National Basketball Committee certain specific steps along the path toward standardization of playing equipment and facilities.

These recommendations, adopted unanimously by the convention, covered court lighting and dimensions, type and size of backboards and specifications for the ball. The coaches voted for the 6 x 4-foot rectangular banking surface; they expressed a preference for the sewn, leather ball.

A few days later, as a special emissary from the coaches' association, I presented these recommendations to the National Committee. When the results of the committee's deliberations were announced it was obvious that our recommendations had been virtually ignored. The rules makers had decided that the patented, steel, fan-shaped board, approved a year earlier as optional equipment after brief high school experimentation, would henceforth be regarded as official. They approved, also, the molded, or so-called rubber ball. They urged "rapid transition" to the new ball and bank with a view to making these items the sole official equipment "in the near future."

Such cavalier treatment of the National Coaches Association naturally resulted in disappointment and resentment in the profession. Officials of the National Committee justified their action with the explanation that the vote recorded on the recommendations in our convention was insignificant when compared to the preponderance of sentiment for the new ball and backboard as shown by replies to the rules committee questionnaire sent out to coaches, officials, athletic directors and **OTHERS.**

The Eastern College Basketball Coaches Association did not feel that the National Committee's questionnaire was an accurate reflection of COLLEGE coaching sentiment on the controversial points involved. Whereupon it undertook a nation-wide poll to determine exactly how the COLLEGE teachers of the game viewed the situation. Questionnaires were sent to EVERY coach listed in the intercollegiate Blue Book—some 650 of them. Replies were received from 387, a return of 59.5 per cent. Every league, conference and district in the country was represented in the replies, so it may be assumed

that an accurate cross-section of COLLEGE coaching opinion was obtained.

Without further comment, I present herewith the questionnaire with total figures on each point:

1. Do you favor standardization of backboards?  
YES, 344. NO, 10. (33 did not answer).
  - a. Which do you prefer?
    - (1) 6 x 4 rectangular—241.
    - (2) Fan-shaped—128. (no comment—14)
    - (3) Either—4.
  - b. Which did you use in 1940-41?
    - (1) 6 x 4 rectangular—299.
    - (2) Fan-shaped—69. (no comment—2)
    - (3) Both—17.
  - c. Which will you use in 1941-42?
    - (1) 6 x 4 rectangular—263.
    - (2) Fan-shaped—100.
    - (3) Both—4. (no comment—7)
    - (4) Whatever prevalent—13.
  - d. How many sets of boards do you have in your plant?
    - (1) Rectangular—1320.
    - (2) Fan-shaped—336.
  - e. If visibility from the rear were to become sufficiently desirable to make it necessary to change the character of the backboard, would you prefer
    - (1) 6 x 4 clear glass—197.
    - (2) Fan-shaped—160. (no comment 30)
2. Do you favor standardization of the ball? YES, 370. NO, 5. (12 did not answer)
  - a. Which do you prefer?
    - (1) Four panel, stitched, leather, laceless, rubber valve, rubber bladder type—187.
    - (2) New type (moulded, Last-bilt, etc.)—186. (9 did not answer, 4 marked "both", 1 for visitor's choice)
  - b. Which did you use in 1940-41?
    - (1) Stitched leather, etc.—185.
    - (2) New type—169.
    - (3) Both—33.
  - c. Which will you use in 1941-42 varsity games?
    - (1) Stitched leather, etc.—177.
    - (2) New type—179.
    - (3) Both—16. (9 undecided, 6 no preference).