

A study of the foregoing indicates overwhelming sentiment in favor of uniform backboards and balls. It shows an almost 2-to-1 majority in favor of the rectangular backboard as opposed to the steel lima bean variety. It shows almost an exact split on which type of ball is preferred. It shows, despite the urging of the rules committee, that only a small percentage of coaches will change from their 1940-41 equipment to the new bank and ball this season.

This is indicative, I believe, of a feeling among COLLEGE coaches that their views on the game in which they have such a great stake are not receiving the consideration they deserve from the National Basketball Committee.

Surely the rules committee cannot maintain that the colleges want the new backboard when virtually two-thirds of them have expressed a preference for the rectangular bank. I don't see either, how the committee can justify its imposition of the rubber ball on the game when opinion as to its desirability is so divided.

Obviously, the majority, a vast majority, of the coaches want standardized equipment, but it seems

to me that the rules committee should give some consideration to the type of equipment desired by the coaches before taking any arbitrary steps.

At any rate, before any definite changes are made in the present rules covering playing equipment and implements for college basketball, the committee should sponsor exhaustive research and a series of practical tests to determine whether or not such changes are for the best interests of the sport. What may be suitable for high school use may be quite unsuitable for college purposes. The reverse is true, too. These factors should be weighed by the National Committee.

A tremendous expense is involved in shifting over from the rectangular boards to the lima bean type; expense not only for the purchase of new boards, but in revamping or replacing existing installations to accommodate them. I imagine that war metal priorities will take care of the backboard situation until the shooting is over. We have other uses for steel and iron now and will have until peace returns to the world. In the interim, the rules committee should go into the whole matter of college playing equipment and the preferences of those most concerned—the colleges themselves.

PAN-AMERICAN PLANS IN BASKETBALL

THE ORGANIZATION and plans for participation by basketball in the Pan-American games in Rio December, 1942 were formulated in late December at the meeting of this joint committee held in the New York Athletic Club.

Participating in the discussions were five college representatives, a like number from the Amateur Athletic Union and Dr. John Brown of the National Y.M.C.A. Harry Henshel, treasurer of the Bulova Watch Co. and a prime factor in A.A.U. and Y.M.H.A. basketball plans throughout the country, was chosen to serve as chairman of this committee.

Plans were outlined so that both college and A.A.U. players would be included in the makeup of the team to represent this country in the South American competition. The possibility of running playoffs to pick the teams and competitors was discussed and the methods of raising money to finance this trip were also included in the plan.

At the present time there has been no further progress made pending developments in the international situation. Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities the State Department signified that it wished plans to be carried through as originally planned and no further word has been forthcoming.

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