Remarks by Dr. Naismith from the floor of the convention.

Dr. Naismith: Mr. President, I have been looking at the game from a great many angles this year. I have seen high schools, colleges, independent teams - - a great many different teams.

It seems to me there are three rules at the present time that are not being called by the officials which are responsible for a good deal of the roughness that occurs under the goal.

It has been stated that every man is entitled to his place on the floor. When two men are running down togather, and the man dribbling the ball cuts in across the man who is running with him, the call is uniformly on the defensive man, so far as I have seen, instead of upon the offensive. There is a rule in the book which distinctly states the man who is dribbling is responsible to see that he has room before he crosses over in front of a player who is running. That is one of the things.

The other is a rule that I have been told does not exist in the book, but I find it there. If two men are holding the ball (a held ball), and another man comes in and makes personal contact with the opponent, it is a foul on that man. We used to call that "three-in", and a great many people seem to think that has gone out. It is still in the rules.

The third one, where I see a great deal of roughness is in diving for the ball. On the football field, where there is fine sod and fine grass, we have tried to eliminate piling up on the player who is diving for the ball, but I find that three, four, and five men can dive one on top of another on a hardwood floor at the present time and nothing is said about it. That is one of the things that I think might be modified in the Thirteenth Rule at the present time. It was eliminated in 1905, when the college game came in, and that is that the ball must be handled by the hands only. I see men dive half way across the court and grab the ball to themselves in order to gain possession of the ball.

Those are the three things that it seems to me cause a good deal of our trouble at the present time.

As to the booing proposition, I don't think that can be regulated by the official. The coach can help do it, the director of athletics can do it, the cheer leader can do it, but the man who can do it best of anybody is the man on whom the foul has been called, or the captain of the team. If the captain of the team would simply stand up and say, "We are with the referee; we will take his decision, "Idn't' think the crowd would have very much to say. I deprecate booing. I think it is a terriable thing to try to influence officials that way.

Remarks by Dr. Naismith Cont'd.

There is one thing that I have often thought of. We have meetings of this kind for coaches; we have meetings for officials for the interpretation of rules, but we haven't any way of educating the public and the spectators. It was mentioned in one of the reports that that would be a good thing to do, and I believe it would be one of the very best things in the world to let the crowd know just what the foul is and how it has been committed.

Remarks by Mr. Jack Lipe -

Mr. Jack Lipe: "Mr. President and Members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches: Approximately 650,000 high school boys were playing basketball in 31,000 high schools in the United States this past season. Conclusions drawn from answers to questionnaires and letters sent to this committee indicate conditions of unrest on three points concerning the rules: (1) the three second rule: (2) the ten second center line; and (3) the concern for the health of the high school age player caused by the new tipless game which demands greater speed and skill. Suggest that officials handle the ball after field goals.

"Then we learned from a survey in the state of Illinois that officiating, a vital factor in game administration, was universally poorer during this past year, due, no doubt, to the new speed of this year's game. Some of the larger schools are withdrawing from tournament play and reducing the number of scheduled games since the concern for the health of the player has been so recently emphasized. For those who wish to continue

in tournament play, larger squads have been requested.

"With respect to membership in the National Association of Basketball Coaches, this committee believes that the recent reduction for associate membership will materially aid in bringing into the National Association many new members. It has been suggested that a copy of the Bulletin be sent all high school coaches to acquaint them with the fee for one coach, and of the recent reduction for allied membership.

"The Distance Traversed by College and High School Basketball Players and Effect of Rule Changes upon Distance Traversed in Gollege Games,

> Paul J. Fay Department of Psychology

Lloyd L. Messersmith Department of Physical Education

DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana.

"In an attempt to determine the effects of the ten second rule and the rule eliminating the center jump, as regards the distance traveled by college basketball players, the following data were obtained. This is the continuation of a similar project reported on in 1931, before the inclusion of the ten second rule and the rule eliminating the center jump after the scoring of field goals! Data are also available on the distance traveled by players in high school basketball games, but no comparison can be made relative to the effect of the two rules in question as no study was made on high school players before the incorporation of these changes into the official rules.

"The measurement was made possible through the development of an electrical pursuit apparatus which provides for numerical

registration of unit distance traveled. The piece

1. Messersmith, L. L. Corey, M.S. Distance Traversed by a Basketball Player, Research Quarterly, American Physical Education Association, 1931. of apparatus consists of a tin base, on which is etched a basketball court laid off to scale, wired in series with a storage battery, an electric impulse counter, and a small brass tracing wheel four inches in diameter. Strips of insulating tape are placed on the wheel at half-inch intervals so that rolling it along the floor makes and breaks a circuit each half inch. The impulse counter records these contacts, each one of which, with the calibration employed, indicates a distance of two feet on the playing floor. To determine the number of feet traveled by a player the experimenter follows the movements of the player on the small floor with the tracing wheel. Rolling the wheel from one end of the floor to the other produces a total of 47 contacts, which multiplied by 2 gives 94 (the length of the college floor in feet)., so any inaccuracy in the result lies in the inability of the operator to folllw accurately the movements of the player. When checking high school games the small floor is decreased proportionately in size to conform with actual measurements of floors where players are being observed. All observations were made from a position above the floor where a clear and unobstructed view of the playing floor was available at all times. The apparatus used in the present study is identical with that used in 1931 so that the relative difference in distance traveled by players in college games in the two experiments should be reasonably accurate, even though slight inaccuracies might be present in recording the number of feet traversed by a player in any one game.

"In 1931 it was found that the distance traveled by college players ranged from 2.25 miles to 2.50 miles per game. in the present study, however, the distance traveled have been consistently longer, ranging from 3.87 to 3.97 miles per game. Complete records have been kept of several games but only three representa-

tive games are included in Table I.

TABLE I

	Number of feet Traversed on Offense and Defense						Game :	rotals	Ball Cha	Ball Changes During Game		
Game No.		Offense Second Half		Defense Second Half	Total Defen- sive	Total Offen- sive	In Feet	In	First	Second	Total For Both	
1.	4778	3910	4760	6988	11748	8688	20436	3.87	33	26	59	
2.	4970	4754	5680	5570	11250	9724	20974	3.97	34	40	74	
						2139				30	62	
	In gam		layer in			ion was c					nd in	

TABLE	II

1.	3720	3790	3520	2980	6500	7510	14010 2.65	29	31	60
							16930 3.20			
3.	3657	3650	3361	3950	7811	7307	15118 2.86	34	34	68

Discussion by Mr. Fay Cont'd.

"In Table II the result of three high school games are listed. While the distance traveled by high school players is less than that traveled by college players for a complete game, it is interesting to note that the distance traveled, per minute of playing time, is about the same in both games. In the college games indicated in Table I, the distance traveled, per minute of playing time, for game 1, 2, and 3 is 501.9, 524.4, and 523.4 respectively. In the high school games listed in Table II the number of feet traveled, per minute of playing time, is 437.8, 560.3, and 472.4 respectively. The games included in these tables are fairly representative of all games clocked during the season. One would expect a slightly greater distance for college players due to the fact that the playing floor is twenty feet longer, which distance must be traversed each time the team changes from offense to defense.

"In the high school games the ball changed hands, that is, passed from offense to defense, and vice versa, with greater frequency per unit of playing time than in the college games, Ball changes were 60, 63, and 55 respectively in the high school games, as against 59, 74, and 62 in the college games. Since the high school games were eight minutes shorter than the college games, there were more ball changes per minute in the secondary school games. This may be one explanation for the fact that high school players appear to move faster than college players. Frequent ball changes require quick shifts from offense to defense, and this adjustment is made with less running by high school than by college players, because of the shorter floor on which high school games are played. The center who takes the ball off both backboards, for example, would travel twenty feet

farther on each ball change in a college game.

"Since a study was/made of distances traversed following the inclusion of the ten second rule, and before the inclusion of the rule eliminating the center jump, it is impossible to state the relative effects of these two rules upon the increase in distance traversed by players in college basketball games. Both have undoubtedly been contributing factors, but to say which has had the greater influence would be, in the opinion of the writers, a mere guess. Both studies of college players were made on players representing the DePauw University basketball team, which team was under the direction of the same coach during the course of both studies. In general, changes in style of play which would affect the distance traveled by a player have been only those which were necessitated, or made possible, through the application of the rules under consideration. Studies of high school games were conducted in the Greencastle High School gymnasium on players representing the Greencastle High School team and their opponents.

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Concluded on next page.

SUMMARY

- "1. Distance traveled by players in college basketball games are consistently greater than they were in 1931, before the inclusion of the ten second rule and the rule eliminating the center jump after scoring of field goals.
- "2. It is not possible to draw definite conclusions from this study regarding the relative effects of the two rules upon the increase in distance, as no study was made following the inclusion of the ten second rule, and before the inclusion of the rule eliminating the center jump.
- "3. Distances traveled by college players were found to range from 2.25 miles to 2.50 miles in 1931, as against a range of 3.87 miles to 3.97 miles in the present study.
- "4. Distances traveled by high school players were found to range from 2.65 miles to 3.20 miles per game."

NEWS

New York -- The Metropolitan Association A.A.U. basketball chamiponship, which will begin about December 1. The committee has decided to conduct two divisions in the 155-pound class and the other will be an unlimited class.

The tournament will be conducted first in their respective counties and the survivors of these will go into the final playoff for the Metropolitan championship.

Springfield, Mass. Coach Ed Hickox issued the first call for basketball practice at Springfield College this week. It marked the beginning of his 13th and last season at the Springfield school. Coach Hickox has reached the retirement age and has recently tendered his resignation to become effective at the end of the season.

REPORT OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES MORRISON HOTEL, CHICAHO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Valentine Lentz - Chairman.

Mr. President, Members of the National Association of

Basketball Coaches and distinguished guests.

Our President, Mr. George Edwards; our secretary, Mr. John Bunn and the Chairman of this Research Committee, acting on the wishes of the last convention, have tried to make this committee nationally representative and also to have represented on it the two principal participants in our game, the Colleges and High Schools. With this in mind the following men were asked to serve, all of whom graciously accepted. Mr. Pierce works, representing the west coast; Dr. Forrest C. Allen, representing the Middle West; Mr. H.V.Porter, representing the High School group, and your Chairman representing the East Coast.

In making this report I do not speak for the entire committee, as it has been possible for us to have only one meeting together, so I am asking the permission of the chair to allow each member to have the floor either to add or substract from, the contents of my findings and to give his, or his section's, opinions in the matters

of importance to this committee and to you.

In an effort to find out what the members of this Association were doing in regard to research, your chairman wrote to many of the leading coaches of the various sections of the country for contributions. A few were very co-operative. From the replies received the following problems seem to have been given the most thought during the past season:-

1. The effects of the elimination of the center jump.

2. Extension of the playing space under the basket to four feet.

3. The twelve foot basket

4. Jump balls from the three six foot radius circles

5. Lack of uniformity in equipment

6. Ten second rule 7. Three second rule

In this report we shall take each of these problems sep-

arately, and give you our findings and our recommendations.

l. The effect of the elimination of the center jump. Many new situations have come into basketball with the elimination of the center jump and many discussions have been held about these situations. This is always the case when any decided or important change has been made in the rules. There is no reason why participants in the game should become alarmed or hysterical about them. We should be patient, for in due time all these situations will adjust themselves and the rapidity of that adjustment will depend largely on how rapidly we coaches adjust ourselves.

Some of the findings developing out of these situations are

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listed as follows: -

Report of Research committee Cont'd.

A. Favorable.

(1) Elimination of rough play and injuries occuring at the center jump.

(2) Elimination of held balls following the center jump.
(3) The actual playing time increased from 5 to 6 minutes or more.

(4) Fewer fouls

(5) More equalization of ball possession.

- (6) A development of a more varied type of offense. (7) The use of more varied type of defensive play.
 - (a) In some sections it has brought the defense out to the back court.

(b) In other sections it has brought the zone defense into more prominence.

(c) In still other sections, it has revolutionized defensive play, which, in my own opinion, we coaches have been neglecting.

(d) In still other sections defensive play has been deemphasized to a point where there really is no defense.

(8) It has equalized the burden of the players to such an extent that we can eliminate forwards, center and guards and in their stead have five men who are five offensive players and five defensive players.

(9) It has taught the players to conserve their energy for

use at the proper time and place.

(10) It has brought back into play more skilled players who are not excessively tall.

(11) It has proved that the game may be aggressive or passive on the demands of the coach.

B. Unfavorable.

(1) In some sections it has brought about the race horse type of game with wild passing and frequent fouling.

(2) It has been said that it has taken away the finish and polish of the game.

(3) It is too continuous, with not enough pauses, and it is making our game monotonous.

(4) It takes too much endurance and is effecting our players' hearts.

From these comments one can see that those in favor of the elimination of the center jump are a vast majority. Yet there is one comment in the unfavorable group that has received national publicity and is a vital one to both us coaches and our players. This comment on fatigue deserves our serious thought and consideration.

At the start of this unfavorable criticism of our (revised) game, I immediately asked several coaches of our larger institutions, with medical centers attached to have physicians conduct tests over the period of the season. To these requests I have received but one reply, but I believe that both Mr. Lonberg of Northwestern and Mr. Bunn of Stanford have some interesting information about this, and I would suggest that the chair call upon them for this information at the conclusion of this report.

The report received by this committee was from Dr. H.C.Carlson. It was as follows: - Quote-"Basketball Hearts. The new game of Basketball has focalized public attention upon the heart. This is as it should be. The heart should be checked before such strenuous demands are made upon it. And it might be added without further comment herewith that a tuberculin test is also indicated for varsity basketball players. Varsity basketball teams should display superlative physiques and the big game is not for defective individuals. The question arises if the athlete lives more in a shorter faster life than if he were to be passive over a longer number of years. Does he want to move more or merely vegetate? Perhaps athletes shorten their lives in years while oak trees live hundreds of years.

If an individual is not in good physical condition he should not play agressive basketball. There are other media through which one can become outstanding. Choose a less strenuous field and aspire to be king, success elsewhere may be more important than in basketball. The idea of good condition is to allow for increased intensity of action, a faster rate of speed, and to carry on for a greater length of time. A man may push in the ordinary manner a wheelbarrow of bricks over a distance of 100 yards, dump them, and return to repeat the process over and over during a day if he regulates the rate of speed. A sprinter cannot run the same 100

yards at top speed for an eight hour day.

Good physical condition in an athlete seems to be at present emphasized by the heart in basketball. Other factors including muscular, respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems should be considered but the heart has been singled out. If there is no disease present the muscles of the heart acquire better condition through work. For greater demands the heart builds up greater reserves. The student who plays basketball goes through the same class activities as the student who is not engaged in athletics. The athlete has built up a reserve upon which he may call. Both require

compensatory periods of rest.

A pointed parallel may be presented by the similar possibilities of physical and financial reserve. Both are nice to have, yet hard to build up if dissipated. The well conditioned athlete can spend and regenerate quickly while a sedentary individual may spend and get physical embarrasement. The rich man can spend and recoup readily while the poor man may spend and get financial and social embarrasement. The poorly conditioned athlete cannot spend more than the sedentary student. The rich man cannot honestly spend any more than the poor man. The finely conditioned athlete may run himself into fatigue collapse. The well fixed financial individual may spend himself into bankruptcy. In either case the developed ability of each would play an important part in the recovery of his reserves.

Report of Research committee Cont'd.

Basketball is played in our district at the time when physical reverses are at their lowest and there are many indications when an individual should rest. The various systems of the body may indicate rest before the heart shows signs of cracking. The muscular system may present cramps, weakness, and lack of coordination. The respiratory system may present shortness of breath, coughs, and colds in general. The nervous system may show irritability, lack of desire to play, incoordination, usual lack of cooperation with associates, sleeplessness, complaints of tiredness and delusions of persecution. Digestive system may show loss of appetite, vomiting, and other symptoms associated with that system.

The answer includes a physical checkup by a physician, rest,

and reconditioning before a return to the wars.

The elimination of the center jump possibly may have added physical demands to the four other players other than the center. He was the individual deserving of sympathy under the old rules. The added three or four minutes of play is now added to five players equally and the burden of the center has been erased. The body will adjust itself more readily to the change than will the

minds of many individuals.

The game has always put stress and strain on the individual participants, otherwise it would not have been a game. We become primitive, breath faster, perspire, heart beats faster, the kidneys throw out albumen, we become fatigued, new heights or depths are probed, and we find the thrill of victor or the depression of defeat. The next day there is a compensating slowness of breathing and heart rate, the blood pressure is lower, the kidneys are normal and our mental prospective comes close to our normal. We should be little better mentally and physically if we were normal to start. The myth of the athletic heart has been exploded. Time will tell us probably that we still have the ability to adapt ourselves to hard mental and physical tests. In the meantime let's check for sound hearts to start and eliminate possibilities of undiscovered defects. After the start lets look for some of the early symptoms that foretell, in due time, a possible breakdown. The game is worth the time and consideration given to it. The bad will be eliminated, the good will stay." Unquote.

The committee is sorry that it hasn't more to report on this problem but I am certain that both Mr. Lonborg and Mr. Bunn will

add much of interest in their report.

2. Extension of the playing space under the basket to four feet. The Northern Division Pacific Coast Conference, and I believe several other conferences with which your chairman has been in contact, have been experimenting with this contemplated change for several seasons. The report on this problem received by this committee is explained in form of a letter from Mr. Jack Friel, basketball coach at Washington State College. Quote. "The Northern Division Pacific Coast Conference extended the playing space under the basket to four feet several years ago and I have never heard anyone at any time make anything but favorable comments to the change. Every coach in our division favors the added room and I am sure that it will never be changed here.

Report of the Research committee Cont'd.

The biggest advantage that I find in the change which we were allowed to make is that it aids a fast break, as the backboard men can get the ball out with more freedom. It also eliminates excess whistle blowing where boys recover the ball off the backboard, and step on the line. I feel sure that this change is desirable if it is found that it is possible in most gymnasiums. Unquote.

In five games played in conference competition the average throw-ins resulting from end line out of bounds other than from after goals or free throws was 10, and five practice games played under the additional two foot extension found the out of bounds other than from after field goals or free throws averaging 6 plus. Jump balls were reduced from 27 to 14. This experiment proved that the end line out of bounds were decreased some 30 odd percent and the jump balls nearly 50 percent.

- 3. The twolve foot basket. There has been much talk on the twelve foot basket in previous years but it has seemed to peter out. Yet there is still the cry about the "Giants". Has the imaginary cylinder above the basket solved the problem? Yes, in some respects but not entirely. Some coaches are still crying about the big men under the basket. The solution can be found by having some conference give this long recommended and debated change a trial. Many of our other problems have been clearified in our research laboratorics, why not this one?
- 4. Jump balls from the three 6 foot radius circles. The Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Conference has been our research laboratory in this proposed change and I believe Dr. Allen will include the findings of that conference on this suggested change in his report, so I will pass on to problem-
- 5. Lack of uniformity in our equipment. There is no game in our sports' curriculum that places visiting teams under more severe handicaps than the game of basketball. This is particularly so where teams are not playing conference schedules, or where Conference teams are playing part of their schedules outside of their own group.

First they have the size of the various playing courts to contend with. The committee realizes that it is well-nigh impossible for our Rules body to legislate in this case but they can be more emphatic in thier recommendations in an effort to remedy this handicap.

Secondly, they have one of three types of backboards, Glass Steel and wood, to adjust themselves too. This handcap can be remedied by our Rules body by selecting the one most desirable and forbidding the use of the others.

They have two or should I have said six, entirely different balls to adjust themselves to. The laceless ball with seams with either rubber or metal valves, the ball with seams and lace with either rubber or metal valves, and the seamless ball either plain or with grooves. Each of these balls has a different pressure, entirely different feel, different bouncing qualities and entirely different throwing advantages and disadvantages. Here again our Rules body should decide which of the balls is best and legislate in its favor. This committee feels that we should have one ball and that it is the duty of this convention to recommend such a ball.

I believe Mr. H. V. Porter of this committee has done quite a bit exqerimenting along this line and will go more into detail

as to the committee's finding when he makes his report.

Lastly, the visiting teams meet three entirely different kinds of baskets; one, as prescribed in Rule 3, Section 1 & 2, another as prescribed in this rule but with leather, cloth or rubber padding around the ring and lastly, the newer Bask-o-lite baskets. All three types of baskets named have different reactions to the ball, making it necessary for teams playing schedules as previously described either to place the three different baskets in their own equipment or try to adjust themselves as to their shooting and rebound at game time.

My own team played one game this season where the Bask-o-lite baskets were used. We did not score a field goal in the first half and had taken 32 shots the score at the end of the first half ending 17 to 2 against us. The final score of this game was 33-22. It had taken us 20 minutes to adjust ourselves to both our shooting

and rebound play.

Since playing Villanova I have been in touch with Mr. Severence, the coach, and here are his own reactions as to the baskets. Quote "Regardinf the Bask-o-lite baskets. -well, my boys cuss them everytime they let one go and it does not hit true for it requires a well-timed followup to get anywhere. In all seriousness, "Dutch", the fans here go for them pretty well. My boys do not like them because they require a dead center shot to make the goal. They give you very little breaks. I also find that they have been more severe on my equipment, Namely, balls but that could be remedied by a covering of rubber over the catch that the ball hits.

They are a saving from the view points of nets, etc. We use both for practice having only run into them about five times. I believe they do add a little color to the game from the spec-

tators' viewpoint." Unquote.

The type of basket as prescribed by Rule 3, Section 1 & 2, but with leather, cloth or rubber covered ring acts exactly opposite from the Bask-o-lite type. This basket deadens the shock and nearly all the rebounds are within a four foot radius under the basket, thus giving the team with the exceptionally tall men an advantage and tending to create more than the usual amount of rough play under the basket, and also increasing the number of jump balls and out of bounds plays at the end line

This committee again recommends one type of basket. Here again let us select the type approved by the majority, recommend our choice to our Rules body and request them to legislate against all others. Let us keep in mind that this game belongs to the individual playing it and not to coaches or to the manufact-

urers of athletic equipment.

6. Ten second rule and 7. three second rule. Only in the game of basketball do we require the offensive team to come to the defensive team, and then after they do so, limit them to only a portion of one half the entire playing space in which to maneuver. We have always gone on record as an Association in placing the responsibility for whatever stalling we have had in the past on the defensive team and then, gentlemen, we recommend legislation, ommitting that we have falsely accused the defense. Why handicap an offense with only a portion of one-half the court to play in while we allow the defense the whole court? Is that consistent with our ethics of fair play? Should we handicap gither one of the two important phases of our game? I say, No. We are gradually taking all the clever team play, in both offense and defense, away for our game and placing more and more stress on individuality.

In the Metropolitan area this past season several games were played with the ten second rule out, until the last five minutes on the, and it proved a very successful experiment. If we are afraid to gamble, let us say, with a change, let us at least exper-

iment further.

Let us return again to stalling. What brought Stalling? Tight defenses thrown around the basket and staying there, Particularly the types bordering on the zone. In Atlanta a few years ago we spent hours trying to find some sort of legislation to curtail zone defenses without definitely coming out and stating that all types of zone defenses were prohibited. At that time we werenearly unanimously against this type of defense. Yet, we turn around the next year and recommend the passing of Rule 8, Section 8 (ten second rule) and further aid the zone defense. Then to add f further insult to injury, we recommend the three second rule, only to have the Rules body aid more by making it with or without the ball. Are we consistent in our policies or are we playing this international game or ours for our own advantages, depending on what kind of material we have on hand for the next season, or for what our spectators want? It is about time we recommend some legislation for the game's sake. Open the court to both elements, put the ten second rule in for only the last five minutes of the game, if you so desire, and earnestly recommend that at least the 6 foot circle at the foul line be open to men without the ball and three seconds with the ball.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I want to thank you for the privilege of being the chairman of your Research Committee and to thank

those serving with me for their splendid cooperation.

Active and Allied Members

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