

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 together, 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 terrible thing to try to influence officials that way.