

4. Development of a More Varied Style of Play.

One criticism which spectators frequently make of present day basketball is that it has become "stereotyped" and in the main is played on only one-half of the court. Under the elimination, it early developed that a team ahead in the score in the second half could expect to have its opponents play it all over the court. This necessitated the preparation of a strong back court game in order to combat such tactics. Further, since the defenses were schooled to go out when necessary, the use of such tactics at any time, in order to change the pace of the play when desired, has now become common. The obvious effect of such tactics being to open up the play, no complaint is longer heard of "stereotyped basket ball."

5. Equalization of Ball Possession.

With the center jump in use, all other things being equal, the team with the taller center will generally get the tip. With centers of equal jumping ability, it is entirely a matter of chance. In the one case, a team is penalized through no intrinsic fault of its own (precisely as in the old days a team was penalized unfairly because it did not happen to have the best foul shooter). And where the jumpers are of equal ability, the matter of ball possession depends mainly upon pure luck.

The result has been a scouring of the highways and byways for skyscraper centers who in many cases (generally, it may be said, on losing teams) are used in the lineup for their jumping ability, despite their lack of skill in the other departments of the game. Where the tip is used, this must be done. Where the tip is not used, a tall man does not play unless he is a basket ball player. The advantage of height will always endure in basket ball, when it is coupled with genuine basket ball ability. Where it is not, however, there is no point to employing it simply for the purpose of protection in a department of the game which does not truly reflect the actual relative merits of the opposing teams.

The elimination of the tip does away with all this. And, in return, it equalizes ball possession. Every time a team scores, the opponent is given the opportunity likewise to score if it can. Whether it can or not depends upon the relative skills of the two teams. And this, it is submitted, is the true spirit of the game.

Aside from these considerations, however, it is undoubtedly true that this element of equalized ball possession has resulted in closer and more hard fought contests. And this fact has likewise done a great deal toward popularizing the elimination.

6. The addition of actual playing time.

Statistics have shown that the use of the elimination will add from six to eight minutes of actual playing time to each game. In a game which, in comparison with other major sports, is all too short in this respect, this is a decided advantage from the standpoint of public interest.

7. Higher scoring.

A natural corollary to the added playing time is the element of higher scoring per team per game. In 1934, the last center tip year in