

In 1934, the last center tip year in the Southern Division, the championship team scored an average of 35 points per game. Since then the average has consistently exceeded 45 points. Here again we find added cause for public interest, for in basketball as in all sports, the spectators like scoring activity.

8. Attitude of spectators, players and officials toward the change.

As has been earlier intimated, the public, at games where the modification has been employed, has received it with enthusiasm. This is not surprising in view of the fact that the play is practically continuous, offers an opportunity for more diversified methods of play, and results in higher scoring. The general comment has been, after subsequently watching games where the tip-off was employed, that it robbed the game of the action and thrill rendered possible by the elimination.

The players likewise are reluctant to return to the old style, once they have become accustomed to the new. They feel that the old slam-bang crashing tactics attendant upon the tip-off simply are not basketball, and they are eager to play according to the new method.

Practically without exception, the officials who have worked under the new arrangement are heartily in favor of it. And in this connection it may be said that not only does it relieve them of an exceedingly arduous task, but it also results, to the same extent, in placing them in the background, greatly to the satisfaction of those who feel that the game is unduly "whistle-ridden".

This report would not be complete were not some space devoted to questions which are from time to time propounded with regard to the elimination. Among these are:

1. Whether or not the tip-off should be retained as being a traditional part of the game?

The most forthright answer to this query is that, after the opening tip-off, the subsequent ones are not missed. This may seem somewhat strange, but the truth of the statement will be attested by any one who has become in the slightest degree accustomed to play under the new method. The same is also true under the present rule eliminating the tip-off after free throws.

Aside from this, however, it is self evident that no feature of a game, if detrimental to its well-being, should be retained merely because of tradition. And it is submitted that the tip-off is a detriment to present day basketball.

2. Will not scoring opportunities be lost if the tip-off is not used?

We think not. In present day basketball, and in particular as between well-matched opponents, the tip-off is rarely used other than as a means of obtaining possession. Once possession is secured, resort is had to the regular offensive system for scoring opportunities. We must recognize the fact that the tip-off, as a vehicle for scoring plays, is practically extinct.