

3. Will not too much of a sameness of play result from the elimination?

Such has not been our experience. In games played one-half with and one-half without the tip-off, the only reaction experienced has been the consciousness of the lull or let-down caused by the tip-off when used. The reaction in this regard has been purely one of impatience at the unnecessary break in the continuity of the play.

Further, as earlier pointed out, the elimination has led to a tendency to force the other team in the back court from time to time, thus necessitating a total change of method by the offense.

4. Will a team behind in the score at the end of a game be handicapped by the change?

No such reaction has been voiced on behalf of any of the numerous teams, conference and non-conference, who have been playing without the tip. As earlier indicated, the tendency at the end of a losing game is to force the opponents in their back court, with a particular eye to intercepting passes. In other words, both teams are on offense. And, while under either system the percentage is always against the team that is behind, the chances of the "forcing" team are by no means as hopeless as they may seem to appear. As random examples, we may cite two games in the Southern Division. In one the home team was four points behind with ten seconds to go. In that time they scored twice and forced the game into over time, a thing they could not have done with the tip-off. In the other the visiting team was three points behind with fifteen seconds to go. They were fouled, shot the free throw, intercepted the pass in under their basket and scored, again forcing an overtime.

In other words, a gamble is a gamble, under either situation; accordingly, based upon experience under both types of play, it is our opinion that the team that is behind is certainly no worse off under the new method than under the old. Indeed, it is probably better off, for by forcing the play in the back court it is opening up the game, which is the last thing in the world the other team wants to do. And once the game is opened up, anything can happen, as typified by the two instances given above.

5. Will the change make the game too fast, so as to cause an undue strain upon the players?

Mention has earlier been made of the continuity of play and the added playing time made possible under the elimination. As far as making the game too fast is concerned, it may be pointed out that the tempo of the play is still regulated by the requirements of the system employed by the two opponents. Hence, there is no change in this respect from the situation under the tip-off. It is true, however, that whatever the tempo, the actual playing time is increased. Is this detrimental to the players?

The evidence afforded by three years' experience without the tip-off is to the contrary. So far as the centers are concerned, they are outspoken in their relief at being freed from the fatigue caused by the jump. And the other players are equally outspoken in their belief that, freed from the crashing and spills incidental to the jump, they are able to play better basketball. No fatigue complaints attributable to the change in style have been received, nor has any staleness resulted therefrom.