

DECISION TO ELIMINATE THE CENTRE
JUMP IS RESULT OF TWO-YEAR SURVEY

by George Daley

Sentiment among Eastern coaches and officials on the action of the National Basketball Committee in eliminating the centre jump except on the opening of the game and the opening of the second half seems to be divided. Still, no criticism can be leveled at the rule-makers for hasty or ill-advised action.

The decision to make this major change in the game was based on a survey lasting two years. It was backed by two-thirds of the 1,700 replies by the committee to its yearly rules questionnaire.

The elimination of the centre jump is likely to make the game faster and spells the doom of those physical freaks used by some coaches merely because of their towering height. Tall boys will still have an advantage in jumping for rebounds under the basket, but emphasis will no longer be placed on the bean poles unless they fit into the general scheme of the offense.

To me the most important phase of the meetings in Chicago was the burying of district prejudices and the open-minded co-operation of the coaches from different sections of the country. Heretofore there has been too much selfishness in upholding one system or another, and as a result the game suffered from varying interpretation, which caused much friction when intersectional games were played.

Everett Morris, of the Herald Tribune sports staff, tells me that there was a refreshing air of candor about the deliberations and all seemed to be working for the best interests of the sport and general standardization. This resulted in a clarification of the controversial blocking rule and paved the way for a uniform interpretation of its provisions.

The University of Maine last season resumed its basketball relations after a lapse of several years. The Pine Tree Staters have a new athletic plant in which they began the court game once more. The new gymnasium is one of the best and most spacious in New England.

Bates College, another Maine institution, is also resuming a court schedule this season after having abandoned the sport several years ago. Leslie Spinks, a former Alabama athlete, is coach of the quintet.