

CONVEX AND STREAMLINED BACKBOARDS

It remained for a rabid basketball fan, Leonard A. Maune, of St. Louis, Mo., and Mr. G. R. Chervenka, a research engineer of St. Louis, to introduce the convex backboard. This convexity of 4 inches begins at the median plane of the board and extends and curves outward to the sides of the board, which is 3 feet from the median plane. The original convex backboard has retained the 6-foot width dimension of playing surface and likewise the 4-foot height dimension. The inventors have assumed a 14-foot radius of curvature to be ideal, as the angle of incident and reflection on this arc does not vary greatly from the conventional flat plane. This radius, however, can be altered to meet conditions that may develop.

Since the latest change in the rules permits the extension of the end zone for an additional 2 feet, totalling 4 feet, practically all the new schools laying out basketball courts are taking advantage of this new ruling. This allowable increase in the end zone increases the blind spots, or "soffin corners", which while all owing greater freedom of movement or play, insofar as the offense is concerned, does markedly change the defense owing to the fact that the basket is now plainly set out so there is no mental hazard from the projecting straight side of the backboard.

It is the thought of the originators or inventors that this board will revolutionize the offensive play in the end zone. By increasing the scoring zone it must necessarily follow that the defense must spread out, resulting in more open and much faster play in the end zone.

The inventors cite the following points which they consider to be decidedly in favor of this type of bank:

1. For a straight shot to the goal the scoring zone is, figuratively, increased by 27 sq. ft.
2. For a bank shot contacting the bank 3 inches from the edge, the scoring zone is increased 720 sq. ft.
3. The mental hazard of attempting a shot from the sideline, directly parallel to the bank, is eliminated, owing to the recession of the vertical edge of the bank, allowing unobstructed visibility of the goal.
4. The visibility to spectators is greatly increased beyond the end zone due to the recession of the vertical edge, thereby opening up large areas which heretofore had been obscure.
5. The convex shape of the bank results in a unit of much greater strength and rigidity, thereby causing rebounds to land a greater distance from the basket and opening up the congested regions around the basket.
6. Present type bank mounting structure does not have to be materially altered to permit installation of this new type of bank.
7. This type of bank can be made of wood, glass, steel or any of the materials as used in present bank construction (cost of board no greater than flat backboard).