

## KICKING GOALS, RINGING BASKETS CHIEFLY PRACTICE

By BILL CORUM, International News Service Sports Writer

Basketball has changed with the years.

As the late Dr. Naismith's invention is played today, it's a better game to watch and undoubtedly to play than in any time of what might be called catch-as-catch-could basketball.

Still, there's one new rule that I'm glad come after my time.

In school, they used to let me hang around on the fringe of the team because I could drop those foul shots in with considerable regularity. In those days any player on the team could take the penalty shot. Now, it's the man who's fouled. So I used to get in the games now and then as a foul-shot specialist, much as they have kicking specialists in football today.

## THE WHOLE THING

is a matter of practice. The same is true of kicking points after touchdown in football. Every fellow who kicks a football can't be Hype Igoe's man, i.e., Charley Brickley. But nobody will ever convince me that any passing good kicker can't learn through patient practice to kick points after touchdown with almost machine-gun accuracy.

That's how the incomparable Suzanne Lenglen learned to play tennis, you know. By taking a racquet and a couple of tennis balls and banging them against wall hour after hour.

Football coaches don't catch their young men quite as young as Suzie was when she began. But I'm convinced they could win many games they lose by singling out four or five youngsters and freshmen who had a little natural aptitude for kicking and making them work at it until at least one developed into a kicker who'd not miss that seventh point.

That may be a fixation with me.

## I'VE BEEN HARPING

on it for years, though I never know anybody to do it except the late LeRoy Mills. Mr. Mills did better than bad with his kickers, didn't he?

So many teams lack a topnotch kicker. Which is the one thing I'm dead sure any team can have. Still, my business is writing about football, not coaching it. And, by and large, I've always tried to stick to my last to the last. Which, for today, is now.

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## BASKETBALL A LA THE ARMORY

Cornersville, Ind., Jan 24 -- Professional basketball as exemplified in the double bill at the Butler fieldhouse Wednesday night was something on the verge of a tug-of-war. The passing, of course, was vastly superior to the ordinary run of ball handling but the manner in which the guards kept the offense from taking a shot was strictly a throwback to the Gotch-Hackenschmidt days. Players seemed to object strenuously to the calling of perfectly obvious fouls and the officials didn't seem to mind the stern attitude of reproof. There was one lively setto with the fists but it was rather harmless and the fans didn't mind it. Considering the weather there was a large turnout of customers and no one wanted his money back. It was good competition but it wasn't high school basketball. Well, it wasn't intended to be.

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