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I am proposing a basketball rule change which I believe would serve as a check on the present race-horse style of game and also restore some of the desirable elements of the criss-cross and screen without the defensive disadvantage against the giant pivot man.

This proposal is made on the assumption that the fast-break system is an outgrowth of the present 3-second rule rather than from elimination of the center jump; also that the fast-break system (1) is too much of a strain on the players; (2) leads to more fouls by both teams, particularly those allowing two free throws on basket attempts; (3) makes the game more difficult to officiate satisfactorily; (4) often decreases spectators' interest through too much scoring; (5) discourages valuable training in technical skills of footwork and ball-handling found in the more deliberate type of game; (6) makes the game more difficult to coach with any certainty of method. The proposed rule assumes that return of the center jump would not solve the problem and that handling of the ball by an official after successful goal would be preferable to abrogation of the rule eliminating the center jump. The rule which I am suggesting is as follows:

Omit all of Sec. 12 Rule 14 and substitute in its place:

Sec. 12 - score - a goal after remaining in his own free throw area continuously more than 3-seconds.

Penalty - goal if made not to count; the ball to be awarded to the opponents out of bounds at the end of the court where the goal was illegally made.

I believe such a rule would improve the game for these reasons:

- (1) It would make it possible for the team on offense to center its attack around the area in front of the basket and thus restore better finesse in ball handling, footwork and short shots.
- (2) It should discourage the zone defense, which now has the advantage with a forbidden center area that needs less protection, thus forcing the play towards the side lines.
- (3) Reliance upon the fast-break style of offense would be discouraged through a decrease in use of the zone defense, which itself is fundamentally a set formation for a fast break, and thus eliminate largely the urge upon the offensive team to beat the defense back to the other end of the floor.
- (4) It would foster better ball handling and a better planned attack through the elimination of the need of hurried passing from the free throw area.
- (5) The defense would not be placed at any particular disadvantage, inasmuch as the ball handler in the free throw area could not shoot and thus could be left alone temporarily as defensive players shifted to defend against screen or criss-cross.
- (6) Height would not be essential in the pivot position, thus opening up the spot to any offense player.
- (7) Officials should have no more difficulty in enforcing this rule than the present 3-second rule.