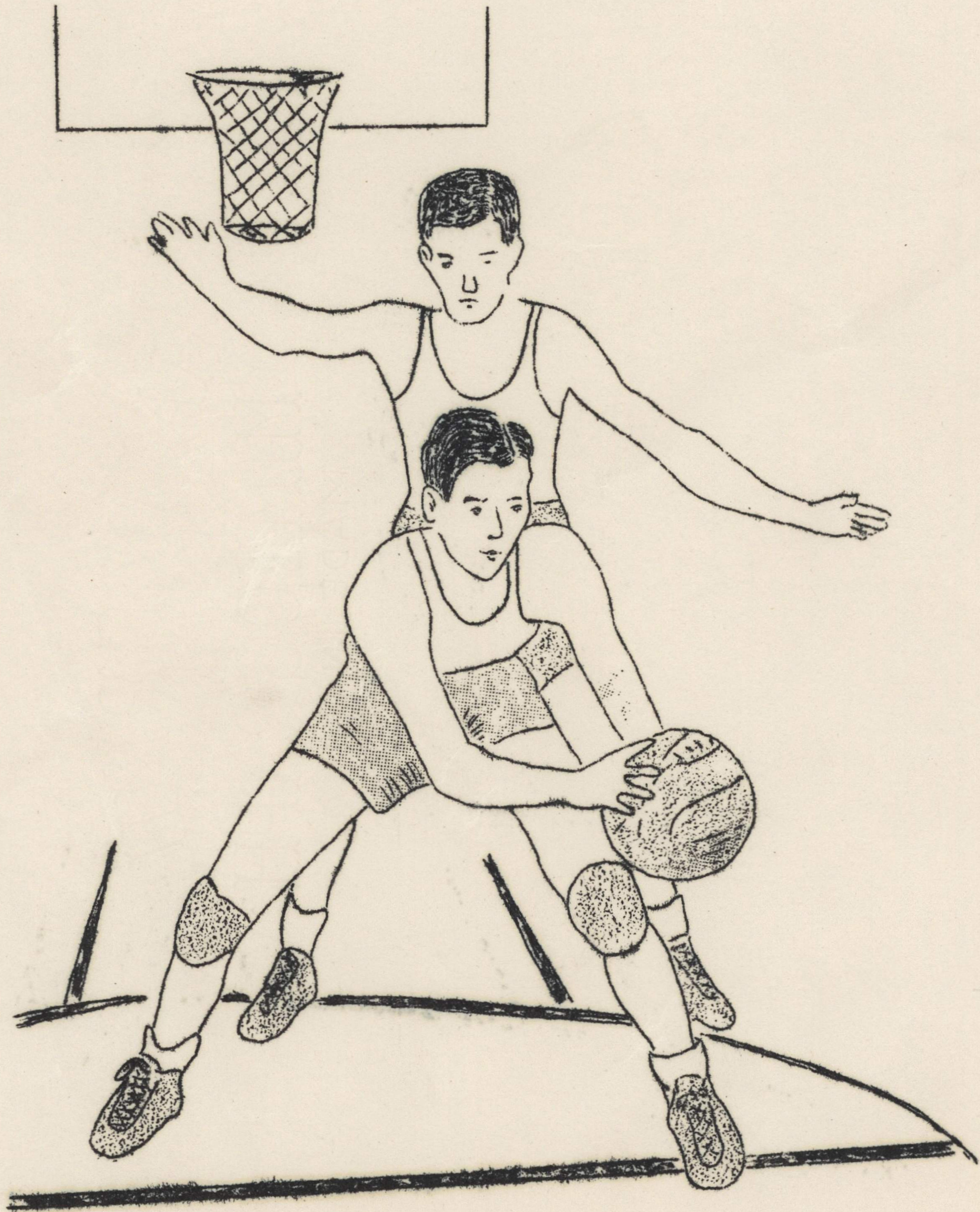


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BASKETBALL COACHES OF THE UNITED STATES

BULLETIN No. 2.

DECEMBER 16, 1939.



Dr. James Naismith

By Oswald Tower Editor of
the Rule Book.

A leading newspaper publishes an editorial under the caption "He invented Basketball", concluding with the following sentence: "Few men in the whole history of sport have done so much for clean living and real sport as did that simple and modest man who provided the world with an exciting game which requires both teamwork and individual prowess". The only exception one can take to that statement is in its use of the word "few", for Dr. Naismith has no peers in the whole history of sport with respect to his contribution - his name stands at the head. All of our other great games calling for team competition have come to us through a process of evolution. Basketball alone is the creation of one man, invented out of hand for a definite purpose and to fill a real need.

That Dr. Naismith was a simple and modest man the writer can attest from personal observation. During the period from 1910 to 1920 I had the privilege of serving with him on the Basketball Rules Committee. Never would one have suspected from any remark made by him in the many meetings that we attended that he had invented the game or that he had a greater knowledge of it than the rest of us. He sat calmly by while we harranged about the rules, occasionally offering a helpful suggestion but never urging the adoption of any ideas of his own. He gave us a free hand to tinker with his game and I often felt that he was quietly amused at our efforts to improve its game.

My last long interview with Dr. Naismith took place in 1936 when he asked me to go over the manuscript for his history of basketball. He was having difficulty in finding a publisher because of the uncertainty of the demand for such a book. I remember saying to him: "Some day there will be plenty of demand for it. Don't let anything happen to that manuscript, for you are the only man in the world who knows the whole story of basketball. Whether you find a publisher now or not, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have put on paper the story of your great contribution to humanity and that it will be available if anything should happen to you".

Dr. Naismith's contribution to human welfare cannot be appraised adequately. Never has there been a game played over so great an area of the earth, under such a variety of conditions and by such diverse groups of players. It has provided an interest for millions which is wholesome and uplifting. I had hoped that Dr. Naismith would be spared to help us observe the fiftieth anniversary of his game and to receive fitting recognition of his achievement.

Oswald Tower.

- NEW ENGLAND SEEKS RECOGNITION -

Contributed by Frank W. Keaney, Jr.
(Son of the editor.)

With the exception of the various National tournaments, all sections of the country, save New England, have sought and gained recognition for the style and calibre of their particular teams. Long Island University, Temple, Stanford, New Mexico Aggies, Notre Dame, to name a few have brought their section to the foreground wherever basketball is discussed. Intersectional contests have given these teams National prestige.

Meanwhile New England conservatism has strangled collegiate basketball just as it has obtained a toe-hold on many phases of New England life. Coaches and Athletic Directors have been overlooking the value of inter-sectional games and have been content with practically the same schedule year after year. Thus New England basketball has become stagnant. No new interest! No new incentive! A self-satisfied section whose development has been retarded by Yankee conservatism.

This year, however, a few New England colleges are attempting to remedy the situation, and gain recognition. University of Connecticut, Brown University, and Rhode Island State College are traveling to New York to play outstanding teams from the Mid-west, and South. As these three teams, annually, rate as outstanding in their section, a true comparison with teams from other parts of the country can be made.

Perhaps New England basketball does not deserve ranking with other sections, but at least she should be given a chance to "show her stuff". With this years intersectional battles, New England should know definitely where she stands. At last, the authorities have awakened and the teams will have a chance to prove themselves. Better late than never!

Frank W. Keaney, Jr.

On December 5, 1939, at a meeting of the New England colleges for conference on athletes thirty colleges voiced approval of the following code:

(1) that coaches and athletic officials stop the practice of attending school banquets, interviewing athletes and visiting prep schools, (2) that if athletes receive scholarships, they be based on scholarship competitive ability and never given because of mere athletic ability, (3) that all athletes, upon entering college, relate all sources of financial aid, (4) that reports of the athletes financial aid be available to the public, and (5) that when the athletes' filed records show they have received financial aid from only those upon whom they are naturally dependent they shall be declared eligible in this respect by their colleges.

Their action will probably be sneered at by the racketeers. They will be called sissies and even hypocrites because they themselves do not practice what they preach. Most of us never expect to see subsidization, nor competition for athletes eliminated whether it be for football, basketball, baseball or track, but out and out professionalism will be destroyed within a few years. Colleges were founded for educational purposes first and will continue to be for that purpose. Athletics are secondary and coaches should realize it. As a dean of a large college said "Athletics are on the spot".

Athletic Directors and coaches should read the code - We should all agree that it is a step forward.

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On Saturday, December 9th Brown University played Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Officials before the game had some misgivings when they discovered that Clark had put on steel mesh nets on their baskets, which are not permitted by the rules. What were they to do if the Brown coach refused to play. Last March Mr. John Bunn of the rules committee brought up the fact at our meeting that the rules absolutely defines the kind of cord that is to be used for the net. He thought the rules were specific, although the length is not defined and he thought the statement about nets should be definite. Mr. Bunn finally said the rule is quite specific and leaves no loeway.

The steel mesh nets are a new development, and we hear that the graduate manager of Clark says that they have been approved. All of us coaches would like to know who approved them. Probably the rules committee gave them permission to try them out.

The Brown University coach did not kick a bit as he said that if both teams used the same kind of net it made little difference.

The Providence Journal paper printed a comment "It sounded like bank night when the boys start popping them in because the 'music' generated when the ball goes through is akin to that heard when someone dumps the jack-pot".

Late in the game the Brown coach enjoyed the music no end.

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Most every section of this country will be represented on this years basketball games slated for Madison Square Garden. Ned Irish, who has done so much for the advancement of basketball, has booked fifteen double headers. The average attendance figure of over 14000 basketball fans is sure to be eclipsed. Every team playing on that fine floor is a champion. Colleges playing there this year are:

Oklahoma Aggies
Long Island University
University of Oregon
Manhattan University
University of Texas
University of Southern California
New York University
University of Missouri
Fordham University
University of Oklahoma
St. John's College
University of Colorado
City College of New York

Santa Clara
Syracuse University
Butler University
New Mexico Aggies
Temple University
Michigan State
St. Josephs of Philadelphia
St. Francis
Duquense University
Fordham University
Notre Dame
Georgetown University
Pittsburg University.

Basketball double headers will also be great attractions in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Baltimore, Chicago and White Plains, N. Y.

Boston is sounding out pro basketball with a team of local players and vicinity. It will not be long before major college teams are playing for the benefit of those young coaches. Boston and vicinity about 1905 had more teams than any section of the country. The sport gradually declined because of rough house tactics, frequent fights and brawls.

Boston is one of the few big cities whose high schools are not allowed to play basketball. In fact can any coach name another.

University of Maine has the finest seating arrangement of any college in New England, and its playing floor is superb. New Hampshire University also has a fine floor in its new field house as does Massachusetts State.

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The colleges from east to west playing in Madison Square Garden will see the playing surface the same as in previous years. The two foot rule will stand, as a majority of the teams playing there seemed to want the old rule. For those who have never seen the playing surface we would like to tell them that the floor is excellent and Ned Irish should feel proud of the floor.

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Tom Harmon, Michigan's great football star is on the hoop squad. They say he is quite a boy on the court also.

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Speaking of confidence, how's this for a promise, for a coaching job. "Give, me the job and brother, I'll haul you out of the well".

- NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS -

The new convex backboard, was used at the demonstration game at Harvard University before 1500 basketball coaches, players and fans on December 1st. One regular backboard and the new convex one was actually used in the game.

A fitting tribute to Dr. Naismith was given when everyone stood while a bugler played taps.

Your editor will never forget that New Year's night at Madison Square Garden a few years ago when the grand old man was thoroughly upset. Three New York teams were playing for charity and many celebrities came in evening clothes. In one game, one team went ahead a few points and the other team fell back in a zone defense. At that time there was no ten second rule and so the team that was leading just stayed in the back court. The band played tunes, the crowd sat amazed - several spectators near us started to condemn the game. Dr. Naismith was in a fury - he almost went out on the floor. How he did blast that kind of a game. After the game we congregated on the playing floor and still the doctor was full of emotion. Dr. Naismith, Oswald Tower, Guillion now coaching at Cornell and your editor and wife walked down to Broadway, the doctor still saying the game was not formed for deliberate stalling. We talked the game over until after one o'clock. Finally that surging boisterous New Year's crowd swept us away, and if you have never been on Broadway, N. Y. on New Year's night you should go and learn what we mean.

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The Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association has voted to give up its sponsorship of an invitation national intercollegiate basketball at Madison Square Garden, New York, in March in favor of the committee representing seven New York colleges. The event has been a post-season success during the past two seasons. Options on the Garden already have been taken for March 11, 13, 15, and 20 next year. The new sponsoring committee comprises the athletic directors of N.Y.U., Fordham, City College, Manhattan, St. John's, Long Island University, and St. Francis. Prof. Walter W. Williamson of City College is the acting chairman, and Clair F. Bee of Long Island University is secretary-treasurer. The Writers Association which conceived the plan and executed it will have a voice in shaping the future policy, but otherwise will have no direct connection with the promotion of the event.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES

BULLETIN
NUMBER 3.

JANUARY 19, 1940.



REBOUND ONCE A MINOR MATTER

Pipes, Posts, Pinioning Were Regular Basketball Obstacles

By ARTHUR SAMPSON

In a basketball article in the current issue of a national weekly, Paul Mooney, coach at Columbia, is quoted as saying that the elimination of the backboard would improve the game and restore some of the science it has lost in recent years.

The article also said that there no longer was any place in basketball for skillful and talented little fellows but that the successful teams were those manned by extremely tall greyhounds who could speed up and down the court in tireless fashion and toss a steady barrage of one-hand shots through the hoop while on the dead run.

It stated that there had been a big change in the style of basketball in the last five years and that whereas a little fellow who could pivot, fake and thread a needle with two-hand, set-shots was a valuable man to have around a few years ago he should pick up his marbles and devote his energy to some other game in this day and age.

In an attempt to provide a remedy for the current situation, the writer quoted Mooney. And it apparently was Paul's opinion that elimination of the backboard would help give the little fellow a chance.

Greater Penalty for Missed Shot

There is, no doubt, something to be said in favor of this revision. Unquestionably, the elimination of the backboard would place a bigger premium on accuracy and take away some of the advantage the extremely tall players now have.

In the high scoring games that now prevail, accuracy has been more and more replaced by speed, and the result produces considerable wild passing and more than a little wild shooting.

The current idea of the game seems to be to throw the ball in the general direction of the goal as frequently as possible and hope that a tall teammate will tap home a rebound if the basket is missed with the first shot. And since the number of rebounds is definitely increased with the increasing number of shots taken at the basket, the game has been reduced to what some of the New York boys call "scaron."

Elimination of the backboard would curtail a big percentage of the rebounds, of course. A few shots might bounce off the rim and be tapped home, but a majority of the misses would sail out of bounds. Thus the penalty for missing a shot would be much more severe than it is now.

Old Pros Played Without Backboards

Whether anything will come of this suggestion is problematical and beside the point at this time. The basketball rules committee is hardly likely to tamper much with a game that is becoming so popular, because of its speed and heavy scoring, that it is creating new attendance records in all sections of the country except here in New England.

But stressing the point that elimination of the backboard would reduce the number of one-hand, running shots and bring back what some consider the more accurate two-hand set shot provides a laugh.

Basketball has been played without backboards. Years ago the professionals played without them most of the time. And even where backboards were used in the old days they didn't always provide much assistance since they were far from uniform in structure, size and resiliency.

Any one who ever saw one of those old-time professional games, played on a court that lacked backboards, will vouch that one hand shots were just about as common as they are in the wild scramble that is called basketball today. As a matter of fact, in the old days it was considered

almost a miracle if a player ever got two hands free enough to take a two-hand shot.

Actually, it was quite a trick to get one hand loose from the grasp of an opponent. An offensive player in those days not only was burdened with an opponent on his back but he frequently found himself without use of either arm.

Lucky to Have One Hand Free

It was not uncommon in the days when special professional rules were played around here to have a teammate pass you the ball and be hit flush in the chest with it for the simple reason that both of your hands suddenly had been pinned to your side. And in one pro game, we saw the ball lay unmolested on the floor under one basket for several seconds before a single player could break away from his opponent long enough to pick it up.

"The new system of shooting with one hand has changed the game," was one comment made in this article.

"Goodness gracious," as Connie Mack would say in a similar situation, the writer of that piece certainly never saw any of the basketball games that were played around here 20 to 30 years ago if he thinks shooting with one hand is a new development.

That was about the only way a player could shoot before the rules were changed to prevent a defensive player from making contact with an offensive player. If his other hand wasn't already pinned or paralyzed he was forced to use it as a buffer to keep the defensive player from pulling his shooting arm off at the shoulder.

And in those days, a player not only had to shoot one handed most of the time while in the grasp of an opponent but the target was not always visible or conveniently located.

Basketball games are played in spacious and well-lighted courts for the most part today. Years ago, they were played in town halls, churches, school cellars and gyms with low ceilings.

Even Spectators Provided Obstacles

Most of the baskets were fastened to walls, posts, or balconies. After firing a close-up shot, a player could figure on being driven into a wall, a radiator or the lap of an unhospitable spectator who wasn't adverse to bracing his knees to provide the first line of resistance.

There always seemed to be certain places on most courts where an obstruction of some kind blocked the flight of the shot and in some extreme cases the ball had to be maneuvered to a definite spot before it was possible to reach the basket with a shot of any kind.

There was no wild scoring in those days. The scores didn't measure up to the current standard which requires an adding machine to figure out the final total. But plenty of one handed shots were fired at the basket. And when they didn't carom off the rafters or hit the low ceiling a good percentage of them sailed through the hoop despite the obstacles.

Basketball has changed, yes, but the biggest changes are in the freedom an offensive player has because of legislation and the opportunity he has because of improved conditions under which the game is played. Give some of the old timers, who used to have to wiggle out of their trunks to escape the vice-like grasp of an opponent, peek around a post and then scale the ball over a set of steam pipes to reach the basket, the freedom and constant conditions that prevail now and they would have molested the strings as frequently as the modern stars. The game has developed rapidly in some ways but the uncanny ability to shoot with one hand isn't one of them, in our opinion.

In a frank discussion on inter-collegiate versus professional basketball, William (Chuck) Solodare, the famous Newark official, says:

There is no comparison. Intercollegiate basketball is so-called streamlined. It's not, but a hard running game. The best conditioned and also the luckiest team often wins. To me, college ball lacks the oomph of pro basketball.

"The elimination of the center tap has taken a lot of good points away from the game. The guys who can shoot with one hand have the edge on teams that must get down into the scoring zone and get set to shoot. Look what Butler did to L.I. U. the other night as compared with Syracuse against New York University. Butler had one of those small ball clubs but the kids could run and flip that basketball one handed from an off-balance position. L.I.U. was much taller and luckier. They won out by two mere points.

"Syracuse, on the other hand, had a nice club but it must get around the scoring zone first and then get set to score field goals. N.Y.U. presented the so-called Mid-West type of ball. It played for and got the ball and shot from all distances, short and long and many of their shots were one-handed. They gambled more often and won easily.

"As compared to pro basketball, college doesn't stand one-two or even three. The pros have the jump, set plays, and the scores aren't as mountainous as the college type. Their ball isn't a marathon race, but skill," says Solodare, who now and then officiates college games but concentrates on pro league games.

Chuck, by the way will be back in the International League as an umpire again during the 1940 season. His hopes? He'd like to be in the big leagues as an umpire, if only for a year.

"Only then will I feel that I have made the grade," says the Newarker.

* * *

Boost for Panzer and Seton Hall

"I've looked at as many as 10 to 12 college ball games a week," says Sam Klugman, an old basketball tosser, himself. "But I think we got two great teams right in this area in Seton Hall and Panzer. I'd like to see them get into the so-called big time. They'd run a lot of the alleged big-wigs ragged.

"Panzer has a great forward in a boy named Berger. He is the class of the field. He rarely loses his head and is never in back of the ball. He knows what is going on all the time in this high speed game.

"Seton Hall has a flock of good ball players. You can't single out an individual star. It is a combination of all-stars and that's the way Honey Russell wants his team to be rather than have one key player. His team could beat two-thirds of the high class ball clubs in the country," says Klugie, who is with a top notch ball club, the Hebrew Club.

* * *

Columbia Mentor Suggests

Paul Mooney, Columbia University basketball coach, seems to agree with Chuck Solodare that college basketball is nothing but a game of hard, fast foot-work and lacks real skill.

Mooney is for eliminating the backboards. He prefers to see the collegians shoot at open baskets as the professionals once did.

"Only then will you see science and skill replacing sheer luck and height as the more important factors in the game today. For a player to

make a clean shot through a clean basket and he'll quit throwing ridiculous shots. Also take away the backboards and you'll take away the only excuse for cluttering up the courts with overgrown oafs whose only excuse for being around is their excessive height," says Mooney.

His suggestions are sensible.

Paul's Lions are a small, speedy team, a team likely to give Penn. or even Cornell a rousing fight for this year's E.I.L. crown. If Columbia should win it will bear out his opinion that a little team well-coached, well-conditioned with accurate shots, can offset the big goofs of basketball.

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SUNLIGHT ON SPORTS

Basketball Now Sissy Game, Old-Timer Yearns For Action, They Run Instead of Pass. By JESSE A. LINTHICUM

At long last an old-timer has been discovered who shares the belief that basketball ain't what she used to be.

Bill Scheffer, known in Philadelphia as the Connie Mack of basketball, declares they have made a sissy game out of a he-man's sport.

Scheffer's basketball days date back to the time when they put 10 men in a cage with a referee and turned them loose. He has been identified with the amateur as well as the professional game.

No Science In Game Now

"The rules are the biggest detriment to the game today," Don Basenfelder quotes Scheffer in the Philadelphia Record. "The magnates and coaches, in attempting to beat the rules with new legislation, have apparently beaten themselves.

"Elimination of the center jump except at the start of the game and during the last five minutes of play has been extremely harmful to the sport.

"There was nothing prettier than to see a forward or guard come in for the tap on a signal from the center. There's no science in the game now, for you can't have perfect plays. You had to work for the ball in the old days. Now they hand it to you.

"Today's game is a running affair--forward and backward. Instead of passing and cutting like they used to it's brought the long-distance shooter into the picture. Of course, there are more and better long shots than before.

"Foul throwers are also more proficient," Scheffer agreed, "than when one player on each team shot all the penalties."

Toot! Toot!! Action Stoops

Referees play a part in slowing down the game. Many of them have a tendency to take the play away from the athletes.

There is nothing worse in sport than a deep-chested official with a big whistle, and a yen to blow it loud and often. He soon becomes as annoying as the youngster who received a bugle on his birthday.

Yes, Scheffer said a mouthful when he declared: "They put 10 men and a referee in a cage--and locked the door. It was just like a battle royal--and do I wish it would come back again--even for one night.

And if it returned for one night this writer would see his first basketball game in 10 years.

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by SID FEDER

New York, Jan. 3.--(A.P.)--Lev Andreas, who has kicked around this basketball game nearly two decades, figures the time is coming when separate sets of rules will be drawn for colleges and high schools to get away from some effects of the modern, "horse-race" court sport.

"This modern game, with the center jump eliminated," the veteran coach of Syracuse basketball said Wednesday, "is like watching a table tennis match. The ball is always going back and forth with no stop. It's great to watch, but it puts a severe strain on the youngsters. Physicians have told us that."

The result, he added, may be that the rules will be changed for younger players, the high schoolers. He pointed out that at a recent meeting of educators an upstate physician reported tests showed the high-pressure action in present basketball causes increased blood pressure and strain on the performers.

"So it's altogether likely," Andreas went on, "that the center jump will be legislated back into high school ball to slow up the game somewhat and relieve this pressure on the youngsters. It isn't so bad for college players, largely because they're more fully developed. In addition, there is rigid physical examination in most colleges."

"Not only that, but the modern game, with its speed and high scoring, is what attracts the spectators. And where the turnstiles are concerned, that means a lot in any sport."

Lev has been head man of Syracuse basketball sixteen years. He is in town for a game Wednesday night with New York University's undefeated Violets. Lev, who scouted the Violets personally when they whipped Missouri last week, is convinced they are the best set of basketballers he has seen in years, although they may have been hot in that game.

Players Won't Learn Defense

The toughest part of coaching for Andreas under the no-center-jump rules is to get players to concentrate on defensive ability.

"In the old day," he laughed, "coaches used to figure that when they could hold the other fellow down to less than 20 points they had a pretty fair defensive club. Now you're lucky if you can keep the opposition under 50."

"That's because the new game has developed crack shots who can toss that ball in from 'way out or close up, one-handed or two-handed."

"Why, we get freshmen reporting for basketball now who want to do nothing else but shoot. They have no idea of defence and we have a tough time teaching them that no matter how many points they pile up they aren't going to win ball games unless they can stop the other fellows once in a while."

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VISITING COLLEGE HOOPMEN IN N.Y. HEAD FOR DOCKS FIRST

New York, Dec. 27--(A.P.)--The Queen Mary and the Normandie, giants of the sea, lying side by side in New York harbor, are first on the list of "Things to see" when western college basketball players come to town. That was the report made to the metropolitan chapter of basketball's "Mutual Admiration society" at its first major meeting today. Rather than wanting to see such famous sports centers as the Yankee stadium, the Polo grounds, Forest hills, Winged Foot Golf course, or Ebbets field, the eager-eyed athletes all head for the docks first, then visit Radio City, and wind up at the current Broadway shows. For while the coaches are learning new basketball tricks--by testing their pet theories in garden competition, the kids are just tourists at heart.

BASKETBALL IN EAST DIFFERENT THAN O.U. BRAND, SAYS DRAKE

That metropolitan basketball is a strange and different game from the Big Six conference brand with small courts and quaint officiating interpretations that confuse and mystify visiting teams, was the observation of Bruce Drake, University of Oklahoma basketball coach, upon his return here from the East where his Sooners split holiday inter-sectional clashes with Temple and Fordham.

"We had a swell time and were treated royally," Drake said, "but we found our game totally unfit for the small 84-foot courts we had to play on at Philadelphia and Madison Square Garden. Also we ran up against eastern rule interpretations that seemed as far divorced from ours as football is from rugby. The officiating was honest, but the interpretations vastly different."

Sooners Give Up Idea

"We had to abandon our set plays almost altogether because we were fouled so much for 'picking off.' On the offense, if one of our boys moved over in front of an opponent and stood still, the eastern officials fouled us for blocking. Even if you get to a spot first, they call it an illegal block."

"Missouri's screening game suffered just as badly as ours. In their game against New York university, they were fouled so much in the first half for 'picking off' that their offense was ruined."

Drake said the Metropolitan officials almost totally disregarded physical contact.

"The eastern teams crucify a post man, particularly with the elbows, and the player who can charge his opponent and wrestle the ball away from him is a hero there. This interpretation didn't handicap us, however."

Drake says the eastern teams use very little post play, but depend mostly upon cuts, running blocks and long set shots.

East Uses Spot Passes

"They are better set shots than our teams out here," he opined. "Their set shots are delivered about chin high with lots of wrist action and little knee bend. If you turn your back on the ball to follow one of their cutters into the basket, they like to feed this cutter with a spot pass and he won't let on the ball's coming until it's right in his hands. It's all man-for-man defense there."

Although he saw Southern California break Long Island's 43-game winning string, Drake thought New York university, Missouri's opponent, was the best team he saw on the trip. He also thought Ben Auerbach, New York university's guard, was the finest player he saw, with Vaughn of Southern California and King, Long Island Negro, close.

Drake said the Sooners played "sorry ball" on the trip.

"We looked good against Fordham until we played out when leading twenty points in the second half," he said. "We had only three practices on our whole trip and got badly out of condition. Also some of our boys were 'scared' and it was hard for any of us to get our minds on the game, there were so many things to see."

"I guess we were kinda like 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

Alexander Hamilton Junior High's players each scored at least 16 points beating Deady 138 to 37. --Houston, Texas, January 26, 1939

("Take Away the Backboards," is the Question Stanley Frank asks in an article on basketball in this week's Saturday Evening Post. Here's what Dave MacMillan, coach of the Gopher basketball team, says on the subject.)

By ELWOOD HAULDER

"Take away the backboards,--sure, I'll be in favor of it." Dave MacMillan was emphatic in his opinion that the backboard had outlived its usefulness in basketball.

And so, the University of Minnesota coach went on record last night as to a question which has been puzzling the cage experts for years.

"Take away the backboard and you'll take what Mr. Stanley Frank calls 'the giraffe' out of the game," said Dave. "I've always contended that the emphasis in basketball has been too much on the tall man and not enough on the fast and smart man."

Paul Mooney, Columbia university coach, recently sounded the first gun in this attack on basketball as it is played today. "Take away the backboards!" Mooney is quoted in the Post, "Make the players shoot at open baskets as the old professionals did, and you'll see science and skill replacing sheer luck and height as the most important factors in the game."

No man in midwestern basketball circles is better qualified to accept or deny Mooney's statement than MacMillan of Minnesota. As a member of the old New York Celtics, Dave played the game when no backboard was used.

Dave does not hesitate to back Mooney on everything he says. "The folly of the backboard is obvious," says Mac, "it gives a taller team an unfair advantage over the shorter team by lending itself to the tip-in, pivot and rebound plays."

"A tall team doesn't always have to play smart basketball to win," MacMillan points out. "It can send its tallest men down under the basket, get it for a long set shot to carom off the backboard, and then tip the ball in for an easy score--that doesn't take any great skill."

"Big men are usually dumsy," the Gopher coach contends. "The smaller man is usually speedier, more scientific and more graceful--he's a more interesting player to watch in action. Of course, I don't mean to discriminate against tall players; I'll use a big man over a small man every time if he can play a smarter, better game than a small fellow--but that's the exception rather than the rule."

Some critics maintain that a removal of the backboard would take the scoring punch out of the game. MacMillan denies this by saying, "This change would cut the scoring some but not very much. I know that from my own experience."

"This much is sure," MacMillan concludes, "a good shot in basketball is good whether there's a backboard or not, and I believe that by doing away with the backboard we could do away with luck and give the game back to skill."

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WHERE COACHES HANG ON

Laramie, Wyo.--(A.P.)--The obly newcomer to basketball coaching ranks in the Mountain Big Seven conference this season is Everett Shelton, a transplanted Oklahoman, who coached the Denver Safeways to the national A.A.U. title in 1937. The dean is Dick Romney, starting his 22nd season at Utah State.

YANKEE PITCHER OVERCAME LEG INJURY WHEN IN COLLEGE

New York, Jan. 4 --(AP)--If basketball hasn't done anything else, it made a great athlete out of Oral Hildebrand. The New York Yankee pitcher, who won 10 and lost four for the world champions, and whose earned run average was 3.05 this past season, was a cripple when he reported for basketball at Butler university, his coach, Tony Hinkle, told the Metropolitan Basketball Writers' association today.

"Hildebrand had a brace on his leg because of a bad knee and ankle and he wasn't much good as a freshman athlete. So when he came to me his sophomore year and asked to have the brace fixed--it would have cost \$35-- I tried to discourage him from competing in athletics. I told him to go out and practice starts and stops by himself.

"I was just trying to get rid of the kid, but he worked so hard that his leg grew strong, and he turned out to be one of the best basketball players we ever had at Butler," Hinkle recalled. Hildebrand, who was with St. Louis and Cleveland in the American league before joining the Yanks, still holds the Butler individual one-game scoring record, 16 field goals.

The coach, whose team dropped a 46-to-44 thriller to Long Island university in the Garden last night, believes Indiana is the nation's basketball incubator because of the numerous small communities. "Most of our towns--and their schools--are so small that the logical sport, because of the lack of big squads, is basketball. For example, there are more than 800 schools that play basketball in the state--and only 100 that play football," he said.

Hinkle added that the state championship final this year was to be played on the Saturday of holy week, but that the ministerial alliance in the state asked the cage fathers to change the date--because it might interfere with church services.

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Our Madison Square Garden scout tells us that Southern California played aggressive, heads-up basketball. The men were unusually clever ball-handlers, they invariably recovered the ball off the backboard, and they had ample speed when it was needed. They had a great change of pace for a fast break. Most of the shots were one-handers, especially the more distant ones. Vaughn, the right forward, scored nine goals, all from well out. The Men of Troy left Bill King, L.I.U.'s clever Negro centre who is used in the bucket play, strictly alone when he wasn't in the bucket. Both teams passed short and accurately. The Trojans used a man-to-man defence, Long Island a zone defence until the final moments when it took up a man-to-man set-up.

Southern California scored on 12 of 36 field goal shots in the first half and 10 of 33 in the second for a total of 22 of 69. Long Island gathered 19 of 75, with a record of 22 of 39 in the first half and eight of 36 in the second. Southern California got 13 of 19 fouls and Long Island gathered 11 of 16.

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Nat Holman, former teammate of opponent George Haggerty, saw him holding ball with score tied in last few seconds.

"Here, George!" yelled Nat. Haggerty passed, Holman sank it, beat Haggerty's team, the "Palace Big Five."

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By EVERETT MORRIS

The men who write and do nothing but talk basketball from December through March are split into two camps today, just because Paul Mooney, Columbia's forthright coach, had an idea. The idea, in case you don't read "The Saturday Evening Post," is to remove the backboards and return basketball to the game of skill it once was but is no longer, according to Mr. Mooney and his amanuensis, Stanley Frank.

It's about time, says the Columbia coach, in effect, we got rid of these dribbling Carneras who clutter up the court and who do little toward playing basketball except tap in a rebound occasionally or tap out a shot by the opposition. Eliminate the backboard, he says, and you eliminate the rebound; eliminate the rebound and you minimize the importance of abnormal height; eliminate abnormal height and you give the game back to all the boys instead of leaving it in the hands of the few who have overactive thyroid glands.

At the risk of being called a diehard and a reactionary, this observer finds a good deal of merit in what Mooney says. It's getting a little tiresome to try to keep up with a group of prancing Gargantuas who rush up and down the court hell bent for basket. The deft feint, the quick thrust at an opening, the skill that made basketball the greatest of indoor games, are completely absent except in cases rare enough to be notable. Basketball has become notoriously ragged, and height means just about everything.

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BASKETBALL HAS DEFENDER

A basketball fan who has followed the game more than a quarter of a century steps forward to defend the present style of play.

"Don't let them tell you the present game of basketball is a sissy sport, or anything like it," writes Larry Krieger. "I have been a court fan more than 25 years. It was my privilege to see the teams in action back in the days when they were turned loose in a cage, as your Philadelphia Oldtimer remarked.

"Basketball today is much faster, and it is ridiculous for the Oldtimer to claim science has been removed from the sport. Basketball and all other sports must be controlled. I am willing to admit that overzealous officials sometimes spoil the game, but on the whole I should say the officiating today is satisfactory.

"The elimination of the center jump has been one of the greatest benefits. There is far more speed offered the fans as a result. I dare say the players of today are far from being sissies, as claimed. Many of the players I saw in action 25 years ago could not keep up with many of the star athletes of this era."

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SIX FEET FOUR LIMIT ON NAVY BASKETBALL SQUAD

Annapolis, Dec. 29--(AP)--Pass the crying towel to Johnnie Wilson, Navy basketball coach--he really has a moan coming. While other coaches scour the hinterlands for players towering six feet seven and up, Wilson has to get along with youths no more than six feet four. Because of low transoms on ships and other standard equipment in the navy, youths taller than six feet four inches are barred from the naval academy.

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BASKETBALL REBOUNDS

By Everett B. Norris

Tony Hinkle, coach of the Butler team that made Long Island go all out to win by two points, thinks that Garden playing conditions are "perfectly fine" and he is not so sure but what the big ninety-four and ninety-eight foot Western courts "are wanting a lot of space."

Speaking informally and pausing to answer every question fully, he expressed the following interesting opinions and observations on the sport:

(a) The East is more lax in penalizing walking with the ball than the Mid-West.

(b) His part of the country is "too brutal" in its blocking and pick-off fouls are called there about once a year.

(c) He likes the New York pass and break game as exemplified by N.Y.U., but doesn't think that L.I.U. drives in enough for rebounds. (ed. note--neither does Clair Bee).

(d) He likes small players because "They can do so many things better than the big fellow" unless the large chap is exceptional.

(e) Straight man-for-man defenses prevail in the Mid-West, only Butler and Notre Dame stressing the sliding set-up.

(f) Illinois and Indiana are the standout Big Ten teams with Michigan a possible contender if it can hold up. Ohio State will be a late-comer.

(g) Wilkinson, of Southern Methodist, a big fellow who can pivot either way, throw off either hand over or under, is the best center he has seen.

TARLETON FOES WALK OFF COURT

Stephenville, Texas, Jan. 9--(AP)--The John Tarleton-Daniel Baker College basketball game had eight minutes to go.

Suddenly Coach I. S. Ransom, of Daniel Baker, and all his players walked off.

Spectators gasped.

"He is the sorriest referee I ever saw," said Ransom.

"That's the sorriest exhibition of sportsmanship I ever saw," said Referee Joe A. King.

The cash customers used some pretty bewhiskered words because the teams didn't finish the game. Tarleton was ahead, 35 to 26.

One minute interview: Rodney Ross, athletic director, South high school, Columbus: "The ideal basketball team consists of two Jewish lads, two Negroes and a good tough Irishman...The Negroes would do the dribbling, the Jewish fellows would shoot the baskets and the Irishman would take the ball off the opponents' banking board."

Kentucky has thirteen feet of Cluggish on its basketball team... Marion Cluggish, senior center, is 6 feet 8 inches tall and his brother, Stanley, a sophomore, is 6 feet 4 inches..."The formula for good coaching hasn't changed a lot," says Paul Zimmerman in the Los Angeles Times, "No matter what so-called system you use on the field---The best way to keep your job still is to get the mostest of the bestest high school athletes."

THE BOY FRIEND

(5)

I saw my sweetie in a suit today--
 The uniform they wear for basketball.
 And in sincerity I want to say
 He's surely got unmitigated gall;
 No scarecrow ever looked quite so unreal,
 His spindle shanks are very largely bone,
 And when he's pushed he goes down on his keel
 Emitting an unmanly kind of groan.

He must have tried two dozen shots or more
 And not one landed near the hoop at all,
 And every time he missed I think he swore
 And blamed his tragic failure on the ball;
 I wonder will he still insist that he
 Has all a clever hooper's wizzardy.

T.E.B.

How do you like the way the Baltimore soorer, Craig E. Taylor, gives his summary. We think it tons.

STANFORD				BALTIMORE			
	G	F	T		G	F	T
Anderson, f	5-11	3-6	13	Ross, f	3-13	0-0	4
Williams, f	3-15	2-2	8	Holzman, f	5-13	5-7	15
LaFaille, f	3-6	0-0	6	Schaeffer, c	2-11	0-1	4
Taylor, c	1-12	4-5	6	Goldstein, c	0-3	1-2	1
Penn, c	0-4	0-0	0	Pellino, c	4-15	3-5	11
Davison, g	3-13	1-1	7	Winitzky, g	1-5	0-1	2
Cowden, g	2-11	1-3	5	Oland, g	3-1	0-0	6
Rahn, g	0-2	0-0	0				
Totals	17-84	11-17	45	Totals	17-72	9-16	43

Score by periods:

Stanford17 22--39--6--45
 Baltimore.....18 21--39--4--43

2.....Center Tap.....2
 17.....Throwins.....19
 11.....Interceptions.....11
 23.....Own Rebounds.....17
 27.....Opponents' Rebounds.....21
 3.....Jump Ball.....7

Personal Fouls--Stanford, Anderson (4), Williams (3), LaFaille, Taylor, Davidson, Cowden (2), Rahn; Baltimore, Holzman (2), Goldstein (3), Schaeffer, Oland (2) Winitzky (4), Pellino (2). Assists--Stanford, Anderson (2), Davison, Cowden; Baltimore, Ross, Pellino, Holzman (2) Goldstein. Time of halves--20 minutes. Time of extra period--5 minutes.

COACHES ARE BLAMED FOR ACTIONS OF FANS

Survey by Basketball Mentors Shows Level of Sportsmanship Is Set by
Instructors
By JACK MARTIN, in PROVIDENCE EVENING BULLETIN

Rhode Island's schools, along with those of the rest of the nation, this year have launched a concerted campaign for the improvement of "spectator sportsmanship." Generally, it seems, the way the spectator behaves at a basketball game is considered a reflection of how the coach behaves. This is no malignment of the hard-working and worrying mentor; it is the result of a study stretching over several seasons, nation-wide, and made by the National Association of Basketball Coaches itself, no less.

This National Association has an ethics committee which has conducted the survey. The results of the survey have been circulated among the high school coaches in this State through the medium of the State Principals' Athletic Committee. The principals do not say the coaches under their jurisdiction must follow the rules laid down; they merely pass them along as something worth reading and assimilating as far as possible without too much pressure being exerted.

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"...We find that the attitude of the coach on the bench either encourages good spectator and player sportsmanship, or throws fuel on the fire of poor sportsmanship, which the National Basketball Coaches' Association is attempting to eliminate," reads the survey. "If the coach is in the habit of making uncomplimentary gestures every time the official calls a foul on one of his players, then you can be assured that the partisans of his team will break loose in their loud disapproval of the decision. This condition sometimes leads to worse situations on the court as spectators exercise a tremendous influence in determining the sportsmanship attitude, or lack of it, among the contestants.

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Well, that is right in line with what a lot of the folks closely conducted with the game hereabouts have said in the past. The officials themselves haven't been the only ones to blame the coaches for the few flareups which have come in Rhode Island. Still you can't help but consider the fact that the coaches, nationally and locally, have made this concerted effort to clean their own houses. Perhaps the referees, who have local and National groupings, too, could devote some of their time to looking into their own participation in basketball; maybe they could still be honest and find some of the blame for ruffled tempers--of which there are no more in sports than in basketball--reflected in their conduct.

The coaches have been loyal enough to the game to see their own faults, publicize and try to correct them. Putting basketball on the same high plane of sportsmanship as football, baseball and some of the other branches largely is a matter of co-operation. You can't forget that the indoor court game sprang from an educational institution and primarily was rooted only in the idea of pleasant, body-building recreation in connection with the more academic pursuits in that institution.

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STARTED WHEN BABY

Young Temple Hoop Coach Began Shooting Baskets When Only Six Years Old.

Philadelphia, Jan. (INS)--Ernie Messikomer, 25-year-old new head coach of basketball at Temple University and probably the youngest major college court mentor in the country, began shooting baskets when he was six years old.

His father, a player in the days when the game was played in a cage, set up a hoop in the Messikomer back yard for Ernie to practice on. Messikomer, captain of the Temple court squad in 1936, has captained every basketball team on which he played, including those in grammar and high school, Penn Athletic Club and Temple varsity and freshman outfits.

Temple's basketball team is the smallest squad physically in Owl history, none of the players, with the exception of Don Henderson, reaching six feet.

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BEAT HANK'S MARK

Bob Barbi, the St. Mary's sophomore forward performing here with the Gaels against the Trojans and Bruins this weekend, broke Hank Luisetti's prep scoring record in San Francisco. But he'll have to go some to equal the great mark Luisetti hung up at Stanford.

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COLLEGE COACHES BACK HOOP COMMISSION.

Believing that organized amateur basketball has a definite place in the general scheme of public recreation, basketball coaches from five nearby major colleges yesterday volunteered to support actively the Boston amateur basketball commission at the annual meeting of the organization held in the Walker Memorial of M.I.T.

Enrolled as members of the commission, Wes Fesler of Harvard, Henry McCarthy, M.I.T.; Merrel Collard, Boston University; James Dunn, Northsatern University and Arthur Cochrane of Tufts College enthusiastically endorsed the organization's aims and pledged cooperation with league officials James Parker, president; Henry McGuinness, vice-president; and W. Duncan Russell, secretary-treasurer.

YES, PARKER IS ALL FOR ELIMINATING THE BACKBOARD.

Robert H. Parker (Peerless Electric): "During the several years I played basketball without backboards most of the outstanding stars of the country were small men. Dave MacMillian can tell you about George Tilden of the Washington Continentals one of the great forwards of all time, and Clark of Flushing L.I., Snow and Hardman of Company E of Schenectady and the left forward of the Buffalo Germans. If you consult the records you will find the scores ran just as high as they do today".

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Some of my boys saw the Southern California-Long Island U. game. They just were over-enthusiastic about the great "flip" shooting of Ralph Vaughn, the terrific under-the-basket defensive work of Seward Berg, the all-around aggressiveness of Southern California, the great set shooting of Long Island and the fine pass work of the latter. Vaughn scored 19 points and played the whole game without a personal foul.

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In the middle-west, several high schools and colleges are experimenting on the 20" hoop--George Edwards, that one gentleman and coach at the Univ. of Missouri, seeking to relieve the great confusion around the basket, suggested the larger rim.

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Univ. of Maryland has a fine team and in DeWitt and Mondorff have two fine performers. They should finish at the top or close to it.

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Santa Clara has two great forwards in Toddy Giannini and Bruce Hale, who between them scored 34 points in a recent game at Madison Square Garden. The first player sank 9 baskets and 2 fouls and the latter put in 4 goals and 6 fouls.

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Talking about comebacks, here is one. Back in 1922 when Ray Scott, present Martinsville Ind. coach was playing with Center Grove, he and his teammates lost the final game of the Johnson county tournament by three points. The following week, they played the same team with only slight change in their conquerors line-up and Center Grove won, 127 to 3.

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In the Mountain big seven conference, the best teams appear to be Colorado Univ., Utah Univ., and Utah State with Colorado State and Denver fighting it out for favors.

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In its first league game in the Western Conference League, Purdue shot in 14 fouls out of 17 tries. Great work, Peggy.

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In New York last week, we wandered over to Madison Square Garden. It was about eleven in the morning of a busy basketball day for Ned Irish. Ned dropped all his business, greeted me with a fine smile and we talked basketball in his office for at least fifteen minutes. Asking him to write an article for our bulletin, he gladly said he would and that night at the games he came along with the news that is in this issue. Mr. Irish has done a wonderful job in boosting basketball; he certainly uses the coaches great and he insisted on taking care of my team. The Garden Basketball floor is about perfect--the non-slippery finish--the lighting--the gloss backboards--the uprights to hold the baskets so as to prevent injuries--the ball retrievers on the ends of the court--the scorers benches--the fine electric boards--all tend to make for a wonderful set-up. Congratulations, Mr. Irish for your great contribution to basketball, and you have given many college youth of America a chance to see New York.

EDITOR'S NOTES

With the feeling expressed by some coaches, old players and sports writers that the present game of basketball could stand improvement, remedies suggested during the past month have been the removal of the back boards, the elimination of wild shooting and forcing the players to take sane shots. Some are even advocating the returning to the cages where the game was played years ago.

We can first remember basketball in 1899 when most courts had no back boards. The basket was put up on a two-by-four and an iron rod three feet long held the rim in place. The net was tied at the bottom and the spectators knew a basket had been scored when the ball dropped into the net. At first, a stick was used to poke the ball out but later some of the taller players were able to push it up and out.

In those games, every set shot had to be made with the feet together and skillful players arched the ball considerably higher than is done now. Since there were fewer diversions, players of the old school spent more time at practice with the result that excellent shooters were more the rule than the exception.

That is one of the reasons why we old timers would love to see the "hoop" shot taken out of the game. That congenial Irishman, Dave MacMillan at Minnesota would laugh with glee if the boards were removed. So, I think, would Nat Holman and I am sure it would help my teams in winning more games.

Still we must consider the game for every college and high school player and for every coach and having seen more than a thousand games, I firmly believe that the game is better with the boards. It is the belief of some coaches that the taller players would not play such a prominent part in the game and his undeniable value on rebound shots and tap-ins would be lessened. Nevertheless let us warn them that in the old by-gone days, every high school and college was looking for the human circus man and every professional team had a centre that stood at least five inches over six feet.

How those big fellows could work under the basket! The big fellow is still a definite threat around the back boards and if the back boards were eliminated, he would still prove valuable at converting the missed shots. With no boards to break the progress, the missed shots would be numerous.

The limited time given to practice is another item that reacts unfavorably toward the removal of the boards. Boys are still going to high school and college for an education and wild, ineffectual shooting at a suspended rim would draw the ire of the spectators. Not only would the players feel the wrath of the fans but the coaches would also be definitely on the pan. Alumni organizations would rise in arms if their teams gave exhibitions of inaccuracy.

Scores, too, would be decidedly lower and teams, holding slight leads in the waning moments, would be impossible to beat. A few points would be protected by offensive stalling and the game would be slowed up considerably.

Now we must ask ourselves whether or not we want to go back to the enclosed courts. In the old days, the courts were surrounded by a board enclosure three feet high and from there to the ceiling was a net that kept the ball continually in play. Or do we want to go back to the halls that were heated by a wood stove in the corner? A free ball around the stove was retrieved very carefully for reasons you can well understand.

The advocates of a rougher game should know that at the beginning, basketball was a popular sport. Then, as tripping and pushing increased, its interest waned. The situation reached such a degree that those connected with it were determined to stop it entirely unless something was done to correct the evils.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Colleges in New England dropped it; the professional crowds fell off and from 1810 to 1920, basketball was at a low ebb. With the game almost headed for extinction, a small group began to hold interpretation meetings and this resulted in better officiating, better playing and better conditions.

Today we have a fine game that is played by a greater number than any other sport. An example of the success with modern basketball is being received can be cited by the fact that more than 18,000 fans paid their way into Madison Square Garden, recently for a college double header.

Why go back to the centre jump and other phases of the old game that served to slow it up to a point of disinterest? Let us make a few steps toward increasing its appeal to player and spectator alike. This could be done by standardizing the officiating and the playing surface. The latter should be from 82 to 85 feet in length and 42 to 45 feet in width.

Officiating has improved tremendously but there is still room for improvement. An indication of the improvement is revealed in a story by Leander MacDonald, now physical director of the schools in Cambridge, Mass., and a coach for over 25 years. MacDonald had been asked to referee a game between Dartmouth and Williams at Hanover shortly after the turn of the century. On the day of the game, MacDonald bought a rule book and studied it on his ride to Hanover. When he stepped onto the floor, he was still in doubt as to many of the rules and most of the penalties. At the end of the contest, the Williams coach asked him where he thought he had learned the game and MacDonald replied that he had played some on a class team at Harvard but that most of his knowledge had been secured from the rule book on the train. "Luckily for me", he said, "Dartmouth won 16 - 15 or I would have been lynched before I left."

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE.

Basketball is not much like the game that Dr. John Naismith started in Springfield many years ago although four of the 13 original rules are still in effect. The ones that have managed to survive follow:

- (1) - The ball shall be a light round object similar to a soccer ball.
- (2) - Walking or running with the ball is prohibited.
- (3) - The goals shall be horizontal.
- (4) - There shall be no personal contact.

At first, dribbling was banned but when it was found that players (trapped in the corners had no way of getting out, bouncing was permitted and later a dribble with either hand or both hands was permitted. It was even possible to break the dribble at that time but this was later ruled out.

With the advancement through the years, other notable changes almost completely revolutionized the game. The well dressed player of a few years ago wore an outfit that included long tights and when the shorter pants became the vogue, they were heavily padded - - The playing surface were not always in the best of condition and the game was played with the grain so that when a player fell, he would pick up only a few splinters - Basketball was once known as a sissy's game - The first interpretation meeting in New England was held in 1920 and for a long time, the New England district, with 360 members, had the largest number of officials - There was no disqualification for four fouls in the early games as most clubs had but five players. Instead, for every three fouls committed by Team A, one point would be given Team B.

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Heywood Brown, the well known sports columnist who died recently, was a great advocater of basketball. While at Harvard, he was the coach of one of the class teams and did much toward fostering the progress of the sport

EDITOR'S NOTES

Oswald Tower, editor of the basketball guide, tells of a bald headed player being hit on the head so hard with the ball that it bounded up into the basket.

He also tells of a coach receiving a letter asking if there was a rule governing "necessary roughness?"

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Wesley Fesler, Harvard court coach and former All American at Ohio State, says that he has noticed a big increase in popularity in basketball through the Boston area in the past seven years. Fesler, incidentally, is doing a remarkable job this year with not even fair material. A few weeks ago, his team pulled a surprise by upsetting Columbia.

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Arthur Cochrane has one of the best teams in New England at Tufts this year. In Charlie Tibbs, the six foot, four inch centre, he has one of the best in the country.

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San Francisco is taking a page from Ned Irish's notebook and may begin booking doubleheaders between West Coast teams and teams from other parts of the country.

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Ralph Vaughn, the University of southern California's sharpshooting forward, is being hailed as being better on the court than Hank Luisetti.

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The Temple University Owls, who have been doing all right for themselves in big time competition, have one of the youngest coaches in the country in Ernie Messikomer. Captain of Temple's 1935-1936 court team, Messikomer is 25.

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In a game between, Indiana and Butler and won by the former 40 - 33, the winners made 16 field goals in 62 tries at the basket while Butler dropped 11 in 56 attempts.

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Western Conference coaches have voted that a new rule providing for an option on shooting a free throw or taking the ball out of bounds following a personal foul, will apply only during the last five minutes of a game. The interpretation affects only Big Ten games.

Editor's note: At the request of the editor, Ned Irish, director of basketball in Madison Square Garden, contributed the following article on his impressions of the intersectional games in New York during the early season.

BY NED IRISH:

The most impressive factor to me in the early season games here in Madison Square Garden has been the uniformly high calibre of the visiting teams. In the past six seasons of college basketball in the Garden, I have never seen eight teams of such outstanding and equal ability coming from all sections of the country as came East during December.

If I had to pick the best from these eight, it would certainly be an almost impossible task. The consensus of opinion among the writers and critics here seemed to be that San Barry's Southern California team was tops. My personal opinion would be that the Oklahoma Aggies, Colorado and Santa Clara would certainly be of equal ability.

Texas by its fine showing raised the stock of southwestern basketball in the East. The Longhorns under Jack Gray were the first team from that section and conference to stave off the jitters here and registered an impressive win over Manhattan.

Oregon made a much better showing here this season than a year ago even though its 1939 five did win the Pacific Coast Conference title. Oklahoma and Missouri were solid teams and upheld the prestige of the Big Six. Missouri was visibly handicapped by the absence of its two big men, Currence and Cooper, who were with the football team. George Edwards missed those big men in the N.Y.U. game for Missouri got very few rebounds.

New York University apparently is the best of the metropolitan district teams although Long Island University, St. John's and St. Francis are above average strength and may come along to take rank with N.Y.U. as the newcomers settle down.

Some great individual players have performed brilliantly. Ralph Vaughn of Southern California; W. D. Haupt and Bobby Moerrs of Texas; Teddy Giannini of Santa Clara; Jack Harvey and Leason McCloud of Colorado; Jerry Steiner of Butler; Harvey Slade of Oklahoma Aggies; Jim McNatt of Oklahoma U., and John Dick of Oregon were standouts among the visiting players.

The response to these games from the basketball fans of New York has been astonishing. The first five games of the season, one-third of the regular schedule, shows the greatest average turnout in the six years the New York schools have used the Garden as their home court. The all-time record was broken when 18,245 attended the L.I.U. - Southern California and Texas - Manhattan double-header. More than 18,000 saw Oregon lose an overtime decision to L.I.U. in the opener. The average for the first five nights has been over 15,000, better than 10 percent increase over last year, which had been the best in our court history here

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Minnesota beat that favorite team of the Big Ten - by the score of 46 - 44. The winning score was made on a long shot from near mid-floor just as the final whistle blew. Dave MacMillan's team led in the first half 29 - 16, making Dave say "one of the finest halves of basketball a team has ever played for me." In the first eight and one half minutes of the second half Indiana scored 21 points Minnesota's one. We can hear coaches say that either one of these fine teams should have coasted through with their big leads, but kids are kids, and when they blow big leads on us, we just have to take it. That is what makes the game so popular, now, as anyone can win, for with two minutes to go Indiana was leading by four points and still lost. What a thriller this game must have been. So why change it. Our idea is to let it alone.

DO YOU LIKE THE GAME OF BASKETBALL:

By George Edmond

St. Paul Pioneer Press - Jan. 14, 1940.

Do you like the game of basketball? Does it provide thrills in proportion to the cost and trouble involved in attending games.

Reason for the question is simply this: A lot of fans believe there is considerable room for improvement and suggest changes so radical that, if they were put into effect we might have another fine sport, but - it wouldn't be basketball as we know it now.

In our opinion it would be difficult to uphold an argument that basketball, imperfect as it may be, is not a good game. It still outdraws the great college game of football and by observation, provides about as many thrills as a person could ask to be packed in an hour of competition.

Basketball, from a technical standpoint may be picked to pieces. It may be shown, in logical fashion, that it is not a fair game and that it might be made far more attractive from a spectator standpoint. And, yet, despite all the criticism, 12,000 or more fans can be packed into the Minnesota field house to see the Minnesota Gophers meet a Big Ten opponent.

The logic may show one thing, public interest something entirely different. Any game that stands tops from a general interest and attendance standpoint can't be entirely wrong.

WHAT ARE ITS FAULTS?

This is the criticism you hear about basketball above all others: Is it a game in which good play is penalized rather than rewarded.

That is based principally on the point that a team scoring a basket must give up possession of the ball to the opposition. Why, the critics ask, should a team be put at a disadvantage after doing something for which it should be commended? Basketball, they say, is the only sport in which this is done.

As a matter of fact, that is the least of the criticisms that may be directed against basketball.

It is not the only sport that seeks to make things even by putting at a disadvantage the team which has just made a score. Football does exactly that when it provides that the team scored against may choose whether to kick or receive the next kickoff. Golf does exactly the same when, in match play, it provides that the player winning a hole must play first from the next tee and give his opponent the advantage of judging the wisdom of his choice of club.

Basketball would become a farce if the team scoring a basket were given the advantage in the throw-out of the ball for resumption of play. If that were done a team that was only a little superior to its opponent would become so superior as to destroy the competitive angle. Games that now give the deserving team an advantage of a few points would become utter routs.

It must be admitted that the element of luck often results in the better basketball team losing a close game. But is that a situation peculiar to basketball? Would anyone suggest that it doesn't happen, too, in football, golf, hockey, or what have you?

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:

It would be ridiculous to say that there isn't room for improvement in basketball. But when the rules committee takes up the matter of correction it should remember that most of the things now being criticized are the result of changes that were designed to correct what previously were considered faults.

(Cont'd.)

Do you like basketball, Cont'd.

A case in point is the elimination of the center tipoff after a score. Purpose behind the elimination of the tipoff was to minimize the importance of a tall center. Maybe the change did that, but it still didn't eliminate the importance of height in the team as a whole.

Beyond that, the change brought up the reasons for the present criticism, giving the ball to the team which was scored on, out of bounds. Do the critics want to go back to the center tipoff, or do they have in mind a better way of putting the ball back in play after a score?

Another Change Failed of Purpose:

Another change that was designed as an improvement apparently has failed in its purpose.

That is the one that provides for moving the ball out of the back court within 10 seconds. The purpose was to eliminate stalling. In a way it may have done that, but it resulted in an objection even greater than the old-time stalling.

Whereas it is still possible to stall in the front court, the game is now limited to half the floor instead of the full court as once was the case. Defensive players no longer go beyond mid-court to obtain possession of the ball, but wait for the opposition to advance past mid-court. It is much like defensive hockey at its worst, with the defense scurrying back to defense of its own goal as soon as it loses possession of the ball.

These various matters are not pointed out as direct criticisms, but merely to illustrate the difficulties into which the rules committee can get itself if it listens and responds to all critics without giving due consideration to the new difficulties which changes may bring up.

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SHALL THE BASKET BE ELIMINATED:

Things aren't official just yet, but the next major change in basketball (remember that game?) Will propose elimination of the BASKETBALL.

The suggestion is contained in a contribution to today's sportsdesk mail, which usually gets heavy around payday.

The correspondent is Frederic Brandes, superintendent of schools at Howard Lake, who incloses (postpaid) a claim he was originator of the eliminate-the-backboards move back in the more conservative days.

This move he regards as a necessary concession to spectators, who pay a pretty penny (even if Lincoln did need a shave). They pay their pretty penny to see two halves of a game, get filed away in pews back of the backboard and see only half the game. Elimination of the backboard, therefore, is a capital idea - at about half-a-cent capitalization.

That's about as much as any of the tampering with basketball rules is worth, as far as Mr. Brandes is concerned. He admits elimination of the basketball is something the public is not prepared for just now - ground must be prepared. The way to prepare it is with a rule-makers' spade that will dig the game's grave.

As other suggestions for rules "meddlers" Mr. Brandes adds other legislation from his 1940 edition

(1) Eliminating baskets, substituting a disc with a bull's eye; contact would set off a gong, light up a score on an automatic scoreboard; numbers with betting odds would flash for the more sporting patrons; (2) barring guards having 50-inch hips; (3) forbidding a dribble straight through the opposition - a player must advance 10 strides horizontally, 10 vertically, then pass; (4) making all shots from five two foot circles painted red; (5) allowing no player to make more than 10 points a game - is this fair to the opposition?

BY DICK FRIENDLICH

George Barsi, coach of Santa Clara's Broncos, was in the stands at Madison Square Garden the night U.S.C. whipped Long Island U. and he is very much afraid the Trojans are stronger than they were last year. That is, he is afraid in an academic sense, since the Broncs and Trojans don't meet, unless it be in the N.C.A.A. play-offs, which are quite a piece in the future. Southern California's guards, reports George, are shooting much oftener than of yore and driving into the basket oftener, too. The failure of Coach Sam Barry to have his guards shoot in recent years cost Troy more than one game. It was possible almost to ignore the Trojan guards on offense and play five men on defense against three in the U.S.C. front line of attack. We saw California do exactly that one night in 1938 and hold Troy to something like six field goals. Barry loosened up some last year and is apparently going even further this season.

Santa Clara didn't even get up a good sewat in winning four of the games of its barnstorming swing, but lost the fifth in overtime to DePaul of Chicago. Barsi thinks DePaul is at least as good as Long Island.

Best team Stanford met on its Eastern swing was University of Baltimore says Everett Dean, the Indian mentor. The Redshirts won that one in overtime but lost to an inferior Nebraska five 48 - 47, for their only defeat.

Despite the now-constant stream of Western invaders, most of the Eastern quintets still stick to the short-pass, slow-breaking game which develops into the round-the-horn attack aimed at screening off the spot. The guards seldom desert the rear rank on attack.

Dartmouth was an exception to this style, but Rutgers, Columbia and Baltimore observed it almost religiously, Dean reported, Nebraska and Wisconsin, the other two Indian foes, both play the fast break game which dominates the Midwest.

Eastern interpretation of fouls, especially on screen plays, differs considerably from the Pacific Coast version, but you can nearly kill the ball-handler without being called if you don't hit from the rear. It's very puzzling.

The Indians came home with their lineup set save for the center job, Dick Taylor, 6 foot 6 inch junior, did some remarkable rebound work on the tour, Dean said, and is easily the best defensive man of the candidates. However, Bob Penn, a 6-foot 5-inch sophomore, is the most dangerous scoring threat. Taylor will probably get the starting assignment against U.C.L.A. this week end.

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LIFE continues in '40 to recognize Hoosier high school basketball. See Ralph Lincoln Vaughn, of Frankfort and Southern California, gracing Life's current cover

W.F.F.Jr.

W.F.F.Jr., is wondering if Mr. George Keogan has not permitted the basketball rules to get him down. Notre Dame is seldom so hard pressed as at the moment to bat .500 and Notre Dame is seldom in such a basketball plight. Mr. Keogan does not care for the ten-second rule, the line across the floor, the elimination of the center jump, the three-second rule of the rule which permits the offended team to decline a free throw and take possession of the ball out of bounds. Above all George detests the zone defense.

By Whitney Martin
(Associated Press Sports Writer.)

New York, Jan. 9 - A perusal of the average run of basketball scores these nights, with the totals leaving the impression that maybe the teams should try out a defense sometime, if only for the novelty of it, brings up the memory that such shooting affairs are a comparatively recent development.

In fact prior to 1932, when the rules committee made probably the two most important changes in the code since the embryo period of the game, a fan had a pretty fair chance of seeing two quintets battle in a furious scoring duel which might end in a one-sided 9 to 7 or 13 to 10 decision.

The rules in question were the 10-second rule, making it necessary for an offensive team to advance beyond the center of the floor in that period, and the elimination, or modification, of the pivot-post play, in which a team with an Eiffel tower center would anchor him at the foul line and feed him the ball like it was tossing herring to a seal.

RULE PREVENTS STALLING.

The 10-second rule was by far the major improvement, in that it eliminated stalling. It was not an uncommon sight to see a team in the lead, even a one or two point lead, get the ball in the back court and defy its opponent to come and get it.

If the opponent was equally stubborn, a stalemate developed and the game became something of a minuet in G. In fact, the back-court team often not only held the ball when it got tired lobbing it around. It sat on it, and it was such a travesty on the game that the rules committee was prompted to take steps making it necessary for the referees to learn to count.

NATIONAL TITLE ON 15 POINTS.

In contrast to this beautiful scoring, every fan of the 20's or before can recall games which ended with the total score of both teams thirty, or even twenty, points or less.

In 1932, just before the new rule was adopted, the Wichita Henrys won the National A.A.U. title by defeating the Maryville, Mo. Teachers 15 to 14. In 1928 Ashland, Ky., high school won the national intercollegiate tournament at Chicago, and most, if not all, its winning scores were twenty points or less.

In 1922 the army quintet lost two games to opponents, who failed to register a single field goal. That was the year before the rule was adopted requiring the man fouled to shoot his own free throw, and a team which had an expert in the free-throwing department was sitting pretty.

NOT ALL SCORES RAN LOW.

It does not follow that all scores in that prehistoric period were puny, Passiac, N.J., high school ran up a phenomenal string of 159 victories before it was defeated by Hackensack in 1925, and some of the Passiac scores were whoppers.

We were a substitute on a Cedar Rapids, Ia., high school team back in the 'teens that won a game 108 to 0, but such a score not only was unusual then. It would be astonishing today.

The 3-second rule as applied to the pivot-post play tended to take some of the advantage away from a team which had a towering player. The bean pole might not be able to get out of his own way, but if he could catch a ball, wheel around like an engine on a turntable, and pop at the basket that was all that was necessary.

The elimination of the center jump was a later development, tending to speed up a game that already was virtually perpetual motion, but the real reason for the large scores of today is the rule which made the players do their sitting on the bench, not on the ball.

(By The Kansas City Star's Own Service.)

Lawrence, Kans. Jan. 9. 9 - Phog Allen, Kansas coach, is pretty proud of his "Pony Express" cage team, as he calls it this year.

"They're beginning to prove", he says, "that height isn't everything in this game of basketball after all."

The Kansas ponies average only a half inch above six feet and have no man over 6 feet 2 1/2 on the first two squads. Every other team in the conference has from one to a half dozen towering players of 6 feet 5 or more.

RANGY SOONERS WERE STYMIED.

This last Friday night the Jayhawks took the ball and kept it away from a rangy Sooner outfit and beat them 46 to 26. Tall Oklahoma Center Ford, 6 feet 6, was able to make only one basket.

But Coach Allen still realizes the tall boys have an advantage. Paul Mooney, Columbia university coach, proposes to take away the backboard, but Allen feels that that isn't the answer. "I'd like to see the goals raised two feet," he says, "They have been hanging all these years at ten feet just because the running track in the gym where Dr. Naismith invented the game happened to be ten feet high and that is where the goal was placed.

RAISE GOAL, HE SAYS.

"Raise the goal two feet and you'll take care of these mezzanine-peeping toms that have become so necessary to most of the teams. And it will do four things to make the game more fair to the players and more interesting to the spectators:

- 1. It will release the congestion under the goals that make it impossible for either the spectators or players to know what is going on.
- 2. The rebounds will go out further and cover a wider area.
- 3. It will call for a higher arch on the shots and thus make a prettier play of the field goals and free throws.
- 4. It will give the little fellow a chance.

In the paractice court in Robinson gymnasium here the Jayhawks work out with eight goals at the conventional ten feet; two 11-foot hoops and two 12-foot goals.

"Though these boys", Dr. Allen explained, "may never use a higher hoop in a game, practising with them enables better, higher, wider arcs on their shots and thus improve their shooting for the regular goal."

JUST A KID NAMED JOE.

Hurrah, hurrah, our center's back
 And we'll be on that winning track;
 You know, you need a little size
 To rebound with those great big guys,
 He's just a soph, but boy he's tough,
 He never seems to get enough
 His joints repaired he's feeling fine;
 His size? He's only five feet nine.

The Club from Corydon.

COLLEGE Vs PROFESSIONAL:

What chance would a college basketball team have against the professionals? Arguments pro and con have been heard since Baltimore joined the American League, and it is no secret that the clippers, the local pro club, would welcome the test.

Ed Wachter, one of the game's greatest centers and a former Harvard baseball coach, declares the pros could win "six days a week and twice on Sundays." The only thing the collegians have on the pros is condition: it isn't enough.

The pros have revolutionized the game. It was not so hot in the early stages. In that connection Wachter says: "Frankly, some of these push-and-pull games played in other years by the pros make me sometimes wish I'd never been associated with the game. Then the American League cleaned it up and it's become something scientific. It's really worth watching now."

It would require quite a few conferences between the two groups to reach an agreement over rules covering such a game. The pros play on a smaller court and the rules are not the same.

Perhaps it would even up matters to use college rules.

THE PLAYER SPEAKS!

If I take nothing from my study hours,
In pouring goals of glory for my team;
If I build firm a house for mental powers,
And find a perfect way to let off steam;
If I escape sweet matinees with fens,
And gayly skip the adolescent mood
If Mom and Pop enjoy the gym jam gems;
And do not mind my appetite for food—
Please tell me why reformers argue long
To halt the game most every Hoosier loves?
We take our share of music, art and song,
And still avoid the strain of lovey-doves,
What though we miss the classroom now and then,
I still believe we'll turn out to be men.

D.P.E.

THE BOY FRIEND:

Today my hooper brought me to the gym
So I could see him practice with the boys,
And did they make a monkey out of him
In spite of all his show and verbal noise!
They took the ball from him as from a child,
It looked as though he didn't have a friend,
And how the people in the stands all smiled
to see him parked upon his nother end!

I left before the boy was knocked out cold
Because I hate to see a friend pass out;
But he'll be nerts no matter what he's told
And keep on thinking he's a star, no doubt;
I'd drop him if I didn't know that he
Goes places and pays bills so cheerfully.

T. E. B.

LIST OF QUESTIONS SUBMITTED REGARDING BASKETBALL
 Eastern Massachusetts Board of Approved Basketball Officials
 Edward M. Kelleher
 Secretary-Treasurer

LIST OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING BASKETBALL

Editor's Note: Printed hereon are 58 questions submitted by the Eastern Massachusetts Board of Approved Basketball Officials to the National Basketball Committee - The approved answer follows each question.

1. A player on team A secures the ball in his backcourt and passes to a team mate standing with one foot in front court and the other foot on the ten second line. Has the ball been advanced to A's court?

Answer: No.

2. With team A in possession of the ball, can a player on team B request and be granted a time out under any conditions?

Answer: Yes; when the ball is dead, or in case of injury, upon completion of a play by Team A.

3. Player on team A is fouled in the act of shooting, (goal is missed) and simultaneously this A player fouls B player. What is the decision and how is the ball put in play?

Answer: Double foul; one free throw to each team; center toss after last free throw.

4. Team A player has been awarded a multiple foul (personal) shot. Before ball is placed on foul line, team A is charged with a technical foul. What is the decision and how is the ball put in play?

Answer: Team A player gets multiple free throw, then team B gets a free throw for the technical foul. Center ball after the last free throw.

5. Team A has a single personal foul shot, and before the ball is placed on the foul line, team B is also charged with a technical foul. Which is shot first, the technical or personal?

Answer: Technical.

6. Team A player shoots for basket, with ball on edge of, or within basket, player of team B grabs and shakes cords, and ball falls out. Are the cords considered part of the basket here, and does or does not the goal count?

Answer: Field goal for team A; this is interference with the basket even though the ring is not touched. The nets are part of the baskets.

7. Player of team A shoots for basket, and while the ball is on the edge, or within the same, a team mate grabs and shakes the cords, and the goal is scored. Does it count?

Answer: No.

8. Player of team A shoots for the basket, and while the ball is on the edge, or within the same, a player of team B reaches up through the cords and does not allow the ball to pass through or remain in. Understand B player does not touch cords or basket, and he does not even get his hand up as high as the rim of the basket. Does the goal count?

Answer: Field goal for team A.

9. Both jumpers refuse to go up and tap the ball. The referee then orders them to do so. A does, and B does not. Under these circumstances should the official charge B with a technical foul?

Answer: If A taps the ball it is in play and no penalty is imposed on B. If A tries to tap the ball but does not succeed, foul on B for not jumping after being ordered to do so.

10. A substitute enters the game failing to report to the referee. Should the referee immediately call a technical foul, or first consume one play and then call it? The boy had reported to the scorers.

Answer: As soon as the teams are ready to resume play; call the foul before actually putting the ball into play.

11. A player that had previously made four personal fouls and had been disqualified is mistakenly sent back in the game. He remains in for about three minutes before the mistake is recognized. Do all points scored during that three minute period count? Is he sent from the floor and is his team charged with a technical foul?

Answer: Yes, to both questions.

12. Team A has only a 7 man squad. Three boys are lost via the 4 personal foul route. Can team B remove a player then to equalize the situation at 4 all?

Answer: No.

13. Play of team A is fouled while in the act of shooting by two B players. He scores the goal. How many shots is he given?

Answer: Two

14. Team A player viciously fouls team B player not in the act of shooting. Does team B player secure one or two free throws and is A disqualified?

Answer: Two free throws and A is disqualified.

15. The home management has made every apparent effort to stop the crowd from booing the visiting shooter. The referee halts play, and then as player of team A is shooting the home spectators loudly boo (B). The foul is scored. Would you recommend a free shot or would you consider the score enough?

Answer: Your judgment is as good as mine on this, but I would consider the score enough without an extra free throw. If the free throw had been missed, another free throw should have been awarded.

16. If under the previous question the referee awarded one free shot (technical) for the action of the crowd; then it appears that he and the management can not quiet the crowd, what would you recommend?

Answer: I doubt if anyone knows the answer to this. Probably play the game out as well as possible, hope there will be plenty of police around when the game is over, and report conditions to authorities of home team after the game.

17. Has a coach any right to speak to an official between the halves as regards to the official's work?

Answer: No specific rule against it, but it ought not to be done.

18. The official calls a technical foul on the coach for unjust or severe criticism between the halves. At the time the players are not on the floor. What is your recommendation as to the shooting of this foul, and how is the ball put in play at the start of the second half?

Answer: Free throw is tried when the teams are ready to start the second half. After the free throw, ball is tossed at center.

19. An official makes a ruling. Before it is enforced he is convinced by a coach, or the other official that his decision was erroneously made, should he change it?

Answer: Yes, he should change his decision if convinced that he is wrong before resumption of play, but the coach should have no voice in the matter.

20. If play is dead during the progress of a game, how can a coach evidence his rights as to the criticism of an immediate previous play? Or has he any rights in such a matter?

Answer: The coach has no rights in this respect.

21. In a high school game that has ended in a tie score, the teams go into an overtime period. Team A scores one point on a free throw, then B scores a floor basket which apparently ends the game, but on this same very play while the ball was in the air, team B committed a foul. Would you give team A its foul shot? If so, and they scored it and tied up the ball game, and the period ended in a tie, do you play a second overtime period on the basis of a team having to score two more additional points first, or just one point?

Answer: Team A gets its free throw. If this ties up the game again, it takes only one point to win the game thereafter.

22. Team A player shoots his own basket, scoring two points for team B. Which team is awarded the ball out of bounds?

Answer: This question means that A shoots into B's basket, scoring 2 points for B. It is then A's ball out of bounds at the end where the goal was thrown.

23. Player of team A is dribbling continuously, and on one of the bounces, he bats the ball with one hand over a team B's player's head, and before it reaches the floor he sends it to the floor with one hand, and continues his dribble with one hand. Is this legal?

Answer: Yes.

24. As in question 23, A player allows the ball to hit the floor after batting it over B's head without contacting it, and then continues his dribble. Is this legal?

Answer: Yes.

25. Team A player is dribbling single handed, but allows the ball to bounce once untouched from the floor, and then is able to keep his single handed dribble going. Is this legal or is it a discontinued dribble?

Answer: Legal dribble.

26. Would it make any difference as in question 4 if the ball bounced twice or more times from the floor untouched and then A was able to get his dribble going again?

Answer: No.

27. This is possible, as it can be easily demonstrated. The end line is 4 ft. from the backboards. Now a player on team A has the ball just inside the end line and he shoots the ball at the strings or cords, with English causing the ball to crawl up them into the basket, entering from above. The ball in this situation either passes through or stays in with the cords being tied up in the basket. Does the goal count?

Answer: Yes.

28. Team A has been awarded the ball in its front court just under the basket because of a violation by team B. A player of team A fakes a pass to a team mate in bounds, but passes the ball behind the end line to a player of the same team who then passes in bounds. What is your ruling here?
Answer: Award the ball to B out of bounds.

29. If in tossing the ball between two jumpers the official notes that they are facing their own defensive baskets, should he re-arrange their facings?
Answer: Yes, that is, put each in his own half of the imaginary circle.

30. Is he within his rights to make facings on jumps?
Answer: Yes, he should see that the players are in their own half of the imaginary jumping circle.

31. If he does order particular facings to two jumpers and they do not heed, because of the knowledge that no particular facings are required by the rules, what can such an official do about it?

Answer: How they face makes no difference, provided each is in his own semi-circle and does not interfere with his opponent.

32. In the opinion of the official a ball was in the air when the timer's signal was sounded, and the basket scored. He awards the basket to that team, but he is called to the bench, and both timers agree that time has expired previously. Would you take the basket away here, although the official had no doubt in his mind having been close to the bench at the sound of the signal?

Answer: If the official hears the signal, he should make the decision. If, however, the timers agree that time was up before the signal sounded (gun failed to work on first attempt), the official should consider their testimony.

33. A player rolls the ball along the floor say 15 yds. or so and then secures the ball, it not having been touched in between time. In securing the ball he picks it up with both hands. Has he completed a dribble?

Answer: Yes.

34. Player on team A has ball on sideline out of bounds. He holds it over the court in bounds, and it is taken from his grasp by a team mate. Is this legal?

Answer: No.

35. As in question 34, it is taken by an opponent. Is this legal?

Answer: No.

36. Team A player has the ball out of bounds. He just lays it on the floor in bounds. Is the ball in play now?

Answer: No.

37. Team A player attempts try for field goal when timer's signal sounds to end the period. The ball is subsequently touched by another A player, and then a B player in that order, and the goal is made. Does it count?

Answer: No.

38. With two officials working as they do now "Double Referee System" and neither has been designated as referee. Would it be safe to assume that the one who tosses the ball at center to start the game be considered as such? This question is inserted to take care of situations such as a goal counting, inspecting equipment etc., deciding matters upon which scorers and timers disagree, and on any points not specifically covered by the rules.

Answer: The rules call for a referee and an umpire. Follow the rules and this question will not arise.

39. Player on team A tries for basket; while the ball is in the air another player on team A fouls a player on team B. If the basket is scored does the goal count?

Answer: Yes.

40. Player on team A in cutting around an opponent runs out of bounds, then steps in bounds and receives a pass and scores a basket. Does the basket count?

Answer: Yes, if he ran out of bounds to avoid running into an opponent; no, if he ran out of bounds to set up a play.

41. The gun sounds ending the half as the ball is in air. Player on team A fouls player on team B. When is the foul shot tried?

Answer: Immediately.

42. Two players on opposite teams cause contact when jumping to gain possession of a free ball. Should a double foul be called?

Answer: Yes, unless the official considers the contact accidental.

43. What should an official do when a disagreement between two officials regarding the disqualification of a player who has four fouls occurs?

Answer: Why should there be any disagreement if the player has four personal fouls? If he has four, he is out and there is nothing to disagree about.

44. A player in the bucket without the ball has one foot on the line and the other foot in front of the lines. Is the three second rule in effect here?

Answer: Yes.

45. Should guarding from the rear be called if a player has his arms around an opponent from the rear but is not causing contact.

Answer: No; there is no foul until contact takes place.

46. When team A is awarded the ball out of bounds in its front court, are players of this team restricted in the "key-hole" territory from the time the ball is in the out of bounds player's hands, or from the time the ball crosses the side-line?

47. A player awarded the ball out of bounds in his front court throws ball to a team mate who is in the front court. This player then returns the ball to the back court. Is this permissible?

Answer: Yes.

48. After Team A has made an attempt to score a field goal, who may return the ball to the back court?

Answer: The first player to touch the ball after the shot for goal.

49. Explain exactly the procedure taken when the captain may wish to take the ball at mid-court rather than have his free throw at the foul line. When should his option be stated? Also include the multiple throw.

Answer: The option may be expressed at any time prior to handing the ball to the free thrower at the free throw line. In case of a multiple throw, the option may be expressed at any time prior to handing the ball to the free thrower for the last free throw.

50. A recent New York team seemed to feel that when any member of the team was fouled while in the "act of throwing for a goal" that this member was entitled to two free shots whether or not the goal was missed. The rules state if he is fouled from behind he gets the two shots. Just what will decide the rear, from the side for instance?

Answer: The position of the defensive player decides it largely. If he is behind the offensive player, and in such a position that he cannot play the ball, 2 free throws should be awarded if he causes contact. If the defensive player is in such a position that he can play the ball and tries to do so, only 1 free throw should be awarded if the field goal is made and if foul does not involve roughness.

51. When a player is roughly treated and awarded two shots, although he may not be shooting for a goal, there may be two shots awarded. How many fouls are charged to the offender and what type of fouls are so charged?

Answer: 1 foul is charged to the offender as in the case of any other personal foul.

52. Team A scores a basket and immediately calls "time-out". Is this allowed by the rules?

Answer: Yes.

53. Just what is the best officiating technique concerning held balls within the foul lane? That is who should toss the ball up at the foul line? Should official A toss up in B's "bucket" or should A toss up in his own foul lane territory?

Answer: I think A should toss it in B's free throw lane, but your opinion is as good as mine on this.

54. Team A player out of bounds throws ball in and it bounces off team B player and goes out of bounds again. Whose ball? In case of a deliberate act would this alter the case?

Answer: Team A's ball, whether deliberate or not. Of course, if A slams the ball at B for the purpose of injuring him, or in a burst of anger, a foul could be called on A for unsportsmanlike conduct. But merely used as a smart play, it is legal.

55. Suppose team A player has both feet in the back court and when dribbling the ball bounces into the front-court. Has the ball gone into the front court or do his feet govern the position of the ball?

Answer: The ball is in the front court.

56. Team A has technical foul called on them as they are leaving floor after first half. When is technical foul shot, and if made or missed when is ball put in play?

Answer: Free throw is tried when the teams are ready for the second half. Center ball after the free throw.

57. Rules Committee recommend 2 men for every game where it is possible. Do you think one man can do as good a job as 2 men? What is the opinion of most coaches and officials on this matter?

Answer: I think 2 men are better than one. I cannot speak for coaches and officials.

58. On a court where baskets have the rigid nets with 6" steel frame, player attempts foul try and it hits bottom frames and remains in court. Is ball in play?

Answer: No.