

## 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