

REPORT OF THE RULES RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE

In preparing this report the Chairman of the Rules Recommendation Committee and the members thereof have based their suggestions on the promise that it is no longer necessary to sound a clarion for the preservation of the game.

The sustained popularity of basketball in 1938-1939 judged by enthusiasm, publicity, game attendance and player participation, is evidence that the game is definitely established as the nation's leading sport.

The Rules Recommendation Committee, therefore believes that no major rulings are necessary or in demand at the present time.

Before bringing to your attention a few minor changes, we wish to make a brief resume of rules and application during the past season. Spectators and players alike seem to approve of the present game. Hard running, one-hand shots, and the "All over the Court" play have been highly developed during the past season.

INTERPRETATIONS

Interpretations involving blocking have caused no difficulty this year. This is due either to more uniform interpretation and application of the rules, or which is more importance to the good sportsmanship of coaches. In the recent invitation tournament no coach of a participating or defeated team voiced anything except approbation of the officiation. With respect to blocking, offending players no longer "put on the act", or act astonished when they cause contact or an attempted screen play, and a foul is called against them.

CROWD BEHAVIOR

Crowd behavior has caused considerable apprehension in a great many parts of the country. The "booing" which has accompanied a great many decisions by officials should and must be eliminated. To that objective there should be an attempt to design uniform officials' signals so that spectator, player and coach will know the cause of the foul. Many times the spectator does not know what foul has been called, and "boos" what he considers to be a mistake. Coaches can aid materially with this question by their own behavior on the bench, and by aggressive methods in attacking the evil through the medium of the school papers and their sports rally talks.

TRANSPORTING OF OFFICIALS

For the first time during the past year there was a definite trend toward elimination of transported officials. Heretofore it has been customary for some coaches to bring an official from their particular section of the country when they played inter-sectional games. Uniform interpretations have made this absolutely unnecessary.