

HIGH BASKETBALL SCORES

By Louis Effrat

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Geneva	72	St. Francis	68
R. I. State	74	St. Joseph's	66
Rice	73	Albright	65
Long Island Univ.	61	Rice	57

Sooner or later the charge of "lively ball," a cry frequently heard in baseball, may find its counterpart in basketball circles unless somewhere, somehow, some ingenious coach can devise a workable defense against the unprecedented scoring sprees throughout the country. When teams can tally anywhere from 50 to 65 points and still wind up on the losing end it becomes apparent that a problem does exist.

Perhaps Mr. Basketball Fan is not concerned with such matters, but Mr. Coach is --- or should be. For while the primary purpose is to outscore the opposition, it is, at least, secondary that some attention be given the defense. What, then, has happened to that defense? Whatever became of those 28-26 scores of yesteryear?

It is obvious that in a game where one team scores 72 points and the other 68, thrilling and crowd-pleasing though it may have been, there must have been a flaw. All signs would indicate a neglect of the defense. Could it be that legislation in recent years has streamlined the sport to an extent where a quintet hasn't time to set up an adequate defense?

Surely, there must be fans who remember when a player boasted more of having held his man scoreless than of his own point production; when he played his man more than the ball; when the man-to-man defense was an integral part of the game and when the enigmatic zone defense came out of Western Pennsylvania to cramp further the style of the would-be scorers.

Then the powers that be began to tinker with the rules. Elimination of the center jump, the ten-second and three-second regulations, the additional time out -- suddenly a premium was placed on speed, speed and more speed. Defensively, there was so much to be done, so little time in which to do it.

The results to date would appear to be helter-skelter, hit-or-miss basketball, featured by one-handed twist shots, two-handed push shots and some indescribable freak shots. Failure to score has meant little. It is only a matter of seconds before other opportunities will again present themselves. Thus the often incredible point totals of today, when three or more offensive men overwhelming a lone defender is commonplace.

Judging by the tremendous turnouts, such as the 17,082 Garden crowd Monday (an off night) when L.I.U. and Rice scored a total of 118 points, it may be that the fans prefer the game as it is played now. No one can deny that it was a thrilling and exciting game--but was it basketball?

NEW GARDEN RECORD

When Illinois defeated Manhattan College 56-40 in the opening double header at the Madison Square Garden, the Illini set a Garden record, in converting every one of their 18 foul tries.