

BASKETBALL REBCUNDS

Pitt Coach Annoyed by 'Lobby'
for Changes, Tosses in some
Good Pointers.

By Everett B. Morris.

For years Dr. Harold C Carlson, M.D. Pittsburgh University's health officer, and basketball coach, has enjoyed - if that is the word - a not undeserved reputation in our game as something of a stormy petrel. It has been the custom to bracket him with such sideline hoppers and convention firebrands as Piggy Lambert and Doc Meanwell.

But time and his scientific calling have combined to mellow Dr. Carlson's nature and to reduce the violence of its explosiveness. As befits a figure of his status in the sports, he has come to look upon basketball and its problems with an unselfish, tolerant and understanding eye.

Consequently, he has been much disturbed by the recent wave of suggestions for altering the game, proposals to go back to the rules of ten years ago and counter-proposals to elevate the baskets, establish traffic zones, use smaller balls and do away with the backboards cause him to wrinkle his brow in perplexity.

"INTELLIGENT APPROACH" URGED

"There is nothing wrong with basketball that cannot be cured with a properly intelligent approach," he says. "To put it bluntly, the fault lies right with us, the coaches.

"This maze of rule changes leads to nowhere. It is a manifestation of dissatisfaction with the situations which force the officials to decide the winners in a great majority of all games. We should have had the courage and intelligence to face reality when the pivot play crystalized the fundamental issue of contact several years ago. We evaded the issue by restricting areas on the floor rather than defining our game as non-contact. And now we have more territorial claims to cause more wars.

"If we can return to the one fundamental of a non-contact game, most of the complexities will become simplified. The players can and will play a non-contact game if they know what to expect. The officials will not be forced to define the varying degrees of contact. Their work will be comparatively simplified by the persons responsible for the contact.

"Let us begin a campaign to help the officials rather than confound them further."

REST CURE FOR COACHES

Furthermore, the good doctor has a concrete plan for helping the harried whistle-tocter. He suggests that a coach, instead of putting the blast on referees in the heat of disappointment, after losing games, go home, sleep on his troubles and the next day think the whole matter over rationally. "Then," Dr. Carlson suggests,

Continued.