

AN EAR TO THE GROUND

By Ed Danforth, Sports Editor the
Atlanta Journal.

BASKETBALL OFFICIATING LESS STRICT;
More Open Games Promised.

Less whistle blowing in basketball games is a principle that found favor with most coaches and many officials who watched the Southeastern championship tournament recently at Knoxville.

Adolph Rupp, coach at Kentucky, Sam McAllister of Florida, and Johnny, of Tennessee, were leading protagonists of the theory that players prefer that officials be less officious. Everybody, it seems, wants fewer fouls called and more action, even if it approaches the rough and tumble type that marked the game a decade ago.

Bowser Chest, perennial tournament official, was quoted on the subject as follows:

"There's no doubt that the open game is favored by the fans. Of course, we officials have to reach a happy medium in our interpretation of the rules, but the trend certainly is away from strict adherence."

To those robust sentiment' fans shout approval. No one is likely to get hurt in these modern basketball courts where the walls are far back and there is a cushion of spectators to fall upon. So let them rip!

Ho, hum, who remembers those knock-down-and-drag-out games they used to play in the little Atlanta Athletic Club gym? Johnny Graves, Fie Weaver, Scrappy O'Sullivan and their gang used to pitch opposing forwards against the walls and catch them on first bounce, or no count.

Jack Robinson, U.C.L.A.'s tricky sharpshooting forward is 1940 high point champion of the southern division, Pacific Coast Conference, basketball race, with last year's titlist, Ralph Vaughn, U.S.C. forward, in second place.

THEY FORGOT "BUCKY" HAD BEEN A PRO.

(Two baseball writers with the Washington club in its Orlando camp forgot that "Bucky" Harris, the team manager, once played pro basketball ... So they challenged "Bucky" to a free throwing contest in an Orlando gym where the athletes were taking a rainy-day workout. . . Or was it a freezing day? Anyway, "Bucky" collected . . . Or the baseball writers still owe.)

By Al Wold Western Sports Writer.

Have you noticed the disappearance of one of basketball's best plays - the feint and quick-break? One of the high school followers points out that this neat play "ain't what it used to be" because now a player with the ball seldom dares to make that break with the drive of old because he's afraid he'll be charged with committing a charging foul - - And the defending man is afraid as well because in such a break he fears he'll be charged with a blocking foul.