

RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS OF THE
SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE FOR THE SEASON OF 1935-36

The following were the regulations and interpretations adopted for the season of 1935-36 to guide the Coaches and Officials in the conduct of their games.

Rule 5. Section III.

The incoming substitute may report to either official.

Rule 6. Section I. Double Referee System

The following procedure is to be used by the officials in all games with non-conference teams where the center jump is used in the execution of the double referee system. When a goal is made, the official who is covering the end of the court at which the goal has been scored shall retrieve the ball and shall pass it to the other official who will put the ball in play at the center. The official who tosses the ball up at the center shall be the judge as to whether the ball has been tossed and tipped correctly. The other official shall direct his attention to any other phases of the play on the court in connection with the tip-off. For games where center jump is used according to the rules adopted by the Conference for the season of 1934-35, the official who is facing the scorers and timers shall toss the ball at center.

Each referee shall be solely responsible for the out of bounds plays on the side and end of the court that he is covering, except where he may request help from the other referee in situations in which he has been unable to see.

In this method of officiating, both officials are instructed to call fouls or violations anywhere on the court. Under such a plan it is to be expected that both officials will be blowing their whistles simultaneously on many plays. Both officials should, however, keep close to the play with one always ahead of the ball and the other slightly behind it.

It is further suggested that on shots for goal, one official cover particularly the play out in the court and around the point from where the shot was made while the other cover particularly the play under and around the goal.

Rule 6. Section XIII. Time-keepers

The time-keeper representing the home team shall operate the watch or time clock unless the referees shall decide otherwise.

Rule 7. Section III. Held Ball

Officials are asked to note particularly the paragraph which follows

this Rule, and also to note the following:

It is the opinion of the Conference Coaches that officials are calling held balls to prevent rough play and to protect themselves. This practice slows up the game and often prevents the progress of legitimate, clever play.

Officials should not anticipate held balls, but should permit the ball to continue in play except where conditions for a held ball are absolutely complied with. Rough play or any other foul should be promptly dealt with, but held balls should not be used to prevent or stop this kind of play.

A held ball shall be called when a closely guarded player withholds the ball from play in his front court for five seconds. It is to be interpreted that the player is closely guarded if the defense is aggressively playing the ball and preventing the offense from playing the ball. This situation occurs usually when the ball is in a corner or along the center, end, or side lines.

Rule 7. ~~Sections~~ VIII, IX, and X. Rules pertaining to the pivot, running with with the ball and dribbling. General

The officials are directed to use good common sense in making their decisions with respect to these rules, i.e.

1. In pivoting the lifting of the heel or toe of the pivot foot is legal.
2. A slight sliding of the foot is not to be interpreted as illegal unless such movement becomes exaggerated and is used to evade or pull away from an opponent.
3. If a player makes an illegal move to evade an opponent or in shooting for goal this should be called closely, but a slight shuffling of the feet or doubtful movements in the starting of a dribble under other circumstances should not be called. It is felt that such movements in no way affect the game and therefore the game should not be interrupted.

Rule 7. Section IX. Item 2. Running with the Ball

The following is to be deleted from this Rule:

- a. "As he receives the ball, if either foot is in contact with the floor at the time he receives it."
- b. In this part of the Rule the last phrase "if both feet are off the floor when he receives the ball" is to be deleted.

In the sentence following "b," the phrase "or both feet strike the floor simultaneously" should be deleted. It is the intent here that if one foot of the player strikes the floor after receiving the ball, he may take an additional step, or if both feet strike the floor simultaneously after

he receives the ball, then he may step with either foot.

Rule 7. Section X. Dribbling

Fumbling the ball at the end of a dribble is a violation.

Rule 8. Section I.

The length of the intermission shall be 15 minutes in all conference games.

Rule 8. Section VI.

The last sentence in this section is to be deleted. Held balls at the free throw line are to be played the same as anywhere else on the court.

Rule 8. Section VIII. The Ten Second Rule

The coaches are definitely and unanimously in favor of the spirit and principle of this rule, namely, that it is an effort to eliminate stalling and delayed offensive play and to gain greater action.

In ruling on the center line violations, decisions are to be made entirely on the basis of the intent of the team in possession of the ball. The following examples are to be used as guides and supplements to this rule:

1. A player receives the ball from the back court while he is standing on, straddling, or just in front of the center line. The ball is, according to the Rule, in the front court. The ball is then passed to a teammate who is advancing into the front court, but who, when he receives the ball, is touching or straddling the center line, or is just back of the center line. This is to be ruled as legal, because the evident intent of the player receiving the ball is to advance it and play aggressive basketball. The game is not to be interrupted or slowed up because of such technicalities. It is the intent that is important.
2. A player standing on the center line receives the ball from the back court. He has advanced it to the front court. A teammate is standing on or straddling the center line. The ball is passed back and forth between these two players, without any apparent attempt to advance the ball. This is illegal.
3. A player is standing on, straddling, or just in front of the center line and receives the ball from the back court. The ball has been advanced to the front court. He pivots into the back court, and a teammate comes around him into the back court and receives the ball. This is illegal.
4. A player is standing on, straddling, or just in front of the center line and receives the ball from the back court. He has advanced it to the front court. As he receives the ball, he pivots and then dribbles or passes into the front court. This is legal.
5. A player is on or straddling the center line when he receives the ball from the back court. He passes to a teammate who is also standing on

or straddling the center line (this second player was not moving from the back into the front court at the time he received the ball) and the ball is then passed to a teammate who is wholly within the front court. This is illegal.

Rule 10. Section I.

The paragraph headed "Note to Officials."

The last sentence in this paragraph should read: "Whenever a player is awarded the ball out of bounds, as provided in this Rule, or in Rule 14, the referee or umpire must handle it before it is put in play. The players on the Conference teams have been instructed to pass the ball to the nearer official, immediately after any decision is made. The officials are instructed to penalize any irregularities in the compliance with this Rule. Such irregularities would be an undue delay in passing the ball to the official, throwing the ball too hard, or throwing it out of the reach of the official. In each out of bounds decision, the officials are directed to hold the ball just long enough to see that their decisions have been clearly understood, or in case of confusion, long enough to permit the players to recover their positions.

For all out of bounds decisions it was agreed that the officials should designate the team to play the ball in by calling the color of jersey that that team is wearing.

Rule 14. Section VII.

Add the following to this section:

During a free throw, no player may raise or hold his hands above his head. This is to be interpreted as disconcerting the player who has the free throw.

Rule 14. Section VIII.

In addition to statements of this rule concerning kicking the ball, intentionally trapping or blocking the ball with the leg or foot is to be ruled as kicking the ball and is a violation. In other words, moving the leg or foot into the path of the ball so that the foot or leg either hits the ball or the ball hits the foot or leg is illegal.

Rule 14. Section XII.

The following interpretations are to be used in the clarification of this section:

1. A player after receiving the ball in his free throw area with his back to his goal is subject to the 3-second rule. After passing the ball, said player must immediately move out of the free throw area. He may not move backward into his guard.
2. A player who is in his free throw area with his back to the goal may not back up toward his goal.
3. A "post" player must be entirely outside of his free throw area, may not touch the lane lines, and may not pivot or step in and out of the area to beat the 3-second rule.

4. The intent of the 3-second rule is to stop the jockeying in what is called the "center-pivot play." Therefore, in cases other than the above, and those described in the note following this rule and under "comments on the rules" the officials must use their judgment as to the intent, and effect upon the opponents of a player in his free throw area. The 3-second rule is therefore merely a guide for the official.

Rule 15. Section IX, X. Personal Fouls

During the discussion of charging, blocking, pushing, and tripping fouls, it was suggested that the position of the players involved should be taken as the basis upon which decisions would be made. For example,

1. In the case of the dribbler attempting to go round an opponent, if the opponent has established himself in the path of the dribbler, it is the responsibility of the dribbler to go around the opponent. If the dribbler in this situation charges into the opponent, then the dribbler, not the guard, has committed a personal foul.
2. In the case of screening, if the player who is making the screen, has established his position, and then is pushed or charged by an opponent, such opponent has committed a personal foul. If, however, as noted in the paragraph on blocking on page 29 of the Official Rule Book, charging or blocking occurs as the player who, in attempting to screen, moves into his position, then the greater responsibility should be on the player who is attempting to screen.
3. If a player has taken a position around the basket, then his opponent must be responsible for the contact of pushing or charging in getting around this player in an attempt to get at the ball. Such player, the player who has established himself in a position first, is entitled to that position.
4. Three situations where a player is shooting for goal were discussed
 - (a) If the defensive player is standing between the goal and an offensive player who is shooting and this offensive player charges or jumps into the guard as he comes into the basket to make his shot, or after he has made the shot, then the offensive player has committed the foul.
 - (b) If the defensive player jumps, charges, or runs into an offensive player who is set for, is making, or has made a shot, then the defensive player has fouled
 - (c) If the offensive player is moving (dribbling or running as he receives a pass) toward the goal as he makes his shot and at the same time the defensive player who is between the offensive player and the goal moves out to meet this offensive player so that they run, jump, or charge into each other, then the foul may be on either or both or upon neither, depending upon the judgment of the official.
5. In the case of a player dribbling around an opponent, the opponent must drop his arm if it is extended or he will be responsible for fouling if the dribbler is put at a disadvantage thereby.
6. If a player who is shooting for goal hits the extended arm of an opponent with his arms so that his shot is interfered with, said

opponent is responsible for the foul.

Rule 15. Penalty and note following Section 14.

The judgment of the official in ruling with respect to a player who is in the act of shooting is to be guided by the philosophy of Mr. Tower as incorporated in these interpretations. Rulings are to be made, therefore, exactly as in the past. This holds true also for penalty (e).

The officials presented a uniform set of signals to be used in all games. These were unanimously adopted:

1. Time-out -- waving hands, palms forward, in a vertical plane in front of face.
2. Holding -- grasping wrist
3. Pushing -- pushing out away from the body with the hands by extending the arms in front.
4. Hacking -- hitting the arm with the edge of the hand.
5. Charging or blocking -- indicate by a movement by that part of the body which was used to charge or block.
6. Running -- an alternating up and down movement of the hands with the palms down.
7. Illegal dribble -- a simultaneous movement of the hands up and down with palms down.
8. Held ball -- upward movement of the hands with index finger pointed and palms facing each other.
9. No goal -- alternating, oscillating horizontal movement of arms in front of the body with the palms down.
10. Guarding from the rear -- form a horizontal circle with the arms and hands.

The following statement by Mr. Oswald Tower, editor of the basketball guide and official interpreter of the rules, was adopted as representing the sentiment of the conference with respect to the purpose of the rules and penalties:

"We should aim to compensate a player who has been deprived of an opportunity to make a play through some illegal act of an opponent, rather than to inflict penalties for technical errors which have no effect upon the play."

The conference coaches have agreed that they will not talk to the officials before, during the progress of, or after their games on points concerning the game except in the presence of both coaches concerned and then only upon the interpretation of rules and not on questions of judgment.

They further express their confidence in the officials that they have chosen and direct them to run their ball games fearlessly and consistently throughout the whole game without regard to the conditions of the game.

JOHN W. BUNN
Secretary

A

Modification of the Official Basketball Rules
which refer to the
Center-jump

Section 1: The use of the center jump shall be discontinued and the ball shall be discontinued and the ball shall be put in play in the manner hereinafter provided;

- (a) After a goal has been made;
- (b) After a goal has been declared, as provided in Rule 14, Section 13, Penalty (a);
- (c) After a goal has been made from a free throw following a personal foul, where only one free throw has been awarded:
- (d) After a goal has been made from the last free throw, where successive free throws have been awarded to one team and none to the other, at least one free throw being for a personal foul.

Section 2: In all cases enumerated in Section 1 hereof, the ball shall be put in play by a member of the team last scored upon by playing it in from out of bounds beyond his back court end line. Any player of such team shall be eligible to play the ball therefrom.

Section 3: The play-in shall be made in all respects as in the case of an ordinary play-in from out of bounds, and all fouls and violations applicable thereto shall be enforced.

Section 4: Any interference or other act on the part of the team not entitled to the play-in which, in the judgment of either official, is designed to hinder or delay such play-in in any manner, shall constitute a technical foul for delaying the game and shall be penalized by the award of a free throw to the opponents.

Note: It will be observed that the center jump will still be used (a) at the beginning of each half and of each extra period; (b) after a free throw following a technical foul, or after the last free throw following a technical foul, if more than one has been called; (c) after the last free throw following a double foul, and (d) in all other cases not enumerated in the above Section where the Official Rules so prescribe (see for example Rule 13, Sec. 2; Rule 14, Sec 2, Penalty, Note: Rule 14, Sec. 7, Penalty.)

Note: Any attempt by a player to delay the play-in so as to aid himself or his teammates in securing their defensive positions should be promptly penalized.

Additional Rulings Concerning the Modification of the Center Jump

1. The five second count shall begin when a player with the ball in his possession is beyond the end line or when the ball is placed beyond the end line by the official. If a player does not get the ball immediately after a goal, the official shall

place the ball beyond the endline and start the five-second count.

2. On all plays after a goal has been scored, where, on the preceding scoring play, a player or players are forced out of court, the official shall use his judgment as to whether time shall be called or play withheld to permit such player or players to recover their positions. It is intended that the official shall put the ball in play as quickly as possible.

JOHN W. BUNN, Secretary

13

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Men Students' Health Service
University Health Service

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

January 31, 1936

Forrest C. Allen, Director
Division of Physical Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear "Doc":

This will acknowledge your letter of January 23. Your account of your escapades with California brought buckets of tears flowing down my usually dry cheeks. Your gang certainly were a bruised outfit after those *quelling contests*. I must say, however, that the Cal. boys are capable of such atrocities when they really go on a rampage. We managed to scrape through successfully with them on our first encounter. We are playing them again this Friday in what I think will be quite a crucial game of the season. I am keeping my fingers crossed. I have a pretty formidable gang this year, however. They are all basketball minded, a very willing bunch, and I don't believe I've ever had a squad with a finer spirit. In addition, I have one very outstanding boy, Hank Luisetti. He put on a remarkable exhibition the other evening when he scored 30 points against U. S. C. and did the most of his scoring when there was just fifteen minutes left to play. If I ever saw an inspired team, we had one that evening. As a result, we are now on the top of the conference by a margin of one game. I'll admit it is a rather shaky position but I think we have about as good a chance as anyone else. I'll have my whole gang back again next year and the most of them for two more years. I am planning somewhat on coming through the Middlewest again during the Christmas vacation. Providing, of course, that I can promote the proper financial arrangement.

With respect to the center jump, Doc, I can't help but feel, and I am enforced in this feeling from your letter, that you are taking the attitude that even if something is good, you wouldn't like it. I really believe that any coach, no matter how prejudiced he is at the start, if he will open mindedly look into the matter and will play in three major contests without the center jump that he will change his attitude entirely concerning such a change in the rules. Incidentally, I like the circle idea which you have suggested. We tried it out with Nebraska out here and it is o.k. by me. However, I do not think that it in any way affects the elimination of the center jump. It is good for held balls for many reasons which you probably have already advanced. All I ask in the consideration of the center jump is a fair and unbiased discussion of it, not an oratorical and dramatic smoke screen to becloud the real issue as was the case at our last meeting. I was not hurt at losing the fight, but I was hurt at the unfair tactics from what was presumed to be a sporting crowd. You, in particular, Doc, told me up in your room the day of your arrival in Chicago that you would not oppose the center jump on the floor of the convention. Don't you think you forgot this statement rather quickly?

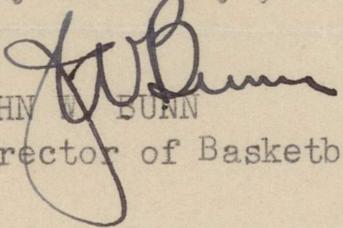
Forrest C. Allen Director
Page 2

January 31, 1936

But, at this time, I should congratulate you on the showing of your squad so far this season and hope that they are successful in finishing at the top of the conference. It's kind of a tough racket when all the other teams are always gunning for you because you've been at the top most of the time.

Please remember me to all of the gang and to all of the family.
With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,


JOHN W. BUNN
Director of Basketball

JWB:H

Thanks for the news item on basketball history.
I gave a radio talk along this line recently.

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SERIES 1935-36

BULLETIN NUMBER 2

Announce Naismith Fund Plans

1935-36 Rules Interpretations

A Convention By-product

Modification of the Center Jump
by John Bunn

"Pro" vs Amateur Competition

To Test Some Jump Proposals

Tapping the Party Line

NATIONAL CONVENTION - ST. LOUIS, MO., APRIL 1, 2, and 3, 1936

ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NAISMITH FUND

Dear Coach:

A National drive, sponsored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches, is to get under way in the near future. The purpose of this drive is to secure a fund sufficiently large to send Dr. Naismith, the originator of basketball, and his wife to the first Olympic Basketball games in Berlin, Germany, in 1936, and also to erect a monument in his honor.

Dr. Naismith, 73 years of age, who recently retired as Professor of Physical Education at the University of Kansas, has a host of friends but his financial situation is none to remunerative when one considers his great contribution to the athletic world. What could be more appropriate than to send this great man and his good wife to the next Olympic Games and also to erect a monument in his honor either at Springfield, Mass., or Lawrence, Kan.

To carry out this idea, the National Naismith Fund Committee has drawn up the following plan: Every University, College, Junior College, Normal College, and High School in the United States is requested to designate one home basketball game, during the period of February 7 - 15, 1936, as a DR. NAISMITH MEMORIAL GAME. The athletic authorities of each school are requested to contribute to the National Committee ONE CENT for each person attending this game.

This small amount will work no hardship on anyone. If every school in the country will do its part a sufficient fund will be created to carry out the above mentioned plan. The one cent donation will be collected in any way satisfactory to the local school authorities. However, the following suggestions are offered by the National Committee:

(a) Take out, from the receipts of the Naismith game, a sum equivalent to one cent for each person attending the game.

(b) Add one cent to the price of each ticket.

(c) Take up a collection at the game. Any deficit may be made up by the local athletic authorities equivalent to one cent per person.

It is hoped that every school in the country will join this worthy cause of expressing appreciation to Dr. Naismith while he is still with us.

Will you kindly submit this request to your athletic authorities for their approval - then fill out the enclosed card and mail as soon as possible.

Every school designating a Naismith game will be furnished with advertising material which will assist greatly in the promotion of the NAISMITH MEMORIAL GAME.

Your sincere cooperation will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

W. S. Chandler, Chairman
National Naismith Fund Committee,
Marquette University,
Milwaukee, Wis.

WSC:WEB

1935-36 BASKETBALL RULE INTERPRETATIONS

(Editor's Note: The interpretations listed here are taken from a release made from the office of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations. The most authoritative source of interpretations is Mr. Oswald Tower, Andover, Mass., editor of the rule book. H.V. Porter, of the High School Associations, writer of the interpretations printed here, obtains confirmation from Mr. Tower on all matters except those which apply to high school play in those states which have definitely adopted the National Federation interpretations.)

1. Play: A1 is attempting a free throw for a technical foul and steps over the line too soon. Is the ball tossed at center or is it awarded to opponents out-of-bounds at the end?

RULING: Center ball.

2. Play: In case a player is fouled in the act of throwing for a goal and the goal is missed, are three free throws awarded in case it is a disqualifying foul?

RULING: No. Two free throws.

3. Comment: In the note of page 26 it would appear that the word "tossed" would be better than "tapped". The sentence is: "On a jump ball if one of the jumpers has one foot or both feet outside the circle or on the diameter or in his opponent's half of the circle before the ball is tapped, the official may caution him."

RULING: The word "tossed" should be substituted for "tapped".

4. Play: (1) A1 has the ball out-of-bounds at the end of the court behind his basket. In throwing the ball in, the ball strikes the back of the backboard and caroms off a teammate who is inbounds. Is the ball in play?

RULING: Yes.

Play: (2) In the same situation, the ball after striking the back of the backboard rebounds over the end line without being touched by any player. To whom should the ball be awarded?

RULING: To A1.

5. QUESTION: Should time keepers notify teams three minutes before time for the game to begin?

ANSWER: Yes. This is not made compulsory by rule but it was the sentiment of the Rules Committee that this should be done.

6. QUESTION: Is it permissible for teams to use the huddle method of giving signals?

ANSWER: The rules specify that not more than three seconds may be taken for a huddle. However, the Rules Committee is opposed to the use of the huddle and a number of states have adopted the interpretation that it is illegal to consume playing time through the use of the huddle. In such states if there is any delay near the end of a game a technical foul should be called immediately. Otherwise a team may be warned and thereafter penalized.

7. Play: A1 has eluded his guard and has a clear field for the basket. Before he is in the act of trying for a goal B1 deliberately pushes him.

RULING: One free throw for the personal foul and one free throw for the technical foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, should be awarded. The technical foul should be thrown first.

8. Play: A1 has been in the lane two seconds when he receives the ball and begins an offensive drive toward the basket. The offensive play is continuous and the ball remains in the lane for several sec-

onds.

RULING: Under ordinary circumstances the count would not continue provided A1 is on his way out of the lane by the time the three seconds have elapsed or if he dribbles in the lane toward the basket. The purpose of the rule is to prevent the jockeying for position in the free throw lane, and under the described circumstances continuous offensive play should not be hindered.

9. Play (1): A1 stands with one foot outside the lane and one foot inside at the time his team secures possession. While a teammate has the ball he lifts the foot which is inside the lane and pivots so that the lifted foot is brought down again inside the lane or on the line. Should the three-second count continue through the entire movement?

RULING: Yes.

Play (2): In the same situation A1 actually steps entirely outside the lane and then steps back in. Should the three-second count continue through the entire operation?

RULING: No.

10. Play: A1 is listed by the coach as a starting player two minutes before game time. One minute later the coach enters the name of A6 instead of A1, and the game starts with A6 in the line-up. Should a free throw be awarded?

RULING: If the scorer accepted this change it was an error on his part and no free throw should be awarded.

11. Play: After a successful free throw following a personal foul is the official required to obtain the ball and give it to Team B out-of-bounds under the basket?

RULING: No. The official should not touch the ball unless it is free in his locality. In that case it would be proper for him to toss the ball to a B player in order to speed the play.

12. Play: Team A makes a successful free throw following a personal foul and a Team A player touches the ball as it drops through the net. Is this to be ruled as a technical foul?

RULING: Some allowance is to be made for instinctively jumping for the ball. Any positive act by a Team A player indicating an intent to delay the game is a technical foul.

A CONVENTION BY-PRODUCT

The playing of intersectional games has become so common now that one can hardly realize that they were a novelty a few years ago. As this is written the University of California is in New York; Drake is meeting teams in the Pacific Northwest; Southern California is in Kansas City; Nebraska is enroute to San Francisco; and Notre Dame is in New Orleans. And the season is hardly begun.

A number of factors have contributed to this wave of intersectional contests. Better places to play; accommodations for an increased number of spectators; inherent attractiveness of the sport; and better administration of games have all had important parts. As a by-product of the activities of this Association must be considered its effect upon game administration. The officiating panel conducted at the Chicago convention combined with the long discussion on rule interpretations paved the way for more uniformity in the calling of plays so that a team from one territory can meet those from another under more satisfactory conditions. Ideal conditions have not yet arrived but attendance at the annual convention by an increased number of leading coaches soon will bring the end of intersectional differences, and basketball will reach an undreamed-of popularity.

MODIFICATION OF THE CENTER JUMPJohn Bunn, Stanford University

EDITOR'S NOTE: In twelve championship games last season the Southern Division of the Pacific Coast Conference experimented with rules adaptations which practically eliminated the center jump. The results of the test were incorporated in the following article read at the last convention of the Association. A motion to recommend the modification to the Rules Committee lost by a small margin, but made such a favorable impression that the idea now is found in the new rules under which the jump is eliminated following a successful free throw after a personal foul. Coaches will do well to study this report carefully, as the plan has many adherents who will advance it again next spring.

In Bulletin No. 2, published by this Association, appeared a preliminary account of an experiment which modified the center jump rules. This experiment has been diligently carried through to completion during the season just closed by the teams of a number of conferences and leagues on the Pacific Coast.

The facts concerning this experiment are repeated here for the purpose of a complete record.

The idea for such an experiment on the Pacific coast first arose in 1933. Among the four coaches in the Southern Division of the Pacific Coast Conference, Works of U.C.L.A. and Barry of U.S.C. were heartily in favor of trying out some plan of modification. Price of California was just luke warm on the idea. Bunn of Stanford, who had been reared in an environment which taught that the control of the tip was worth four baskets a game, was unalterably opposed to the whole proposition. However in 1934 when California, U.C.L.A. and U.S.C. all came out for the experiment, Stanford swung with the majority in the interest of research for information that would help in the better administration of our games. The reasons which these coaches advanced for advocating the modification of the center jump rule were these:

1. The center jump presents one of two or three situations which is most difficult for officials to control. (The pivot play and under-basket play are the other situations.)
2. The center jump is responsible for a very large number of fouls. One estimate places the average at six per game. The number of fouls committed largely exceeds the number that are detected or called. Many of these fouls are of the type which tend to cause serious injury to the players.
3. The officials are often in the way of play and are subject to many collisions which have often resulted in injury to either the players or the officials.
4. Even the best of officials are inconsistent in tossing the ball up between the two centers. It is tossed too high or too low or over to one side or the other.
5. The two centers are seldom satisfied as to conditions. One wants the ball thrown higher, the other lower. One center is jumping into the other or is pushing or elbowing on the jump or is hitting the wrist of his opponent or hitting the ball before it reaches its highest point.
6. There is continual jostling for position by the eight players about the center circle, all of which is very difficult if not impos-

sible to control.

7. So much stress has been placed on aggressiveness in crashing for the ball at the tip by all teams, regardless of which center is controlling the ball, that unless one center is clearly able to out-jump the other (a condition which does not often happen), so that he can place the ball to the far lanes as easily as to the close ones, neither team is able to execute scoring plays from the tip-off. As a consequence the play about the center becomes nothing more than a wild scramble for the possession of the ball. The thrill from the beautiful execution of spectacular scoring plays from the center jump has been practically lost.

8. It puts the officials more in the background and relieves them of the responsibility of administering a most difficult part of the game.

9. While this reason was not originally advanced by the four conference coaches, subsequent observations and the general feeling among the players themselves has been to the effect that it removes the advantages gained by a player by reason of his inherent height and tends to make the competition much even.

10. It will speed up the tempo of the game considerably and will permit a considerably longer actual playing time.

Accordingly, after conferences and experimentation during spring practice of 1934, these four coaches met in October and drafted a set of rules which modified the center jump regulations and governed the play which replaced the center jump. In brief the regulations involved the following points.

1. The ball shall be tossed up at center at the start of each half and each extra period; after a free throw following one or more technical fouls, where technical fouls only have been called; after the last free throw following a double foul; and after all cases of violations along the free throw lanes in which the rules now specify a center jump.

2. The use of the center jump shall be discontinued following a field goal; successful free throw if it is the last one awarded, except as noted in (1) above.

3. In place of the center jump in the cases under (2) above the ball shall be put in play from out-of-bounds at the end of the court by the team last scored upon. The regular out-of-bounds rules shall govern the play-in from the end line under the above conditions.

If this experiment had been carried out solely by the southern division of the Pacific Coast Conference, it probably would not have developed such a widespread enthusiasm for the change and subsequently such a convincing mass of evidence in favor of such a change. When the rules governing the play in the Southern Division Pacific Coast Conference were finally drawn up, they were printed as a matter of general information, and publicity copies of these rules were generously distributed throughout the country. As a result of this simple announcement of policy and without any attempt whatever to convert other leagues or conferences to try out these rules, there was a most surprising spontaneous and widespread growth of sentiment for the modification of the center jump. As a result the Far Western Conference, the Southern Conference, the Northern California Junior College Conference, the Central Coast Counties Athletic League (a highschool league), all the major club teams on the coast, the Y.M.C.A. teams in all classes, and all the college teams playing independent of a conference adopted these rules without hesitation. In addition several high-school leagues made the rules optional, subject to the agreement of coaches before each game. The Stanford University basketball team

played ten games in the Middle West during the Christmas holidays. Five of these games were played using these rules either in one or both halves of the games. In addition several other parts of the country experimented with the change.

This interest in and general acceptance of this experiment afforded an unusual opportunity to test out these new rules. This fact, together with the knowledge that the experiment was carried out in regular conference and league games, gives a high degree of reliability to the results obtained.

In addition to statistics, the reaction, opinion, and criticisms of the public, coaches, officials, and players have been earnestly sought on the value and effect of such a change in the rules. At the end of the playing season a questionnaire was sent to each coach of a team that had used the new rule during the season.

The following is a summary of results, observations, and comments which have been received from over fifty coaches, several thousand spectators, several hundred players, and more than fifty officials:

1. The modification of the center jump adds from six to eight more minutes of actual play to each game. The average for the games timed in comparison with games in which the center jump was used is about seven minutes. In other words, there is this much time lost during the game from the time a goal is made until the ball is tossed up at center for the next play when the center jump is used.

2. The scores of practically all games in the Pacific Coast Conference were higher than in past seasons. This is a natural consequence with the added playing time. The champions of the Pacific Coast Conference averaged forty-five points per game. The high scorer, Guttero, scored 186 points, an all time high, during the season as against 143 last season. A majority of the scores in all the other conferences and leagues reporting were higher.

3. The center rule change was received with enthusiasm by the public. Votes were taken at the beginning of the season at various places and showed a two to one majority in favor of the elimination of the center jump. Later in the season the preference for the new rule reached a nine to one ratio.

A vote by acclamation was taken at Michigan State and Marquette between halves of the games played with Stanford University. In each case the officials who asked for the sentiment of the spectators reported that a large majority were in favor of the elimination of the center jump.

Some sports editors in California were opposed to the new rule when they first saw it in use at the beginning of the season. These men were interviewed at the end of the season and all voted unreservedly for the elimination of the tip.

4. The players, particularly the centers, are most enthusiastic for the new rule. Of all the reports received, there were only four teams on which there was a sentiment for the center jump. At a tournament in which forty-eight teams were entered, there was just one team that desired to play with the center jump. This one team had a 6'6" center who easily controlled the tip in every game. This team finally lost out in the tournament. Since each game in this tournament was played with or without the center jump, depending upon the mutual agreement of the players before each game, it was interesting to note that in every game except the one noted above the players rushed up to the official before each game and eagerly asked to play the game without the center jump. This is rather significant in view of the fact that in this tournament were teams from the ninety pounds class to the unlimited.

One junior college coach reported that the town team in his community adopted the rule and felt it to be an improvement over the game as they played it when they were in school. He also reported that the high-school players in his community were quite envious because they were not using the new rule. Gym class and playground games have been conducted for years without the use of the center jump.

5. The officials associations on the Pacific coast are all strongly in favor of the new rule. There is a general feeling of relief on the part of the officials to think that they do not have to bother with the center jump. They are glad not to have to handle the ball so much and parade back to the center after each goal. This sentiment is best expressed by those officials who worked in the P.A.A. tournament on the coast. The center jump was used in all games in this tournament because the A.A.U. would also use the center jump in its games at Denver. After working all season without the center jump, they were decidedly against going back to it again. Even the teams listed to play with the tip asked to play without it. The mid-western officials who worked in the games between Stanford University and her opponents where the center jump was not used for at least part of the time expressed themselves as strongly in favor of the new rule with one exception. The exception was Mr. E.C. Quigley, who has steadfastly maintained that there is no need for any rule changes. Here is what these officials say in part:

Mr. Nick Kearns: "Having officiated in over 2,000 games with the jump ball at center and upon experimenting (Mr. Kearns worked the Michigan State-Stanford games in which the center jump was not used, says: "There is no doubt in my mind; the center jump is through as far as basketball is concerned. The games I worked this past season in the Middle West for Stanford proved that elimination of the center jump was vastly in favor with the crowds. The audiences everywhere I officiated were almost unanimous in their votes for this elimination. Without the center jump the game was faster and constantly on the move. This greatly delighted the crowds of people. And don't forget this elimination does away with a great amount of fierce body contact brought into the play to catch the ball at the center jump."

Louis A. House of Kansas City, Missouri, who officiated in the Stanford-White Eagle Oilers game in Kansas City where one half of the game was played without the center jump, says: "I liked very much the play without the center jump. I really believe it a step in the right direction. Have heard much favorable comment on the play."

6. All except three coaches who reported were heartily in favor of the elimination of the center jump. It is interesting to note that two of these gave as their reasons the fact that for the first time they have a tall center who can easily control the tip in their conference and therefore they desire to profit by whatever advantage they may gain thereby.

One junior-college coach commented to the effect that the elimination of the center jump had proved so satisfactory to everyone concerned that he doubted very much whether his conference would use the center jump even though it were not eliminated in the national rules.

Coach Ben F. Van Alstyne of Michigan State commented as follows: "You may quote me as saying that after trying it out we are in favor of not retaining the jump. A majority of the fans also liked this change."

Coach Bill Chandler, after the Marquette-Stanford game, said: "About the center jump, I am quite enthusiastic about eliminating it. Since our game I am more convinced that this change should be included in the National Rules."

Coach George Edwards of Missouri wrote that, as a result of the preliminary announcement of this experiment which appeared in our bulletin No. 2, several games were played under this plan with results that were highly complimentary.

Coach W.H. Browne of the University of Nebraska wrote: "I made a special effort to ascertain what different individuals and groups thought of the change and found the sentiment about equally divided. None strongly opposed the change, while many were ready to accept the change as an improvement to the game. The ones not ready to accept this innovation desired to see more contests of this nature before making a definite decision."

Dr. F.C. Allen, after watching the Nebraska-Stanford game (he had previously seen the Stanford-White Eagle Oilers game), commented that he was beginning to like the idea of no center jump. His one criticism was that the officials should not handle the ball after a goal was made in order to make possible a quick counter attack.

L.W. St. John of Ohio State, after reviewing the bulletin on the experiment, wrote: "Ohio State played an opening game about three years ago under similar rules and liked the plan very much. I am hopeful that the National Basketball Rules Committee may see fit to adopt this modification for the coming year."

The coaches of the Northern Division of the Pacific Coast Conference were just lukewarm on the modification rule. Their opinions were divided and the group as a whole voted to neither approve or oppose the change. The experiment was not tried in the North.

7. The question was asked, Does the elimination of the center jump entail too much additional strain upon the players? The three reports which voted against the center jump throughout said yes, while all others said no. The evidence is all subjective of course, but the testimony of the players themselves is significant. In the play-off for the P.C.C. championship, which was won by U. S. C., the center jump was used in all three games because the northern division of the conference had used the center jump all season. U.S.C., the southern division champion, had played all season without the center jump, consequently they were in fairly good position to judge the effects of the two methods of play upon themselves. It may be that they were so much in favor of the elimination of the center jump that their opinions were prejudiced, but these were their conclusions: Guttero, the U.S.C. center, was outspoken in his belief that he was much more fatigued by the use of the center jump. He felt that the continuous jumping took so much energy that he could not play nearly as good a game otherwise. He controlled the tip throughout the series. The other players were not sure that they noticed any difference. Their only comment was that they took several bad spills in crashing for the ball which slowed them up for a time and may have hindered their game somewhat. There was only one high-school coach who reported that he felt the game without the tip was more strenuous. From all appearances the game is so much faster and more continuous without the tip that one naturally concludes that it is more strenuous on the players. To offset such a possibility, it was suggested by several that the intermission between halves be extended to fifteen minutes and that between quarters to two minutes. These suggestions seem to have merit for a number of reasons. Experiments on fatigue under the two methods of play will be conducted at Stanford during the spring quarter.

8. Was there too much of a sameness of play as a result of the elimination of the center jump? There were just four answers in the affirmative to this. All but three thought that the increased playing time and activity offset any criticism of this kind that might be made. Really the contrast after one has seen a number of games without the tip is decidedly in favor of the game without the center jump. The game with the center jump is marked with so much delay that one becomes impatient for action. This was the typical reaction of the spectators.

VOICE OUR CRITICISM LATER

Your editor has received several letters from prominent men in which severe criticism of the new three second rule is expressed. One such letter was printed in the last Bulletin. Swayed by the belief additional comment along this line serves no good purpose the policy of printing these complaints is being discontinued for the present.

It will be recalled that similar criticism was hurled at the center court line and the ten second rule when they were adopted. Play under those provisions, however, has been so satisfactory that almost all coaches and players now agree that the changes were all right. It may be that history will repeat itself in this respect and that a year of competition with the lane and circle restrictions will find most of us heartily favoring it. So far this season there are few reports indicating any great difficulty in administration of the new three second provisions. Also, contrary to predictions, large scores are much more common than previously.

A few conferences have voted to ignore the change,- a procedure which certainly will lead to isolation for the vast majority of teams will follow the rules. Those opposed to the new rule will find greater influence for their opinions if they give the change a fair trial during the season and submit proven facts next spring to show that the whole thing has been a mistake.

ADD TO YOUR ACTIVE MEMBER LIST

In the membership directory printed in the last issue of the Bulletin the name of Frank N. Wolf, Director of Athletics, Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa., was omitted unintentionally. Please hunt up your copy and write in his name.

DISCOURAGE "PRO" VS AMATEUR COMPETITION

One item of business discussed at the annual convention of this Association at Chicago last spring considered the attitude of the group toward the relationship of school, amateur, semi-pro, and professional basketball players. An extract from the minutes of the meeting covering this topic is printed:

SECRETARY EDWARDS: Mr. Bingham, executive secretary of the A.A.U., is not here at this time, but wishes our opinion in regard to the practice of scheduling games between semi-pro or pro teams and school or college teams. He points out that a school or amateur player who participates with or against semi-pro or pro players endangers his immediate as well as his future eligibility. To obtain the opinion of this group a motion would be in order.

DR. ALLEN: In view of the fact that basketball will be incorporated in the Olympics, and in view of the fact that it might endanger the eligibility of school or amateur players who play with or against professional teams; I so move you that college coaches go on record as discouraging any participation with professional teams.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kahler, voted upon, and carried without a dissenting vote.

Along this line The Amateur Athlete, official publication of the A. A. U., says editorially:

"Determined efforts are being made on all fronts to keep the professional and amateur basketball teams apart and to eliminate from the amateur ranks those teams which insist upon traveling from one end of the country to the other over long periods in defiance of the A. A. U. rule which limits them to three weeks of traveling away from home."

The same publication also states that the American Olympic Basketball Committee has ruled that no team will be permitted to play in the Olympic tryouts under the trade name of the concern with which the players are employed.

WILL TEST A CENTER JUMP MODIFICATION

Five of the schools in the Big Six conference have agreed on two modifications of the official jumping rules to be tried as an experiment in the championship games they play with each other this winter. The changes are:

1. A 12-foot circle is to be drawn around the center circle and will serve as a restraining circle for non jumpers under the same regulations in force for jump balls at the free throw line.
2. "Floor" jumps are eliminated. Any jump following a held ball, or for any other reason, will be made at the nearest of the three circles.

The five schools involved in this modification are Nebraska, Kansas, Kansas State, Iowa State, and Missouri. Oklahoma, the sixth member of the conference, was not represented at the meeting when the changes were adopted and will not be required to enter the test. A set of records covering the situations developed by these modifications will be compared with similar situations found in games played under official rules. Theoretically, the changes are expected to reduce the crowding and fouling at center jumps; to give the shorter player a better chance to recover tips; to reduce the number of held balls; and to eliminate a few out-of-bounds balls resulting from tips made in the corners. A report of the findings will be submitted to the Association at its annual convention.

TAPPING THE PARTY LINE

A. A. Schabinger, past president of this Association, and for many years director of athletics and head coach of basketball at Creighton University in Omaha, is now working for the National Olympic Committee in the organization of elimination basketball tournaments to select the representatives of the United States in this sport for the 1936 games in Berlin. His address is 654 North 57th St., Omaha, Neb.

E. S. Hickey, an alumnus of Creighton and formerly the head coach of football, has taken over the basketball instruction in place of Mr. Schabinger.

DePaul University of Chicago has enjoyed phenomenal success in basketball under the coaching of J. D. Kelly with a record of 34 victories in the last 35 starts. Purdue recently broke the string.

Coach George Keogan also has made a fine record in coaching the basketball teams at Notre Dame University during the last 12 years winning 189 games and losing 63 for a percentage of .750. Twenty-five games, some of which are doubleheaders, are on this season's schedule. With five of these already won the team has scored more than 50 points per game.

Marsh Diebold recently pitted his 1936 team against the men of his 1933 aggregation, - a bunch which was ever-victorious. Four of the alumni five are now coaching the game in Minnesota high schools and several of them brought some of their players to see if their coaches could practice their own teaching. Publicity reports gave the result as a 37 to 37 tie. Figure that out.

The Mid-West Conference composed of Beloit, Carleton, Coe, Cornell, Knox, Lawrence, Monmouth, and Ripon has returned to the round robin system of schedule after experimentation with a more loose type which resulted in unsatisfactory arrangements for some of the teams. Wealth of returning material gives a pre-season edge to Carleton, Coe and Cornell colleges. Beloit and Lawrence report that their squads will be composed almost entirely of new players.

Did you ever hear of a Basketball Archer? It is a funnel-like contraption which is attached to the top of the basket and claims to develop the proper arch among shooters whether long or short shots are tried.

Pooling of patent rights has resulted in a campaign among manufacturers for the sale of laceless basketballs. The product has been on the market for several years but as only one maker produced it the others found many defects in such a ball. All such criticism now is retracted since several of the leading manufacturers can use the process. It would be interesting to know how many members of this Association have adopted the Laceless ball and the reasons for their abandonment of the laced type.

For nearly a decade Victor "Vic" Hurt has been coaching basketball and other sports at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla. Last spring he resigned to help his old friend, Mattie Bell. in his new job of coaching the football team of the Southern Methodist University at Dallas Texas. In their first year the two have watched the team take the Southwest Conference championship in such a spectacular and convincing manner that an invitation to meet Stanford in the Rose Bowl game was forthcoming.

ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL
400 CENTRAL AVENUE
ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

March 17, 1936

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Director, Intercollegiate Athletics
University of Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your one sentence alone would practically compensate me for all the time spent and the trouble taken to get together the data and then write and mimeograph it. The sentence of yours which I so highly appreciate is as follows:

"I have read your arguments carefully and I must say that I heartily agree with many of them." The full significance of "carefully" and "heartily agree" I truly realize, for I am fully cognizant of the fact that you are really an international figure in basketball.

Words alone will express inadequately only a portion of my appreciation for your kind and encouraging words. I now realize why they call you an inspirational coach.

Sincerely yours,

H. Carl Sailer

Coach of Basketball

HCS:AD
Inclosure

P. S. As a profound researcher you might be interested in the enclosed sheet which gives further data on the time now lost at center.

Time Lost at Center

Game	Score	Field Goals	Av. Time Lost Per Center Jump	Total Time Lost During Return to Center
1	27-23	20	12 Sec. (Approx)	4 Min (Approx)
2	42-21	26	9.6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	29-13	18	11.1	3.3
4	39-38	34	11.4	6.1
5	47-33	30	10.8	5.4

Average

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ Seconds

5- Minutes

After Successful Foul

Informal Timing

To bring ball from far basket up the court and over the mid-court mark:

3-4 seconds

(sometimes as high as 8 seconds)

A powerful case is made in the following pages against the rules which awards the ball out of bounds to the opponents after a successful foul goal. The arguments against it are listed, the reactions of players, fans, and officials are given, together with the opinions of outstanding coaches.

After the destructive criticism, comes the constructive. A remedy, simple and direct, is suggested. And the results of an experimental game in which the proposed remedy was used, are cited. Have a look, please.

Criticism of Present Rule which Awards Ball to Opponent

After Completion of Successful Foul Goal

A. Arguments against

1. "Punishes" the "innocent victim"

The rule really says to a player, "If you are good enough a shooter to make the foul shot, we shall award the ball to your opponents. If you are a poor shooter and miss the basket, why we shall let you 'fight it out' for possession of the ball." Thus a team whose player makes a foul goal is punished by the fact that the ball is given to the opposing team. The offensive team, innocent of any offense, is doubly a victim; it has been fouled and then loses the ball if it makes the goal. The advantage given by the foul goal is partially, if not more than completely, offset by the fact that the opponents now have the ball and get a chance to score two points.

2. "Rewards" the "guilty offender"

The team which fouled gets the ball. The offender does not deserve the ball. Why should he get the ball? Is it a reward for fouling?

3. For no good reason the offense loses possession of the ball.

The offense had the ball and should retain it or be given at

least an equal chance to retrieve it.

4. Insufficient rest for players.

The players now get less rest than ever. The rule relieves the center of a jump but makes the both teams (all ten men) run that much more, including the "relieved" center. In other sports, football, lacrosse, baseball, even ice hockey, the players get short rest periods between plays. But not so in basketball; the players do not get enough rest since all ten men must be first on the offense and then on the defense all the time. Play is too continuous.

5. Arbitrary rule.

The rule is altogether arbitrary. To it there is no rhyme or reason. There is no real reason for handing the ball to the opposite team. In the center jump there is more sense, for then the opponents have at least a chance to get possession of the ball. Under the new out-of-bounds rule after a successful foul there is absolutely no chance; it is arbitrary and final, presenting no possibility to the offended team. The opponents get the ball and that is all there is to it. At the center jump, even in a giant-dwarf situation, there is no such injustice, for there is at least a chance to "steal the tip-off."

6. The rule attempts to foist a "fast game" style upon coaches (some) who do not want it and upon players who may not be suited for it.

The rule fosters reckless fast passing. This type of fast-but-not-sure game should not be foisted upon a coach who wants to have his team play "slow." The type of player material available must be considered in developing a team's style of play. If "fast" playing is desirable, the coaches (if they so desire) can train their men in that style. The rule should not legislate as to the

-4-

style of ball to be played.

7. Necessitates two officials

The rule will make necessary two officials, for one man will be unable to "keep up with the play." The pace is too fast. Why an official would have to be in better shape than any and all the players! The officials will too frequently be in "back of the plays," where they cannot see, instead of "in the front," where they could see. The age of good officials will militate against their being able to handle these new "race-horse" games. Then, too, there is the item of the expense of two officials.

8. Considers only spectator's viewpoint; fails to take into account player's, coach's, game's, school's, and health's viewpoints. Too much consideration has been given the spectator's viewpoint (speed up the spectacle and score, score!) while the viewpoints of player, coach, the good of the game, the official, the school, and health have been neglected.

9. Rules are not supposed to equalize size.

Doing away with the center jump tends to equalize the size of teams, but it is doubtful if rules should be made which will nullify size or equalize it (except when size alone operates to overshadow the whole game, which is not so in this case.) The rules are to guarantee playing conditions which are fair to all players. If the big man must have his size "cut down," then the little man must have his speed cut down.

10. Game not really speeded up; defense is, but not the offense.

The offense moves up to mid-court (rapidly or slowly, according to the team, the coach, the condition of the players, the time of the game, the score, etc.) the offense moves up and then "stalls" due to the fact that all five of the defense are in position to resist the

the offense. The many men in motion give the impression of a speed-
ed-up game, but most of the men and most of the speed is the defense.
The defense is all set for the offense.

11. Time and Energy are wasted bringing the ball up to scoring
area.

To bring the ball up from the farthest end of the court to
within scoring range requires at least several seconds. That time
is really wasted but could be saved by a change in rules.* Most
certainly the energy is wasted. Great back-court activity is wasted
energy. That energy used in useless running should be conserved so
that it could be put to better use when the ball actually reaches the
scoring area. The punch should be saved for front-court activity.

12. Playing is now so strenuous that speeding it up is inadvisable.

With its quick starts and stops and its continuous running and
jumping basketball is a most strenuous game. It has no rival in the
demands it makes upon a whole team all the time. Monk Meyer, Don
Elser, and Red Hagan, according to Richards Vidmer, think basketball
is tougher, physically and mentally, than football and requires better
condition. More speed is inadvisable.

13. Basketball should not be made into a shuttle race.

Racing back and forth from one end of the court to the other at
break neck speed is not necessarily good basketball. The westerners
call head-long playing "fire-department" basketball.

14. Out-of-bounds is not as fair or just as the center jump.

No fairer, more just, way of putting the ball in play than the
center jump has as yet been devised. A big center-man may "get the
jump" but after that he may be in his own way and also that of his
team-mates. Then, too, speed, guile, smartness, etc. can still be

*See Suggested Remedy

matched against size and awkwardness.

15. Especially unfair at the end of a game when the score is close.

During close games, especially at the very end of the playing period, the rule works a special hardship on the team which is behind a few points and desperately is trying to tie the score. If fouled, all the losing team can at best do is to score one point and then it loses possession of the ball. They cannot again gain possession of the ball until the other team make a mistake or attempts a shot. Even in the latter case the ball may be retired by the winning team. Thus the losing team, if fouled, has little or no chance to tie the score. The rule tends at the end of a close game to put a premium on fouling by the winning team and on fouling by the losing team.

Summary Statement:

In view of the reasons just advanced, the rule is a poor means to an end which cannot be completely justified. More rational results ought to be attained. Better means can be devised.

B. Opinions of Coaches, Players and those interested in the Game.

Numerous players, fans, officials, and coaches, with whom I have discussed the rule, have agreed that it lacks sound reasoning and that what it proposes to accomplish can be better done by a more rational means.

While the West Coast is in favor of eliminating all jumps at center, I have never read nor heard any convincing argument for doing so.

Coaches in the East and Mid-west are in favor of retaining the center jump. They do not want it eliminated and deplore the results of the new out-of-bounds rule.

