

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.