

"Phog" Allen:

"Commenting on the contention that elimination of the center jump speeds up the game, Allen said he was afraid there would be too much speed, both for the players and for the spectators. He said the plan would mean faster play at the expense of skill in ball handling."

"I see no need of abolishing the center jump unless all jumps are abolished and some other equitable way found for putting the ball into play."

Hugh McDermott (University of Oklahoma):

"I am in favor of the center jump and feel it gives an uncertainty and suspense that is part of the game. If there is too much crowding around the center circle, there always are two officials to call it. I can see little good in surrendering the ball to the opponents without an equal opportunity to procure it by hard work and ability. Especially is this true in the closing minutes of a close game where possession of the ball is of greatest importance."

George Edwards (University of Missouri):

"Absence of the center jump would speed up the game, but might make it too strenuous," he says, "Five-man combinations could not play an entire game because the increase of actual playing time from four to eight minutes would put too great a burden on the players. That pause after a basket with the center jump, may be good for the crowd, too."

Craig Ruby (University of Illinois)

"I don't favor eliminating one important and traditional phase of basketball, the center jump and play after the tipoff. To me this is the same as suggesting the elimination of base-stealing in baseball. There is more to the center jump and play than merely having two tall men leap."

Lewis P. Andreas (Syracuse University)

"The center jump is one of basketball's most attractive features. It always has been associated with the game and, as yet, no good argument has been advanced against it. While some coaches claim injuries result, I have yet to see an injury caused by a center jump in my twelve years of coaching."

The claim that the center jump causes fouls is certainly not true in Eastern basketball. Another argument advanced claims it is unfair for a tall man to control the tip. Most teams possess a tall center but it is unusual to have him control the tip completely. A smart defensive team will steal the tip-off repeatedly."