

its report at the annual basketball clinic held at the University of Missouri in December. In addition to aiding the State Board of control in conduct of high school sports, the association plans to send delegates to the national conventions. Illinois and Texas now have state high school coaches' associations which are functioning effectively.

HELP TO MAKE THESE BULLETINS MORE VALUABLE

During the next six weeks, there will be many rules interpretation meetings and basketball coaching clinics at which discussions and demonstrations of great importance to all coaches will take place. Directors of such meetings will materially aid advancement of the sport by sending to the secretary detailed reports. These will be included in future bulletins. You owe it to the sport to distribute your findings and to give others a chance to aid in the solution of your problems. This is a national game and difficulties in one section are present almost everywhere.

A PROBLEM WHICH NEEDS A SOLUTION

Discussions at the last convention of this organization indicated that the most unpleasant situation in modern basketball revolves around the use of compact, deeply retreated defenses.

Most of the tests at the meeting aimed at this feature but none seemed sound enough to be adopted without further experiments. Unable to agree upon any legislation that would appear effective, the convention voted to submit a recommendation to the Rules Committee that a request be printed in the Guide asking coaches to attempt a cure for this evil without recourse to rule changes or additions. Read carefully the following statement sent to the Editor of the Rules regarding this condition. It is a topic of vital and timely interest.

"This Association feels that the greatest threat to basketball lies in the use of a compact type of defense which withdraws into a territory within fifteen or twenty feet of the basket and there awaits the charge of the team with the ball. The congestion which results when attempts are made to score causes most of the present difficulties.

We have discussed and tried several plans to force more aggressive defensive play, but have no proposed legislation which is satisfactory.

We recommend that the first step to eradicate this evil should be a section in the Guide devoted to the dangers of this type of defense to the welfare of the game. We would like to point out that deeply retreated and compact defenses cause most of the fouls; slow the action of the game; reduce scores; minimize skill; and result in many uninteresting and unsatisfactory contests. These features tend to destroy the popularity of basketball among both players and spectators and make the games harder to administer.