

LL HENRY SAYS:



It must be quite painful for a fine old gentleman like Dr. James Naismith to sire a game like basketball and then be forced to sit back and watch the younger generation of coaches spoil his offspring until he has difficulty in recognizing it.

PARENTAL PANGS

I see that the good doctor, showing up in New York the other day to watch the game he fathered being played before a crowd of 18,000 people, demonstrated that his 77 years have not dimmed his interest in basketball. He took direct issue with the rules committee on three points:

1.—The new rules and their interpretation handicap the offensive team.

2.—The officials don't enforce or interpret the rules properly, and

3.—Elimination of the center jump cut out one of the most interesting features of the game.

I'm afraid that I'll have to string with the doctor on No. 3 and confess that I don't know enough about the other two points to debate them.

TOO MUCH TOOTING

My own experience with basketball has been this—as long as it was just a game it was a lot of fun to play and to watch. When the coaches began to apply too much thought to it and began "improving" it with a flock of new rules and new interpretations the trouble started and it soon developed into a whistling solo by the referee. Study the statistics on any close game and you'll see that the game is decided by the referee rather than by the players. The free throws more often than not are the deciding factor in the contest. I like to see the game decided by the players. Officials are too evident in all games nowadays.

OLYMPIC BASKETBALL

When the good doctor put up his peach baskets in the Springfield Y.M.C.A. gymnasium back in 1892 he had only 13 rules altogether. Now they have rules and interpretations and footnotes and explanations by the dozen. Not only that but the boys are all for more "improvements" in the game. I'll not soon forget the look on the good