

REPORT BY  
FRED MEDART MANUFACTURING CO.  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

\* \* FOREWORD \* \*

In October, 1938, we were approached by a local basketball enthusiast with the suggestion that a convex surface applied to the conventional 4' x 6' backboard would do much to eliminate waste areas, allow maximum shooting angles from the corners, permit maximum visibility for spectators, eliminate the mental hazard when attempting a shot from the side line directly opposite the edge of the flat backboard, and to open up the game by reducing the congestion in the immediate vicinity of the backboard.

A brief but interested investigation of the above claims indicated merit in the suggestion and two sample backboards were constructed for test purposes.

Arrangements were made to install and demonstrate these two 4'x 6' square backboards with the convex surface, in the gymnasium of the High School in University City, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis.

Inasmuch as we had no previous acquaintance with any member of the Basketball Rules Committee, we selected from the Basketball Rules Book two members of the Committee, i.e., Mr. H. V. Porter, Secretary, and Dr. F. C. Allen, Chairman of the Research Committee, and to these two gentlemen we extended invitations to visit the demonstration on March 29, 1939, of the sample boards at the University City High School before approximately 50 coaches from St. Louis and surrounding suburbs.

Unfortunately, Mr. Porter advised that he was unable to make the trip but that Dr. Allen, who was in Chicago at that time, would return to Lawrence via St. Louis and join in the test.

Upon making the acquaintance of Dr. Allen we learned for the first time that your organization had devoted considerable thought and effort in an attempt to modernize the backboard and that our efforts in the same direction were opportune and welcome.

An invitation to exhibit the convex surface backboard before your annual meeting in New York City followed.

Arrangements were made with the downtown gymnasium of New York University to exhibit three boards as follows:

1. Standard 4' x 6' square board with convex surface.
2. Same as above but with the four corners rounded.
3. Small, fan shaped board with convex surface. This board was similar in general appearance to the backboard illustrated in the Summer edition of your Rules Book and as is now exhibited for your inspection at

**Continental Hotel**