

Cameron Advocates Convex Backboard

By JOHN MARTIN

The new-fangled ideas being proposed for basketball are just a lot of poppycot and should be treated as such in the opinion of Eddie Cameron, coach of Duke's Southern Conference leaders.

In a radio interview here Tuesday night (6:15) Cameron indicated he was willing to "let well enough alone" and keep on shooting for the hoops on a backboard.

'HOWEVER,' he added, "I would not object at all to a change to convex backboards. In fact, I'm in favor of them, and hope to see their introduction before many more seasons."

But Columbia Maloney's backboardless idea won't answer the cause for which it's intended, Cameron argued in a Sports News and Views pow-wow.

Most of the new suggestions are designed to minimize the superiority the tall player has over a man of ordinary height.

Backboardless basketball won't do it, but the convex boards will, Cameron explained.

"You see," he expeted, "it's the control of the rebound that has the boys stymied. As it is, with the straight boards, the tallest man has the big advantage. A curved bank would keep the ball in a more definite groove and smaller players would be better prepared to recover or capture it."

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--The Score Card--

A Day with the Hoosiers

BY JAMES S. KEARNS.

BRANCH M'CRACKEN of Indiana University was in our town with his Hoosier basketball team Saturday. Mr. McCracken, a former great cager with I. U. quintets of other years, is a large, peaceful young coach. Peaceful, that is, except at courtside when his team is in a close one.

Accompanying Branch were George Gardner, the Indiana publicist, and "Fergy"—Jessie Ferguson—who has been trainer of Indiana's athletes since the last Monday in February, 1913.

"And if you think I'm bad at a basketball game," allowed Coach McCracken, "you should see that Fergy. He packs up his kit and goes down to the dressing room about five minutes before the end of a game if the score is at all close."

"Yes," agreed Fergy, "and at the rate basketball is going now, I'm thinking of staying in the dressing room for the whole second half. It will get a man—that crazy game."

McCracken smiled a little grimly and nodded at Fergy's estimate of basketball. On the side one of his companions reported that in a game at Philadelphia Coach McCracken punched his hand through the seat of a folding chair in a moment of excitement. And that brought on a discussion of the nervous, pressure-laden breed of men in the basketball coaching profession—Piggy Lambert of Purdue who holds the world's basketball coaches' record for the broad jump from the bench to the middle of the floor; Tony Hinkle of Butler who suffers audibly for 40 minutes in each game, and George Keogan of Notre Dame who has mellowed some but who used to be one of the best hair-tearers in the business.

We asked McCracken what he thought about the present game of basketball, with special emphasis on the clamor that has arisen this winter to have the rules altered.

"It's all right the way it is," he said, "though possibly they might cut down the size of the backboards a little and round off the corners so that a shot which is completely wild wouldn't rebound for a possible tip-in. But generally it's a swell game, but tough on coaches."



BRANCH MC CRACKEN.

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