JABS

—By—

C. L. (POSS) PARSONS

Sports Editor

DENVER, COLO.
8-18-39

New Convex Bankboard

Basketball in 1941 may find the new streamlined convex bankboard being adopted by the rules committee. This new board is being experimented with all over the country at the suggestion of the rules committee and the Basketball Coaches association.

According to Forrest Cox, basketball coach at the University of Colorado, the new board has met with favor at various coaching schools. At Utah State, where Cox conducted the basketball instruction, only three mentors out of sixty attending the school didn't like the new board. In a basketball class at the C. U. summer school, seventeen out of eighteen had a preference for the new board over the flat board now in use after trying it out for themselves.

Coach Cox will keep one convex bankboard at C. U. for experimentation purposes of his varsity players during the coming school year.

How Board Is Made

The convexity of this new board is four inches and begins at the median plane of the board and curves outward to the sides of the board, which is three feet from the median plane. The original convex bankboard has retained the six-foot width dimension of playing surface and likewise the four-foot height dimension. The inventors have assumed a fourteen-foot radius of curvature to be ideal, as the angle of incident and reflection on this arc does not vary greatly from the conventional flat plane.

Since the latest change in the rules permits the extension of the end zone for an additional two feet, practically all the new schools laying out basketball courts are taking advantage of this new ruling. This allowable increase in the end zone increases the blind spots, or "coffin corners," which while allowing greater freedom of movement or play, insofar as the offense is concerned, does markedly change the defense, owing to the fact that the basket is now plainly set out so there is no metal hazard from the projecting straight side of the bankboard.

It is the thought of the inventors that this board will revolutionize the offensive play in the end zone. By increasing the scoring zone it must necessarily follow that the defense must spread out. resulting in more open and much faster play in the end zone.

Points in Favor

Following are some points in favor of the new convex bankboard:

For a straight shot to the goal the scoring zone is, figuratively, increased by twenty-seven square feet.

For a bank shot contacting the bank three inches from the edge, the scoring zone is increased 720 square feet.

The mental hazard of attempting a shot from the sideline, directly parallel to the bank, is eliminated, owing to the recession of the vertical edge of the bank, allowing unobstructed visibility of the goal.

The visibility to spectators is greatly increased beyond the end zone due to the recession of the vertical edge, thereby opening up large areas which heretofore had been obscure.

The convex shape of the bank results in a unit of much greater strength and rigidity, thereby causing rebounds to land a greater distance from the basket and opening up the congested regions around the basket.

Banking Board Well Received

The new "streamlined" basketball banking board, on exhibition at the Y. M. C. A., was favorably received by approximately fifty coaches, players and fans of the city and vicinity in a demonstration last night.

All who desired were given permission to experiment with the new board, which marks the first radical change in the banking board since its standardization over forty years ago.

J. M. Good, a member of the national rules committee who conducted the demonstration last night, predicts the new board will sweep the country within two years.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
9-39

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At Harvard University, a demonstration game was played before 1500 coaches and players and the regulation backboard was used on one end and on the other a board of the new proposed size and shape and with a convex surface. Despite the fact that the teams had not practiced with the convex surface, the percentage of successful shots was higher on the convex board. This is another indication of the great power of adaptation on the part of players. They seem to have an instinctive ability to quickly adjust themselves to any reasonable reaction of the ball, to different courts and different type backboards or baskets.

ILL. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE
JAN-FEB. 1940