

The report recommends the discontinuance of "the permission granted in the past to the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations to print the summer edition of the basketball rules." The chief objection appears to be that those who advertise in the book include the molded ball and the small backboard with the articles they advertise. Aside from the fact that it is rather presumptuous for this group to tell the National Federation what it can and can't do and to tell the manufacturers what they can and can't advertise, the statement might pass except for one small detail. The special summer edition of the rules has not been published for two years. It was published at that time at the request of the National Committee for summer coaching schools at a time when the almanac edition of the guide could not be ready until the Fall. It was sold for 13 1/4 cents per copy and out of the receipts a royalty was paid to the National Rules Committee and out of the profits (of which there were none), the High School group sent their own representatives to the annual meeting. That is "Big Business". Being a couple of years behind developments is sometimes a virtue.

### The Conclusion

As a cure for all the evils that have kept the game from development farther than first in popularity among the sports, the report would purge the committee by (a) finding from the N.C.A.A. "just how" they select their representatives, and (b) getting rid of those who have been members of the rules committee for several years, including the Canadians, and (c) taking a leaf from the book of the Football Rules Committee which operates more or less independently and will have none of this joint committee idea. The (a) ought to be easy and those who will cooperate can probably be found. In (b), it might be wholesome to go through the history of the committee during the period during which the game has developed. James Naismith was a member for many years. So was L. W. St. John, who expressed (1) the belief that the College Coaches could do a fine piece of work in research and the improving of the coaching profession -- and (2) the hope that the group would not make the mistake of attempting to duplicate rules activities which are already well supervised by a National Rules Committee which represents the millions who are interested in basketball for fun and for building school morale as well as those who make their entire living from the game. There was E. A. Metzdorf and George Hepbron and Ralph Morgan and Herb Reynolds and others who could be named and who were helping make basketball a great game while some of the present report makers were still in short pants. On the present committee, those who have been there for some length of time and who sat with some of these men are Oswald Tower, J. H. Crocker, Dr. John Brown, Jr., E. J. Hickox and Floyd Rowe. The writer has been elected by the 18,000 high schools through their regular state and national organizations for several short terms. The selection is by about the same obnoxious democratic method that is used in choosing a local dog-catcher or a basketball coach or the president of the United States. The report intimates that I am a "permanent" member -- a thing which I did not know -- but which God ought to know.

As a member of the Committee, I have seen the hundreds of school groups -- Coaches, Officials, Directors, Administrators, Players, Spectators -- originate and develop ideas for the game. -- A ball to fit the hands of high school and college players, the encouraging of the use of a larger court, the non-contact screening rule based on slow motion pictures, the elimination of most of the center jumps, the use of alley marks on the free throw lane and of restraining circles for the jumps, making it possible to use a 4-foot end area, the molded type basketball which is now a life saver for those who must use one ball for many games, the small backboard and a recodification of the rules into a form more or less suited to efficient study in the many rules clinics and which is a code instead of merely a collection of rules.

Mister Scratch is ready to stand on that record. He will now return to his usual routine of kicking a few helpless dogs, sneaking pennies from blind men and burning down a few orphan asylums.