

Of course, I have heard tales of coaches who asked the other team what color shirts they were going to wear and then proceeded to dress up their own team in exactly the same kind so as to make it more confusing for everyone. I have seen teams come into New York wearing off-color yellow jerseys having three-inch high numbers of the same material and the same shade as the jerseys, so that nobody in the place, even the other players or officials, could tell who the devil the players were. Of course, that is specifically forbidden by the rules, but nobody pays any attention to it. There are a lot of other minor gripes that a sports writer runs into in the course of his career, but the biggest gripe that I have come to a head this year as a result of this wave or deluge of suggestions for changing the complexion and the fundamental structure of this game of basketball.

As I said to you earlier, I cannot see anything wrong with this game of basketball. From the point of view of entertainment, from the point of view of fun or sport or competition, it will outdraw every sport in the land except soft ball as regards spectators and competitors, and when it will draw crowds into places of such proportions that the basketball coach can not get a little of his salary instead of something that he can squeeze along on and has to work out with another job, I think that if I may be so bold I should like to make the suggestion that the Coaches' Association instruct its members to declare a moratorium on ideas.

There is nothing that arouses more ridicule, I think, for your profession than for some coach to go to bed at night, suffer from a terrific nightmare, wake up in the morning and accidentally mix a little powdered opium with his bicarbonate of soda, and then sit down and write out a new plan for saving basketball and call up the nearest newspaper man whom he knows and get it into print. Newspapers, my own included, I think have been over-ridden this year with these cockeyed and utterly whacky suggestions for changing basketball. I do not know any way that you can break down public confidence in yourselves and your game any faster than that, constantly reiterating in the newspapers week after week that the game needs changing.

Some fellows say that the game is too fast. Well, who coaches the boys to play fast? They do not have to play fast. They are taught to play that way. You people teach them to play that way. I see some teams come out and play so slowly you could go out and talk to all your pals and come back and not have missed a basket. I wish to state right now that that doesn't apply to Rhode Island State.

I think that the Program Committee was a little remiss in not having besides Mr. Holman's talk on man for man defense and Dr. Allen's talk on zone defense and anterior-posterior positions one on the type of defense employed at Rhode Island State. I think that Keaney should really tell us whether or not it is true that he tells his boys that if they hold the opposition at 80 points they are in.

I want to leave this thought with you, that I think that you will find all over the country now the situation that a greater number of men are covering basketball than ever before and a larger percentage of those men are doing an intelligent job of covering the sport. There are places where the technique involved is not as good as it is in other sections and that is a situation which you yourselves can help and profit by it. Your game has reached proportions now where no one will deny that it is our greatest winter sport, and you can help it along in the weak places by making the newspaper men there your confidants, making them your friends and helping yourselves to educate those who do not have a good basketball background. We try to do that in New York and I know that they have done the same thing around San Francisco through the medium of local writers' associations, and you can do the same thing in your own particular sections.