

## LET'S IMPROVE THE BOX SCORE!

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The average reader would enjoy accounts of basketball games far more if the box scores and summaries were more complete than they are today. The current style as generally presented by newspapers everywhere only includes the line-ups and individual scoring feats, thereby leaving the rest of the game to the imagination of the reader.

On the other hand, baseball, for instance, is far more complete. It presents a true picture of the offensive as well as the defensive side of the game. The very fact that many a newspaper enlarges the present-day basketball box score whenever there is an important tournament or championship game indicates very strongly that the current practice is sadly in need of revision.

May I employ the records of one team in a game recently played, showing how the suggested box score is especially superior to our current system? They follow:

Suggested box score:								Current box score:				
		Min.	PF	A	FG	Fouls	Pts.			FG	T	PTS
Smith	lf	32	4	1	4	6-5	13	Smith	lf	4	5	13
Jones		8	0	0	2	6-0	4	Jones		2	0	14
Black	rf	40	2	5	8	2-2	18	Black	rf	8	2	18
Churchill	c	13	3	0	0	4-0	0	Churchill	c	0	0	0
Murphy		27	1	1	4	5-1	9	Murphy		4	1	9
Murray	lg	39	3	2	2	2-0	4	Murray	lg	2	0	4
Coleman		1	2	0	0	0-0	0	Coleman		0	0	0
Nichols	rg	25	4	8	3	4-4	10	Nichols	rg	3	4	10
Towers		15	0	0	0	0-0	0	Towers		0	0	0
Total		200	19	17	23	29-12	58	Total		23	12	58

Undoubtedly, the box score on the left provides much more information and permits the reader to comprehend the facts more easily, without the necessity of demanding the reporter to resort to superlatives and criticism to paint a true picture of the game.

Some might explain that the box score on the left would be too difficult too maintain. This isn't so, since, seldom as it seems, it shows that it can be done if one sets out to keep it. Some newspapers not only maintain the record of the actual number of minutes one plays, the personal fouls drawn, assists, etc., but also the number of shots individually taken from the floor by both teams. This gives even a more vivid picture, although some folks might be discouraged by that, easy as it is for some of us!

How can the box score, as illustrated in this article, be made universal --- one might ask. That would be very easy, if the coaches, at next spring's convention, ruled that the box score be enlarged. Colleges easily could prevail upon their local newspapers to carry such additional information, since it will create greater reader-interest.

To the average coach, the box score, as suggested here, will be of immense help, because it will tend to minimize selfishness and build up greater team-work. What glory awaits a hard-working player, if, after all is said and done, three ciphers stand out along side of his name and the fellows he has fed all evening get all the points and attention from sports writers and spectators alike? However,

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