

NEW TYPE BACKBOARDS TESTED

During the New York meeting of the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada, three new types of backboards were exhibited and tested in the gymnasium of New York University before members of this Committee.

One of the boards was of the conventional 4' x 6' size with a convex surface; the second board was substantially the same but with the four corners rounded; and the third board, which was built on specifications drafted by the research body of that Committee, differed considerably from the backboards in use today.

As illustrated, this 'fan shaped' board, which also has a convex surface, is approximately 48" wide x 27" high and has a curved 24" radius top. The latter board received considerable attention. Use of the convex surface increases the scoring zone for a straight shot to the goal by 27 sq. ft. and will undoubtedly overcome many of the complaints that have resulted from the optional use of the 4' end line in relation to the many offensive movements that have been developed in the past several years.

Likewise, the use of a rounded surface reduces considerably the mental hazard of a player in direct line with the edge of the conventional flat surface board. Increased visibility for spectators is likewise a favorable factor of this backboard. It is thought that much of the space in the conventional 4' x 6' backboard is seldom used and could be eliminated, by the possible adoption of a board approximately of the size mentioned above.

The clean cut, streamlined appearance of this new thought in backboards, received considerable favorable comment, and further investigation of the smaller and convex surface idea in backboards is being made by the research body of the National Basketball Committee.