

TRANSITION TO THE NEW TYPE BACKBOARD

By H. V. Porter, Secretary
National Basketball Committee

When the National Basketball Committee legalized the new fan shaped backboard last spring, there was much speculation as to how the action would be received. Developments during the current season should be gratifying to those who were advocates of the new board. The transition has been more rapid than even its more ardent supporters had any right to expect. It has been more rapid in some sections of the country than in others. This is to be expected. Probably the greatest number of the new type boards have been installed in the central states although there is a healthy sprinkling of them on the Pacific Coast and in the Atlantic states. Not so many have been reported in the southern states.

The transition has been especially rapid among the high schools. This is partly because there have been so many new high school gymnasiums erected during the last year or two and nearly all of the schoolmen who are getting new buildings anticipated the possible change and installed the new type backboard or arranged with the contractor to make the transition if and when the new ones should be legalized. The action of last spring found these schools in an excellent position to take advantage of the smaller type board. Another reason why the transition has been rapid in high schools is that they have been experimenting during the last several years to determine the waste space on the larger board and to find the advantages which are present when this waste space is eliminated.

The states of Kansas, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois have announced that the new type backboards will be used in all state sponsored tournaments -- wherever the local manager finds it convenient to install them. In Wyoming, Kansas and Illinois, announcement has already been made that all final tournaments will be played on courts equipped with the new backboard. It is significant that in the case of Illinois, the tournament committee decided in September that the state finals would be played with the old type board but between September and December the transition to the new type among the one thousand member high schools was so rapid that the state committee rescinded its former action and announced that the new type board would be used in the finals.

The reports indicate that the new boards are very popular with players, coaches and spectators. They improve the appearance of the court and statistics show that there is a great tendency for players to make greater use of the area behind the plane of the backboard. Plays tend to come in from all directions. Actual charts have been made to indicate the number of times a try for goal or pass from or to the end area are such that the larger board would have been an actual or mental hazard. Enough of these figures have been collected to indicate that many of the claimed advantages are actually present and teams are learning to profit by the greater freedom of movement which is permitted, when the lower and outside edges of the old board are not present. There is every reason to believe that this is one of the most popular changes that has been made for a number of years. It is safe to predict that approximately half of the courts will be equipped with the new type board before the end of next season.

NET TEAM BLANKED.--Minneapolis, January 31 (AP)--Mt. Olivet Lutheran's basketball team lost the game last night but set a record around these parts by failing to score a point. Knox Presbyterian won, 58-0.