

## ONE MAN'S OPINION

Hank Crisp, Veteran Tutor, Avers South Backward in Basketball  
Needs Better Shows, Larger Gyms

By Raymond Johnson

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, Jan. 31, 1941.--Hank Crisp, who has been turning out first rate cage teams at the University of Alabama for 17 years, readily admits basketball in the South is far behind that of the East.

He thinks something should be done to revive the spectator interest, but he doesn't know the solution for Dixie's problems.

Basketball in this section, with few exceptions, is tossed in during the winter to give the athletes and student body a little entertainment. In most of the Southeastern Conference schools, the basketball coach is one who has other duties which are more important and on which their jobs depend. The cage sport is a losing proposition at all but two of the Big 12 members.

"The East has double headers and they have proven highly popular," Crisp said yesterday afternoon as he awaited time for last night's game with Vanderbilt. "They give the fans a good evening's entertainment. It takes only a few minutes over an hour for a game, and when a person turns out for a game, it kills the evening for him.

"In football, you have the half-time festivities and the bands playing. But basketball doesn't have anything.

"Up at Maryland and Virginia, they put on boxing matches and then their basketball games. This gives the spectators a pretty full evening's entertainment.

"Some of the Southeastern schools have tried freshmen games with the varsity contests, but they didn't draw. Quite often season ticket holders wouldn't even come out. They didn't care for the freshman games.

## STAGE TWIN-BILLS.

"I've thought of having, say Alabama, Auburn, Kentucky and Vanderbilt, meet in the Birmingham auditorium in a double header. That might be the solution, but the auditorium will hold only about 5,000 for basketball. The expenses of putting it on probably would be too great.

"If there were auditoriums which would hold around 10,000 spectators, then we could have double headers in the South. That would give us enough revenue to come out a little ahead. As it is now, we are lucky if we take in enough to pay the officials. I feel confident double-headers in the South would revive spectator interest and bring basketball back to the place it once occupied in this section.

Vanderbilt basketball has drawn practically nothing the past few years. The average crowd is only a little over 1,000 and 90 per cent of those are students.

## VOLS. LEADING FOE.

Tennessee is the best team Alabama has faced this winter, Crisp believes.

Tennessee, Kentucky and Florida appear to be the better teams, the Alabama tutor says. He looks for Mississippi State to be a threat by tournament time. Tulane is a little better than usual and Georgia is not as good. Auburn must not be overlooked, warns Hank.

As for his own team, he doesn't talk much about it, except to say that his first six men on last year's squad are all gone.

## BEST QUINT IN 1930.

In his 17 years at the Capstone, Crisp has turned out many crack teams, two of which captured conference crowns. Two others were runnersup.