

## BASKETBALL "BILL OF RIGHTS" VIOLATED

BY

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America's modern game of basketball, producing an abundance of action, speed and scoring, serves as a lasting and monumental tribute to Dr. James Naismith, its originator. Fortunately the game developed to its greatest peak within the life span of this brilliant educator. In keeping with its present development and national popularity I should not advocate any drastic changes in our playing rules. With one exception the rules are well balanced between offense and defense. However, basketball is the only competitive game today that penalizes an offensive effort. The present loss of the ball following a successful play is emphatically opposed to the very purpose of the game. The game was founded on the principal "...TO SCORE AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE BY TOSSING THE BALL INTO ITS OWN BASKET, AND AT THE SAME TIME PREVENT THE OTHER TEAM FROM SECURING POSSESSION OF THE BALL OR SCORING." Present day basketball violates the "bill of rights" of basketball. A continuation of the game with loss of the ball on scoring efforts is communistic in the realms of an American sport. If we are to have a new game let's call it "Raceball" but for one, in the interest of a national American sport and in keeping with its original purpose, I should advocate the emphasis on cleverness and skill rather than speed, height and stamina.

We need not necessarily return to the former center jump rule. However, equal opportunity of securing possession of the ball is as important following a score as at the beginning of the playing periods. In this respect I heartily endorse the suggestion of Dr. Forrest C. Allen, University of Kansas, to return to the center jump but require the players to alternate in jumping. Likewise the suggestion of Harold Browne, University of Nebraska, is commendable. Coach Browne would require the player scoring to jump against any one of the five opponents at the nearer free throw line. I would endorse this provision providing the jump would be at the center circle. In any event every effort of those interested in the welfare of basketball, the physical condition of the players and a "breathing spell" for the spectators, should tend to legislation restoring the original purpose of the game of basketball. It is unfortunate that Dr. Naismith should have lived to see his creation distorted and a new game played under the misnomer "Basketball."