

RADIO PROGRAM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

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"THE TIP-LESS GAME OF BASKETBALL"

- Allen Dr. Naismith, I would like to ask you a question. After 45 years of starting your game of basketball with the center tip, the rules committee last April eliminated the tip after field and foul goals. In your opinion, why did they do this?
- Naismith Well, in originating the game, after considerable thought as to how the ball would be put in play, the center tip seemed the only reasonable way of giving each side an equal chance of obtaining the ball. Now, the only objection that I can see to it is that the tall player monopolizes the tip-off because of his height and the assistance of the referee who tosses it up in such a manner that the tall man has a better chance of obtaining it than the short man. There are several ways in which this might have been corrected. Now that is my idea. Doctor, what is yours? You are on the Rules Committee, and attended the meeting in which the National Rules body voted it out. Why did they do this?
- Allen Well, Dr. Naismith, I find myself agreeing with you on the center tip-off. I have always believed in it. I have always contended that in football we have the kick off at the start of the game. I feel that the tip-off at the start of the game of basketball, and after each goal, is just as vital because it tends to give both sides an equal advantage. At the Rules meeting I found myself in a very great minority, and as is the habit with all of those committee gatherings, the minority goes along peaceably with the majority. I felt that if the majority desired it, it was only fair to give them a chance without protesting violently against it. I still think basketball has enough thrills for the spectators and the players in the tipless game. I found many of the rules-makers blaming all the ills of basketball on the tall man at the tip-off. Really, I think that because the basket is only 10 feet from the floor that we are blaming a man for being too tall under a 10-foot basket, because those tall players can actually dunk the ball into the basket. Some of the tall players can actually reach 8 inches above the basket. In my opinion, the goal should be out of reach of all players.
- Naismith Well, the things you have said are still not a sufficient reason to me to do away with a fair and spectacular method and substitute one that is less so.
- Allen Dr. Naismith, I still agree with you 100 per cent, because it is the tall man that beats you under the defensive or offensive basket by reaching higher than his teammates in obtaining the ball. No player may pull his opponents' arms down when he has the ball in his possession, because that is holding. But, Doctor, they blame that tall fellow tapping the ball in the