

Basketball Without the Center Jump

Arguments on both sides of this question are many and convincing, with the result that I am unable to decide for certain which way I prefer the game.

On the side of returning to the center jumps are the facts that:

- (1) the game has been made dangerously strenuous, and
- (2) a good deal of color has been lost ~~in~~ ^{from} the game.

The first reason is by far the most important, for here we are concerned not with ~~the~~ temporary injuries to some of the players, but instead possible permanent injury to ~~most~~ ^{many} of the players. Injuries such as twisted knees, charleyhorses, etc. are only occasional and are usually short lived, but the strenuous pace of the present game exposes all the players to certain ills. (Heart trouble ^{kidney trouble} and a general breakdown in health, I imagine.) This is particularly true of high schools and small colleges. Large universities are not ~~concerned so much~~ ^{so liable to these dangers as}.

With regard to color, the elimination of the center jump ^{put} has ~~made~~ games on much the same ~~terms~~ ^{terms} as scrimmages. The only difference is that you are playing outside competition instead of your teammates. Just score and let the other team throw the ball in, like kids always used to do in sandlot games. No formality/ or uncertainty.

On the other side of the fence I can see the following facts: lessened.

- (1) the freakishly tall player's worth has been ~~lost~~
- (2) the vicious contact work around the center jump is gone with the elimination of that play.
- (3) the game is faster ~~and there is~~ ^{and there is} more scoring.

Beanpole centers are nowheres near as valuable to their teams as they were before. Although the tall man still can get rebounds and tip the ball in or bat it away from the basket, he can no longer