

center of the court for all the ills of the past game. I have heard one of our own boys, Coach Arthur "Dutch" Lonborg, of Northwestern University say many times that he found when his team had a short center and could not control the tip-off that in those very years he had his scrappiest teams. Those boys with their apparent disadvantage had to fight harder than ever to recover the ball after the tip-off.

Naismith Well, Doctor, that is a good point. Now, another question -- is there any other game in which there is not either an equal chance for the opponents to obtain the ball after a goal is made, or the defendants are compelled to drive the ball into the opponents' territory? In the early '90s in football the ball was given to one side at the beginning of the game and after the goal was made, they were permitted to attack instead of the usual kick off. This lasted about two years, and then the return to the kick off was made.

Allen- Dr. Naismith, do you think that the game of basketball as now constituted has a similar opportunity?

Naismith I am not sure as to that. If the game is better without the tip-off certainly it will not return. Only time will tell about that. We want the game to continuously make progress.

Allen Doctor, one critic in Indianapolis contended that you are still in the era of the peach-basket stage. What would be your reaction to such criticism as that?

Naismith If I am in the peach-basket stage it is because the late rules compel me to be in that stage. In the early days 10 men played the game in a 40 by 50 foot area, and we gradually enlarged the field so as to get in scientific play. But the rules since 1932 are now compelling 10 men to play in a space 45 by 50 feet which naturally brings in a lot of roughness as we had in the peach basket stage, and the center tip is the only play that occupies the full court.

Allen Well, Dr. Naismith, this is a tribute to you when they talk about the peach basket stage, because the basket idea was yours, and I would say that any idea that can enthral 18 million people is a peach of an idea! But, seriously, Doctor, the proponents of the new rule state that this new rule has increased the playing time about 7 minutes. What do you say as to that?

Naismith Do you think that is right? In the rule it specifically states that the ball is dead after a goal is made and play ceases, and how can you increase the playing time? You might decrease the elapsed time, but you can't increase the playing time.

Allen That is exactly right, Doctor. They have not increased the playing time one iota by rule. But they can actually play longer under this game than they played under last year's game. This is the reason: After a free throw or a field goal was made the referee