

tossed the ball up at center for the tip-off. By research it was determined that it took on an average about 10 seconds for the ball to be brought from the end line where the basket was made to the center at the time it was tossed up for the tip-off, and incidentally that 10 seconds gave the spectators time to catch their breath and their hearts to resume normalcy after a thrilling score. Counting the number of field goals and free throws that were successfully made, and multiplying this by 10 seconds, the total elapsed time during the progress of the game was 5 to 7 minutes. Had the time been declared out last year after field goals, the playing situation would have been identically the same as this year.

Naismith Well, now, according to the wording of the new rule, how can the game be speeded up on account of the rules? Is it not in spite of the rules that the game has been speeded up?

Allen Well, Doctor, so far as the speeding up of the game is concerned, that is entirely up to the play of the two opposing teams. The so-called new rules have not been in the books long enough for the teams to get thoroughly adjusted, as yet. If the side scored upon really desires to delay the game, that side may hold the ball 5 seconds out of bounds by rule at the end line before they throw the ball in, and then they may take 10 seconds in addition before the players on that side are forced by the rule to cross the center line of the court, or the division line. In other words, it is possible to withhold the ball from the offensive court for 14 seconds after a goal is made. So you can see that they can play the slow break just as well as they can play the fast break, and personally I think that some smart team is going to try that. I noticed by Sunday's paper that Iowa State used the slow break against Kansas State and beat them 41 to 30. So you see, Doctor, all teams are not going in for this fire department basketball. In another year I predict that many teams will be using the slow break and then you will have 5 seconds to pass the ball in from out of bounds and 10 seconds to get across. Then after they get across they are going to use a play that many people call "stall", and it will be a dreary game. Don't you think so?

Naismith Yes, I certainly agree with you. That is the real objection to the whole thing, and that has been and is my objection to the tipless center. It gives the team that has been scored upon an opportunity to delay the game.

Allen Well, then, Doctor, who knows but what your prophecy, although you didn't prophesy you did indicate, that since the football rules went back to the kick off there may be a return to the center tip-off in basketball in a year or two. Don't you think there is a possibility of rotating the jumpers in basketball just as they have the batting order in baseball? The coaches could instruct their players during practice, so it would be an easy matter to handle the game situation.