

Lou Jourdet makes Plea for Restoration of Center Jump

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“**RESTORE** the center jump.” That’s the plea being made by Lou Jourdet, veteran University of Pennsylvania basketball coach, who claims that elimination of the tip-off has been particularly harmful to high school players.

“I’ve watched the game pretty critically in the four years the center jump has been eliminated,” says Jourdet, “and it’s my belief that the tip should be restored as quickly as possible.

“As it’s played today basketball is strictly a running contest and the team that can outlast the other wins. Of course they’ve got to be able to get the ball through the hoop more often, but that’s the situation, generally speaking.”

“It’s taking a physical toll on the boys in the secondary schools who are far from mature, yet, who would die before admitting they can’t keep the torrid pace being set.”

JOURDET points to the larger number of players being used in games as an indication that the strain is so great. Coaches are forced to use reserves freely if they want to maintain the race-horse tactics they have set up.

Jourdet has made tests which show there are at least six more minutes of scrimmage without the jump and cites that as one more

example of added strain on youthful athletes.

“Without the tip-off, there has been almost too much scoring. Official scorers and newspaper-men have difficulty keeping up with the field goals,” says Jourdet.

Instead of being a handicap to a team which doesn’t have a lot of height, the tip-off can be a big asset, is the Quaker coach’s contention.

“There were plenty of opportunities for ball-stealing when it was tipped center,” he points out. “Now, when your opponents have a big edge on you in height you have to depend on interceptions and rebound work too much.”

JOURDET doesn’t approve of other proposed changes, such as elimination of backboards, raising the baskets or doing away with the 10-second rule. His only plea is for the return of the tip-off.

However, it doesn’t appear as though Jourdet has much support. In the four years it has been in vogue, basketball without the center jump has won almost 90 per cent support from the east, midwest, south, Rocky Mountains and far west.