

One-handed Shot Picks Up in Popularity with Cagers

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YOU can tab the one-handed basketball shot not only as a fixture from now on, but as a maneuver that rapidly is gaining favor with coaches and players throughout the country.

The one-handed shot which Hank Luisett and his Stanford teammates exhibited before startled Eastern and Midwestern eyes two years ago, is no longer considered unorthodox basketball by the most conservative cage critics.

Its advantages are all too apparent and scoring averages have proved it.

BASKETBALL has been speeded up tremendously with elimination of the tip-off and the 10-second rule. The racehorse style of play is popular nearly everywhere.

And fast-moving hoopsters have discovered that they can get their shots off quicker with one hand. The extra half second it takes to get set for the two-handed shot often means the difference between two points and a blocked effort.

One-handed tricksters find it comparatively simple to get the ball off while on the dead run or while leaping into the air. It's a tough shot to stop.

The only reason why there aren't a lot more boys using it is because coaches consider it sheer folly to change after a lifetime habit of shooting two-handed.

In other words, it wouldn't do a college junior or senior much good to switch. It

takes a little time for the player to adjust himself so that the maneuver becomes just as instinctive as the old-style shot.

THE breeding ground for one-handed shot-makers is high school competition. The prepsters have been quick to see its advantages. By the time a boy has played three years of high school ball and has become quite adept at the one-handed toss he is ready to really swing out in college competition.

The most concentrated tendencies along these lines is in the East. Joe Lapchick, coach at St. John's, and Ernie Messikomer of Temple, among others, publicly declare that the East won't be able to play the game on a par with Midwest and far West teams unless the boys along the seaboard get wise to the one-handers.

Mel Meyer, a 1,000 point career scorer who graduated from Miller City in 1948, is recognized as one of the first players in Putnam County to shoot the "one-handed shot".