

Evolution of Arbitration withing the Sport of Basketball

This all important question has been under discussion for a long time and is ever present, asserts Robert Busnel in *l'Equipe* issued on March 15th 1956. This assertion is true as regards sports which depend on the human element for arbitration, for, men are not infallible and are liable to commit errors.

Judging, declares the author of this article does not allow people to introduce their own ideas or express individual opinions, however excellent they may seem ; it is a science governed by certain laws, more or less enforced, by which judges and referees must conform to a similarity of

conduct and hold an identical point of view in all circumstances, whether these affect the place, the climate, the ambiance or the opinions of the technicians. If the latter, on certain occasions, succeed in influencing the judges and referees, it is doubtless, because the latter are not always given strict directives on the matter. Nothing presents a greater danger than the phrase "the question is left to the referee's appreciation".

This problem has been discussed at length by the International Olympic Committee and the Delegates of the International Federations at the Paris conferences last June.

As a result of the happy suggestion made by the active Secretary, Mr. R. William Jones, of the International Amateur Basketball Federation the latter, conscious of its obligations and responsibilities, held a second training course for international judges and national instructors ; this course took place from March 26th to March 29th.

It is the first time, said Mr. Jones, that an attempt has been made to bring together

international judges and trainers of national teams these two kinds of people do not usually agree with each other. In course of this instructional course which was held at Duisburg (Germany), several exchanges of views took place in joint meetings which dealt chiefly with problems which the F. I. B. A., was anxious to obtain conformity of opinions. The main concern of the organizers of this training course was to raise the level of the subjects under discussion, while introducing on the programme, projects dealing with matters beyond the sphere of basketball. The second object of the organizers was to impress on the people attending the course, the sense of their own responsibilities in their capacity of leaders of the sporting movement within the range of human and social scenes. Appropriate speeches were delivered by Dr. Ferenc Hepp (Hungary) Mr. Herman Niebuhr (Germany) and Mr. D.H. Schmull (Netherlands).

Doubtless, basketball will have derived great benefit from this course, and the fine example set by the F. I. B. A. deserves to be brought to the notice of all.