

STEPPING INTO THE BACKCOURT

3-person officiating and techniques associated with it undergo constant changes and adaptations. This is nothing new! Over 40 years ago, IAABO officials participated in a three person experiment in the Southern Conference. The Southern Conference Supervisor of Officials, B.W. Hackney Jr., wrote the following article for Sportorials.

I am happy to share with the entire country, through the IAABO *Sportorials*, our experience with the use of three officials.

Upon the request of the Southern Conference Basketball Coaches and Athletic Directors, an experiment is being conducted in our conference for the 1964–65 season. Previous experiments had not produced enough information to establish satisfactory mechanics for this experiment. This experiment is intended to assist us in gaining information in the following areas.

- Mechanics to concentrate on game administration.



*IAABO members
L. Wirtz, P. Fox,
B. Brill.*

- Better coverage of the entire court.
- The need for one official always ahead of the fast break.
- Better coverage of illegal screening away from the ball.

We have utilized to date three person mechanics in five games. Certain definite observations have been recognized.

1. One official is always ahead of the fast break.
 2. Officials are definitely in a better position to see the entire play.
 3. Illegal screening has received better coverage than ever possible with two officials.
 4. Better game administration is evident.
 5. Officiating costs have increased 50%.
- Three person officiating improves our game!