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line may start tempting players and create poor shot selection by awarding an extra point, while working the ball in for a layup is more difficult and worth only two points.

Research by the rules committee found that Division I teams will convert 39 percent of their three-point shots.

Girley is among the Pac-10 leaders in three-point shots, hit-

ting 28 out of 55 attempts.

He estimates that 80 percent of his shots in practice are taken from beyond the three-point line, and Oregon opponents are aware of Girley's ability to make

the shot.

"Ever since the Montana game, when I went seven for eight on three-point shots, they've (the defense) been more conscious of me. I was suprised

when Arizona didn't take me closer," said Girley, who hit a "three" with 10 seconds remaining to defeat the Wildcats January 3.

"With the three-point shot, the losing team is never too far behind — you're never out of it," he said.

The NBA three-point line is at 23 feet 9 inches (22 feet in the corners) and is used more as a desperation shot. Of all shots taken in the NBA, only 3.7 percent are three-pointers.

Many college teams, meanwhile, include the three-point shot as a regular part of their offense. "We always have a play or two designed for it," said Monson.

"The first thing we try to do on offense is get the ball inside, try to penetrate," said Taylor, "and the shot opens up the middle a lot more. It helps out the players inside."

The Ducks to date have made 48 of 108 three-point shots on the season, including 7 of 15 against Arizona.

Those who favor the three-point shot tend to give three reasons why the new rule is good for the game.

One, it compliments the 45-second clock. The shot clock was instituted so teams wouldn't have all day to work the ball in for a good shot. To avoid shot clock violations, teams were being forced to either make bad passes inside or put up poor percentage shots from beyond 20 feet. With the three-point line, those 20 foot shots don't look so bad.

"We felt you couldn't have the 45-second clock without the three-point shot," said Steitz.

Secondly, it will open up zone defenses, giving more space for the larger players inside. "You definitely have to extend the zones," said Monson, "which leaves more room around the basket."

Finally, Steitz said "it will put the outside shooters (who tend to be shorter players) back in the game."

Girley, who stands 5-foot-11, said, "I think it finally rewards the shorter players. The taller players have always had an advantage inside, why not give the smaller guys an advantage outside?"

Will there be a trend of recruiting more outside shooters?

"I don't think it will change recruiting," Monson said. "We're always looking for sharp-shooters anyway. But if we come across three players of equal ability and one happens to shoot better from 19 feet 9 inches, we'll take him."

Asked if the three-point shot will return next year, Steitz replied, "it takes eight of 12 (committee members) to negate a rule, and I don't see that happening."

"We receive constant feedback from coaches, players and the news media," he said. At a NCAA meeting in San Diego recently, Steitz said over 200 athletic directors told him they were pleased with the shot.

"We'll be sending out questionnaires next month to coaches and referees, and we'll be talking to people in the NCAA, NAIA and junior colleges about the shot," he said.

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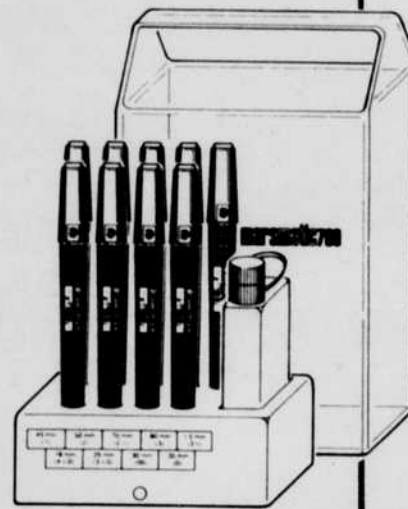


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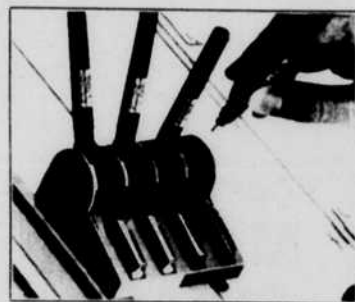
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