

SPORTS

NCAA approves 3-point rule change

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The 3-point distance in men's college basketball is being pushed farther out for the second time in the last 12 years.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Playing Rules and Oversight Panel voted Wednesday to approve a rule change that will shift the distance of the 3-point line in men's college basketball starting this coming season. The current distance of 20 feet, 9 inches, will shift to the FIBA (international) distance of 22' 1.75".

This change will go into effect for Division I basketball next season, while it will go into effect for Division II and III for the 2020-21 season.

When the rule was proposed by the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, it was suggested such a move would make more fore chances to drive to the basket from the perimeter, slow the trend of 3-point shooting becoming what it described as "too prevalent" and make it "more challenging," among other reasons.

The 2019 NIT used the distance during its games, with teams shooting a combined 33 percent from the 3-point line - down from 35.2 percent in the regular season.

The 3-point line has been used in all levels of men's college basketball since 1987, when it came in at 19' 9". In that season, 16 percent of all shots were from behind the 3-point line, while 37.5 percent of all shots, according to KenPom, were from that distance in the 2017-18 season. The 3-point distance has been 20' 9" since 2007.

Last season the Presbyterian College Blue Hose shot the sixth-most 3-point attempts in all of Division I (1,034), made the seventh-most in the country (10.9 per game), and shot 38.1 percent (25th in the country). The team also took 48 percent of all its field-goal attempts last season from behind the 3-point line.

"I think it's something that was bound to happen given the evolution of the game," new Presbyterian Head Coach Quinton Ferrell said. "The 3-point shot is being utilized more than ever and, because of that, players have gotten really good at shooting the 3 with more range."

The 3-point distance change approved is one of many rule changes this coming season. Shot clocks will reset to 20 seconds, not 30, after a field goal hits the rim and results in an offensive rebound in the front court, instant replay will be used for basket interference or goaltending in the final two minutes of the second half and any overtime, coaches can call live-ball timeouts in the last two minutes of the second half and any OT, and players will be assessed a technical foul and ejection for any derogatory language regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Women's basketball PC adds assistant: Presbyterian College Women's Basketball Head Coach Alaura Sharp announced the hiring of Sta'Nisha Hersey Tuesday afternoon as her new assistant coach.

Hersey takes over for Kenia Cole, who left her position after one season.

Hersey was the head coach at Otero Junior College last season, helping the team to a 16-13 record - a six-victory improvement over the year before. Otero also qualified for the Region IX Tournament, while two of her players were all-region selections. Alessia Capley was an all-tournament pick as well, while Gracie O'Neill was an all-region defensive pick.

"I am thrilled to welcome Sta'Nisha and her family to our program," Sharp said. "We have known each other for a long time and I have always had so much respect for her knowledge of the game, ability to develop relationships, and her work ethic."

Before her time as a head coach at Otero, Hersey was an assistant coach at Fort Scott Community College (2012-13), a grad assistant at Southern Mississippi (2013-15) and an assistant coach at Dodge City Community College (2015-18). At Dodge City, she helped coach the team to a 17-14 record, and the team won the most conference games in any season in the previous 10 years.

Hersey earned a master's degree in Human Performance and Recreation, with an emphasis in Sport Coaching Education, at Southern Miss. She was also on the Dean's List.

She and her husband, James, have a son named Jeremiah.

Softball Petree drafted: Former Presbyterian College softball player Jonnie Petree was drafted in the fourth round of the American Softball Association Draft Wednesday, selected 14th overall by Total Performance, based out of Mobile, Alabama.

In her final season with the Blue Hose, which wrapped up this past April, Petree led the team in batting average (.356), was tied with Ansel Wilbanks for the team lead in hits (58), had seven RBI, and stole a team-best 34 bases in 39 attempts. She also had a fielding percentage of .979, the best for any player with at least 10 attempts on defense this season.

COLLEGE NCAA names new emerging sports: The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics recommended all levels of the NCAA governance structure and add acrobatics and tumbling, as well as women's wrestling, to the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program. If approved the selected sports would join the program Aug. 1, 2020.

The committee selects sports to add to the program, which is used to help support advancement of women's sports to NCAA championship status. The program also gives athletic chances to women and sport-sponsored options for the colleges/universities. To be con-

sidered for the emerging sports program, a sport must have at least 20 varsity teams and/or competitive club teams competing for at least five years.

The Emerging Sports for Women program has been around since 1994. In that time beach volleyball, rowing, ice hockey, water polo, and bowling have all reached championship status. Current sports in the program are equestrian, rugby, and triathlon.

"This is a huge milestone for our sport as it has been 10 years in the making," said PC Acrobatics and Tumbling coach Amber King. "This is a huge step forward for all the administrators, coaches and student-athletes who have laid the groundwork and continue to invest in this sport."

AREA SPORTS

YMCA Summer Sports Camps: The Laurens Y is offering a host of summer sports and specialty camps starting next month for residents to take part in. All camps are \$50 for Y members, \$60 for non-members.

The Junior Lifeguard camp will teach water safety and introduce duties and responsibilities of being a lifeguard. It runs from July 1-3, and is for kids age 12-15. The camp runs each day from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

The Ultimate Frisbee camp, running July 9-11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., is for those age 12-21. It is a non-contact sport with a fast pace where players develop throwing skills, stamina, and agility.

The Archery camp runs from



Photo by Nick Herman

DIALING A LITTLE LONGER DISTANCE — Division-I men's basketball players will have to step out a little farther to take a 3-point shot next season after a rule approved by the NCAA's Playing Rules and Oversight Panel Wednesday.

July 23-25, and is for kids age 7-15. It runs each day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The camp will teach the basic skills of the sport, shooting targets, and different styles of shooting. Ed Prescott will teach the camp. There will also be an adult/team archery camp from July 30-August 1, running 6 to 8:30 p.m. each day, for those age 15 and up. The camp will showcase field archery and shooting at life-sized models of game. Range-finders are not allowed.

There will also be a soccer camp running July 29 to August 1 for kids 5-9 and 10-and-up. The 5-9 camp runs each day from 9 to 11 a.m., while the 10-and-up camp goes

each evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Campers will take part in drills to help their passing, dribbling, and shooting. The camp will be held at Collyar Park.

For more information about these camps, or the other two non-sports camps taking place (juggling and babysitting), contact the Laurens Y at 984-2626.

Rolling S special: Rolling S Golf Club in Waterloo will have a special rate for veterans of the United States Army on June 14, the birthday of the Army. On this day Army veterans can play 18, with access to a cart, for \$20.

For more information on the special, or to book a tee time,

call Rolling S at 677-4566.

PROFESSIONAL Baseball

Jones update: Former Laurens Raider Thomas Jones continues to work on his game with the Clinton LumberKings of the Midwest League.

Jones, through Tuesday, has a .208 batting average with five homers and 22 RBI. He has 30 hits on the season in 144 at-bats, has 10 walks, has struck out 50 times, and is 9-for-10 on stolen base attempts.

The LumberKings are the Class A affiliate of the Miami Marlins, who selected Jones in the third round of the 2016 MLB Draft.



Sta'Nisha Hersey

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