

December 22, 1939.

Mr. E. A. Thomas, Secretary,
High School Activities Association,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear E. A.:

I do not know just how elaborately you will plan your Saturday morning and afternoon program. I take it that the morning will be taken up with team demonstration showing the various types of offense and defense.

In the offense I thought of the set plays against a man to man defense, set plays against a zone defense, and the fast break offensive play. Then also show the offense against a team that goes down the floor and takes you under your own opponent's basket. There are certain fundamentals that we use in practice to train our boys for these altered situations. On the defensive side of the demonstration it is necessary to show how to set the zone defense. Then also it is necessary to show when to use a man to man defense and how to use your switching to keep from being screened.

All of these offensive and defensive plays have a lead up on individual offense and individual defense. It is not possible to teach mass defense or offense until individual offense and defense have been taught. This I always show if we have the time.

I am not afraid of hard work, or too much of it. I will give as much of the demonstration as you desire, but I think we should leave some time between each of these play situations for the coaches to ask questions. They may want to request that you set your team and demonstrate play situations for certain set-ups that they would like to have you meet for them. In other words, a certain coach will say, How do you meet this offense or this defense, or what do you do in certain play situations like this where there is either man to man or zone?

Then there is foot work, both from an offensive and a defensive standpoint. A coach could employ a full two hours on foot work. This is so intimately associated with individual offense and individual defense that this should be employed at the time that individual techniques and skills are given.