

H

October 20, 1943.

A/C R. J. Stone,  
316 AAFFTD - 44 C - A 3 F,  
W & B Flying School,  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Dear Cadet Stone:

I am answering your letter in which you inquire about the best way to meet a fast breaking team. You can use either a zone or man to man defense. But it is your first moves against a fast break that nullify their effort. If you will use this plan of defense regardless of whether you use a zone or man to man, I think it will pay dividends.

Against fast break teams I would have the speediest and fastest men on my squad the moment the ball is lost to drive directly under their basket. Regardless of where this man is on the field I charge him with being the watchdog of the basket. If it would happen to be one of your guards, so much the better. Now, for the second man. He drives down and sets himself seven to ten feet immediately in front of the first man. You will notice the anterior-posterior relationship of the two men. They are not set as guards are set on either side of the basket.

This will stop any fast break team from getting into or near the basket. If the opponents attack when the ball is rolling from the right side, then the third man back on defense will fill in on the weak side away from the ball but in line with the first guard who moved from his position under the basket over toward the player coming in with the ball. That will give you a triangular defense against the three points of the basket open to attack. Now the other two defensive men or the two defensive forwards fill in, in a compact defensive position, as generally accorded the regular defensive forwards.

Another thing that will help your defense is to make your men so defense conscious that as soon as they lose the ball their next fifteen steps will be taken as rapidly as they can make them toward the defensive basket. If you thwart the fast break rush you will find it will then be necessary for the offense to set their plays. This is the time that you will use the option of either the zone or man to man, according to your liking. But the fast break will not be stopped by either a zone or man to man but by a quick setting up of the two men directly in front of the basket.