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April 17, 1939.

Mr. H. C. Uhls,  
Director of Boys' Physical Education,  
Redondo Union High School,  
Redondo Beach, California.

Dear Coach Uhls:

Yes, indeed, I remember you very distinctly, even when you were at Osawatomie. It is interesting how these things recur to an individual.

Now, back to pages 292 and 332. I can see how these might confuse you, but if you will take exhibits 107 to 113, inclusive, I am sure that that zone play will agree with yours. I think what confused you was looking at the diagram on 292 and seeing 3 advance so far up in the defensive court against 3. I made these diagrams to show the ordinary play against the man to man defense which might shift to a zone without calling time out. They do this so much in our part of the country. They will start with a stiff man to man and then shift to a zone, and I believe that I can explain to you well enough that if I had set the zone man back there so far in the court, then many of the critics would say, "We do not play that way - we move the man up and then drop him back for strategy's sake."

This is to mask some of their intended strategy. Now, by the same token, each of the defensive men signifies a certain opponent for whose movements he will be personally responsible during these regular game situations. Now that makes each man responsible, yet they can trade or switch, whether the game be a man to man or a zone game. If the opponents play a zone, then the defense can shift to meet them, but suppose they go to a man to man set up very quickly. Then the assignments hold good and there is no confusion.

There are very few tip-top teams that play a zone exclusively. Oregon used a zone defense because they had three men - 6'8", 6'4" and 6'4" - in a triangular zone defense under the basket. Then they had Wally Johansen and Captain Anet, two fast men, to harry the other shooting opponents out in front of the giant trio. Any team can play a zone game with such tall specimens as Oregon had. However, not one bit of credit should be detracted from the Oregon coach or the Oregon team. They had a great outfit.