

Latah High School
Latah, Washington
January 6, 1941

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

In your book "Better Basketball" there is a passage appearing on page 332 which causes me some concern. Speaking of 5 on 5 or as in a regular game--"Each of the defensive men specifies a certain opponent for whose movements he will be personally responsible during these regular game situations. These defensive men are taught to slide and trade and switch so there will be no excuse for permitting an offensive opponent to score because he shook his opponent loose." *— Play I, line 3*

After building the team up through 2 on 1, 3 on 2, and so forth based on the zone principle it seems from the above quoted statements that the zone is discarded for the man to man principle.

Would you please clarify this problem?

We have been using a zone type of defense with fair results. We shift to put the head of our defense in front of the ball pulling our forwards back into the free throw area when the ball goes into the corners and the men near the basket shift to meet the scoring threat.

This is our defense formation:

x o a o x
x o a x
x - - - x

I hope I may hear from you because I am interested in your defense as it is different from most of those taught in the Northwest.

Yours very truly,

M. C. Wood, coach.