

Answering your other question in regard to the time expended after recovery of the ball from the defensive backboard, we use both the slow and the fast break. The fast break when we have our men outnumbered, and the set plays or slow break when the defense has an equal number to our offensive team. We call this "dummy" scrimmage, and rather than to have the actual scrimmage I will throw the ball against the backboard and let the two teams fight for the rebound. Then we apply either the slow or the fast break, as the situation demands.

Of course, we use more of our time on individual offense and individual defense. In other words, individual fundamentals, until each man knows how to handle himself on the court. Then we build a team like a builder builds a house, block upon block. But I do not use team play until I have developed individual play, and the type of system that will mesh together with full understanding. I use mass drill in teaching individual fundamentals.

I can work on 32 men on individual fundamentals, both offensive and defensive, and then when it comes to team fundamentals I use no more than ten, five on each side. By that time I have selected ten of the best players and I supplement this group by shifting in the better players of the other fellows on the sidelines.

I never cut a squad. I have have through all the years eliminated any of the players because they were not as skilfully proficient, but I do place great emphasis upon team training and morale and the players eliminate themselves by breaking training or showing lack of interest. Those fellows never get much of a chance and they soon drop out. If a fellow is a trouble-maker I have an individual conference with him and put it up to him in such a way that he will just check in his suit. Of course, if a man drank liquor or created a bad situation that would warrant his dismissal from the squad then I would have a talk with him and just tell him that the squad didn't want him. Or sometimes I leave it up to the boys and they dismiss him. I generally try to make it a squad proposition when it comes to discipline. But I have already created the proper esprit de corps and morale that finds any disciplinary measure a popular one with the group.

I trust this answers your questions. It is always a pleasure for me to give priority to any men in the service, and I have answered your letter ahead of much correspondence that I have on my desk.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.