

June 3, 1943.

Mr. Brice Durbin, Jr.,
Burns, Kansas.

Dear Brice:

Rev. Harold G. Barr called me and stated that you wanted to do some special individual summer basketball practice in your back yard, and that you would like to have some suggestions on what to work.

The best thing that I know of, Brice, is to work on your shooting lanes. Take the back rim of the basket and drop a plumb down to the floor and then drop a plumb from the front rim of the basket to the floor, using the median plane of the basket as a line. That will be 18 inches. Now, extend a line on an angle outward for 18 feet both from the back of the basket and the front of the basket. The straight line separating these two angular lines should be 7 feet. Now draw a similar lane in the opposite direction.

Now you have your work out for you. Start banking your shots one yard from the basket, looking at the basket and picking out spots on the backboard where your shots are good. Work from one edge of the line to the other edge of the line as you move back, always moving one yard back after three successful shots. After you get out a piece, and you should begin to miss at the outer distance, then come back to the one yard line and work out again until you are successful in hitting three consecutive shots at the back line. Then go over to the other lane.

Now, Brice, this is the idea. These lanes are banking or carom shot lanes. Any time you are in these lanes, bank or carom the ball in, but as soon as you get outside of these lanes, whether close to the basket along the end line or out in the court, shoot straight arch shots for the basket.

I use this area drill for my varsity basketball players and find that it pays big dividends. So few players are able to tell just when they should shoot at the goal directly or when they should bank a shot. Now you can use this lane for push shots and underhand shots. The underhand shots should be a reverse English spin shot while the push or arch shot should be banked with a dead kiss shot and the ball should not be