

February 13, 1940.

Mr. Johnnie Corrigan, Principal,
Powhattan Rural High School,
Powhattan, Kansas.

Dear Johnnie:

Pardon me for not answering your good letter sooner. You are exactly right regarding the foul with 30 seconds to go. I would not throw the free throw, and take the ball out of bounds.

Thank you very kindly for your nice words regarding the Topeka clinic. I thought we had a fine group of high school coaches and it was a pleasure to speak to them.

Johnnie, I have just written a letter to Adrian Brennan, of Bloomfield, Conn., endeavoring to explain our defense. We play a man to man defense with assignments, and only when we are outnumbered in location or position do we play the principle of the zone defense. When two men attack one of our defensive men, that one defensive man plays the zone. He does not rush out too far, nor does he retreat and play only one man. He plays equidistant between the two regardless of their thrusts, yet he always keeps in mind that he must be the defendant of that basket and he dare not go out too far for fear the other man will cut in after receiving the ball and lay the ball up for a goal.

This is equally true when three men attack two men. We play the principle of the zone, but instead of having our guards float we have the men in an anterior-posterior position. Then by quick shifting we protect the vulnerable point and still play a man to man game with the zone principle.

Study the team defense in Better Basketball with those pictures and exposition, and they will thoroughly explain it. I wish I could write you more at length, but if I have an opportunity to talk to you I will clarify any points that you ask. We play a transitional man for man defense with the zone principle. That means it is a strata of one and a strata of the other, and the transition must become liquid to permit this defense to function.

We haven't changed our style one iota, although we do have different types of men who play differently from one college generation to the other. Therefore, we must adjust our manipulations on offense and defense to suit the peculiarities of the player.