

January 28, 1938.

Mr. Fred E. Cameron,  
Athletic Director,  
Vinton, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Cameron:

Thank you for your very good letter of the 13th instant. I beg pardon for my delay, but we were out on a trip and after returning examinations came on, and I have been so extremely busy that my correspondence has been neglected.

Answering your first question in your letter of January 3rd, these three men always play a straight man to man, but they use the principle of the zone. When they try a pick-off, instead of following the man, we slide, switch or trade. They play straight man to man as long as there is no picking off but when they slide past and pick off then we trade men just the same as a straight man to man does. But if you follow your man all over the court the opponents will pick you off, and that is where we play the principle of the zone.

The other question which you ask in your letter of January 3rd I am answering by your diagram. If the ball is on the left side of the court the guard plays the forward on the players side and also the side of the court in which the ball is located. In your diagram you have the center man playing in the free throw area. Of course, this is prohibited. But if you had put him just outside of that lane I would have the player play on the side of the individual where the ball is located. In other words, never play behind the post man, always play inside. Then if they attempt to throw the ball over that fellow's head I have the guard rush back and cut off the play, and the defensive player over whose head the ball was thrown knife's back to switch on the other man

In other words, follow the principle of massing your men around the free throw circle in that area, but not making them stationary, making them slide and switch and trade.

Now, for instance, if X1 would pass the ball to X5 and X1 would then cut for the basket to receive a return pass, X5 would follow up to a certain point and then he would slide over and take X1's man while  1 would cut back, shift and pick off