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November 10, 1942.

Mr. F. M. Farmer, Principal,
Colby Community High School,
Colby, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Farmer:

I am sorry that I have delayed in answering your good letter of October 29.

The time consumed in college is $3\frac{1}{2}$ seconds from the time the ball is taken off the backboard until it crosses the division line; that is, on a driving offense. In high school the time would be slightly less than this because the court is shorter. I always figured from three to five seconds a team with a rushing offense to get a shot at the basket after they take the ball off the opponent's backboard.

For the set plays it takes about 15 seconds, but the ball handling is slower and surer and after the team crosses the division line they must set all their men and then begin with a slow deployment. Personally, we come across the division line in about 5 seconds and the play is pulled in about 5 seconds more, or a total of 10 seconds on a set play. On a fast breaking offense we will get a shot at the basket from 5 to 7 seconds.

Personally, I like the two men in and three out offensive set play formation because it leaves the area around the basket open for a drive in. My two forwards are about 8 feet from the corner, end line, and side line on each side, and my three rear men are about 8 to 10 feet from the side line and about eight feet from the division line. The reason I do not favor three men in is because the post man's defensive men congest the area around the basket. If you have an exceptional post man you can float him in from one of these set forward positions and alternate that type of play with your set play with the forwards in the corner.

Answering your last question in the last paragraph, we stress pressing the opponent's guards, but it is, as you say, rather loose guarding. If you press them too closely they will drive by. I like the retreating defense with a checking pressing game. We act as if we are going to play them close but we drop back because the five men present a more complex problem in driving through than if the defensive men are distributed out over the whole court. I think you can get that point.