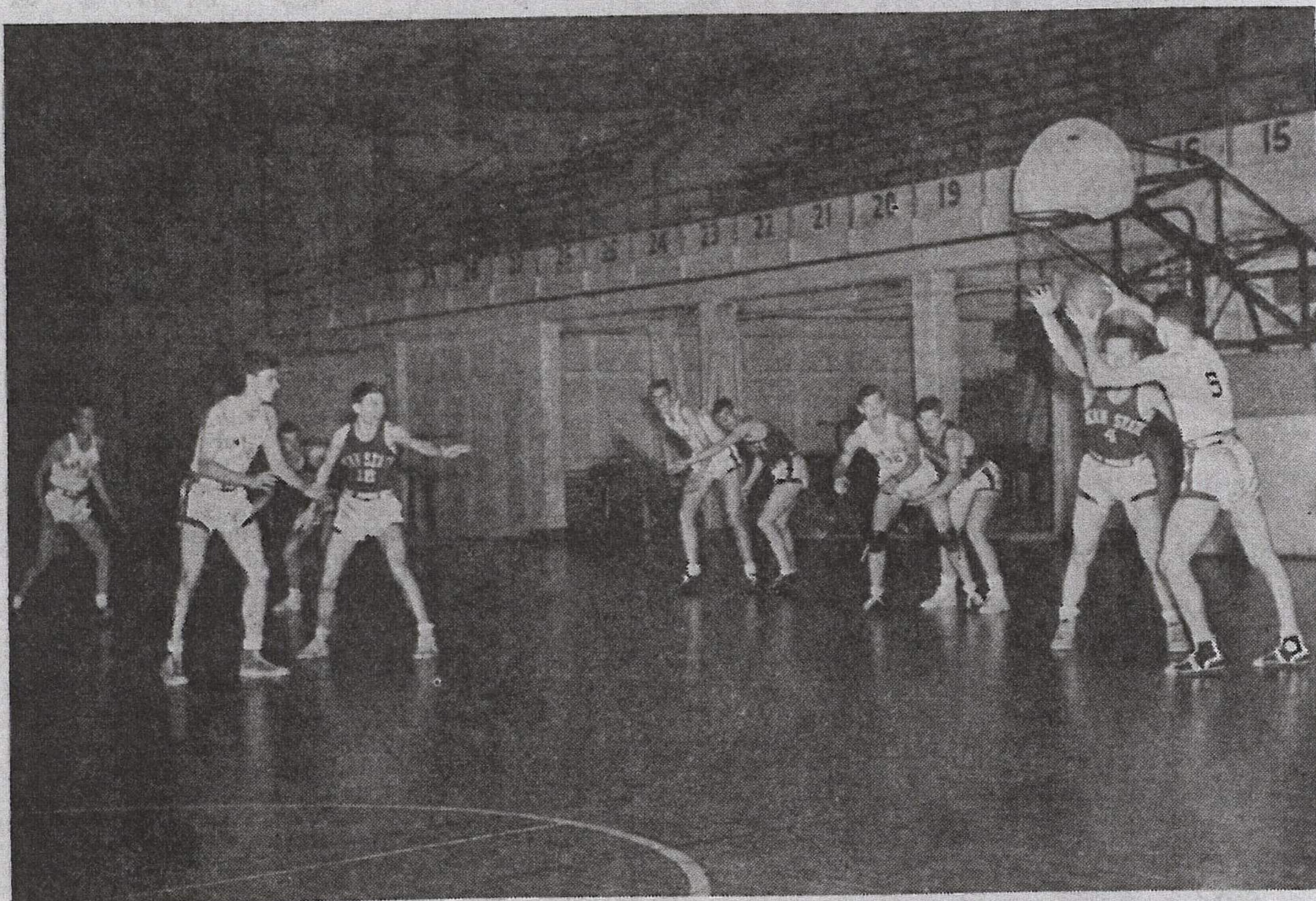


Winning Through Ball Control

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The team in white is using the double-post attack.

The other purpose for trying to keep the ball from these "post" men is that of preventing them from making assists to a team mate. A defensive man may upset the other team's offensive play by getting a hand just far enough in front of the "post" to bat passes away from him.

When a team depends heavily for their scoring on some giant placed near the basket, it may pay to put a defensive man on each side of the giant, then attempt to cover the rest of the offensive men with a type of modified zone defense. For teams playing straight zone, a good procedure is to play a guard behind the giant and to fade a front-line man back in front of him. The four-man zone with the extra man playing the giant, man-for-man may be a partial answer. Any defense based on two men playing one opponent assumes that looser playing of the other offensive men is worth the risk. A well-balanced team of reasonably accurate long shots makes such defensive tactics questionable.

Planning Recovery of Offensive Rebound. Whether or not a team has a set offense, it should have considerable drill in the types of plays that it seems to find successful for scoring in a game. These plays should have added to them an understanding (and a practiced learning) of

which men should try for offensive-board rebounds. The most general practice is to have two men, in addition to the shooter, get into position to attempt rebounding in case the shot is missed. This practice is as worth while in the fast break as it is in the deliberate offense. With practice, these three rebounders can force the defensive team into a held-ball situation some of the times in which they do not actually get the ball. Even a held-ball at the offensive end of the floor is an advantage well worth the extra effort. The two men not engaged in this offensive rebound-play must fall back into positions from which they can check any fast break by the opponents.

If a team has height advantage, it may be somewhat successful at offensive rebounding with only two large men crashing the offensive board. The double-pivot offense is an example of this style. The usual procedure is to keep three men, fifteen to thirty feet from the offensive basket, weaving and shooting long shots with an occasional feed and cut inside. The two big men on the "posts" stress hook-shooting, jump-shooting, tap-ins, and an occasional screen for a cutter. The three outer offensive men are so situated as to nullify almost entirely any fast-break attempt by opponents.

After Violations by Opponents

The clever ball club rarely gives up the ball to opponents because of violation. Double-dribbling is chiefly a beginner's error. Occasionally a player will forget the three-second rule restricting the offensive free-throw lane and half-circle, and thereby cause his team to lose possession of the ball.

Some seasoned players stretch the walking and running restrictions to the limit that the officials will permit, in order to gain positional advantage. They are usually clever enough to readjust their movements if the officials begin to call violations on them. The skillful "post" player may slide his pivot toe occasionally if he finds the officials somewhat lax. The defensive team may be able to cause violations by playing very close man-for-man with automatic switching on the screens. The offensive team may, thereby, be forced into a speed and tenseness which will upset their movement patterns. They may commit themselves by leaving their feet to pass or shoot, only to find that the defense has them completely covered. In this situation the offensive man prefers alighting with the ball to throwing it wildly. A called violation allows his team mates more time to readjust to defensive positions than an interception.

Some defenses are planned to cause opponent violation of the ten-second rule in regard to getting the ball across the mid-court line. The procedure is to try to check the offensive team in its own back-court for ten seconds. Stress is put on stopping long passes and on stopping dribbling. The rebounder is checked as long as possible, the next receiver is checked, etc. The defense plays so as to encourage passing backward by the offense. One of the defensive techniques in this delay process is to stop any offensive dribbler, then fade back instantly. Two defensive men may double-team the dribbler until he is forced to pause. The fading back results in the covering of the offensive men ahead of the dribbler by a five man semi-zone. This checking and fading back ahead of the ball, and repeating the process until the mid-court line is crossed, takes speed and practice. It is a somewhat risky defensive strategy.

The Watchdog of the Basket

(Continued from page 11)

separate competitive scrimmage tries, conforms to recognized principles of teaching, and it is consistently carried out in each of the following set-ups.

The second stage, three offensive men on two defensive men (Diagram 2). In

this situation the two defensive men are being opposed by three offensive players, according to the principle of a strata of man-for-man defense and a strata of the zone principle. The front guard is placed seven feet in front of the guard shown in

Diagram 1. This is a tandem defensive formation. The rear defensive guard has dropped back to a position about five feet directly in front of the basket and the front guard plays about seven feet in front of his team mate. The expectant attitude