



## DEVITALIZING THE RAZZLE-DAZZLE GAME.

One of the nine principles of war is the Principle of Surprise. The principle of surprise is also one of the dominant determinors in a tough game of basketball. How many times has a smooth-functioning team been upset by an aggressive so-called "razzle-dazzle" outfit which took their opponents all over the court. Previously a defensive team had always retreated down under their opponent's basket using either a straight man-for-man defense, or a stratified transitional defense, according to the exigency of the situation.

Without a second's warning this razzle-dazzle aggregation went into action. Instead of retreating, they rushed their opponents all over the floor. This offensive team which had functioned smoothly previously was now thrown into confusion. They perhaps had met a pressing defense previously in their offensive half of the court, but never had they experienced an all out attack against an aggressive opponent in their defensive half of the court. Unless definite plans are laid by the coach for such a contemplated surprise, disaster is sure to befall such a shortsighted team.

In an attempt to show how to meet such a defense it is well to diagram a first order drill against a pressing defense at the offensive end of the court. The symbols  are defensive, X the offensive, and O denotes the ball; the dotted line shows the path of the ball, while the straight lines show the movement of the players. The screen is designated by a short crescent line, interfering with the progress of the defensive  .

A pressing defense will endeavor to tie the offensive men up and to force them across the division line. The location of the ball determines the movements of the offensive men in extricating the teammate against the pressing defensive opponent. If good strategy is used the imperiled men can resort to screening and turn the advantage against their defensive opponents.