

I am told that those who appreciate basketball finesse the greatest are those who are schooled in appreciation of clever ball handling, good foot work, and excellent head work. It is said that the fast break covers up a multitude of basketball sins. A team may employ the fire-engine type of basketball, rushing pell-mell, helter-skelter down the floor, and at times they will catch their opposing defense off guard and outnumbered, and the offensive team will succeed in scoring a goal. But this type of team that employs only the fast break is very apt to pay little attention to defense. Their own goal is often unguarded and an intelligent team playing against a fast break may employ the long pass out from under the basket and catch their fast breaking opponents off guard.

The common conception of team work is that it applies only to the offense, when in reality team work shows at its best on the defense. This misconception can be attributed to the fact that in the early development of the game the players in possession of the ball were the centers of attraction, while very little thought was given to the players who did not have the ball. All efforts were placed on scoring, and no attention given to the work of preventing the opponents from scoring. The results of experience have changed these conditions until now the two phases of the game are given equal consideration, and in many instances their order of importance has been reversed.

The guard is the bipedal watchdog of the basket. He should always be found between his opponent and the basket. A good guard will hound the ball. A wily guard will never let the opposition slip in behind him. He will play the ball and not the man. A crafty guard must know how to use his weight to advantage, without fouling.

All prospective guards should take boxing lessons. The boxing skills