

The writer is immensely pleased with your plans for the second annual coaching school clinic as sponsored by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association. I am impressed with the progressiveness shown in this new scheme of having the various coaches who are leaders in their particular sport to instruct the high school boys from the state of Georgia. This plan will enable the student coaches to hear and to witness the actual coaching of fundamentals. Using the Georgia high school boys as guinea pigs in the individual and team-plan scheme is progressive education. Heretofore visiting coaches have lectured to the assembled student coaches desiring instruction, but have not had the benefit of taking players and teaching each man the individual defense, the individual offense, the team defense and the team offense so necessary in welding the team together as a unit.

It will behoove each one of the visiting guest coaches to put out the very best that he has so that those who listen in will get the greatest benefit in the shortest possible time. It will also show the contrasting differences between successful systems of play. One coach may stress the fast break. The other coach may stress the set and timing plays with the necessary screen or pick off. However, the uniformly successful coach will be the one who employs both systems -- the fast break by the offense when the defense is outnumbered, say two on one, or three on two, and so forth; and then when the defense has an equal number of men back in comparison to the equal number of offensive men rushing down the court, then a set play is in order because the intelligent coach will recognize the fact that the defense in basketball normally is stronger than the offense.

The first thing that a successful guard learns is to stand between the basket and his opponent. Therefore, when equal numbers are concerned the set play with its deception and pick off is the order of the day. But to have set plays there must be good ball handling and good timing.