

improve basketball offensive play. We use a great number of pass-outs when we recover the ball on our offensive backboard. It is perfectly obvious that the defense will flatten itself around the basket when the ball is passed in toward the basket. Therefore, with a good system of recoveries and passing out it is possible for the guards to shoot over the head of the defensive opponent.

Defense

We use a stratified transitional man for man defense with a zone principle. It is a strata of man for man and a strata of zone, and there is a transition from one to the other depending upon the play situation. When two offensive men start a screening play on our players we switch, slide or trade opponents, which is exactly the principle the professionals play. We do not play a straight zone defense nor do we play a straight man for man defense. The position of the ball determines the vortex or forward point of the defense.

Our men play their opponents man for man. They are assigned special men to guard and play those men until a screen by the opponents is attempted. It is then that the player calls to his teammate, "Switch", and our men take the other opponents.

Personally I have been unable to see the reason for the objection of any coach to a zone or man to man defense. Most teams switch from one to the other as the occasion demands. In football some coaches use a zone defense at times, and others use a man to man. No football coach objects to the other football coach using a certain type of defense, so why should a basketball coach object to a defense used by a particular basketball coach. The reason some basketball coaches object to a zone defense is because they have not been able to find paths that they can work through on a set defense. There are definite passing lanes through a zone defense and they can be explored if the coach knows the answer.