

HUMANSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HUMANSVILLE, MISSOURI

LOUIS E. RILEY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
F. M. SHEFFER, SECRETARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 25, 1940

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Kansas University Coach
Lawerence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I need some advise on coaching and I would like to get it from you. I want to know whether I should train a High School team on set plays or on unorthodox offense.

I have had courses under A. J. McDonald Springfield Teachers College and "Little Bill" Miller of Tulsa. McDonald teaches us to coach set plays with lots of variations and Miller says the offense should be unorthodox. I also have read your "Basket-Ball Bible" and Nat Holman's "Winning Basket-Ball."

I have coached 10 years and tried several plans. I have had some good teams and some poor ones. From 1935 to 1938 I had exceptionally good teams, for a small town. In '35 I used a single pivot in the lane. In '36 and '37 I used the double pivot and in '38 I used 3 men in (similar to McDonalds teachers). Of course all those boys were well drilled on fundamentals. The last two seasons I have been located here and have had awfully poor teams. I have tried several set systems and also no system. All have failed. Of course there were no good players and very few of any kind here when I came. I am now conducting a spring practise and have twenty boys all of whom will be eligible next year. All are fairly well drilled in fundamentals and all have had a little playing experience. So of course the teams next year will be better but I want good teams.

Should I rely on experience, fundamentals, and a few general instructions for my offense or should I teach set plays? If set plays then what do you think of the ones I have used? The best teams in this section use no set plays on offense. In fact, about all they do is to put their best five boys on the floor and let them fight it out. They usually win and the fans like it so I am beginning to wonder if it is the best. Some of our opponents use a shifting zone,