

# VERSATILE OFFENCE AGAINST CHANGING DEFENCES

BY

Forrest C. Allen

IT is the swing type of basketball offensive that is popular with our basketball players and patrons, as is the swing type of music with our dancers. Some coaches call this swing type basketball the "weave" offensive or the "shovel" offensive. The dribbler in starting his offensive swings low, using his projected leg and foot and advanced shoulder to protect the low swinging dribble. The purpose, of course, is for the dribbler to get a half-a-step advantage on the guard. And then with a quick change of pace, the dribbler shoves into high gear and drives on past his unsuspecting opponent. Or, with a fake to drive rapidly forward and around the opposing guard, the dribbling offensive player quickly pivots and reverses his field by passing to a swinging team mate going in the opposite direction. This team mate continues the same slow, swinging dribble calculated to drive around the next defensive opponent.

The running screen is employed against a man-for-man defense. By flattening the defense or driving it back closer to the goal, the offensive player in possession of the ball will quickly pivot and pass back to one of the swinging players who will be in a good position for a quick shot over the head of the retreating defense.

In the mimic warfare of American sports and games, of which basketball is one, game principles of strategy and tactics obtain. Basketball tactics should incorporate all nine principles of warfare. Sir Edward Hamley has said that, "The theater of war is the province of strategy, the field of battle is the province of tactics." In actual warfare, both grand tactics and minor tactics prevail. Grand tactics concern only those officers who find themselves in independent command. Minor tactics concern the officers of every rank. The coach is likened to the general in independent command who is concerned with grand tactics; and the players are

likened to the officers of every rank who are concerned with the minor tactics of the game.

Almost every athlete in his boyhood has had his first lessons in minor tactics in games in which he has legitimately fooled his team mates. Herein, he has learned the ways of both the pursuer and the pursued. From the time that he has observed the instinctive feints and starts and stops and turns of his pal and first opponent, his dog, he has been experimenting with points of strategy that will stand him in good stead in these later days, perhaps of stardom on his college team.

The quarterback on a football team is the field general. When on the field he directs all strategy for his team. The real directing genius in the basketball set-up is generally the offensive center located in the back line. He is comparable to the quarterback in football. He directs all plays and makes the necessary passes and, in his key position, can rifle the ball to

any offensive man who evades his opponent and is open for the basket. He can talk to either guard, suggesting plays that they should initiate. He is the general and he should memorize the nine principles of war, which are: (1) the principle of the objective; (2) the principle of the offensive; (3) the principle of the mass; (4) the principle of the economy of force; (5) the principle of movement; (6) the principle of surprise; (7) the principle of security; (8) the principle of simplicity; and (9) the principle of co-operation.

## *Special Screen Plays*

With very few exceptions, in the system of offense to be considered, each of the two offensive forwards is stationed ten feet from the end line and about ten feet from each side line. The other three offensive men are stationed approximately eight feet in front of the division line, with the center in the center or quarterback-

