



EXHIBIT A
Dunking by Seward of Purdue

"DUNKING isn't basketball," says Dr. Forrest C. Allen in an article in the February *Country Gentleman*. Dr. Allen is the leader of a movement to raise the baskets to a height of twelve feet, to give the player of average height a more equitable share in the rewards of under-basket play. As it is now, it is "shooting for the little fellow and dunking for the big boy," as the Kansas coach puts it. (See Exhibit A above.)

The chances that 12-ft. baskets will be adopted by the National Basketball Committee at its spring meeting are not very great. Even if the change were imminent, there is little likelihood that it would apply to high schools. Evidently, there are not enough tall high school players to make dunking the problem to high school basketball that it is to the college game.

Dr. Allen would perhaps be less active in promoting 12-ft. baskets were it not for the strength of another reform movement which favors the elimination of the center jump. There is a question of relative values bearing on these two "tall-man" situations. We asked Dr. Allen for some comment on this question and he responded as follows:

"So long as coaches talk of eliminating the center tipoff, then I use the 12-ft. basket argument to show the real cause of dissatisfaction over the tall man. I have

HERE BELOW

When they talk of throwing out the center jump,
Dr. Allen suggests raising the baskets

always maintained that the tall man beats you under the rebound at either the offensive or defensive basket, and my argument for raising the basket to twelve feet is that the area of dispersion from the rebounds is much greater on a 12-ft. basket than on a 10-ft. basket. Therefore, the players must be further out on the court, and not under the basket as many of them are now, to play a rebound on a higher basket. And, by having a 12-ft. basket, the tall players could not dunk them in as they are doing now.

"My added argument is that with 12-ft. baskets the little fellow could easily arch his shot two feet further, and the big fellow would have to shoot the ball instead of dunking it.

"Moreover, to eliminate the center jump and retain held balls as we now have them, is to disregard the real source of disadvantage arising from all toss-ups. Statistics on our home games this season show that held balls occurred two-thirds as often as center jumps. And for the center tipoff the two jumpers are more evenly matched than any other two jumpers are apt to be on the court. Each coach gets his best jumper for the center tipoff, while on a held ball jump you may have the shortest man on the team jumping against the tallest. This would never obtain on the center jump proposition."

Complaint Dep't

EARL E. OLSON, coach of the high school at Balaton, Minnesota, writes in to call a personal foul on us for our interpretation of the strip of continuous-action pictures on page 23 of the February issue, which showed a set out-of-bounds play under the basket. Mr. Olson says we presented as a legitimate maneuver that which is in reality face guarding, for which a personal foul should have been called. In case you do not recall the strip of pictures in question we are reproducing one frame from the strip herewith (see Exhibit B). Players 1 and 3 are teammates, facing their own basket. Player 1 has just received a high pass from a teammate out-of-bounds under the basket. Player 3 has taken a well-spread position behind Defensive Player 2, with his back to him. Player 3 stands with his back to Player 1 and his guard because it is part of the deception of the play for Player 3 to fake reception of an imaginary pass which his out-of-bounds teammate fakes to him. The mechanics of the play are apparent: In moving to cover Player 1's diagonal dribble, Defensive Player 2 is screened off by Player 3, who, as

all the pictures showed, stood perfectly still. A player cannot commit face-guarding as long as he stands still, regardless of whether he disregards the ball. And if personal contact ensues between Player 3 and Defensive Player 2 when the latter moves to cover Player 1, the foul, if any is called, should certainly not be on Player 3, who has stood still, but on Defensive Player 2 who unwittingly bumped into him. Now, this may not be fair, but at the current writing it is law.

So, as long as Player 3 does not move there cannot justly be a foul called on him. And even though he moved and became a moving screen no foul could justly be called on him for face-guarding unless he was facing an opponent and disregarding the ball. No doubt it was something we wrote in the caption to the pictures in which

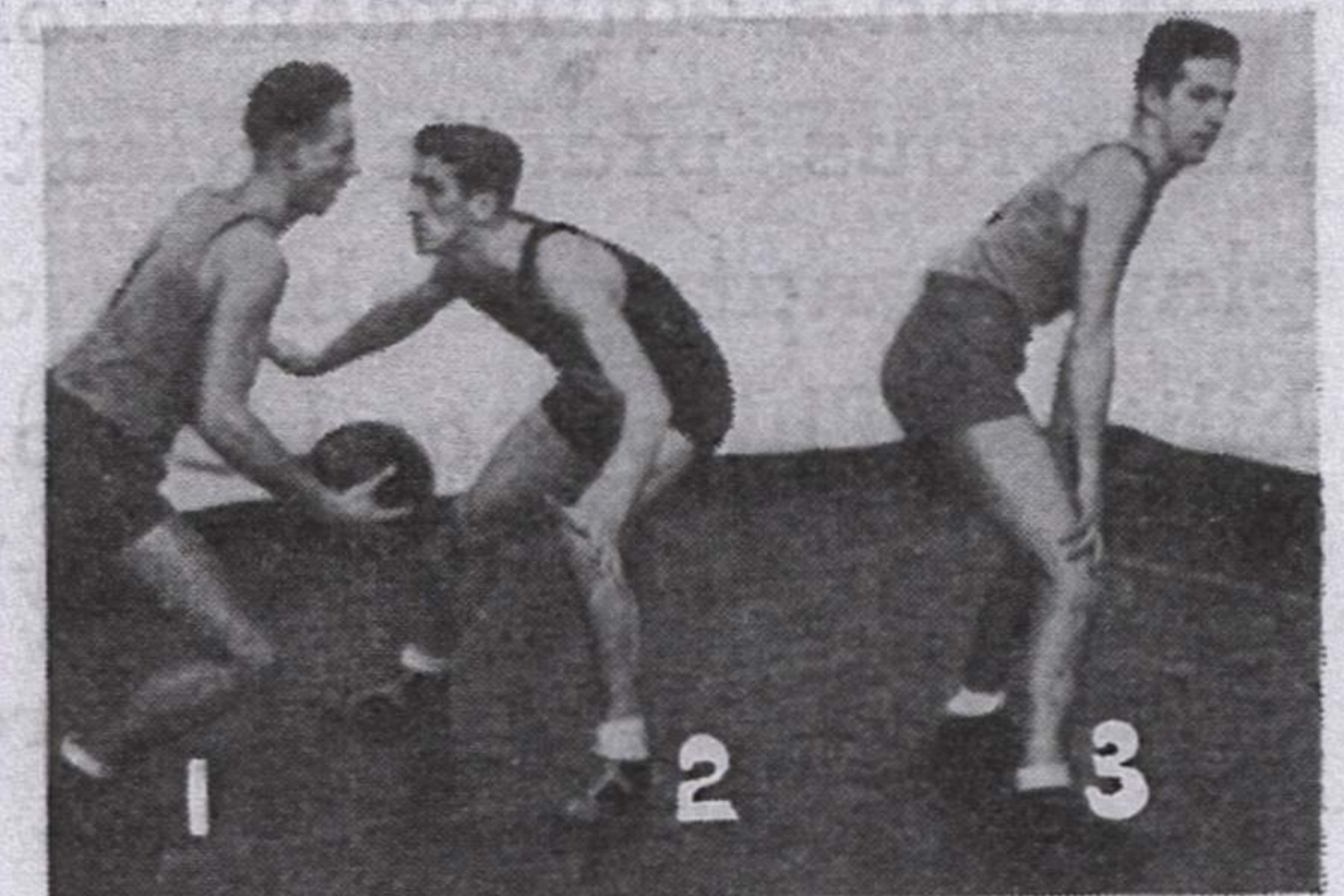


EXHIBIT B
Is 3 Face-guarding?

Mr. Olson saw face-guarding. The pertinent part of the caption said: "If the screen player sees that a successful defensive switch is about to occur, he can become a moving screen to discommode the switchers." In event the play took this turn (which it did not in the pictures) Player 3 would, if he were clever, protect himself against a charge of face-guarding by turning in such a way that he would not be facing either defensive player, and at the same time would avoid causing personal contact by the move.

We are glad that Mr. Olson brought up the point, because it gives us a chance to show off our technical knowledge of a game which is becoming more and more like a game of chess. Pretty soon it will be necessary for a player to jump over an opponent if he wants to get around him.