

October 30, 1945

Mr. Gordon J. Lange
Walworth, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Lange:

I have your very good letter of the twenty-third instant and I am happy to advise you by using my several years of coaching experience as a basis. I understand why most teams play a certain type of zone defense, especially on smaller courts. It is much easier for an unschooled team to mass the defense around the basket in the principal of the zone rather than to play the man for man defense. The man for man defense is much more fatguing than the zone defense.

You state that "we tend to lag and loose many games in the last quarter after we have seemingly won." It is for that reason and others that I use a stratified transitional man for man defense with the zone principal. It is a strata of one with the strata of the other with a transitional from one to the other.

May I explain the situation to you in a little clearer way. When two offensive men attack the basket with one defensive defender the two offensive men, of course, attempt to score. The defensive man or guard plays the more dangerous one of the two offensive men who has the ball. However, he does not rush out after either one but holds both at bay. This guard is using the principal of zone defense yet he is play ng the more dangerous one of the two men. Yet he is keeping an alert watch on the possibility of danger from the other man. Yes, it is possible to build an offense capable of playing against both a zone or a man to man defense.

I have written a book called, "Better Basketball", published by Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, New York. This text explains exactly the system I use and have been using here at Kansas for quite some time. I am sending you some printed matter which gives a description of the book. The book sells for \$4.00 with a \$.10 parcel post mailing charge. If you are interested you might mail me your check and I will be glad to autograph the same if you wish and mail it to you. If after reading the text on these points that you have raised, if you wish further elaboration you may write me and I will be glad to clarify any of the points that you desire.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach

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