

February 13, 1940.

Mr. Adrian J. Brennan, Coach,
St. Thomas Seminary Athletic Association,
Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Dear Coach Brennan:

You will pardon me in not answering your letter of the 25th ultimo sooner, but our examinations came on just at the time your letter arrived. I teach several classes and the giving of examinations, grading papers, as well as handling the enrollment work which throws extra burdens on us, kept me busy at this time.

I will get to the point of your question. If we line up on a 3-2 position, we definitely assign our three back men to definite opponents if and when they come on the court. If our right guard is playing a certain man and they switch on us, our right guard takes the man that comes into the area. They talk to each other on switching and trading and sliding, just the same as a man to man defense.

If two men come into the right guard area, then we give this right guard help. It is owing to the location of the second man that comes into the right guard area as to which one of our men will aid the right guard. Naturally, if the ball is over on the side and in front of the right defensive forward, then the right defensive forward takes that man. The right guard moves up, the left guard moves over under the basket, and the left defensive guard drops back deep equi-distant between his position and the position formerly held by the left guard.

Now this is the principle of the zone on the part of the left guard. But we are still playing a stratified transitional man for man defense with the zone principle. The defensive center drops back only far enough to close up the area behind him, but he is still alert and responsible for the position in front of him, because that area is the hottest spot on the floor. Now this is exactly the way I described it in the book, Better Basketball. If you will read that individual defense, and after you have read that immediately go to team defense, then I believe you will see by the exposition and photographs exactly what I mean.

The location of the ball in the hands of the opponents determines how we shift our men.