

A good guard will hound the ball. He should always be found between his opponent and the basket. This is the first fundamental that should never be neglected.

A wily guard will never let the opposition slip in behind him. He will play the ball and not the man. A crafty guard always knows how to use his weight to advantage without fouling. All prospective guards should take boxing lessons. The boxing skills develop finished guarding technique. The guard should always be on top of the ball and when he cannot get it he should cover his opponent. The boy who spends the greater part of his childhood romping with a playful dog may become in his college years a star basketball guard, for he has learned from the animal certain instinctive movements which will aid him in diagnosing the fundamental movements of his opposing forwards and centers in his future basketball career. By learning how to meet these instinctive feints and bounds of his early animal companion, the intuitive guard will in varsity competition be more able to divine the next movements of his basketball opponent. Some coaches describe this uncanny sense of the guard as the sixth sense. Truly it is an instinctive reaction which is developed to a high degree. These instinctive reactions must be stronger in the guard than in his opponents, or he will not succeed.

A versatile guard outthinks his opponent and beats him to position play. A successful guard knows his areas so well that he may intentionally leave a position apparently unguarded for the purpose of drawing his opponent into a trap. By having perfect confidence in his own strength and agility, the guard will feign a certain inertia or lassitude to encourage his opponent to attempt a shot in supposedly uncovered territory.

Much after the manner of a cat lying near a rat hole watching for the escape of the rodent does the guard torment his opponent. The cat, thoroughly relaxed and at a distance from the hole, will encourage the rat to attempt an