

basketball sins can be covered up in a strong team defense, where a good defensive player might help a poor one. If this defense is spread, it cannot hold up, due to individual weaknesses.

The Break from Offense to Defense: A quick reaction to the loss of the ball and the ability to get back on defense quickly is one of the first fundamentals. This break cannot be as fast as the offensive break because of the starting positions of the men. By stressing this fundamental, however, in practice through team play and talking, it may be developed efficiently.

Formation of Defensive Lines and Positions: The placement of the players in the defense is predetermined in some cases by the requirements of the position. Big men are immediately placed in the back line for rebound duty, while the smaller and faster men are placed in the front line for various reasons. The man sagging off in the front line should be smart, a good ball "hawk", a good rebounder on long rebounds, a good passer, and dribbler. Tall active men are best suited for this position.

The front line defense is placed at varying distances from the center line, according to the ideas of the coach, his material, and the opponents' offense. Some front lines are even with the front line, some three feet in front, others half way, and still others all the way to the center line.

Alternating Defenses

The policy on alternating defenses has great psychological and practical possibilities. Members of the Northern Division of the Pacific Coast Basketball Conference are a progressive group in the use of many defenses. A coach in that conference never knows what kind of defense he will meet in the next game. The Stanford team has used as many as three defenses in one game. In three games at Kansas City last March, we used a zone defense against Rice, a shifting man-to-

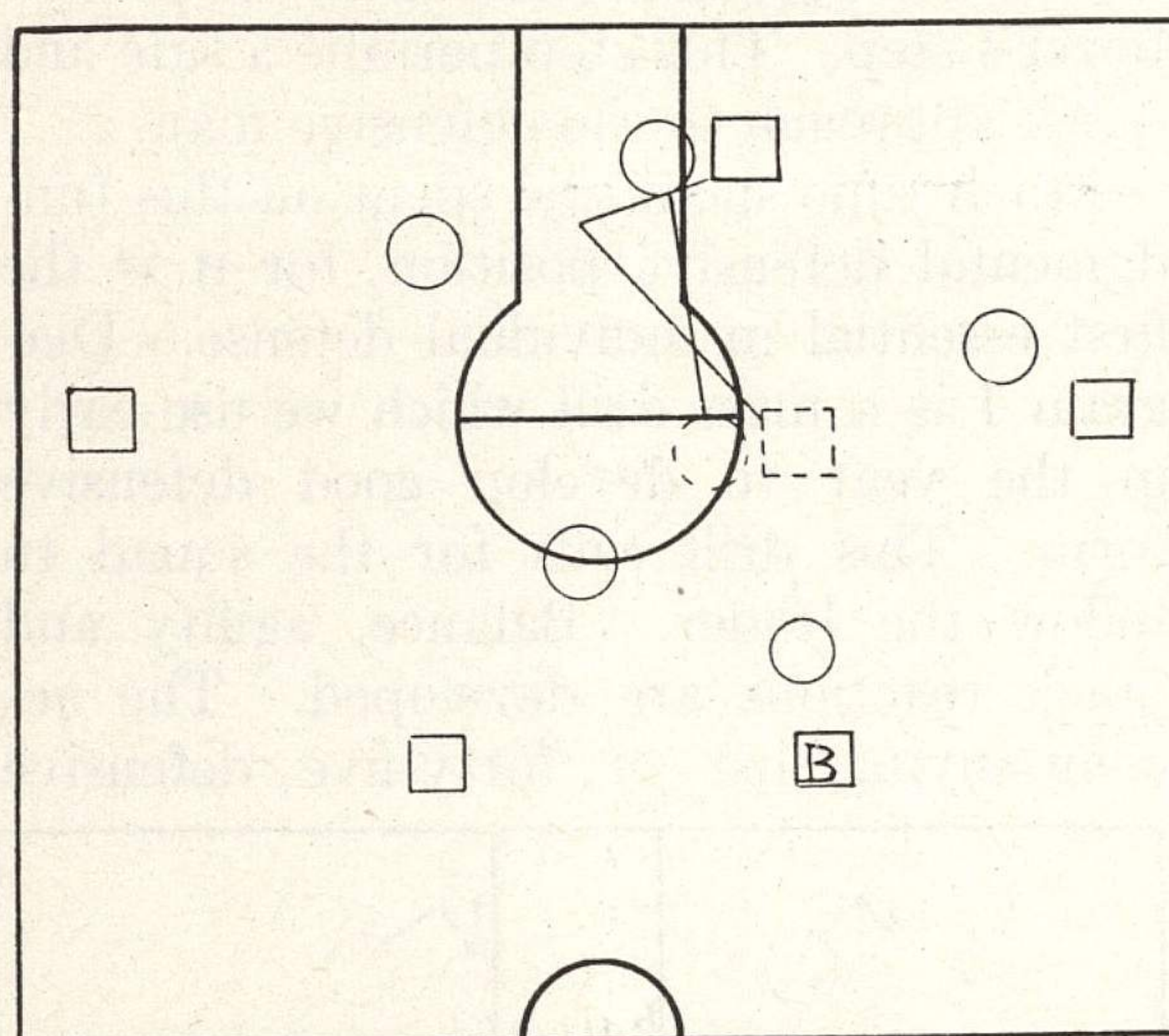


Diagram 2. Showing position of man-to-man defense with the ball at (B).

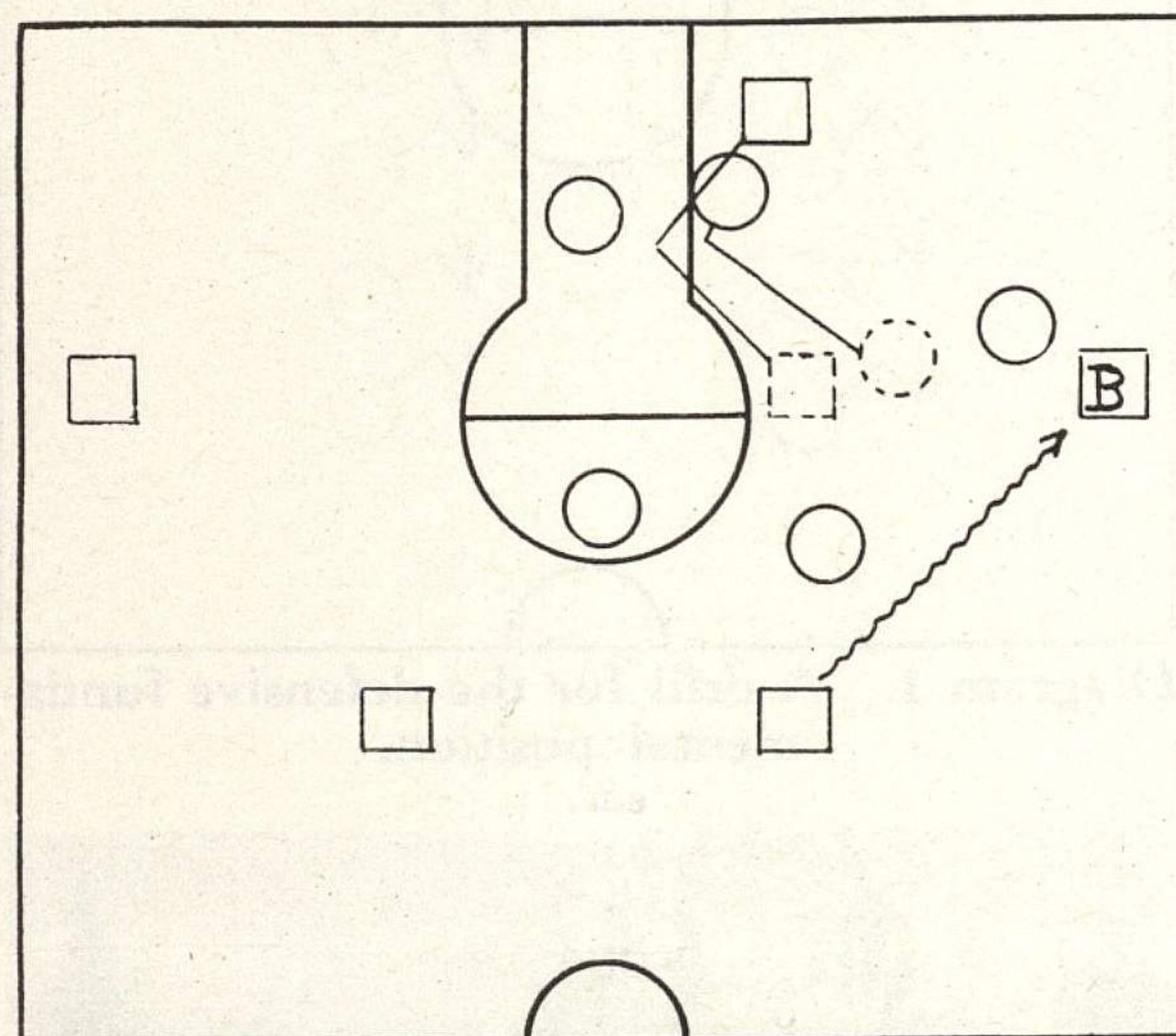


Diagram 3. Showing position of man-to-man defense with ball at (B).

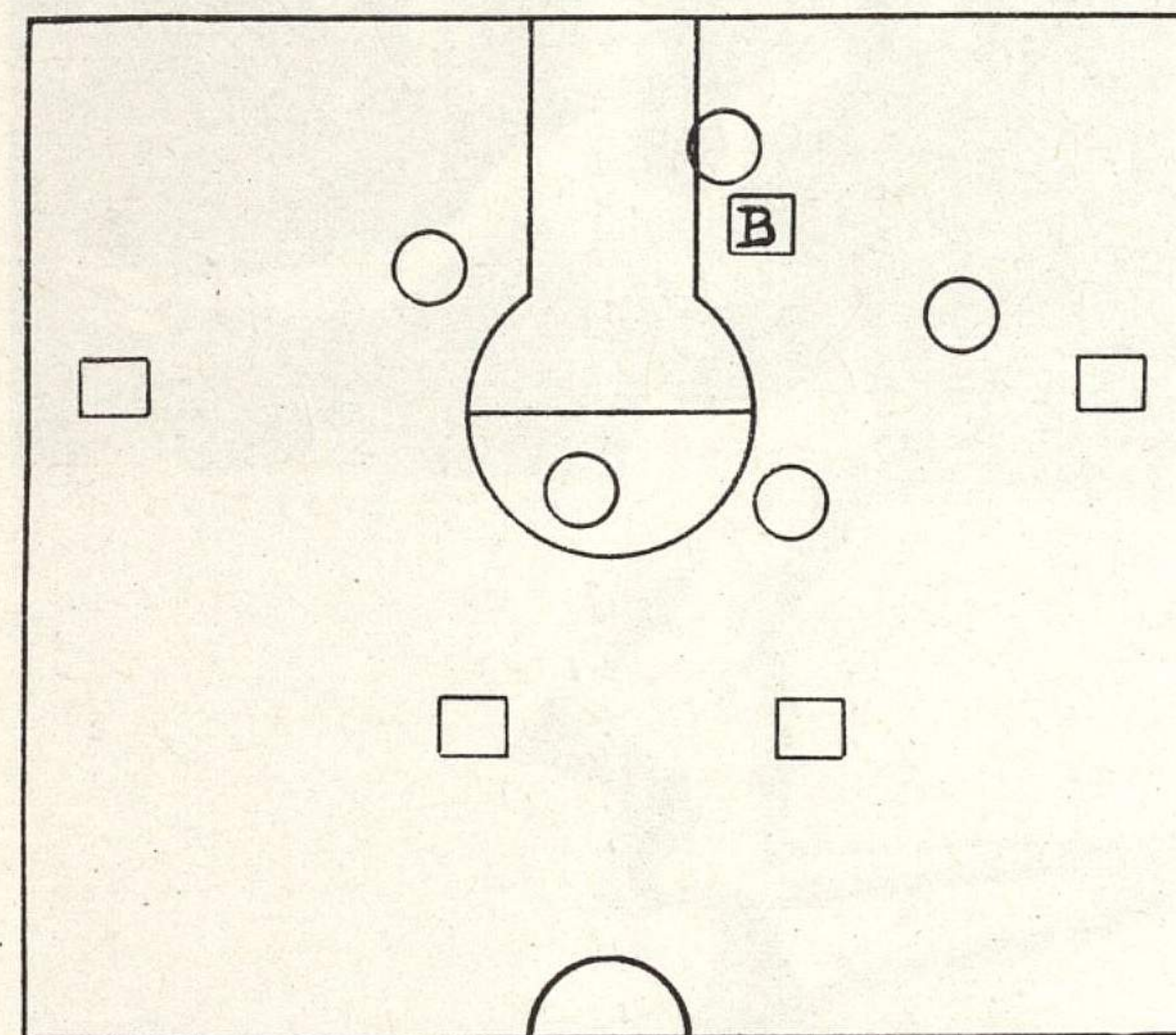


Diagram 4. Showing position of man-to-man defense with ball at (B).

man against Colorado, and an assigned man-to-man with necessary shifting against Dartmouth. We may not have played each defense equally well, but I believe we gained more than we lost by changing our defenses. It is not advisable to follow this policy unless the players are fairly experienced.

The Assigned Man-to-Man Defense

In our discussion of defense, no effort will be made to cover all defenses as one would for a text book. Instead, we will try to cover only those defenses which we have used in recent years. The following is a description in detail of the features of the assigned man-to-man defense. After we have had practice on most of the individual fundamentals, we are then ready to assemble the defense as a team unit.

The type of defense we have used a great deal is the assigned man-to-man defense with zone principle. Experience has proved it a reliable and all-purpose defense.

Execution: Since the players have had considerable practice in 2 versus 2 and 3 versus 3 offensive and defensive practice, it is easier to put together the team defense with its phases of team play. We try to show them these phases by placing a regular defense against a dummy offense. We familiarize the defense with the passing lanes and show how the defense must change position with each pass, in order to close those lanes partially or completely. As the ball moves around the "horn", all players shift and change position with each pass very much as in the zone, hence the zone principle attachment to the name. Diagrams 2, 3 and 4 show various positions of the defense according to the locations of the ball. B indicates the position of the ball. The weak-side guard and forward drop off as much as in a regular zone. The use of hands and arms should be the same. Talking by the back line and, especially, by the center