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~~THE WATCHDOG OF THE BASKET~~

The guard is the bipedal watchdog of the basket. It has often erroneously been said that a good offense is the best defense. It has been my experience that a sterling defense coupled with a better than average offense will more often than not defeat a sterling offense possessed of a near-superior defense.

The common conception of team work is that it applies only to the offense. But in reality it operates at its best on the defense. This misconception can be attributed to the fact that in the early development of the game the players in possession of the ball were the centers of attraction, and the players not in possession drew very little attention. In this ever-changing kaleidoscopic speed game of basketball new variations of defense must be improvised.

The hyper-fast break has placed new burdens on both the guards and the officials. The game is much more difficult to officiate. It is also much more difficult for a team to acquire the proper guarding technique. To ease the burden of the guard, the rules committee now permits a player five personal fouls instead of four before ejection from the game.

Much of the offensive drills are sheer fun because ^{there} ~~it~~ is the ball handling connected with this fundamental feature. But guarding technique is work, - and hard work. A young player will practice, even alone, goal and free shooting by the hour because it is fun. But few players in off moments will ever attempt to practice guarding technique to improve their defensive prowess. All players want possession of the ball so that they can shoot at the basket. Therefore, a versatile coach will improvise competitive fundamental drills wherein the guard is glorified. During these practice sessions an opportunity is given the coach to drive home needful lessons.