

A ball the size of a basketball should be caught easily. The chief cause of fumbling, I believe, lies in the tendency of the player about to receive the ball to shift his eyes to the area to which he hopes to pass or to shoot, instead of following the ball's flight until it rests snugly in his hands. A player catching a ball should always shift his body directly back of and in line with the flight of the ball rather than to reach out and endeavor to pull the ball toward him. Eyes on the ball until the ball is actually caught, is the thing to remember constantly during the heat of battle.

The pivot should never be used when the player can pass the ball forward. When pivoting the head and shoulder on the pivot-foot side should be brought back and down. Then the weight of the body will naturally give in that direction. Many feints and shifts do not materially affect the body impetus. Feints should be made with the head and shoulders and not with the hands and forearms. If a player is driving down the court and is unable to pick out a team mate in front of him, he should pivot and look for an opening for a back-pass to a team mate, who can follow with a forward pass or a drive toward the basket.

Shadow-dodging and stopping are invaluable practices in perfecting shifty footwork. The dribble, the pivot, the side-step, the feint, and the dodge have revolutionized the game of basket ball. Before the dribble was permitted, the player could advance the ball only by passing it or batting it forward. Now, the game is not unlike checkers, but instead of jumping over the man, as in checkers, the