

strata of the zone principle. The front guard is placed seven feet in front of the guard shown in Exhibit 1. This is a tandem defensive formation. The rear defensive guard has dropped back to a position about five feet directly in front of the basket and the front guard plays about seven feet in front of his teammate. The expectant attitude of the defensive players should be stressed. This is the formation that I use always against fast breaks. It will be noted that the most vulnerable point of the basket is protected, namely, directly in front, and the two defensive players shift to meet an offensive three-man thrust.

Whether the offense attempts a shot or a pass, the defensive players will always shift the spearhead of their defense in the direction of the ball. These men will constantly be shifting positions in their endeavor to stop all offensive shots. Furthermore, both of the defensive players will be using every talent at their command to hurry and confuse the offensive ball handlers. Naturally the guards must be taught to expect the offensive men to shoot, but when a shot is made by the offense then the defensive men are in an ideal position to recover the ball. It must be stressed that the three men are to dribble, pivot and pass to jockey the two defensive men out of position.

The coach handles the ball on each try, and during the interim he lectures the defensive men on teamwork, in shifting for rebounds, and strategic defensive moves.

The two guards are constantly hounding the three opponents and the ball. Their facial expressions should reveal their militant attitude. As the rear defensive guard shifts over to block a shot the front defensive guard shifts slightly back and away as he menaces the front offensive man and discourages his idea of a return pass. When the two defensive guards are drawn out of position they will re-form in the anterior-posterior guarding position as quickly as possible.