

escape. Being instinctively possessed with a confidence in her own power, the cat will leap upon her prey and exterminate it. So should the basketball guard know his own physical powers and the territory that he can successfully control. Such a guard will have poise and power and confidence and a contagious enthusiasm that bodes ill for an opponent who attempts an offensive thrust into his territory. A versatile and aggressive guard will combine all the qualities of leadership at his command to ward off the offensive thrusts of two opponents. Only when outnumbered in manpower is the guard in danger.

A highly successful coach uses neither a straight man-for-man nor a strictly zone defense. He uses a combination of both because a straight man-for-man has its weaknesses, but not as many weaknesses as a zone, and a straight zone has weaknesses that are easily overcome. But a man-for-man defense with the zone principle will pay splendid dividends.

When a single guard is forced to play two offensive men he learns to play the principle of the zone defense, yet he plays the man with the ball and also keeps a weather eye for the other potential scorer.

I prefer to teach my defensive fundamentals through competition. We place this guard seven feet in under and in front of the basket. He can thwart any close drives to the basket and at the same time harass his opponents should they attempt to shoot.

The two offensive men in Diagram 1 are to locate themselves in any favorable position they prefer before the ball is tossed to one of them by the coach. They are expected to dribble, pivot, pass and cut in and endeavor to draw the guard out of position before shooting. Five tries are permitted these offensive men. If either one of the offensive men illegally starts a dribble, commits a violation or makes a foul, then one point is scored for the defense. As long as there are no fouls by either side, play continues. If the guard fouls, one point is scored against the guard. There are five points counted for five tries.