

December 27, 1939.

Mr. K. H. Mansfield,
Basketball Coach,
Bar Harbor High School,
Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Coach Mansfield:

Your letter of recent date has been received, and I want to assure you that there is no imposition on your part for you to write me if and when you feel the urge. I am always happy to hear from coaches who are acquainted with "Better Basketball", because it makes it a very easy matter for me to refer to certain articles or play situations in the book to aid my readers.

I might say, Coach Mansfield, that I started coaching on very small courts and I always keep in mind the coach playing on small courts when I diagram or describe plays because I know that the majority of the courts are not regulation size.

If you will kindly refer to page 291, chapter 13, under "Set Offenses Against Zone Defenses", I believe that you will find some plays that will work. On page 292, diagram 80, play No. 1, page 293, diagram 81, play No. 2, page 294, diagram 82, play No. 3, and page 295, diagram 83, play No. 4, you will find plays that I use now and have used on small courts, and I believe they are suited to your needs.

In the early days when I coached basketball I manipulated the ball in and out until I could get a shot from the side at an angle by which I could bank the ball in on the board. Most floors were narrow and most ceilings were low. Therefore, the only tangible shot that we could get for a counter would be a bank shot off to the side. These are still good plays and the basis of the above-mentioned plays is the fact that they are all worked at from the angle of the sideline on bank shots.

Now, on page 229 there is a description of plays that are to be worked against teams employing the man-to-man defense. However, these plays will work beautifully against a 2-1-2 defense. On page 230, diagram 41, play 33, page 231, diagram 42, play 34, and the succeeding plays 43, 44, 45 and 46 and all derivations off of these plays give you the same bank shot from the side as were set up in diagrams 81, 82 and 83.