

November 28, 1938.

Coach Bob Mack,
White Cloud Public Schools,
White Cloud, Michigan.

Dear Coach Mack:

I am very sorry that I have delayed in answering your good letter of the 8th instant as long as I have. I have had a tremendous rush here at the office, and as soon as your letter arrived I looked up the play on page 293 of "Better Basketball", diagram 81, and found that (5) should read (2) .

By looking over on diagram 80 you will see that (2) is played where (5) is played in the same relative spot. The man who made the diagram made the error in question. I am sorry, but if you will forgive this error, and locate (2) where (5) is shown in diagram 81 the play is very clear.

If most of your opponents are using the zone defense, I would practice these plays. Of course, the matter of timing these plays has a lot to do with the success of them. I use the very two plays that I have diagrammed here against any team that uses a zone defense.

And then you will notice that diagrams 82 and 83 are just another pass back to the center man, (3), who cuts to a different position and receives a pass to shoot. This is still, of course, the zone offensive play. You may have difficulty in getting your boys to do this and it will take much hard work, but any set play naturally takes much work to perfect it. Of course, when the play doesn't work properly I would set it up again and start over. By putting dummy defense men in there for a while to use mock scrimmage and have the defensive men not fight the offensive men, I believe you will learn much in working through the defensive team.

After all, a coach determines just how far he can go by sizing up his material and how experienced they are. I believe frankly that you could work on your exercise and fundamentals, and after your fundamentals are good your plays will work out much better. Let me know how you get along.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH