

A fast coming Marshall quintet is attracting attention. Although in fifth place last year the Herd was just reaching a winning stride when the season closed. With a bumper crop from the freshman ranks, several of whom have elbowed out strong regulars, Marshall becomes a real title threat.

Coach John Mauer, formerly at Kentucky, has had several lean years at Miami but finally has a favorable outlook for his Redskins. Mauer's team finished fourth last year but has available a veteran for every starting position with some fine sophomores as reserves.

On a squad of 16 men Coach Ray Holsinger at Dayton has three lettered juniors and twelve sophomores. It is to the latter that the Flyer coach looks for the strength to lift his team out of the cellar. There is little doubt that Holsinger has a better team than one which could win only one of its ten conference starts last year.

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GIVE THE OFFENSE A BREAK

Addressing the Metropolitan Basketball Writers' Association in New York City, Clair F. Bee, coach at Long Island University, is quoted in the press:

"Set blocks are outrageous. They have no place in basketball. Anybody can pick up a pencil and a wad of paper and diagram blocks plays until the cows come home, and blocks are easy to coach. You will find teams from a territory where block plays are allowed all use the zone defense to protect their players from being hit from behind".

Continuing his comments, Mr. Bee defined "set blocks" as determined efforts by the offense to jolt defensive players out of position by tactics similar to clipping in football.

Coaches everywhere recognize this tirade as some more publicity intended to force the New York interpretations on blocks and screens upon the National Rules Committee and the rest of the country. "Teams from a territory where block plays are allowed" refers, of course, to the part of the United States outside of the Metropolitan area. That Mr. Bee is using an extreme to prove his point is obvious, for the rules are specific regarding blocks; officials universally call them; and coaches dare not teach them. Coaches committed to zone defenses probably will be greatly surprised and somewhat amused to know that they do so because of a fear that their men will be clipped from behind if they try a man-to-man style. A census of teams in any section unquestionably will show as much use of man-to-man defenses as obtains in New York City. Such veiled criticism and exaggerated statements coming from an area which legalizes flying tackles by its defensive players as does New York leaves a bad taste in the mouths of everyone, and certainly won't assist any in bridging the wide gap now existing between that area and the rest of the basketball world regarding interpretations of screens and blocks.

Dr. H. C. Carlson, whose Pittsburgh U. teams play extensive inter-sectional schedules, makes some pointed comments on the situation in a recent letter:

"Basketball offenses would have further restrictions if some interests are heeded. Offensive territory first was cut in half, then the heart of the