

January 27, 1943.

Mr. Nelson W. Nitchman,
U. S. Coast Guard Academy,
New London, Conn.

Dear Mr. Nitchman:

I have outlined on the reverse side of your letter the tactics that I have found most effective against the style of all-court pressing or rushing games. On diagram #1 I have shown pressing against a set offense, but the same principles can be employed whether it is set or down the court. You will notice that the square, the defensive left forward, is pressing the defensive right guard.

If the center will cut across in front and toward the sideline he will draw his opponent with him. Then the left guard on the offense can cut across to the vacated area and receive the ball. Then the offensive right forward can come up and receive the pass from the offensive left guard. As soon as you break this all-set manaceling defense you will have no trouble in working through it.

On diagram #3 the conditions are reversed. On diagram #2 the all-pressing game is on the center or quarterback man, the man in the middle of the back line. Either one of the guards can cut diagonally to the front and across the center and they will open up the forward position so that the forward may receive the pass from the quarterback or center.

The players may not be spotted on the all-over court proposition as I have them here, but I believe that this will give you an escape that should enable you to free yourself from this pressing game. This is what I use and have used with good success.

Trusting that this is satisfactory, and that you have continued good luck, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH