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December 16, 1938.

Mr. Nelson W. Nitchman,
Basketball Coach,
Union College,
Schuectady, New York.

Dear Coach Nitchman:

I am sorry that I have delayed answering your letter as long as I have.

Yes, I would use a pressing defense with my two 5'8" forwards and I would retreat my other three men on a 1-2-1 zone. Then I would have my two fast forwards float back into that, but instead of dropping back on the court in a straight line I would criss-cross my men in dropping back in the court. That cuts off any fast rush or dribble.

Yes, I would also rely on a fast break, but when the opponents have an equal number of defensive men back I would cease my fast break and set my plays up in a set offensive style. There are set formations in my book which we practice and when the defense gets set then we shoot a set offense against them.

I do not use a double pivot. Rather, I use my forwards in the corner. You speak of the double pivot attack taking one of your best set shots away in the person of the tall lad who is deadly from the outside. Why not use him in the back line on offense and have one of your other men take this chap's work? In addition to the fast break and the set plays you could also work on the free moving of the ball with a swing or switch system. That would give you enough versatility and it would be difficult for any team to meet, and yet it would enable you to utilize every force at your command.

I trust this information will give you what you want. If not, come back at me with questions and diagrams, so that I may mark the diagrams which will enable you to understand what I am trying to explain to you.

Thanking you for your kind wishes, and wishing you the best of success, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH