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December 7, 1938.

Mr. Art Powell,
Basketball Coach,
University of Buffalo,
699 Main Street,
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Art:

I am glad to have your letter of December 3. First, I want to say, Art, that I use the man for man defense with the zone principle, a strata of man to man and a strata of zone. We play man to man most of the time but when we can float into the principle of the zone we do it.

I had a big boy, Al Wellhausen, who was 6 feet 7 inches tall and I used him under the basket. By using only one man like this makes a strata of the zone and a strata of the man to man very difficult because we are forced to play a zone defense with only this one man, and a man to man with the others.

This is the way we did it. It happened that Wellhausen was a high jumper, and I always shifted him out about two feet in front of the basket, always in the direction of where the ball was being passed. If the ball was over on the left hand side of the court Wellhausen shifted left about two feet in front of the basket, and then when the fellow shot he jumped high above the basket and captured it. The other four men we played man to man with a sliding, trading, switching proposition on, but never bothering Wellhausen. In other words, we always took the men as they came in and they were never the same men.

Now that makes a tough job for any coach. It is a teamwork defensive proposition rather than an individual proposition. I did not put that in the book because it was not the orthodox way of playing it and I was not sure that I was doing it correctly. However, we won the conference championship, and only about one in ten shots got into the basket while Wellhausen was around it. Long shots were no good, nor were ten to fifteen feet shots. The strategy of the opponents was to drive in, pivot, pass back and snap it over on the side before Wellhausen could shift around. By low driving and pivoting the men can get within ten or fifteen feet of the basket and this was the best way to upset this type of defense. We lost one game during the season on this style.