

Under the former game a player who made from four to six baskets was a star. Now a player - be he a guard or a forward scores from four baskets and upward without playing the full game. In other words to me defensive basketball is but a very small part of the game. I have watched high school, college, independent league, church teams, semi-pro and pro games this season. Where the team is composed mainly of seasoned players they attempt a fast break if they can get a man loose - if that doesn't work they slow up the play and work the ball around some but shoot much more often than they did under the old game. As for the younger boys all they did was run - run - run. Such a thing as a set shot is seldom - most shots are attempted while in motion. What chance has a coach to teach fundamentals to those youngsters? All they want is the ball and a crack at the hoop. They would welcome a smaller ball and a larger hoop. It isn't to them a question of making a basket - but rather - "how many did you throw in to-day" - What do they want to practice dribble in and step in shots for when they seldom work the ball in closer than to the key hole? Do you like the new game Mr. Allen? Have you found players who like this game because they can take it easy on defense?

The other night I had a rather interesting conversation at a basketball game with the chap who sat next to me. He proved to be from the East and I found his remarks most interesting. One thing in particular he said made me decide to ask you about it. He claims that the coach of the high scoring Long Island teams instructs his men to shoot without looking at the ball - he states that by concentrating on the hoop you will be more successful particularly on long shots. That is contrary to every coach from whom I have ever received instructions. I was told to avoid concentrating on the hoop because by constantly looking at the hoop I would be trying to "fit" the ball into that hoop. I'd sure like to get your reaction to this shooting idea.

It occurred to me that you might get a kick out of the attached clipping.

Sincerely yours,

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