

Whitney Martin's article out of New York on January 22, quoting basketball coaches on the zone defense should cause a merry ripple of laughter. Any podunk coach should be able to defeat a straight zone game.

What the losers are squawking about is their inability to beat a combination of man for man and part zone.

There are ways to chart an offense through any defense if the offensive team is intelligent and crafty enough. It is an admission of weakness for a coach to decry a team using any type of defense that he may elect.

Football coaches use a zone, a combination man for man and part zone and a zone defense as they wish. No football coach decries any defense.

Too many basketball coaches teach moving the ball quickly about to beat a zone. That is only part of the answer. There are passing and moving lanes through a zone defense and it is necessary to move all of the men as the ball is manipulated from place to place the same as traffic is moved in a congested traffic zone.

You will win your fair percentage by intelligently working through a zone defense the same as you do by working through a man for man defense.

Everett Dean of Stanford University's N.C.A.A. champions of two years ago, told me that none of the Big Ten coaches understood how to break through a zone defense. Kentucky defeated Illinois Whiz Kids and this year defeated Ohio State with a combination zone and man for man play.

What one coach calls a combination man for man and zone, another may call it differently.