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November 23, 1938.

Mr. Lawrence Stanton,
Page City, Kansas.

Dear Lawrence:

Answering your good letter of the 14th instant, I might say that you are correct in that the guards work from the center of the court when there are none of the other fellows to help them. If there is only one guard back, he is 7 feet from the end line and he works in three directions, using the boxer's stance.

When there are only two guards back they are 7 feet in front of the rear court and the first man fans and the man behind plays his position according to the location of the other fellow. I think you are correct in that. When a guard goes out from a basket this man goes to one corner and the other guard stops in under the basket and the center is out about to the free throw circle or further if necessary, but the center stays back pretty well until drawn out. The forward on the opposite side drops back equidistant between the forward's position where he had been playing and the guard's position who is pulled in under the basket. You do not drop your center back because that leaves a vulnerable point open to attack, and that vulnerable point is that position out immediately in front of the basket.

You are right, if the center does drop back there will be a hole around the free throw territory. If you will take that chapter in "Better Basketball" on individual defense and read it you will see that the defense is built up first from your guard and then when the center gets back the guards drop back in their usual position. You do have this new book, do you not? If you do, then take the pictures in the book and follow them pretty closely together with the exposition.

Yes, you are right regarding the forwards man to man against the guards except when they swing and close. Then we trade off, which we call slide or switch. I always ask the defensive men to station themselves from 3 to 7 feet from the offensive man when the ball is near their man. When the ball is on the opposite side of the court, then draw a line from the ball back diagonally into the other half of the court and that is how far I would drop my forward back on the weak side.

I am sorry that we will not have any practice sessions during the Thanksgiving holidays. The boys have gone home and will not return until Sunday evening. If at any time you will draw some