

# Common Sense In By Handley Cross Basket Ball

Ed McNichol, Famous University of Pennsylvania Player and Coach, Talks About the Popular Court Game

**B**ASKET-BALL systems? Of course—every college, almost, has its basket-ball system," said Ed McNichol, University of Pennsylvania varsity basket-ball coach, settling himself comfortably for a talk in the Red and Blue's athletic general headquarters at Franklin Field, in Philadelphia. "But there is something far more important in basket ball than systems of play, no matter how good those systems may be. That something is common sense! And common sense in basket ball means making the best of your material—getting the most out of your players.

"Take our 1928-1929 team as an example. It wasn't a really great team, although it won the championship of the Eastern Intercollegiate League. A good team, yes—but not a great team. If we hadn't used our common sense, and had tried to play the same brand of basket ball that we used to play here at Pennsylvania back in the years between 1918 and 1921, when we did have really great teams, we would have finished third or fourth in the league race. But we did use our common sense, and that meant using to the limit our most effective offensive weapon—'Sharpshooter' Joey Schaaf. Circumstances made it necessary that our strategy have just one object—to work Joey Schaaf into position to shoot for a basket, and then to give him the ball. It wasn't a one-man team, because it took good teamwork by the other players to get Schaaf into position to shoot, but it was a team built

around the scoring ability of one great offensive player. And it was a team good enough to win the league title."

## A BASKET-BALL FAMILY.

Ed McNichol is a member of a family famous in the annals of University of Pennsylvania basket ball. Seven McNichol brothers—Harry, Dan, Jim, Joe, John, Frank and Ed—have helped to make basket-ball history at Old Penn, and between 1905, when Harry entered college, and 1917, when Ed was graduated, almost every Pennsylvania team that took the court had a McNichol playing on it. In 1925 the McNichol clan gathered under its family banner and defeated the Penn varsity team, 23 to 18. All of the brothers played in that game, the starting line-up being Harry, Dan, Jim, John and Ed, and Joe and Frank acting as substitutes.

Ed McNichol played on his freshman basket-ball team, and on the varsity for three years, and also played varsity baseball. He started coaching at Pennsylvania shortly after being graduated, and has been varsity coach for the past ten years. He has been an outstanding success. In those ten years Pennsylvania has won the championship of the Eastern Intercollegiate League four times—in 1920, 1921, 1928 and 1929; has finished second once; fourth, three times; fifth, once; and last, once. Penn's victory in 1920 gave the university permanent possession of the