

BASKET BALL

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Basket Ball by Edwin J. Mather

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BASKET BALL

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PREFACE

THE present work attempts to fulfill two objects. First, to give a review of basket ball in general, in order that it may be helpful to the beginner. Therefore, it covers the fundamentals of the game, and discusses in a general way the different styles of offense and defense, so that the new coach may find a groundwork upon which he may later incorporate his own ideas. Secondly, it attempts the more ambitious purpose, so often neglected in athletic textbooks, of serving the experienced coach as well, by going into the complete details of finished teamplay, and by doing so to show the way in which plays are related into a distinctive system.

Every source of information has been sought in order to cover completely the whole field of basket ball. The writers have observed the teams of the Western Conference, and of the Eastern Intercollegiate, also professional teams of national prominence, as well as championship high-school teams assembled together at state tournaments. One interesting thing that has been noticed is the increasing ability of our coaches. Better teams are being placed on the floor. Particularly gratifying is the constant improvement in sportsmanship that is being evidenced on the part of both players and crowds.

The beginning coach today starts out with a distinct advantage. Information on the inside strategy of basket ball, for a long time held back in a secretive manner, is now being scattered about freely through new textbooks and through coaching courses given at university summer schools. With basket ball games being scouted similarly to the way football games are reported on, it is practically impossible for a coach to keep one system to himself. Other teams will find it out; will copy it and plan defenses for it. Therefore the successful coach has been more ready to discuss his ideas on basket ball.

In writing this work, account has been taken of the fact that basket ball is a changing game, in a state of evolution. For a while a certain style of play will be in universal favor, and then as methods are found to circumvent this, a new style will gradually supplant it. However, there are certain fundamentals and principles that must remain standard, and the book has given especial stress to these.

The writers appreciate the help that has been given them. To Archie Hahn, varsity trainer at the University of Michigan, and to William Fallon, a trainer of the 1920 American Olympic team, acknowledgment is due for valuable information along the lines of training and conditioning men. Many coaches have contributed in the sense that their ideas have been borrowed and incorporated into this work.

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