

BASKETBALL is a complicated game, so if you can't tell what's going on out on the floor—don't worry. Chances are you're not the only one.

There are five men from each team on the floor. All five seem to be doing something different most of the time. They are, in reality, all working together. But the first hint you get of this comes when the team scores a basket. Each man has a definite job to do for each basket that's scored.

Usually the tallest man on a team is the center. He's the man who jumps for the ball in the center ring at the beginning of each half.

When the opposing team shoots and doesn't score, it's the center's job to get the ball and pass it to a teammate who'll take it down the floor. When his own team shoots and misses, he'll get the ball and try to put it in the basket. He usually does nothing more than hit it with his fingertips to put it into the net. This type of shot is called a tip-in. Many times the center is the high-scorer (as in the case of Don Paulsen) because of these tip-ins. In many cases he'll stand under the basket where someone shoots and merely knock the ball into the net if the shot misses. He gets credit for the points without doing a lot of running around getting in the clear to make a shot.

Forward's Job

The two forwards are almost always taller than anyone except the center. They play under the basket and get rebounds (a shot that misses) when the center, is out of position to handle the ball. Unlike the center, however, the forwards handle the ball while a scoring play is being set up. Their scoring punch is most deadly at short range. They are usually expert at one type of shot made within 15 feet of the basket.

Filling out the five man team are two guards. They must be expert ball handlers because they have the task of taking the ball down-court after the opposing

BASKETBALL

Women are pests at a basketball game, say the men. They bother us with questions at the most crucial point of the game.

By JULES GERARD

team has scored. It is up to them to pass the ball back and forth in front of the opposition—waiting for an opening that will allow a play to be set up. When a guard scores, it is ordinarily from a spot out behind the free-throw ring.

One kind of shot already mentioned is the tip-in. The second most common scoring attempt is the set shot. It is exactly what the name implies—a shot made after a player has time to aim. He gets "set," in other words. Third there's the lay-in, lay-up or set-up, whichever you prefer. One of these names is given a

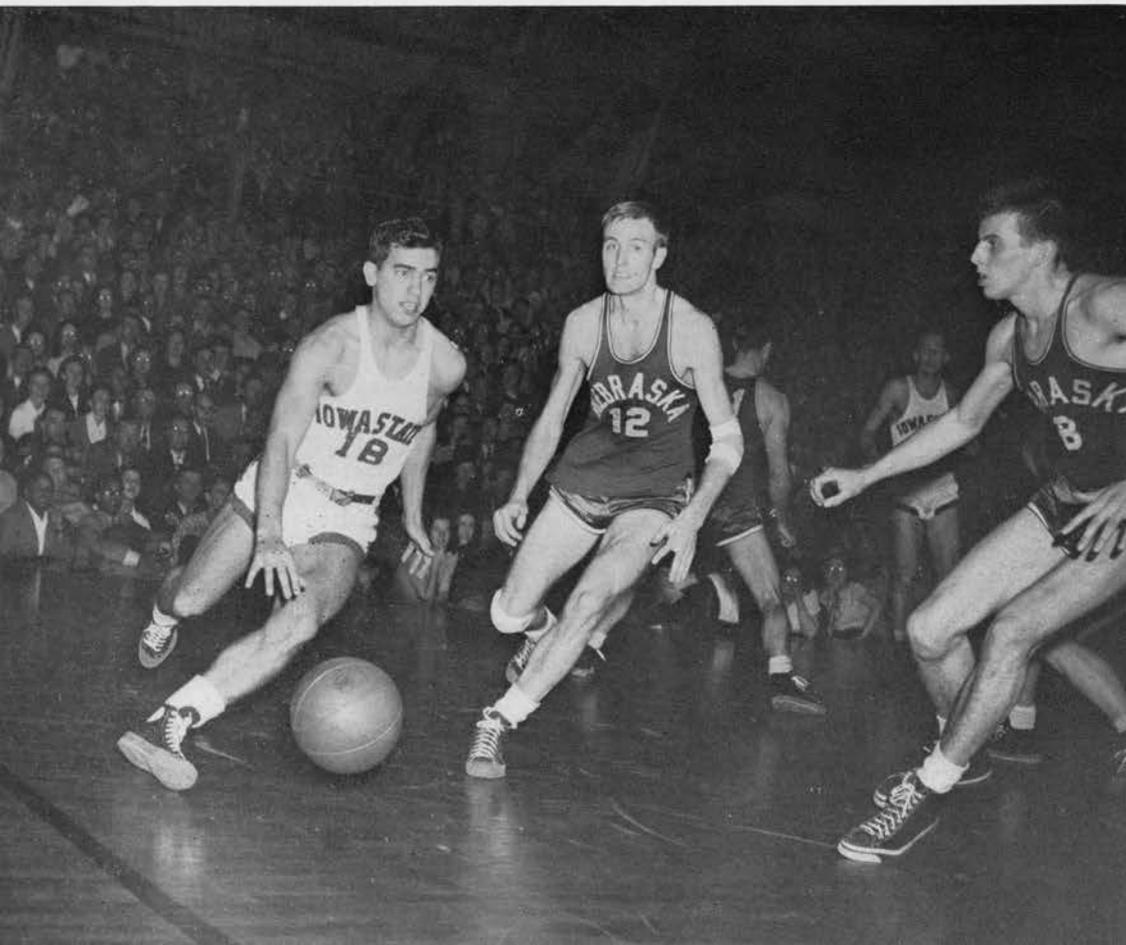
shot made as the player comes in under the basket, and shoots about 2 feet away from the rim. There are many variations of this attempt, depending largely on the manner in which the player approaches the basket. And then there are thousands of others shots that are made from just about anywhere and have many different titles.

Before a shot can be made a player has to be in position to make a basket. This means eliminating the other team's guard. There are numerous methods of doing this — the simplest and most common way is known as "screening."

The principle of screening is simple. It means getting a man from your team in the way of the man

Near the end of a fast and furious game Don Ferguson starts dribbling in circles during a Cyclone still.

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER



FROM THE BLEACHERS

who's guarding him. When a player separates you from your guard, you have a few seconds to make a shot—which is exactly what you want. There are various ways of getting that teammate in the way. The simplest is this: You receive the ball and dribble close by a player from your own team. Your guard, who will try to keep himself between you and the basket, cannot run into your teammate and push him out of the way. Therefore, he must go more behind the teammate. As soon as he does, you stop and make the shot.

Springing

Other ways of springing a man in the clear are mostly adaptations of this principle. Some are very complex and may require the entire team to clear one player. Sometimes this method is used to allow one man to go in under the basket. A variation of this screening play is for the ball-handler to dribble in such a fashion that two members of the opposing team are in each other's way.

Scoring, of course, is not the whole game. To win games, you have to limit the other team to as few points as possible. There are two primary defense systems in basketball. A man-for-man defense is most common while the zone defense is nearly obsolete.

In a man-for-man set-up, each player is assigned to a certain player from the other team. They cover their assigned man during the entire game. In a zone setup, each player is assigned a certain portion of the floor and he will cover any player who has the ball in that zone.

Scoring Plays

Last of all, there must be a play—a definite pattern of offense—that will get the ball in scoring position. These plays consist mainly of screening a player or players, in order that one of your teammates can make a shot.

Ordinarily, a play begins after much ball handling in the front court of the opposition. Guards and forwards pass the ball back and forth until a member of the enemy team moves into a desirable place. As soon as that move is made, the play begins. It ends when a basket is made or when the other team captures the ball. Some plays use the center as the hub of a wheel, while the other four men act as the rim. The center takes the ball and passes it to a teammate he thinks is in the best position. Or he may fake a pass and shoot himself. This model was used by Drake University. There are many plays, all too numerous to include here.

But if you keep your eyes open at the next game, you'll see the plays unfold. You'll see the marvel of a modern basketball team operating like a well-oiled machine. Don't keep your eyes on the ball. Watch the other players sometimes. It's more fun if you have an idea of what's taking place. Perhaps you'll surprise your date with your knowledge. You may, in fact, know more about it than he does.

Bob Peterson, Iowa State guard, gets ready to pounce on the ball and bring it back into the hands of the Cardinal and Gold. The unsuccessful Cornhusker in the background seems to be trying to figure out where Peterson is headed next. One Nebraskan is already resting on the deck while a Cyclone moves in to give Peterson a hand.

