

## Edition 18

### Things We Need to Do Better — Part IV

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Is block/charge really a 50-50 call? It's not supposed to be, but as experienced officials when we're watching from the stands we will see plays that, in our mind's eye, we're calling a charge, but the official on the floor calls a block. When you observe those types of plays, what is your reaction? You are experienced. The official making the call is experienced. Someone is wrong, but not both. Someone — either you or the official in the game — is picking up the essentials of the play. The other is not. When you are the observer, all you can really do is prepare yourself and make sure that when *you* are on the floor, your calls are near perfect.

#### **Pick up the defense picking up the offense**

The advice is always to "see the whole play," yet officials must not be doing that all the time. No, instead they are seeing the last 40-50% of the play, and that often makes it a guess. They would tell you in their minds it wasn't a guess, but a video breakdown of the play would demonstrate it quickly. They didn't pick up the play soon enough. The defense doesn't often go *out* after the offense (in this case the dribbler); rather, the defender usually slides to the side and "picks them up" anywhere from 10 to 20 feet away, maybe more. In effect, the defensive challenge is on, though the requirement (maximum of six feet) has not been met for establishing a legal guarding position. Yet a legal guarding position is about to occur very quickly as both players maneuver.

That doesn't have to occur in the paint and quite often doesn't. Some estimate that the block/charge is *not* missed very often outside the paint precisely because officials see the whole play. The same cannot be said for block/charges called in the key. Officials need to see this happen. They need to see the defense picking up the offense and recognize that it is occurring *before* a legal guarding position has been achieved. That fits the definition of *guarding*: . . . the act of legally placing the body in the path of the offensive opponent. That definition specifies no distance involving the path. The question is, "Why do officials need to see the defense picking up the offense?" The answer is that the game is fast, and the time it takes for the offense to close the distance to the defender is short. Since there is no minimum distance but a maximum of six feet, 10-14 feet or more of separation between the oncoming offense and the defender goes away quickly. That is why the official must "pick up the defense picking up the offense."

## Identify the point of "closely guarded"

Assume the defense remains legal. At the six foot mark from the defender, the offense has closed the gap and has created a closely guarded situation. Notice that the *offense* has created the closely guarded situation.



### Here's a situation to help us see this clearly.

A1 is a quick and frequently is able to split the defenders (see photo 1). A1 gets used to doing this so often that she thinks nothing of just charging into the lane without regard for the position of the defenders. Too often the defenders just open up and allow this to happen instead of clogging the lane, which they can do very easily since no time or distance is required on the ball handler. So why don't they? One just has to believe that too often we are penalizing the defense, the players get used to that, and they don't take the

charge. The coach is upset for players not taking charges, but if we are truthful about it, we have conditioned the players to do that. The reason we have conditioned *them* is we have conditioned *ourselves* in not officiating the defense. That must be corrected first.

### Officiate the defense

If the defender is legal, and contact or a crash occurs sufficient to call a foul (i.e., it is more than incidental contact), then the defender is legal and no foul should be called (except on the offense). The defender can move laterally/obliquely but not toward the offense. The defender may raise arms and hands in her vertical space and may jump in her vertical space. Finally, while doing all of those things legally, the defender is *also* not precluded from turning or ducking to absorb the contact. There is one more important part of the rule on guarding that many of us forget. The defender is *also not required to have either or both feet touching the floor or continue facing the opponent*. The reason is that the defender already established legal

guarding position, and after that the greater responsibility for contact rests with the offense. Look again at photo 1 above. It shows the dribbler splitting the defense but doesn't show a defender standing in front of the basket (NCAA rules) or under the basket (NFHS rules), either of which makes this a player control foul. Just



imagine that a defender *is* there, and that they got there legally long

before the dribbler penetrated the lane. Now look at this photo (photo 2).

### **What's *your* call?**

*Editor-in-Chief's note: I say it's a charge; that's because I picked up the play at the point the defense established a legal guarding position.*

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## **HIGH SCHOOL TOP TEN**

- 1. Easter Commerce**
- 2. Henry Carr**
- 3. Oakwood**

4. Jefferys
5. West Hill
6. North Albion
7. Jean Vanier
8. St. Mary (Pickering)
9. Milliken Mills
10. Mother Teresa

**Who's hot???**

**Aaron Duncan** (Eastern Commerce) scoring 19 pts in the semi's & 25 pts in the final and taking home the tournament MVP to help Eastern Commerce win the Silver Fox. **Mike DeGiorgio** (Oakwood) for taking home MVP honors at the St. Mike's Invitational. **Paul Sergautis** (St. Mike's) scoring 29 pts in a league win against Libermann and then 28 & 29 pts in two tournament losses at the St. Mike's Invitational and picking a tourn. all-star award. **Shane James** (Milliken Mills) scoring 18, 21, 31, and 30 pts in the bronze medal game and earning a tournament all-star to help Milliken Mills take home the bronze at the Silver Fox. **Tut Ruach** (Father Goetz) scoring 34 pts vs Cawthra & 29 pts vs Bramalea. **Antwi Atuahene** (Henry Carr) scoring 39 pts vs Don Bosco in a league win, 28 pts vs St. Mary's (Ham), 42 pts vs Milliken Mills, and 22 pts vs Eastern Commerce @ the Silver Fox. **Akil Redhead** (Markville) scoring 32 pts vs Father McGivney in a 70-66 York Region win. **Akeem Sween** (Applewood) scoring 27 pts vs Mount Carmel in a 71-69 Peel Region win. **Dane Ranger** (Card. McGuigan) scoring 42 pts vs Michael Power in a 73-51 TDCAA win. **Dan Makoge** (Dunbarton) scoring 27 pts vs Pine Ridge in a 76-69 Durham Region overtime win. **Kingsley Costain** (Eastern Commerce) scoring 29 pts vs Mother Teresa and taking home the defensive player award at the Silver Fox.

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