

George Mikan Says:

## Big Men Must Develop Good Hook From Pivot

By GEORGE MIKAN  
Minneapolis Lakers

There's a pretty solid explanation of why basketball scoring in the last decade or so has climbed to such a lofty plateau—and taken a hold on the American fan who just loves to see that ball zip through the net.

Basketball players, the good ones, are no one-shot specialists. This is a game which puts a premium on your ability to hit that hoop consistently, and to excel in it you've got to have a variety of shots.

Most players have a basic shot with which they do most of their scoring. Mine is the hook shot and I suppose you could call me an authority on that.

This is bread and butter for the big men in the game. But it entails a lot more than just turning and hooking over your ear. You've got to be almost equally adept with either the right or left hand. Otherwise, all the faking in the world is going to be wasted effort.

You don't use the fake, especially in professional ball where everyone has a lot of experience, with the idea of fainting your opponent right into the street. The idea is to force the other man to commit himself, or make a move. If you induce him to do that, you're almost a cinch to at least get the shot away. But there's nothing automatic about scoring with the shot. Some are more destructive with it than others.

As to the mechanics of the shot, most centers go for the backboard when there's any kind of an angle at all. When they're near the end line on the end of their pivot, the backboard naturally is useless and they'll have to fire directly at the hoop.

When I first began perfecting my own hook shot, I generally aimed at a spot about a foot and a half up the backboard above the basket. By now it's instinctive and I don't consciously aim at any particular spot.

If you've seen a couple of first class centers competing on the pivot, you'll realize the defensive man isn't exactly helpless. This is usually his strategy: First, he'll try to block the pass as it comes in. Since he's playing behind the offensive center, that's a pretty tough assignment. If he fails to block the pass, his next move usually is to drop back a half step and wait for his opponent to go into his pivot.

In defending against a hook shot, there's small hope of blocking the shot. The idea is to force the offensive man to alter his shot, to make him shoot off balance or in a way which isn't natural for him. To make his hook even more effective, a first rate center usually augments it with a modified jump shot. Then, too, he's got to be quick enough to drive around him and shoot up close when the situation permits.

Forwards are jacks-of-all-trades. They may be used at center on



GEORGE MIKAN

occasion, so they should be able to work on the pivot. Naturally they've got to be good marksmen. Since it takes less time to fire than the two-handed set shot, many forwards in professional ball do their heavy scoring with the one-handed push shot or the running one-hander.

The guards are the long range snipers, and most of the guards in pro ball are sharpshooters with the two-hand set shot. This one is more effective from long range than the one-hander.

I'd have this to say to youngsters interested in a high school or college basketball career:

1. Listen diligently to your coach. There never was any such thing as the perfect basketball player.
2. Drill constantly on fundamentals to the point where they become instinctive. Basketball always was a game of basics. That means passing, dribbling, defensive play, and shooting.
3. Practice shooting whenever you can. Learn to perfect as many shots as you can. The man who gives us the most trouble competitively is the man with what I call a "varied attack," a fellow who is skilled at all the basic shots in basketball.
4. If you happen to be small, offset your lack of height by stressing things such as speed, marksmanship and dribbling ability.

### Wolves Are Bolder

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta. (AP)—Timber wolves are getting bolder this winter. Usually they remain at least five miles from town but a farmer within a mile of main street saw two wolves in his farmyard, within 30 feet of his kitchen door.

Want ads bring quick results.

## BRENNAN REPLACES COACH LEAHY



FRANK LEAHY, 45, head football coach at Notre Dame for 11 years, who resigned because of illness, is shown (left) phoning a friend in a Chicago hotel. At right is his successor, Terry Brennan, 25, former star of the Fighting Irish. He has been coaching the Mount Carmel High School team in Chicago for the past three years. (International Soundphoto)

## DEATHS

**W. H. RATCLIFF**  
Word has been received here of the death of Wellington Hans Ratcliff, formerly of Waynesville, at his home in Darrington, Washington, on January 14. He was 78 years of age.

Mr. Ratcliff has resided in Washington for 24 years. He is survived by the widow, Mrs. Owny Townsend Ratcliff; two sons, Clem of Everett, Wash., and Ralph Ratcliff of Centralia, Wash.; five sons by a previous marriage, Glenn, Elmer, Forest, Ray and Granville Ratcliff; and a stepson, Virgil Sizemore of Waynesville; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services and burial were in Darrington.

**FLOYD E. RATHBONE**  
Funeral services for Floyd Edward Rathbone, 36, of Hazelwood, who died Tuesday in the Haywood County Hospital after a long illness, were held today at 2 p. m. in the Church of God in Hazelwood.

The Rev. A. L. Gardin and the Rev. David Cox officiated and burial was in Green Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Robert McKay, Roy Griffin, Mont Wright, Richard Bryson, George Plimmons and Buford Burchfield.

Surviving are one son, Donald Edwin of the home; one daughter, Barbara Jane of the home; the mother, Mrs. Lucy Rathbone of Danville, Va.

Also four sisters, Mrs. Robert Buchanan of Waynesville, RFD 1, Mrs. George Bryson Jr. of Waynesville, Mrs. Everett Causey and Mrs. John Ashworth of Danville, Va.

Crawford Funeral Home was in charge.

**LEWIS C. SUTTON**  
Lewis C. Sutton, 57, a farmer of the Beaverdam section, was found dead Tuesday afternoon near a tobacco bed on his farm.

Dr. J. Frank Pate, Haywood County coroner, attributed death to natural causes and said no inquest will be held.

Sutton was a World War 1 veteran and a member of the Beaverdam Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. in the Beaverdam Baptist church, with the Rev. Pete Hicks officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Kenneth Best, Troy Foster, George K. Warley, George Sorrlise, I. L. Sutton, and Bobby Sutton.

The body has been taken to the home of the father, George Sutton, to await the funeral hour.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Georgia Byrd Sutton; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sutton of Beaverdam; one brother, Perley Sutton of the U. S. Merchant Marines; and one half-brother, Sam Foster of Candler.

Crawford Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Collector Offers Aid In Filing Of State Taxes

W. E. Martin, deputy collector for state income tax, will be in the state tax office in the basement of the courthouse on February 19 and 26 and March 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15 to assist county residents in preparing their state tax returns.

A single person or married woman having an income of \$1,000 or more during the year 1953 and any married man living with his wife on December 31, 1953, having an income of \$2,000 or more must file a state income tax return, Mr. Martin explained.

An intangible personal property tax return must be filed by any person who owned on December 31, 1953 intangible personal property, such as money on hand, accounts receivable, notes, bonds, mortgages, or other evidences of debt, or shares of stock of corporations (not wholly in this state), Mr. Martin added.

For fine chopping, a mincer is a handy gadget. This is a knife with two or four curved blades that's used with a shallow wooden bowl.

## Services Are Held Wednesday For Mrs. Massie

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in the home for Mrs. James E. Massie, wife of a prominent Waynesville businessman, who died Sunday in Avon Park, Florida.

The Rev. Earl H. Brendall, pastor of the First Methodist Church, officiated and interment was in Green Hill Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Dan Watkins, David Felmet, Jonathan Woody, Felix Stovall, L. N. Davis, John Smith, J. W. Ray, and Adm. W. N. Thomas.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Waynesville Rotary Club, directors of the First National Bank of Waynesville and the First State Bank of Hazelwood.

Mrs. Massie was a member of the Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass., and the Waynesville chapter, No. 165, Order of the Eastern Star.

She was the former Miss Maude Cathey, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Webb Cathey of Haywood County, and spent most of her life here. She attended Haywood schools and was graduated from Guilford College.

Surviving, in addition to the husband, are two daughters, Mrs. Howard Choate of Humboldt, Tenn., and Mrs. Pat Malloy of Sylva; two sons, Otis and Joe Massie of Waynesville; two sisters, Mrs. Jim Welch of Waynesville, Route 3 and Mrs. T. L. Bergeron of Monarch, Mont.; and two brothers, Charlie Cathey of British Columbia and Joe Cathey of Idaho.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Crawford Funeral Home.

## Mrs. Williams Dies At 82 In Asheville

Mrs. J. L. Williams of Asheville, Route 3, who spent much of her life in Waynesville, died Tuesday morning in an Asheville nursing home. She was 82 years of age.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon in the chapel of Dunn and Groce Funeral Home in Asheville and burial was in Green Hill Cemetery.

## CDP Basketball Standings

GIRLS		Won	Lost
Saunook		6	0
East Pigeon		3	0
Morning Star		4	1
West Pigeon		4	1
Crabtree-U. Crabtree		3	3
Fines Creek		2	3
Allens Creek		2	3
Hominy		0	1
Thickety		0	1
Center Pigeon		0	1
Cruso		0	2
Francis Cove		0	3
Ratcliffe Cove		0	4

BOYS		Won	Lost
Hominy		4	0
White Oak		3	0
East Pigeon		1	0
Allens Creek		4	1
Saunook		4	2
Fines Creek		3	2
Crabtree-U. Crabtree		3	2
West Pigeon		3	3
Francis Cove		1	3
Iron Duff		1	3
Morning Star		1	3
Thickety		0	1
Ratcliffe Cove		0	4
Cruso		0	4

**Games—Thursday, Feb. 4th**  
GIRLS  
Morning Star 45; Cruso 17.  
Saunook 44; Francis Cove 24.  
Fines Creek 31; Allens Creek 26.  
BOYS  
Morning Star 55; Cruso 25.  
Saunook 33; Francis Cove 21.  
Fines Creek 29; Allens Creek 26.

**Monday, February 8th**  
GIRLS  
Allens Creek 55; Cruso 27.  
BOYS  
Allens Creek 43; Cruso 37.  
White Oak 32; Francis Cove 30.  
Fines Creek 50; Thickety 20.

Hill Cemetery here.

The Rev. Vernon Hall and the Rev. J. R. Dawkins of Asheville and the Rev. Earl H. Brendall, pastor of the Waynesville First Methodist Church, officiated.

Pallbearers were Ralph Snipes, Curtis Snipes, Stanley Garland, Jack Ragan, Charles Arrowood, and M. L. Maney, Jr.

Mrs. Williams was the widow of J. L. Williams and a native of Buncombe County. She was a member of the First Methodist Church here.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Sam O. Nave of Asheville, Mrs. S. H. Weaver of Hayesville, Mrs. Tom Lee of Waynesville, Mrs. Marvin Malitz of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Ruth Allison of Greensboro; one son, Thurman Williams of Fayetteville; one brother, M. L. Maney of Asheville; 10 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

## Blue Ridge Tourney Meeting Slated Sunday

Plans for the Blue Ridge Conference basketball tournament will be made at 2 p. m. Sunday afternoon at the Enka gymnasium.

The tournament will be held the last week in February.

Representatives of all teams who plan to enter the conference tournament or the state A or AA playoffs are expected to attend the meeting.

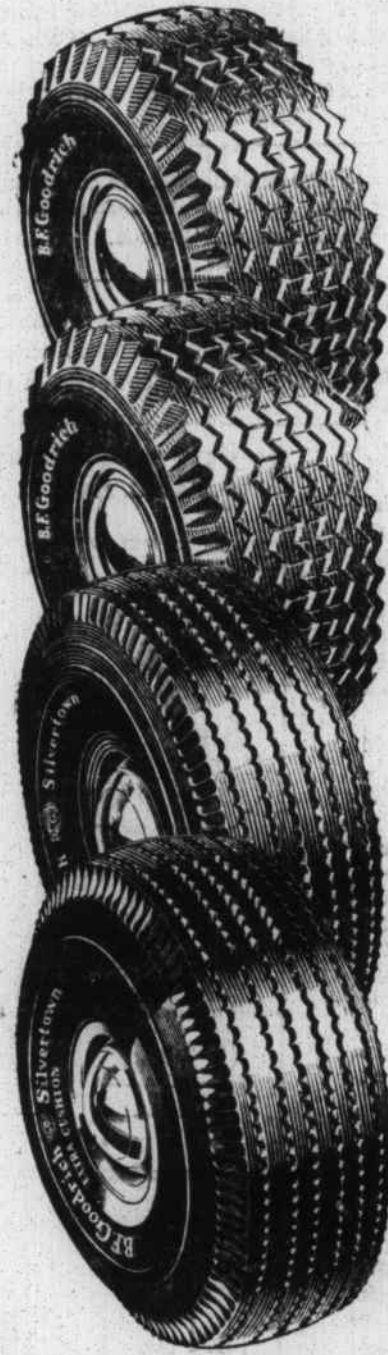
Several Oriental countries name their years in 12-year cycles starting with the Year of the Rat followed by the Years of the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Fowl, Dog and Pig.

## Canton Reworks Football Field; Build Practice Area Just Below Stadium

By the time football season rolls around again, the Canton football field should be one of the best in the state.

The field has just been reworked, and according to Coach Don Hipps, will be far better than in the past. Much of the dirt from excavating of the Junior High building was used in fixing up the field. The field is now crowned, being about five inches higher in the center than at the sidelines. Grass has been sowed on the new field, and plans are being made by football season. The extended dry summer and fall killed grass on the playing field. Coach Hipps said that in the lower parking lot, excavated in with the excavator, would also be planted that area would be used as a practice field, and the stadium would be used only for games.

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## SETS SIGHTS HIGH - - - By Alan Maver



BOB STARTED 1954 WITH FORTY-EIGHT 15 FEET OR BETTER VAULTS TO HIS CREDIT, A RECORD WHICH TOPS CORNELIUS WARMERDAM'S FORTY-THREE BUT HE'D LIKE TO TOP CORNY'S WORLD INDOOR RECORD VAULT OF 15'8 1/2"

THE REVEREND ROBERT E. RICHARDS— ALL SET FOR WHAT HE HOPES WILL BE A RECORD-BREAKING INDOOR SEASON.