

Additionally, he could forget about all the heckling he heard from some in the crowd (the rhetoric of the failed presidential contenders) and begin to shift his focus from Bush bashing to party building.

When you are the center with the ball, everyone looks to you. What all great players do is look around at where the other players are on the court before they either spin, pass or shoot.

If Bush looked last March, he badly misjudged his opponent's positions.

If Dean is the big center next March, he should spin and pass the ball a little before he tries to score.

After all, only teams win games.

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point, Dean will have his chance to

Dean could begin to turn his political operation into a more traditional campaign by creatively alternating between holding the ball and passing to his teammates. He could lead his grass-roots supporters by holding the ball a little longer and instructing his teammates to be in specific positions, relative to him, before he tries to score.

Dean could also start passing to his guards and allow them to take shots: He could make a genuine effort to reach out to Democratic members of Congress, all of whom are superdelegates to the national convention, and ask them for advice on how to win in November.