



**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

# ASSIST30

FIBA ASSIST MAGAZINE FOR BASKETBALL ENTHUSIASTS EVERYWHERE JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

**AMADOU GALLO FALL**  
**ROBERTO CARMENATI**  
SEEDS: BASKETBALL FOR LIFE

**MATTEO BONICIOLLI**  
**TONINO ZORZI**  
**MARQUES GREEN**  
THE SIDE SCREEN READINGS

PLAYER AGENTS IN  
FIBA STRUCTURE  
INTERVIEW WITH  
FIBA SECRETARY GENERAL  
PATRICK BAUMANN

**BILL FORAN**  
**ROBIN POUND**  
AGILITY

## JOAN PLAZA ZONE OFFENSE: FUNDAMENTALS AND OPTIONS







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01.02 Start of South American League For Men

**APRIL 2008**

05 - 07.04 NCAA Final Four for Men in San Antonio, USA

06 - 08.04 NCAA Final Four for Women in Tampa, USA

15 - 22.04 Military World Championships for Men, in San Antonio, USA

19 - 26.04 Olympic Test Event for Women's Teams in Beijing, China

25 - 27.04 FIBA Central Board in Beijing, P.R. of China

26. 04 Draw for the Olympic Basketball Tournaments in Beijing, China

**JUNE 2008**

09 - 15.06 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women in Madrid, Spain

**JULY 2008**

14 - 20.07 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Men in Athens, Greece

29.07 - 1.08 FIBA Diamond Ball Tournament for Men in Nanjing, China

**AUGUST 2008**

02 - 05.08 FIBA Diamond Ball for Women in Nanning, China

09 - 24.08 Olympic Basketball Tournaments in Beijing, China

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**FIBA**

We Are Basketball



by Amadou Gallo Fall



by Roberto Carmenati

# SEEDS: BASKETBALL FOR LIFE





**Amadou Gallo Fall, from Senegal, has been the Director of Scouting and Vice President for International Affairs of the Dallas Mavericks of the NBA since 1998. He played at University of District of Columbia in Washington, and he was later the founder of SEEDS (Sports & Education for Economic Development in Senegal) Academy. He is also Director of the NBA Basketball Without Borders for Africa since 2004.**

**Roberto Carmenati is the European scout for the Dallas Mavericks. He was head coach in the A2 Italian League in**



**Fabriano, Livorno and Naples, in A1 in Fabriano again, and Milan. He was also assistant coach of the Italian National team B, who won the silver medal at the Mediterranean Games, and he was also assistant coach of the Oklahoma Storms, the United States Basketball League team, which won the title in 1999. He is a regular instructor at the SEEDS Academy camp and coaches clinic in Senegal.**

*Amadou Gallo Fall first proposed the creation of SEEDS, while enrolled at Georgetown University's MBA program in 1997. Having grown up in Senegal and been given the opportunity to study abroad as a student-athlete, Fall envisioned an organization that would use sports as a vehicle to open doors of educational opportunity for young people in Africa, preparing them for lives of leadership and service. Fall has lived and modelled the vision for SEEDS and, in 2002, established the SEEDS (Sports & Education for Economic Development in Senegal) Foundation as a US-registered non-profit organization.*

SEEDS'S mission is "To use sports as a vehicle to inspire, empower and support the holistic development of promising African youth, preparing them to become global citizens and lead positive transformation in Senegal, Africa and the world." Currently, the Foundation runs innovative programs that serve the needs of young people in Senegal, focusing on the areas of education and pediatric health. The SEEDS Academy, the Foundation's core program, is a boarding school located in Thies, Senegal, serving up to 30 student-athletes per year in a rigorous academic, athletic and leadership development curriculum. Additionally, the Foundation is supporting the work of the Dakar-based LeDantac Hospital and Dr. Claude Moreira in pediatric health programs serving youth from Senegal and its neighbouring countries. To date, hundreds of young people have been positively affected by the work of SEEDS.

#### **THE BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

Basketball is the "hook" used to engage students in education and promote their consistent attendance and long-term retention at the Academy. The basketball court is also the "classroom" where leadership and life skills are developed. All students participate in SEEDS' internationally recognized basketball program, which focuses on the development of basketball fundamentals, leadership

and life skills. Teams travel to tournaments and events throughout Africa, Europe and North America, exposing students to a wide variety of future educational and life opportunities. The basketball program offers a positive, high-quality athletic and personal development experience that builds the character, life skills and self-esteem of our student-athletes.

#### **HOOP FORUM**

SEEDS Academy is committed in a long term program for the improvement of young players' basketball skills and for the development of teaching and coaching strategies for Senegalese coaches. The Hoop Forum over the years has become a "can't miss" event organized by SEEDS Academy during which coaches attend a clinic and young players take part to a skills camp and game tournament. NBA players, such as DeSagana Diop, the center of the Dallas Mavericks, and coaches, such as the head coach of Dallas Avery Johnson have attended the Hoop Forum. The following is an abstract of the lecture that I had the honour to give during the 2007 Hoop Forum along with former NBA players, such as Sam Perkins, former player of Dallas, Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle, and others.

#### **Learning and acquisition of motor skills**

The execution of a move results from the interaction of eyes/brain/nervous system and muscular system. Here is the timeline

- ▼ Watching an example of ideal-model of move.
- ▼ Execution of the move "translating" from the role-model.
- ▼ Time to create your own idea after watching the ideal role-model.
- ▼ Time to transfer from brain to motor scheme (nervous system).
- ▼ Time of muscular reaction.
- ▼ Speed and quickness of execution of a move.

Players have different reaction times; some react sooner, while some others need - we're talking of difference of hundreds of seconds here.

Nevertheless the learning process and the improvement process happen through phases of up and down, not along a consistent straight line. This is a very important aspect to bear in mind in evaluating players or in making predictions on potential and upside of players. A player

can be asked to perform a quick execution only after he has memorized and acquired a correct execution of a specific move. Conversely, a player can run the risk to pick up a bad habit and a wrong execution of a move may eventually be resistant to correction and improvement. In teaching a particular movement on the court, a good teacher will take his student step-by-step, not going to the next step until the earlier steps are mastered. This is how we bring this about:

- ▼ Coach provides a good model or example to follow (pictures and films are always good for the players).
- ▼ Coach demonstrates the way the movement is supposed to be performed. He may make the move in slow motion, explaining each step involved in the process.
- ▼ Coach corrects -according to a priority order- mistakes without demanding too much too soon.
- ▼ Coach proposes acquisition of a move by proper repetition of move.
- ▼ Coach proposes the quick execution of the move once the proper technique has been acquired.
- ▼ Coach asks players to perform and execute the move in real game situations.
- ▼ Coach employs real game situations and introduces special situations.

#### **In Summary: Order of learning:**

- A) Acquisition of proper technique.
- B) "Clean" the move by removing all superfluous things.
- C) Automatic and fluent execution.
- D) Speed and quickness.
- E) Defense-reading reaction.
- F) Game situations.
- G) Special game situations.

#### **In order to facilitate learning process, coach will rigorously follow the pattern of:**

- ▼ Explanation.
- ▼ Demonstration.
- ▼ Voice.
- ▼ Position on the floor.
- ▼ Correction.

A left handed player should be treated as

a right handed player (in the event player is 11/12 years old).

#### **Learning Curve**

The development of a player is consistent even when/if it does not appear as a continuous straight line. This is very important on setting goals and evaluating the potential of a player.

Before the learning process of a new move is completed, it is not a good thing for the coach to teach a new move. Correction are easier while the player is still acquiring the right motor-habits.

Help the player to develop his own style, do not force him to customize his move (his jump-shot, for example).

Easy is right. Help the player to play according to this principle. Easy and simple. A great player makes everything look easy. He makes it easier for his teammates, too.

#### **Priority Order in Teaching Subjects:**

- ▼ Player needs his execution to be easy, simple, quick and confident.
- ▼ Right decision on what, when, and how for every individual or team fundamental.

Player who performs fluently does not think; he just reads the defense and reacts. Stress and develop offense and defense in the same measure. A good defense is the best teacher of a good offense.

With "beginners", it is recommended to start by teaching ball-handling in order to make the finger flexible and the fingertips sensitive.

Awareness of space dimension: from getting open to dribbling, the player must gain ground and aim at the goal (rim/basket), with an imaginary line connecting him to the basket.

Passing: start with a chest pass and teach two more different passes; do not try to teach all types of passes in the first lesson. Teach players about timing and spacing in the same time.

Goals: the quickest move in smallest space.

Teach the player to read and react. Use these guidelines:

- A) If you are open, shoot it.
- B) If defense is close, dribble the ball.
- C) If other defenders come to help, pass the basketball.

#### **Mistakes:**

#### **There are three primary ways of learning:**

- A) Imitating and learning from a good

example and role model.

B) From your mistakes.

C) From other people's mistakes

Mistakes are great teachers and every mistakes brings up a lesson to be taught.

Minimize mistakes. Correction is what help repetition of the same mistake. Basketball is a game of mistakes and the team that commits fewest mistakes wins a game.

Recognize mistakes. There are mistakes of execution: A) technique execution and B) decision making-mistakes; C) concentration and attention. A mistake is not a deliberate act of will, as many coaches believe. Good coaches recognize mistakes by players and try to prevent them from occurring again. Coaches often become frustrated by repeated mistakes and a good coach will learn to keep this frustration under control.

Examples: you have been practicing with your team, describing how to make a lay-up. You follow this with a new move for all of your players. However, if your players start to miss their lay-ups, an experienced coach will understand that the player have not mastered the move, and that teaching an additional move was a mistake. As a general guideline before teaching your players a new move, test them on the previous fundamental.

Other example: your team is playing very aggressive defense and coming up with an impressive number of steals. However, your team is missing a lot of free-throws (below their normal standard). This mistake is not due to a lack of will, but rather it is a consequence of an excess of aggressiveness. It is a clear indication that your team is nervous. Screaming at the players after they miss free-throws is not an answer.

#### **The Practice Plan**

- ▼ Make sure that your explanation provides a quick description of the drill, including rotation. Provide step-by-step technique suggestions and tips following an order of priority.
- ▼ Have your practice sessions move from ball drills to drills where all players need their own ball, then go with 1 ball for every 2 players, then 1 ball every 3 or 4 players, then 1 ball for 5 on 5.
- ▼ Make sure you have all players involved and make sure you can use all basket available.
- ▼ If you have your assistant coaches,





have them work with players on the other baskets.

- ▼ Rotation is critical and make sure there is not wasted time. Run to get to new position.
- ▼ Have the player know that a clock is working and time is elapsing. Players need to understand that in practice session, like in a game, time is a critical factor. Players need to have game clock on their mind.
- ▼ Use quick correction. Stop the drill when the execution is completely wrong and it is evident that a new explanation is necessary. If necessary, stop and make a point when you see that the same mistake is common amongst many of the players.
- ▼ Drills must follow a logical sequence and increase in difficulty

(teaching progression).

- ▼ Use a variety of drills.
- ▼ Call each drill by a name so in a short time you just call the name of the drill and everybody will be ready for that drill.
- ▼ Keep a journal of your practices sessions.

#### **Building a Practice Plan (break it down into segments of 10 minutes each)**

- ▼ Shooting (1 drill of technique acquisition, 1 drill of game situation).
- ▼ Individual fundamental (ball handling-dribbling – cross over – 1 on 1 moves).
- ▼ Defense (individual and team strategy).
- ▼ Pressing (for your defense, but for

your offense as well).

- ▼ Fast break (from 2 on 1 to 4 on 2 plus 2 recovering).
- ▼ 3 on 3 / 4 on 4 ( team fundamentals).
- ▼ 5 on 5 half court (spacing, rhythm, decision making, set execution).
- ▼ Special situations (inbound plays, jump ball, last shot possession, defense on last shot, etc).
- ▼ Scrimmage (translate and apply teaching into the game situation).
- ▼ Shooting (repetition and feeling for the shot).
- ▼ Conditioning.
- ▼ Free-throws (this is what wins basketball games).



# THE SIDE SCREEN READINGS



by Matteo Boniciolli



by Tonino Zorzi



by Marques Green



Matteo Boniciolli has been the head coach of Avellino, Italian Serie A team since 2006. From 1996 to 1999 he was assistant coach of the Italian men's national team and was responsible for the national youth teams. He then coached in Udine, where he won the A2 championship. He also coached the Serie A teams of Fortitudo Bologna (runner-up for the title in 2002), Messina, and Teramo.

Tonino Zorzi, the senior assistant at Avellino, Italian Serie A team, is the dean of the Division I Italian championship with 1,073 games to his credit. Between A1 and A2, he has coached Gorizia (twice), Padua, Naples (three times), winning an European Cup of Cups, Venice (three times), Siena, Reggio Calabria (two times), Pavia, Montecatini, Pesaro, Avellino, and Sassari, winning a total of five Serie A2 championships.

Marques Green plays for Avellino, Italian Serie A team. After a successful college career in the United States at St. Bonaventure University, where he was the all-time leader in assists and three-point field goals, he played in two Division I French teams, Roanne and Nancy. He also played in Ankara, the top Turkish team.



*Note: The biggest surprise of the Italian Division I championship this year has been Avellino, and not only because it is among the best. For the first time in Italy, head coach, Matteo Boniciolli, created a special spot on his technical staff, inviting Tonino Zorzi, a veteran Division I coach, and one of the best in the country, to become his "senior assistant." Because he gave the reins of the team to the smallest player of the Italian Division I, Marques Green (1,65 m, 5' 5"), Boniciolli showed that basketball could be played at the highest level, regardless of size. We asked them to write an article on how to read the offensive side screen, a trademark of the team and of Marques Green, a truly special basketball player.*





Screens, also called picks, are basic to any type of offense. Once a player makes use of a screen, it is practically impossible for the defenders to stop all the options the offensive players now have at their disposal. Players at every level and every position must master how to set a screen, and know how to use it based on the moves of the defenders. First, let's review some common rules and principles of the screen.

#### SCREENER'S RULES FOR SETTING THE SCREEN

These are the basic rules of setting the screen:

- ▼ See the ball handler, so the screener can set the screen at the proper time.
- ▼ Stop with a jump stop and make a strong, wide, low stance to set the screen.
- ▼ Set the screen at the proper angle.
- ▼ After setting a screen, the screener presents himself to the passer and moves to the opposite direction of the ball handler.

The screen's angle is of utmost importance because this influences whether the defender of the ball handler will have an easy or difficult time fighting through the screen. The screener should approach the screened player's defender at an angle of 90-degrees on the majority of screens because the defender will then have to run farther to chase the screened player.





**RULES FOR THE PLAYER USING A SCREEN**

- ▼ Have vision of all the court and the other four teammates and their defenders.
- ▼ Make a set-up move to help the screener set a good screen.
- ▼ React to the angle and placement of the screen.
- ▼ Read the defender and move accordingly.

A mistake the player who receives the screen can make is to run on the screen or cut off the screen at full speed. Sometimes the screened player can beat the defender getting off the screen at full speed, but many other times, reading the defense, using a change of pace, and first going the opposite way of the defender is the best way to exploit the screen.

**WHAT THE SCREENER MUST DO**

Here are the basic concepts. On all screens, the screener must offer a passing option to the ball handler, either by rolling to the basket, popping out, or going to the opposite direction of the screened player. Therefore, the screener must watch the reactions of the screened player, as well as his defender and the screened player's defender, and then move accordingly. The screener should go to the opposite direction of the screened player to offer a good passing line, as well as to avoid further congestion in that area with two defenders.

**SIDE SCREEN**

"I played at St. Bonaventure," says Marques Green, "and I must thank coach

**6****7****8**



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Jan Van Breda Kolff, who, with the help of assistant coaches Mark Wade and Kenny Blackney, patiently taught me how to read the screens and react accordingly. This has been a tremendous help in my professional career. Among the several types of screens, off and on the ball, the side screen is a vital part of any offense, either on the offensive secondary transition, as an entry of a play, as the last weapon when the time is running out, or for creating a shot for a certain player. The side screen is created by the screener fronting or with his back to the sideline.

To be able to read the screen is a matter of constant practice and game experience. What is really demanded is patience on the part of the ball handler. A player must not rush or react to the two defenders on the screen. Instead, you have to watch their moves, as well as the positioning of all the players on the court. Then, you are ready to react. You mustn't move at full speed, because you can lose control of the ball or get called for an offensive charge. Instead, change pace, both when approaching the screen and then when going around the screen. In a split second, you have to figure out what is best to do by reading the moves of the defenders. Remember: take what the defense gives you. Let's now examine the defensive reactions of the two defenders and how to beat them."

**Aggressive show of the screener's defender and lazy defense by the ball handler's defender.** Usually in this case, there is hole in between the two defenders, so I make a move that I call "slick." I split the two defenders by driving hard in between them (photos 1, 2 and 3). I can also fake to go to the screen, then make a crossover dribble, and go to the basket or take a jump shoot.

**Very aggressive screened player's defender.** If the ball handler sees that his defender is very aggressive and tries to push him away from the nearby screen, I usually make one or two drives. I may fake to go to the screen, make a quick crossover dribble and go in the opposite direction for a jump shot or lay-up, if I am open (photo 4, 5 and 6). If the defense collapses on me, I may try for a pass to an open teammate.

**The screener's defender does not show and the ball handler's defender goes over the screen.** I make one or two slow dribbles to read the situation and then fade away for a jump shot (photo 7, 8 and 9).

**The screener's defender does not show and the ball handler's defender goes under the screen.** I take a jump shot right away.

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**The screener's defender traps with the ball handler's defender.** I make two dribbles back to create space, then I pass to the screener, who has rolled to the basket, or a teammate, who passes to the

screener (photos 10 and 11) or I try to beat the big man (photo 12).

**Soft show of the screener's defender and soft recovery of the ball handler's defender.**

I make one dribble back and try to beat the screener's defender, who is usually a big man (photos 13, 14 and 15).

**The screener fakes a screen and then**

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**cuts to the basket.** I pass the ball to him or to another teammate, who is open and him to the screener.

The defender of the ball handler pushes him to the baseline. I have three options:

- ▼ Drive to the middle and pull up for a jump shot.
- ▼ Pass to the screener, who has rolled to the basket.
- ▼ Pass to the teammate who made a flash cut from a low post position on the help side to the corner of the free-throw area on the ball side.

Here are some tips on how to read and react to the side screen.

**Sight.** It is a mistake to only watch the two defenders involved in the screen. You must see all the court, the other three defenders, and your other four teammates.

**Dribbling.** Do not always use a speed dribble, but change the pace of the dribble as you bring the defender to the screen, and when you get by him and the screener's defender, who will often try to pick you up. Do not try a spin or reverse dribble when using a screen. I find that I briefly lose the complete view of all the court. In addition, when I am executing the spin dribble, I expose too much of the ball to the defender, who has a chance to steal it. If I am forced to make a spin dribble after a screen, I immediately make a crossover dribble. I prefer to use a crossover dribble in front, between the legs or behind the back, so I maintain complete vision of the court and keep the ball well protected at the same time.

**Beating two defenders.** When I have a chance to beat the screen (except when I split the screen by slipping directly in between the two defenders), I try to beat one defender at a time, always maintaining court vision and ball protection.

**Shooting.** Due to my size, I prefer to make a jump stop and then a jump shot when I beat the screen. I will also try to make a running "rainbow" lay-up (tossing it high in the air), without going completely under the basket.

**Leaning on the defender while shooting.** After I beat the screen and I go to the basket, if the defender is on my side or behind me, I lean on him. This allows me to cut him off and "freeze" him momentarily, so I am able to shoot.

*Special thanks to Raul Morisco and Giuseppe Graziano of doctorphoto.it for the photographic service.*







by Joan Plaza

**Joan Plaza is the head coach of Real Madrid, team that he led in 2007 to the win of both the Spanish title and the ULEB Cup. Before coaching in Madrid, he began coaching in 1995 for Joventut Badalona, but in the same season passed to C.B. Tarragona. The following season he went back to Badalona, first as coach of the youth teams (winning a Under 20 Spanish title) and then as assistant coach of the men's team. In 2006 he's called from Real Madrid and he became the third coach in the history of Liga ACB to win in his first season the National title. In 2007 he also was named ULEB Cup Coach of the Year and ACB Coach of the Year.**

There are many ways to play against a zone defense. Some offensive options that have been used in the past are still effective; others, on the other hand, are little used for a variety of reasons.

It takes many practice sessions to make a zone offense work. A factor that must not to be forgotten—and needs more space to adequately explain—is the psychological component involved in the zone offense. Your players need the confidence in understanding the fundamentals and must have the patience needed to search for and find the weak points of the zone defense.

To get around a zone defense, the fastbreak is often employed to reach the frontcourt before the defense has had a chance to set up, and an attempt is made to score right away. The start of the fastbreak does have a fundamental role against the zone defense, and this requires that players make the quick transition from defense to offense, so we will be able to have more attackers than defenders on the frontcourt.

Even though there is a numerical advantage, I find it amazing that the transition game is little used. One reason may be the lack of time during a practice session, or a distinct focus placed on working on other offensive priorities. Some coaches feel that they see more man-to-man defense than zones, so they spend all of their practice time working against man-to-man.

I want to review how we attack a zone defense. Starting from the assumption that the zone defense is already set-up (2-3, for instance) when we arrive at the frontcourt,

# ZONE OFFENSE: FUNDAMENTALS AND OPTIONS











we typically attack for few seconds with four offensive players versus five defenders. Our center will be the last to arrive because he has typically battled for the defensive rebound and passed the ball down court.

There are some options we have that will allow us to take a shot before going into our five-on-five offense against the set-up defense. We can pass on one side and go away with the cuts off the high post to the low post on the ball side. The wing will then cut to the lane (diagr. 1), followed by the screen of the center 5 for the wing 2, who comes up and receives the ball from 3 (diagr. 2).

It is vitally important that the players be able to read and recognize the defensive variations and slides. Being able to engage two defenders by staying in between their spots will often create problems and doubts for the two defenders. They may not realize who is supposed to cover the offensive player (diagr. 3), and when this occurs, it is a chance to get an open shot.

Driving right in the gaps to divide the zone is also one of the oldest and most efficient ways to beat the zone—although it's also one of the least used attacks. Dribbling straight into the gaps of the zone forces sudden defensive adjustments and provides us with an advantage, usually on the opposite side of the court (diagr. 4).

Aside from some exceptions, dribbling around the key, not straight into the gaps of the zone,

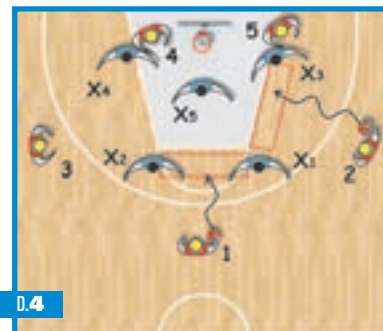
is useless because it does not create slides of the defenders and is mainly a loss of time.

In order to split a zone defense, direct screens on the ball help achieve the necessary effect. To make it work effectively, the angle of the screen becomes critical. You want to keep the defender blocked so they can't move. When it's not well executed, the defender can get away and force the offensive player towards the sideline (diagr. 5).

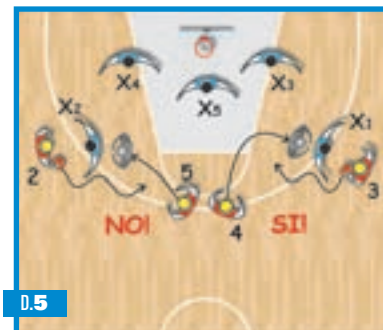
Ball reversal is another important action against a zone defense. However, many teams do not pass the ball as well as they should. Instead, they pass the ball as if they were playing handball and pass it only around the lane. What they really need to do is make passes that will split the defense (diagr. 6).

A good way to split the defense is to pass inside, followed by an outside pass. This causes the defense to compress and decompress and affords the offense a chance to break the defense and get an open shot. When the ball comes in the paint, the zone collapses. Quickly passing the ball outside creates a certain defensive imbalance and this offers the chance to get open shots or better drives to the basket (diagr. 7).

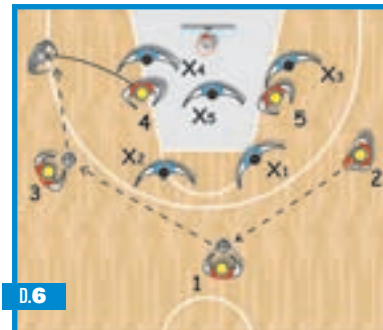
Skip passes, which are passes from one side of the court to the other, are suitable yet risky if the players have not practiced them enough. Players must be able to read the slides of the zone, especially on the weak



D.4

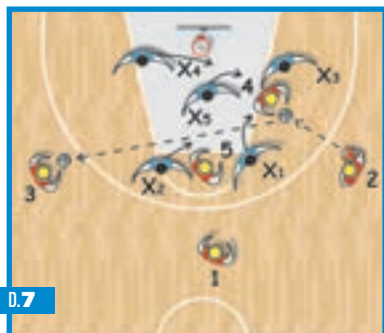


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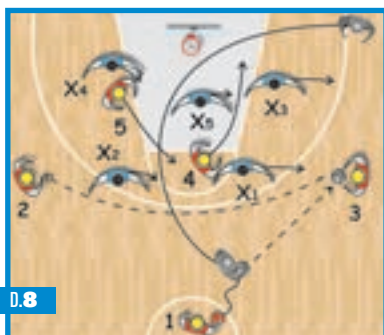


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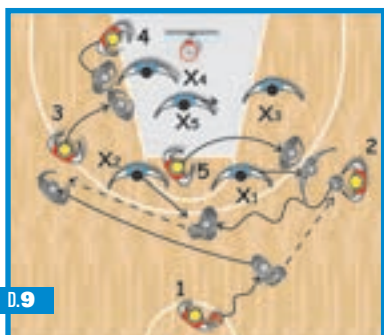




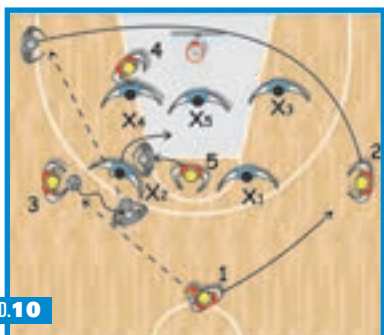
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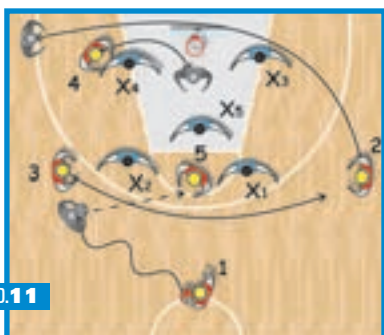
D.8



D.9



D.10



D.11

side. They must be able to recognize when the defenders on the weak side collapse too much. With skip passes, we are able to force the defender of the last line of the zone to come out and cover the player who receives the pass. This defender has a lot of distance to cover and this will often allow our player to get an open shot (diagr. 8).

The ideal way for getting a shot after a reversal pass comes from the use of screens on the weak side. The players not directly involved in playing near the ball can screen on the weak side, while the ball is reversed. This creates the opportunity for an open shot because the defender on the weak side is usually watching the ball side of the court and usually isn't aware of what is going on the other side (diagr. 9).

A major goal is to create a situation where there are two attackers against one defender. To reach this situation of defensive upset, we'll use any kind of variation of the options previously explained. We can create them just after having split the defense up with passes, cuts, screens, and by driving into the gaps of the zone. It demands a lot of patience and ability on the part of the players to reach this point (diagr. 10).

Another point to remember is to space the lines out as much as possible. Often, the defender of the zone may find himself in a situation where he has to guard two attackers at the same time because of the excess traffic we created inside the zone. The idea here is to look for any kind of cut, especially on the weak side, that allows us to get behind the back of the defenders near the baseline. This will force them to stay in this area while the rest of the players move over the free-throw line, or almost at the level of the three-point line. This movement creates a big space (diagr. 11).

Finally, I'd like to point out the need for offensive rebounding against the zone. With a man-to-man defense, the defender of the shooter can block him out and the other four defenders will try to find their men to block out as well. In short, aside from some exceptions, each defender has a particular offensive player to block out. However, in the zone defense there is no defined responsibility about who is to be blocked out. Use this to your advantage because this generates more occasions to get offensive rebounds.

I spend a good portion of practice sessions working on offensive rebounding against the zone defense. The key is to practice it enough so it becomes instinctive to the players. The players must automatically think that the

teammate who is shooting will miss the shot, and crash the board for the rebound.

Besides the few suggestions I have offered, there are other formulas that will give you the opportunity to improve your zone offense. Sometimes they will be adapted to the quality of your players, sometimes to the level of the competition, and sometimes they will be conditioned from the time you have to work in practice. However, when the time is spent on attacking a zone defense, it will be time well spent. It will allow your players to recognize and read any type of defense. Come game time, they won't miss a step as they go about vigorously and effectively attacking the zone.





by Mike McHugh

# DEFENSIVE TRANSITION

**Mike McHugh** came to New Zealand from his position as head coach of the ACT Academy of Sport basketball program in Australia. He had previously been head coach of the Canberra Capitals in the Australian WNBL, and had worked at the Australian Institute of Sport. He has also had a role on the coaching staff of the Australian Opals. He coached the Wellington Saints (Men) in New Zealand's NBL, whom he led to the 2003 Championship. McHugh is currently head coach of the Tall Ferns, New Zealand's national women's basketball team, who won silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2006.

The greatest enemy of truly great defense are turnovers and poor shot selection. Fast break defense requires communication and organization, our first priority is basket defense, cover the "runner/s", second is slowing down the progress of the "ball", this requires an immediate channel to the nearest sideline by the handler's defender and thirdly matching up with the remaining offensive players in order of potential threat. The most important aspect is achieving this is communication, if there is no effective talk we cannot defend the fast break.

- ▼ We must have an offensive plan that gets us good shots and a plan for offensive rebounding, which allows for defensive balance. We must develop our offensive rebounding game as best we can.
- ▼ 3, 4, 5 are "attack rebounders" and go to the boards every time we shoot.
- ▼ We must cover the long rebound by positioning 2's and 1's at the foul line.
- ▼ When 2 and 1 shoot from the corners, they must rotate to long rebounder "outlet" outlet spot.

It is vital that an offensive rebounder has to vigorously contest in order to rebound. Aggressive offensive rebounding ensures the defensive rebounder is more concerned





with protecting the ball than igniting the fast break. The offensive rebounders must get two feet in the lane and attempt to "touch" the ball.

We prefer to have four offensive rebounders and one safety (diagr. 1). X4, X5 and X3 attack offensive board, X1 is the safety, and X2 covers the long rebound and prepares to immediately channel outlet to sideline. The concept of defensive transition is to "slow" the attack, get the ball on a sideline and match up most to least dangerous. Ideally, we have a guard-type positioned near the foul line for the long rebound. This player is responsible for immediate channeling of the outlet receiver towards the nearest sideline.

The safety player's first responsibility is to protect the basket. If possible we want the smaller safety to invert with the first front line player, who is in a position to do so. The smaller player is therefore able to be released to deny any ball side pass to the front court. If the smaller player cannot release, she must communicate which player must play ball side denial. The last rebounder back acts as a "plugger." The remaining rebounder monitors the weak side at the high split.

From these positions we match-up. Our priority is from most dangerous to least dangerous. When a fast break score is no longer a threat, we begin our designated defense. Safety is generally covered by X1 or X2 i.e. If 1 has penetrated key for shot, therefore X2 is safety. If a circumstance arose where both X1 and X2 were in the key (i.e. 2 posts X2, 1 drives to the basket), then X3 would read the situation and take safety.

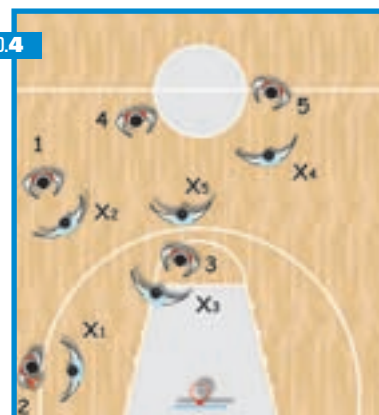
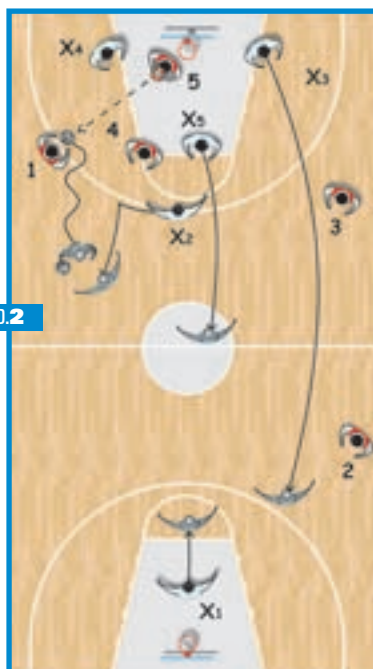
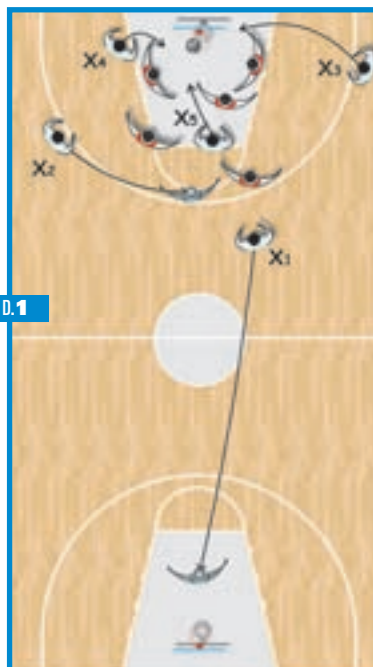
The movements of the defenders after the outlet pass of the opponents are drawn on the following diagrams. X2 "herds" handler 1 to sideline, not attacking the ball, but allowing 1 to dribble slowly, X1 is safety, X5 becomes the "plugger" in a help position on the split line to prevent any middle penetration, and X3 and X4 "sprint" back to match up (diagr. 2).

As the runner 2 sprints through the key and cuts for pass from 1; X1 goes to defend the receiver on X3's instruction, and X3 becomes safety, X5 continues to plug the middle and X4 sprints back to cover the weak side (diagr. 3).

X1 has matched up on the ball handler 2; X2 is denying the return pass to 1, X3 is denying feed to 3, and X5 and X4 are matching up on the trailers (diagr. 4).

### FASTBREAK DEFENSE

In any situation where we turn the ball over or our extended defense is beaten, we must revert to fast break defense. These rules are:



- ▼ The first responsibility is to protect the basket.
- ▼ The second responsibility is to channel the ball and prevent a quick second movement.
- ▼ The next responsibility is to match up with the most dangerous receiver.
- ▼ The next responsibilities are to match up as best we can.

- a) Take away the lay-up
- b) Make the opposition run half court offense.
- c) Be able to contest the rebound, if a quick shot is taken.

### 1. Defensive transition roles

- ▼ We must have one guard communicate "safety" and retreat to prevent the basket. She will go as deep as the deepest offensive player, and must cover any "runner" against the long pass and deny the lay-up. If one guard drives to the basket his partner is the safety. In our offensive sets usually one guard is the "safety", the other is the long rebounder "outlet".
- ▼ Closest man to rebounder/inbounder is the "plugger", she pressures the outlet pass. She must not allow the rebounder to explode by him on the dribble. She then supports the on ball



defender against middle penetration by forming a middle triangle between the ball herself and her man. She is in a position to trap or run-and-jump with the handler's defender if the game plan calls for it. At all times she communicates to the "outlet" that she has help in the middle.

- ▼ Player closest to the outlet side (X2 or X1) gets to the foul line to cover the long rebound and then identifies the outlet receiver. She tries to force the receiver to catch the ball going back below the foul line. This will immediately slow their fast break, don't let them "turn-and-go". She is the "outlet", then contains the handler and influences her to sideline. She will stay with the ball until "switched" by the safety or defensive assignment.
- ▼ Other two players are "sprinters". First player back sprints to release the safety and protect the basket matching up with the next most threatening player shading the ball side. Next player back will match up shading the help-side.

▼ At this point you must have:

- a) Basket protection by the "safety".
- b) Ball channeled and contained by the "outlet".
- c) Middle coverage by the "plugger".
- d) Triangle coverage by the "sprinters".

## 2. Influence the ball to the sidelines

- ▼ This allows us to establish a ball-side and help-side early and enables our half-court defense to be set up.

- ▼ We will have the "plugger" positioned in the shallow middle (split line) to assist the player defending the handler. If the player with the ball turns his defender to the middle, the "plugger" must help her contain the handler and allow her to channel him back to the side. This will help eat some clock, we may also have the "plugger" trap, if a non-handler has the ball or we want to take the ball out of a good player's hands.

## 3. Establish our half court defense

- ▼ We must now establish a defensive perimeter where we want the ball. This perimeter is 1.5 metres outside the three-point line and on a sideline.

▼ At this point we want:

- a) On ball containment.
- b) Help/denial defenders one pass from the ball.
- c) High split active.
- d) Low split active.

- ▼ The principle focus of our defensive transition and half court defence will be to make every effort to influence our opponent to use up the shot clock. We will deny quick reversal and not allow middle penetration. Now we have the ball where we want it, on the sideline and we have a used clock.

- ▼ Once the ball is forced to be caught on the sideline we will pressure with a trace hand, space it at arms length and split the jab foot. The defender on the ball must contain penetration and contest any shot.

The success of our defense will be directly related to our ability to maintain our stances throughout the possession and to go from one stance and one position on the floor to our new stance and new position on the flight of the ball, with explosive quickness.

## DEFENSIVE PRINCIPLES ON MAN TO MAN AND ZONE

### Philosophy

- ▼ Effective individual containment.
- ▼ Constant basket protection.
- ▼ Extend the perimeter of defensive coverage to be as disruptive as possible.
- ▼ When the ball penetrates our perimeter

coverage, all other defenders converge to a position to defend our basket.

- ▼ Once the perimeter coverage is penetrated all pressure is eliminated, therefore basket protection becomes our primary consideration.
- ▼ Man-to-man offers the best pressure, zone principles offer the best basket protection, and thus we will combine the two concepts.

- ▼ Winning the possession game is our priority.

## ON BALL DEFENSE IN THE HALF COURT

- ▼ Defender guarding the ball below the foul line extended: containment with effective hand pressure. Help defense is to provide security against penetration.

- ▼ Defender guarding the ball above the foul line extended: total pressure, channel to sideline/corner. Immediate pass receiver's defense contests the passing lanes (open/closed stance) or is packed in, an open stance helping on middle penetration.

- ▼ Help side defenders protect the basket with zone principles: establish "high/low split positions". Front all low posts unless scouting decrees otherwise.

- ▼ All defenders must be in constant communication.





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by Don Casey



by Ralph Pim

# HALF COURT 3-2 AND 2-3 ZONE PRESS

**Don Casey coached at Temple University from 1973 to 1982. He was then assistant coach of the NBA teams of Chicago, Los Angeles Clippers, Boston, and as head coach, again of the Clippers, as well as the New Jersey Nets. He also coached Scavolini Pesaro in Italy. He has conducted basketball clinics in Africa, Europe, South America, and Asia. Currently, he is Vice President of the NBA Coaches Association. He is the author of "Own the Zone" (McGraw-Hill, 2007).**

**Ralph Pim is an associate professor and chief of the competitive sports of the Military Academy of West Point. He coached at Limestone College and Alma College, and also was assistant coach at Central Michigan, William & Mary, and Northwestern Louisiana University. He is author of several basketball books.**

## DOUBLE-TEAMS

Every team that wants to surprise the opponent must be able to double-team on every type of defense. How to double-team is the same for man-to-man defense and for zone defense. While two defenders double-team the ball handler, the other three have to form a triangle. One of these players floats and goes where needed, while the other covers all moves to the basket. When the basket is protected, any defense can risk to double-team the man with the ball.

## DOUBLE-TEAM RULES

There are five basic double-team situations in every type of defense: the guard with the guard; the guard with the forward; the forward with the guard; the forward with post; and the guard with the post. Double-team is based on quickness and surprise, and all the defenders

should follow the following rules:

- ▼ Three steps rule. The defender, who goes to double-team, must be able to reach the ball handler in three rapid steps.
- ▼ Don't break up the double-team rule. The defenders must assume a large base and put one of their feet as close as possible to their teammate's foot.
- ▼ Active hands rule. The defenders must have their hands active trying to deflect the ball.

## WHEN DOUBLE-TEAMING

The defenders must know when to go to double-team. Some of the best situations include the following offensive situations: a pick and roll; a dribbling wave; a guard passing the ball to the forward and follows the pass to receive a hand-off pass; a pass to the post and the passer goes to the angle.

When a team knows when and how to double-team, there are several tactics of double-teaming that can be used with every type of defense.

## LEADING GUIDES TO DOUBLE-TEAM

Hubie Brown, two-time NBA Head Coach of the Year and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, affirms that there must be guideline rules for double-teams, but also that coaches must be flexible and permit their players to be creative. Brown identified these as the most important principles to follow in order to double-team.

The best spots on the court where double-team are the sidelines, the baselines, the angles, and the half court line. Play at contact with the ball handler and close to him. Do not let the ball handler pass through the double-team. Once you decide to double-team, do not to stop or hesitate and stay in the "no men's land."

Teach players not involved in the double-team to understand what the double-teamed player may try to do. Once the double-team is done, let the most distant player from the ball free. Do not permit the offensive players on the help side to cut quickly toward the ball to receive a pass. Coach the defenders on the rotation on the help side. Keep the double-team until the ball handler passes the ball and the ball is in the air. Do not permit a penetrating pass that goes out of the double-team. If a back pass is forced, keep on playing zone defense, and try to double-team again. Guard the shooters closely and do not let them get free.

## HALF COURT 3-2 ZONE PRESS

Half court 3-2 zone press can be both an aggressive defense and a passive one. You need this in your offensive arsenal because each opponent presents different challenges: there can't be only one defense that you use with every team. Created in the 1950s by John Egli, who coached at Penn State University, I expanded upon his basic concepts to create various options. When you adopt this 3-2 defense, it's fundamental to keep the ball outside the middle lane of the court and the post area. Once the ball goes to the high post, it can be easily passed to both the sides of the court and to the angles, making this very difficult to cover. The defenders must be trained to push the ball toward the sideline and to the angles, where there are excellent double-team opportunities. Moreover, the spots on the court where double-teams occur limit the spaces for the offense and permit the three defenders not involved in the double-team to set where they have major opportunities to intercept a pass.

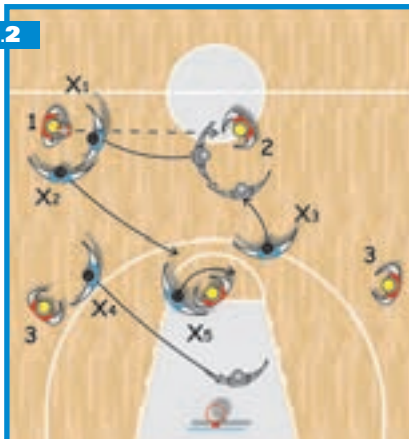
This is the initial set-up of the defenders



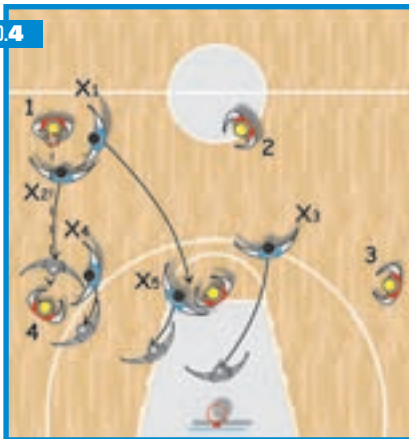
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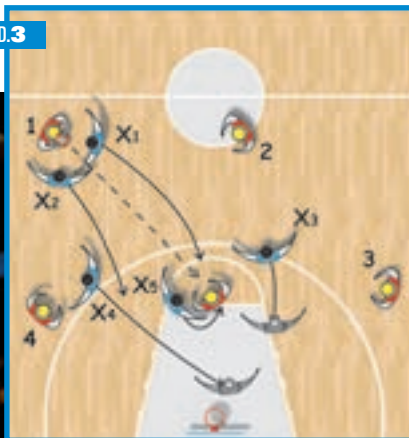
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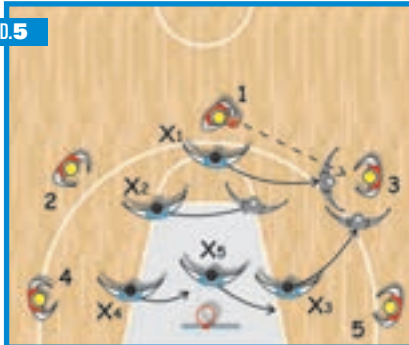
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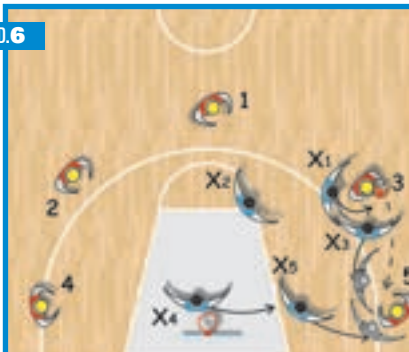
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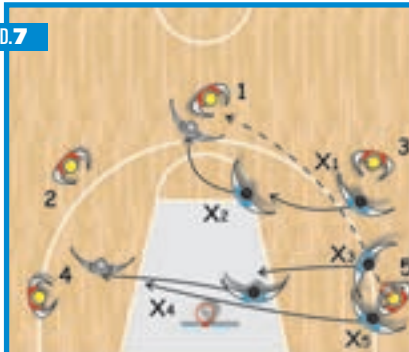
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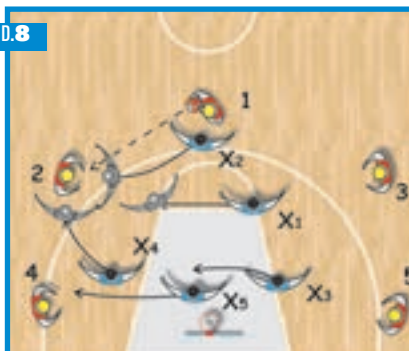
D.6



D.7



D.8



and the double-team at the half court (diagr. 1). As the ball comes up the court, X1, X2 and X3 spread the defense quickly to the half court. X1 and X2 go to double-team once the ball handler drives to one side of the court and goes over the half court line, establishing the strong side. X3, who went initially toward the half-court line, goes back to play as an "interceptor" of a possible pass to the weak side. X4 slides to the wing, anticipating the pass in this area of the court. X5 comes up and anticipates the offensive player, who is on this side of the court. When the ball is passed from 1 to 2, these will be the defensive slides (diagr. 2). X1 follows the pass and double-teams with X3. X5 guards any opponent who, is in the high post. X4 slides in the low post, covering the basket, while X2 slides back to the elbow of the free-throw line.

Let's see the defensive cover when the ball is passed from 1 to 5 (diagr. 3). X5 defends on 5 by using the fundamentals of man-to-man defense. X1 double-teams on the high post with X5, X3 slides down near the lane and he's responsible for any passes on this side of the court. The ideal line drawn between the ball handler and the angle gives a landmark for how far X3 must slide down. X4 slides back covering the zone near the basket, while X2 slides and is responsible to cover any pass on his side of the court.

In diagram 4, defensive slides are shown when the ball is passed from 1 to 4. X4 defends 4 by using the man-to-man fundamentals. X2 double-teams the ball handler with X4, while X5 guards any opponent who comes in the low post. X1 slides back in the middle lane, while X3 covers the area near the basket.

### 2-3 ZONE PRESS

The initial set of the 2-3 zone press is the same of the classic 2-3 zone. The surprise element for the opponents begins when the ball is passed from the guard to the wing. At this time, the front court of the defenders double-team, instead of coming out and then comes back as in the regular zone defense.

### DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE WING (AFTER THE PASS FROM THE MIDDLE LANE)

In diagram 5 the double-team on the wing is shown after the pass from the middle lane of the court from 1 to 3. X1 initially covers the high post area and then quickly goes to double-team the forward, 3, with X3, who comes up; X2 cuts in the lane and covers the elbow of the free-throw line on the double-team side; X5 is in a position where he can fake and steal

the ball on a pass to the angle. X4 sets up under the basket and defends against a possible lob pass.

### DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE ANGLE (AFTER A PASS FROM THE WING)

Diagram 6 describes the double-team in the angle after a pass is made from the wing from 3 to 5. X3 follows the pass to the wing and double-teams with X5. X1 can set either on the passing line behind the wing, or at half distance between the wing and the basket (see the diagr. 3 for X1's position); X2 covers the high-post area and guards the diagonal passes; X5 slides out of the lane and double-teams the ball handler, while X4 comes out of the three-second lane and sets up beyond the last block of the free throw line.

### EXIT PASS FROM THE ANGLE TO THE MIDDLE LANE OF THE COURT

In diagram 7 we can see the position on the court of the defenders when the ball goes out of the double-team and reaches the middle lane of the court, with a pass from 5 to 1. X2 slides out the lane, sets near 1's outside shoulder, and tries to get the ball from him. X1 defends on the wing; X4 cuts in the lane, comes out and sets up in an in-between position between the angle and 4, ready to fake and intercept a possible pass from the middle lane to the wing on the help side. X5 cuts quickly in the lane and sets up on the last block of the free throw line, while X3 does the same thing on the weak side.

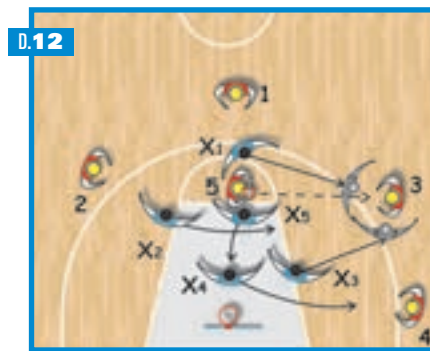
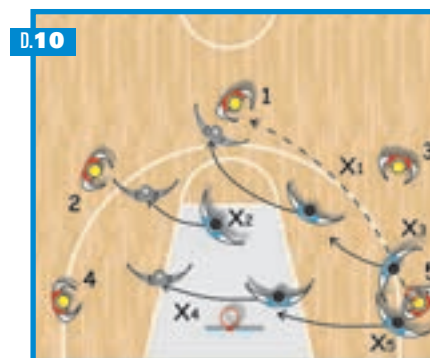
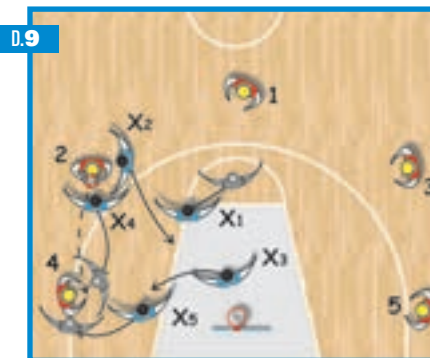
### DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE WING (AFTER A PASS FROM THE MIDDLE LANE OF THE COURT)

When the ball goes out the double-team in the angle, and is passed to the middle lane and again to the wing on the weak side from 1 to 2, the following moves have to be made by the defenders (diagr. 8).

X2 slides to the high post area, near the elbow of the free-throw line, and then runs to double-team 2 with X4. X1 cuts in the lane and sets up on the elbow of the free-throw line on the strong side. X5 goes to an in-between position between the angle and the ball, ready to intercept a possible pass to the angle, while X3 goes under the basket to steal any lob pass.

### DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE ANGLE (AFTER THE PASS FROM THE WING)

Once the ball is passed from the wing to the angle, from 2 to 4, the defenders move as shown in diagram 9. X4 follows the pass to the angle and double-teams 4 with X5. X2 slides in an in-between position between the wing and the angle to avoid





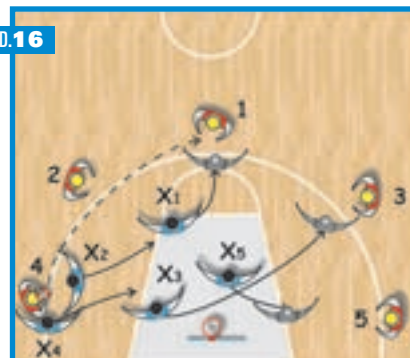
D.14



D.15



D.16



a back pass to the wing. X1 covers the high-post area, and defends on diagonal passes, while X3 goes out of the lane and sets up on the last block of the free-throw line.

Exit pass out of the double-team in the angle toward the middle lane of the court. In diagram 10 we see an option to cover the exit pass out of the double-team in the angle toward the middle lane of the court, from 5 to 1. We saw this in diagram 7. X2 goes to the wing to try to stop a quick change of the ball side. X1 becomes the top defender of the zone and sets up on the ball handler's outside shoulder. X3 slides in an in-between position between the offensive player and the wing, ready to intercept a possible pass from the middle lane toward the wing. X4 slides in the lane and sets up on the block of the free-throw line on the weak side. X5 slides in the lane as the last defender of the zone to cover the basket.

#### **DOUBLE-TEAM ON THE HIGH POST (AFTER A PASS FROM THE MIDDLE LANE OF THE COURT)**

I will now describe a double-team on the high post after a pass from the middle lane of the court, from 1 to 5 (diagr. 11). X1 turns and double-teams on the high post with X5. X2 slides slightly under the ball line; X3 sets up at half the distance between 3 and 4 in an angle, while X4 covers the basket.

#### **DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE WING (AFTER THE PASS FROM THE HIGH POST)**

This double-team is illustrated in diagram 12. X3 slides towards 3, who gets the ball from 5, and double-teams with X1, who followed the pass. X4 comes out of the lane and goes to the angle. X5 slides down in the lane to cover the basket and grab any lob passes. X2 cuts in the lane, setting up on the elbow of the free-throw line on the ball side.

#### **DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE WING (AFTER THE PASS FROM THE WING)**

In diagram 13 I will describe the defenders'

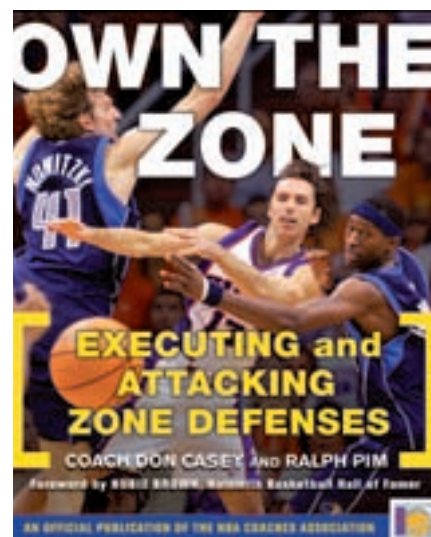
moves when the ball comes out of the double-team with a pass from the wing to the angle, from 3 to 4. X4 comes out, does not let 3 drive to the angle and double-teams with X3, who has followed the pass. X5 sets up on the last block of the free-throw line. X1 denies the return pass from 4 to 3 or, as shown in the diagram, slides to an in-between position between the angle and the wing, while X2 defends on the high post and is ready for any lob passes.

#### **DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE ANGLE (AFTER THE PASS FROM THE HIGH POST)**

Some coaches think that going from a high-post double-team to an angle double-team is too difficult, while others believe that this may be very advantageous. In diagram 14, we can see how to defend when the ball is passed from the high post to the angle, from 5 to 4. X2 double-teams 4 with X4, who has come out the lane. X1 covers the elbow of the free-throw lane on the ball side. X5 slides on the block, while X3 slides under the basket. Another way to double-team in the angle is shown in diagram 15. X1, X2, and X4's responsibilities are still the same, while X3 and X5 follow these rules: X3 sets on the block and X5 slides down in the middle of the area in front of the basket.

#### **EXIT PASS FROM THE DOUBLE-TEAM IN THE ANGLE TOWARD THE MIDDLE LANE OF THE COURT**

In diagram 16 are the defenders' movements against the exit pass from the double-team in the angle toward the middle lane of the court (from 4 to 1). X1 slides up and guards 1, with the ball, while X2 slides on the left elbow of the free-throw lane. X4 slides beyond the line of the three-second area, as X5 does on the opposite side, while X3 cuts in the lane and sets up on the other angle of the free-throw line. X3 and X5 can also change their positions. X5 slides toward the angle of the free-throw lane and X3 cuts and sets beyond the line of the three-second area.



*Taken from the book "OWN THE ZONE",  
Don Casey and Ralph Pim,  
McGraw-Hill, 2007.*



by Ryan Krueger

# TERMINOLOGY

Ryan Krueger has been the assistant coach of Virginia Commonwealth for a year and of Maine Central Institute for two seasons. For four years he has worked with the New Jersey Nets, at first as a video coordinator and, beginning last season, as assistant coach. He has written two books, "Yellow Brick Basketball Drills", whose proceeds go

toward the social campaign "Coaches vs. Cancer". He has also been an instructor at Five-Star Camp. He is currently assistant coach at Rutgers University.

There are so many things as coaches that we love about this game which other people just can't understand. Celebrating

with your team in a tiny, dingy locker room after a big road win. Team dinners where the rookies have to sing. The camaraderie and brotherhood that coaches and players share that only comes from being around each other every single day. These are all things that are only special to you if you're a coach. One aspect of the game that doesn't get talked





about very often is terminology. We all have our own secret code whether we know it or not. We repeatedly use certain descriptions to present situations that arise.

Having a consistent terminology helps you in a couple of ways. The most important is that it allows you to be a better teacher. It helps you get your point across more quickly. This makes sense because you are generally using less words to describe something. You can paint a picture or describe a situation to your players using one simple word you've made up as opposed to using an entire sentence to do the same. I always want to be as short, concise, and



to the point as possible when addressing our players. What's important is for them to get the information but then to use that information playing the game, not standing and listening. I will list a few examples of what I mean.

I am a huge believer in individual breakdown drills. We are a big pick and roll team so our pick and roll attack is something we work on frequently. One thing I always want my ball handlers to do is look to beat their man away from the pick and roll. If the big is screening such that the ball handler is coming off to his right hand, I want the ball handler to see whether or not he can beat his man by not using the screen. We always told our players to "be a threat to beat your man away from the screen." That takes a long time to say. So I came up with one simple word that inherently has nothing to do with pick and rolls or basketball. I call beating your man away from the pick and roll "bingo". At first our coaches thought I was crazy, but if you ask any of our guards about "bingo", they will know exactly what you are talking about. Terminology becomes very useful during a game when you can use it to quickly tell your players what kind of action the opponent is about to run and how you want to guard it. Let's say you hear the call for a team to run a side pick and roll. We would normally call out "side pick – blue it". This is what play they are running and how we want to guard it. But many teams these days don't set a traditional angle side pick (screener's back to the sideline). Instead they set the screen with the screener's back to the baseline, bringing the ball handler to the baseline instead of to the middle. We have a special call for this type of side pick. We call this a "hat pick". Why we call it this I have no idea, but it's unimportant. What's important is that our players know what it is and know how we defend it. A traditional side pick we would "blue" but a "hat pick" we would "red". Now we can quickly relay to our players "hat pick – red it!" as opposed to "side pick but bringing the ball handler baseline – red it!" That's just too long and clunky to say.

#### THE FOLLOWING ARE TERMS WE USED TO DESCRIBE OFFENSIVE ACTIONS

"Floppy" – baseline screening action with 4 & 5 setting pin down screens for 2 and 3.

"Hawk" – post up with 2 starting at the top of the key and getting a pick from a big (4/5) at the elbow. Similar to a UCLA cut.

"Hammer Action" – Starts with a 1/3 hat pick (SPR where the 3 has his back to the baseline). 4 and 5 are at the weak/opposite elbow and 2 is at the top of the key. As 1 drives baseline, 2 (top of the key) gets a double flare at the weakside elbow getting him open in the weakside corner. 1 throws a pass along the baseline for a corner three point shot from 2.

▼ "Horns" – 4 and 5 at each elbow with 2 and 3 in the corners. 1 can use either big for a pick and roll.

▼ "Munch" – Out of a box set, 1 swings the ball to opposite side of the floor and then the big gets a double back pick for a postup.

▼ "Pinch Post" – guard with the ball at the top of the key, big at the elbow. Guard passes to the big and gets into a two men game off the elbow.

#### HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OTHER RANDOM NBA TERMINOLOGY

▼ "ATO's" – after time out plays

▼ "Basket cut" – guard feeds the post and cuts over top (middle) of the big.

▼ "Go cut" – guard feeds the post and cuts below (baseline side) of the big.

▼ "Butter" – our call at the end of the shot clock (5 seconds remaining).

▼ "Drag" – pick and rolls in transition.

▼ "Lifted" – refers to a big being high, spaced for a jumpshot, as opposed to low on the block.

▼ "Pocket pass" – the pass we make when a guard curls versus a hard show. On the catch we immediately look to bounce pass to the screener since his man showed up and left him open.

I also think that using special terminology helps promote a sense of culture on your team. It's something that is unique to your team, that no one else does. I know I would think it was pretty cool if my high school coach used college terminology when I was playing. If I'm a college player and I'm dreaming of playing in the NBA, I would think it was pretty cool to be learning NBA terminology. I overhear our players using our team terminology talking with one another all the time. These may be words that we have totally made up but they have meaning to us. Those words are our terminology. Its part of our team.



by Raffaele Imbrogno

# FUNDAMENTALS, FUNDAMENTALS AND FUNDAMENTALS AGAIN

Raffaele Imbrogno has been coaching since 1980. He is an Instructor for the Italian National Coaches Committee of the Federation and has been Director of the Italian Basketball Federation Study Center. Imbrogno is also the author of several technical basketball publications.

*In this section, we introduce the latest books, videos, CDs, and other tools that are primarily aimed at coaches, but certainly useful for all of our readers. Please send your suggestions and comments about our basketball-related media for review in this section.*

As Carlo Recalcati, the coach of the Italian national team, has often remarked, we desperately need teach proper offensive and defensive basketball fundamentals to all of our players.

This observation is not only true for Italian basketball, but for the entire basketball world. Luckily, a series of DVDs about teaching the ABCs of the game has just arrived from the United States, and it focuses on what Coach Recalcati has been clamoring for: basketball fundamentals. Let's take a look at these offerings.

The popular Internet site Hoopsking.com has just produced a DVD series entitled "Advanced Basketball Training" that promises to

bring all of us to the highest game level. The series includes on-court commentary from leading basketball coaches, including Ganon Baker, Jay Hernandez, Dorian Lee, and Jason Otter.

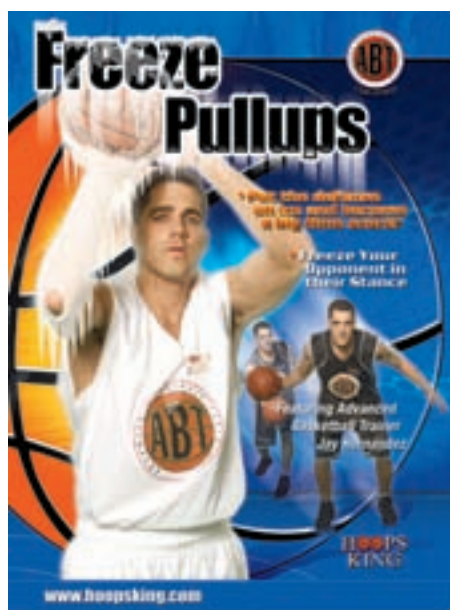
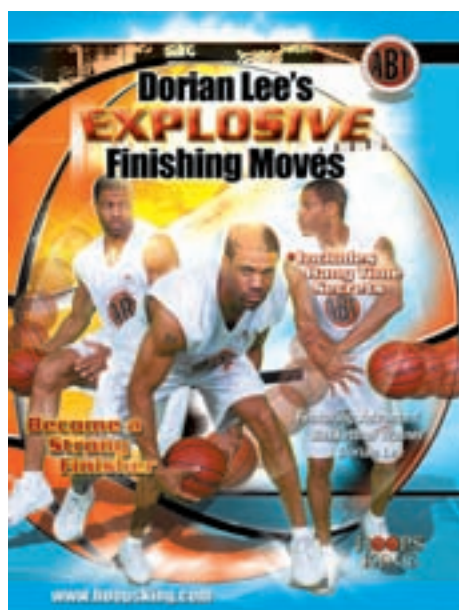
Four DVDs have been produced by Ganon Baker: "How to Survive and Thrive as an Undersized"; "Ganon Baker's Basketball School: Dribbling & Driving"; "Ganon Baker's Basketball School: Passing", and "Ganon Baker's Basketball School: Ball Handling".

The first DVD, almost two hours long and dedicated to guards, focuses on eight qualities. It begins with a series of physical conditioning drills, followed by drills to improve the

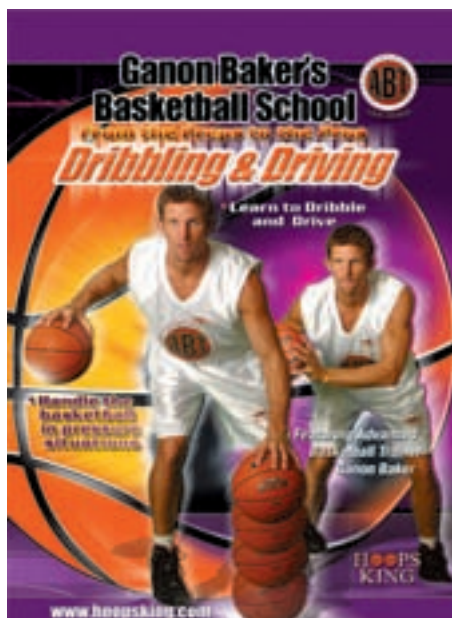
weak hand, drills to quicken both hands in ball handling, drills to improve quality of driving to the basket, and how to create space between you and defense.

The last three sections are dedicated to getting free without the ball (paying particular attention to pivoting), how to shoot from the three-point line, how to use "middle-range" shots, how to go strong to the basket, and how to improve overall basketball comprehension. Baker's point is to remove every excuse that will keep you from becoming a "big" player.

In the second DVD, Baker shows how to improve ball control, especially in situations with defensive







pressure. Drills with one, two, and three balls are utilized, as well as drills with specially weighted tennis balls. Finally, great care is dedicated to starts from a standstill position and off a dribble.

In the third DVD, Baker presents more than 30 drills that can be utilized alone or with a teammate. Baker details all types of passes, and then takes the player through the most competitive and difficult drills.

In his fourth and last DVD, Baker demonstrates 25 ball-handling drills of easy and moderate difficulty, followed by 24 high-difficulty drills designed to significantly improve ball handling. Each drill is designed to bring about improvements in strength, stamina, and technical

skill.

Jay Hernandez has produced three different DVDs: "Pro Scoring Moves", "Freeze Pullups", and "Heavy Trainer Workout". In his first DVD, he presents an interesting series of one-on-one moves in order to beat the defender (pound pivots, trigger series, two-footed steps backs, and the slide by move). In his second DVD, he focuses on getting shots off after a dribble.

Close attention is paid to maintaining proper form. Finally, in his third DVD, Hernandez demonstrates various drills with the weighted ball (dribbling with one ball, two balls, and pass-and-shoot drills).

Dorian Lee has two DVDs: "Dorian Lee's Art of the Quick Release and

Explosive Finishing Moves".

In his Explosive Moves DVD, Lee closely examines shooting situations after catching the ball and after recovering the ball from dribbling. At the end of the DVD, eight drills are presented. In Explosive Finishing Moves, Lee demonstrates several ways to get to the basket: driving from the middle, the side, and from an angle. He offers a series of interesting drills.

Jason Otter's DVD, "From the Streets to the Court", shows how moves born on the playground (spin moves, crossover, shutters, behind the back and in-and-outs) can be translated to the gym.

There you have it: 10 very good DVDs at a very good price. Enjoy the workouts.





by Alan Richardson

# REFEREEING POST PLAY SITUATION

**Alan Richardson has been a FIBA referee from 1978 to 1998. He then became Referee Clinic Instructor from 1996 to 2000. Since 2000, he is the Technical Advisor of the Referee Department of the Euroleague.**

Post play has developed an element of power and leverage that puts pressure on referees to balance the physical preparation of the players with actions that create an unfair advantage. Aggressive play is acceptable, but rough play is not. Rough play invariably develops into violent confrontations, which test the referees' knowledge of the rules and their interpretation. Points of emphasis have been around for a long time, but they serve to remind referees about how to penalize various illegal moves by players, which dislodge, displace or dispossess opponents unfairly.

## LEGAL GUARDING POSITION

A player is entitled to any position on the

floor, not occupied by an opponent. Once established, it is illegal for any opponent to dislodge or displace that player from his position. It is equally true that having established such a position; a player cannot extend his arms or legs to prevent an opponent from moving to a new position. An arm bar by the defensive player in the post has to be watched in order to determine if the arm is straight or bent. If the arm is straight and displacement of the offensive player occurs, this is a foul. Changes in position must be achieved by speed and agility; the rules are designed to recognise the player who gets to the spot first and establishes a legal position. Referees therefore need to recognise when body position is legally established and when to penalise opponents who try to change the status illegally. There are a number of illegal plays associated with post play:

## UNDERCUTTING

When an offensive player posts up with his

back to the basket, watch for the defensive player moving in behind, in a direct line to the basket. If the offensive post player receives the ball in that situation, with both feet on the floor, there are a lot of quick moves designed to beat the defensive opponent. The defensive player will tend to work through the verticality of the offensive player by pushing into the buttocks/legs of the offensive player and creating an unstable position. This creates an unfair advantage for the defensive player. There will be times when the offensive player sits back on the defensive player in order to prevent being fronted and to have a better chance of receiving the ball. This is also illegal and creates an unfair advantage. More than often, these two situations occur at the same time and referees must react quickly to avoid illegal action/reaction. Preventative officiating should be applied through the use of verbal warnings for both players to "straighten-up". If this does not work then an early double foul may make for a better game.

## BUMPING

When an offensive player receives the ball, watch for attempts to back into the basket over the defensive player. Backing-in consists of either a partial turn and a half step into the defensive player in order to move him backwards or it can be with a dribble, with back to the basket, which displaces the defensive player backwards by a series of "bumps". Offensive players tend to get away with that because the contact is at close range and does not involve much displacement with each bump. However, referees must remember that if the defensive player is in a legal guarding position and the offensive contact on his chest displaces him then a charge foul may be called. If the offensive player really wants to get to the basket then he needs to go around the defensive player, which sometimes involves hooking.

## HOOKING

Post players are not always quick with their feet. Once an offensive player receives the ball and "bumping" is ineffective, he will







attempt to reverse around the defensive player. This is much easier if they are allowed to wrap their free arm around the back or across the hip of the defensive player, delaying his reaction long enough to get one foot on the floor closer to the basket. This is illegal because the offensive player has extended his body position with an extended arm in order to prevent the movement of his opponent. This is sometimes difficult for referees to see but by watching for the moment of receiving the ball in the low post, the lead referee should move along the baseline towards the basket. This will enable the referee to be behind the defender and see the illegal move of the offensive post player. The centre referee can also help on this play if the move screens out the lead as the offensive player rolls into the paint.

#### **HANDCHECKING**

The most effective way for a defensive player to counteract the offensive move to the basket, other than getting weak-side help, is to retreat to a new position in the offensive path to the basket. This is easy to do with a hand check if the offensive player has to turn and move to the basket too. Watch for

the defensive player spinning and reaching for the offensive player when beaten by his move. If the defensive player, instead, continues to face up to the offensive player off the reverse move, it becomes a classic charge/block situation. Watch the defensive player and if contact in the new position is on his chest then it is a charge, if its not then it is a block. If the defensive player is beaten, you may want to suck on the whistle until a shooting motion begins and it becomes a shooting foul. Penalise the hand checking in order to discourage it further.

#### **HOLDING**

In situations where the offensive player gets closer to the basket than the defensive player whilst waiting for the ball; such as when the defensive player tries to front the offensive player or when two offensive players switch and one moves to the blindside of the defensive post player. The only way the offensive player will get the ball in that case is on a gentle lob pass that gets over the defensive player but falls short of the weak side help. Invariably in this situation the offensive player places a hand on the hip of the fronting defensive player and prevents

him from backing up during the lob pass. This becomes an easy lay up for the offensive player. The strong hold on the hip restricts the motion of the defensive player and creates an unfair advantage. This is illegal and should be called. Watch the players rather than the ball in such cases.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Ignore the ball and focus on contact. Some referees have problems with this because they are anticipating the act of shooting when the ball is close to the basket. In post play the good calls are made on illegal moves without the ball. Teamwork between referees is essential here if the primary official is to focus on the post players whilst his colleagues cover the rest of the play. The role of the lead official is important because he must focus on the developing post play rather than looking for the ball out on the floor. Post play is a game within the game. Size and strength are winning factors in any game but not where illegal contact that displaces, dislodges or dispossesses opponents is allowed to go unpunished. "Take care of business before business takes care of you".

# RIGHT OR WRONG?

*The following questions focus on the document, "FIBA Official Basketball Rules: Official Interpretations". A free download is provided on the FIBA website ([www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com)). For additional clarifications, explanations or examples, please consult this document.*

## QUESTIONS

1. On a throw-in, shall the 5-second count continue until the ball touches a player, other than the thrower-in, on the playing court?
2. B3 commits a holding foul against A2. This is the 4th team foul for team B in the period. Shall A2 be awarded two free-throws?
3. A10 requests to enter the game as a substitute for A4 at the next opportunity. During the next dead ball, but before an official has beckoned A10 to enter the playing court, a technical foul is committed by A4. Shall the A4 foul be considered a player's foul?
4. A shot for goal has left A3's hand; s), when the signal sounds to end the 1st period. After the signal has sounded, but before the shot for goal ends, an unsportsmanlike foul is committed by A5. Shall this foul be considered to have happened during an interval of play?
5. A2 is awarded one free-throw. Before the release of the ball on the free-throw attempt, both B4 and A4 enter the restricted area. The ball does not enter the basket. Is this a jump ball situation?
6. Shall the assistant coach have the right to request a time-out?
7. On the alternating possession throw-in that begins a period, the ball has been released by thrower-in A2, but has not yet touched a player on the playing court when a foul is committed by A5. Has A5's foul occurred during an interval of play?
8. A1 is awarded one free-throw. Before the ball is placed at the disposal of A1 for the free-throw, A10 substitutes for A5. Following A1's successful free-throw, a time-out is awarded to team A. A5 now asks to re-enter the game as a




- substitute for A1. Shall the substitution be permitted?
9. An A3 shot for a field goal is in the air when the 24-second signal sounds. The ball then touches the backboard, but does not touch the basket ring, after which it is immediately rebounded by B2. Shall the 24-second signal be ignored and the game continue without interruption?
10. A4 and B4 are charged with technical fouls for disrespectfully communicating with each other. Is this a double foul?

## ANSWERS

1. No; Article 17.3.1
2. No; Articles 41.1.1, 41.2.1
3. Yes; Articles 4.1.3, 4.2.3
4. Yes; Article 8.5
5. Yes; Articles 12.3, 43.3.3
6. Yes; Article 18.3.1
7. No; Article 12.4.8
8. No; Article 19.2.4
9. Yes; Article 29.1.2
10. No; Article 35.1





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# PLAYER AGENTS IN FIBA STRUCTURE

## INTERVIEW WITH FIBA SECRETARY GENERAL PATRICK BAUMANN

*Please provide us with some background information on the FIBA Licensed Players' Agents program, which is supervised by FIBA's Development Director Zoran Radovic and Legal Advisor Dr. Dirk-Reiner Martens. I believe that the idea came up in 2003 and the overall concept has actually taken shape in 2007. What have been the steps that FIBA has taken during these four years to put the project in place?*

Actually, FIBA's idea to bring the agents into the institutional basketball family started in 1996-1997. At that time, several proposals came up, but none of these ideas eventually took shape and passed... Most probably the project was too ambitious. There were also too many doubts, too many unanswered questions, and we were perhaps not ready to take such a step at that point and time...

In 2003, FIBA again reviewed this whole concept and over the course of almost two years we undertook research around the world to get a precise and overall idea of the whole situation: what was going on in this specific area, what were the most important problems and issues, etc. In March 2003, we organized an informal meeting in our offices, in Geneva, where we invited 12 agents, mainly from Europe. We listened to their opinions and concerns and shared with them all the possible options that could be envisioned. During that informal meeting, the agents themselves started to ask us, FIBA, to do something directly to regulate all issues relating to their work. They directly asked us to take a leading role in this whole project, since they considered FIBA an entity that they could partner with and trust...

We decided to accept that challenge and started to closely follow all the developments in basketball, and in other sports. We also paid attention to some legal areas and some experiences of other commercial entities. In 2005, we had another informal meeting with the

same representation of agents and had a very positive outcome, coming up with some draft regulations... This draft was first approved by the FIBA Central Board and then the 2006 FIBA World Congress, which met in Japan, rubber-stamped the whole regulation governing the players' agents. The first test for agents took place in March 2007.

*All sports agents dealing on the international basketball scene are supposed to become FIBA certified agents. What are the main benefits they receive?*

The main reason behind having only certified agents as professionals operating in the basketball world is simple: to regulate the whole market. Relations between agents, players, coaches, clubs and national federations, all transfers-everyone and everything benefits from such a step! Things become easier, smoother, done in a more professional way and, last but not least, more transparent.

There are plenty of indications that prove that, in the world of sports, and basketball in particular, certain aspects have not been regulated the way they should have. In some cases, there are players who are changing their agents all the time when and how they want, without respecting any contracts. There are also many cases where it is not clear at all who is the legitimate person entitled to represent a particular player. In addition, certain clubs do not fulfill their obligations towards their players and coaches and/or towards their agents. In some other cases, certain transfers are questioned. When all of the above is taken into consideration and the market is regulated in the correct way, the new scenario logically benefits everyone involved-agents included, of course.

By having certified agents, the whole business is much more transparent: their complete details, including their CVs/biographical sketches, as well as the list of

all the players and coaches that they represent will be easily accessible, since it will be all displayed on [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).

FIBA-certified agents will be the only ones allowed to make business for international transfers of players. In addition, certified agents are entitled to use the FIBA Arbitral Tribunal (FAT), which is a new and completely independent body that can be used for the resolution of conflicts. Therefore, from now on, it will be much easier for players, coaches, and clubs to resolve any disputes.

*What are the main benefits that players/coaches and clubs currently get from dealing with FIBA-certified agents, as opposed to the past when they had to deal with every type of representative?*

Dealing with FIBA-certified agents will bring them more guarantees, more security. They will now be handling business relationships with people, who have the knowledge, who are well-prepared, who are professionals, who have a relationship with FIBA, and who operate on an international level.

*What are the necessary requirements to take the FIBA-certified agent test?*

We ask the applicants to provide us with a certificate of non-conviction that has been issued not more than six months before. In addition, all applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Applicants have to be knowledgeable of all agents' regulations and must become familiar with the age limit regulations stated in FIBA's Internal Regulations.

The day of the test, we divide applicants into different small groups. For each of these groups the procedure is the same: first, we do a presentation on the FIBA Arbitral Tribunal and then we have a question-answer session. Every applicant is welcome to raise as many questions as he or she wants because we truly believe that it is crucial that all their





doubts, even the smallest ones, are thoroughly clarified by our experts. This process usually takes about 90 minutes and we then proceed with the test itself, which consists of 25 questions with multiple-choice answers. Applicants need to have 18 correct answers in order to pass the test. We have an average of 21-22 correct answers, with only a few applicants getting all answers correct.

*Since some national federations already have their own agent programs in place, how did the national federations welcome the FIBA program?*

The French Basketball Federation has governmental regulations for agents. In Italy, there are two associations of agents in place: one is controlled by the Italian Basketball Federation itself and the other by a syndicate of agents. In both cases, there are certain require-

ments and regulations in place and we are currently in the process of trying to establish a common way for those two countries to work with us.

Israel has also recently set up some regulations governing players' agents. In the United States, there is also a legal requirement for agents in about 35 states. They have the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA), which has been taking care of agent issues in a serious way for about 19 years. Needless to say, we have links with those organizations; they are part of our strategic plan. As a matter of fact, we did a presentation before the NBPA and they eventually endorsed our whole project and distributed all of our materials as part as their annual assembly's working papers. Increasingly, more American agents are obtaining a FIBA license as well.

I believe that we are going in the right

direction because we have followed a thorough process that has focused on getting acquainted with all the already-existing models, systems, and regulations. Some countries are currently trying to establish their own national certified agents programs and we are helping them to do so. A good example is Russia.

*What are the advantages of getting an FIBA-certified agent license rather than one issued by a national federation?*

The answer is simple: if you want to deal with international transfers, you need to become a FIBA-certified agent. On the contrary, if you operate on a national scale and only deal with local players and coaches from the country in which you are based, then you don't need to get an FIBA license.

*What is the position of the ULEB/Eu-*

*roleague with regards to the FIBA Licensed Players' Agents program?*

It was already absolutely clear for us that we would need to bring everyone, all parties and organizations, on board. There is no question for us: we are all basketball, each and every one of us.

We have had very successful meetings with the ULEB and the Euroleague and have built a good and solid cooperation. In April 2007, on the occasion of their General Assembly, both of these organizations completely endorsed the FIBA Players' Agents Regulations and agreed to the concept of the FIBA Arbitral Tribunal. In addition, we have also had meetings with the European Basketball Players Union and they also applauded the whole program.

I would summarize the situation as follows: we believe that we are going in the right direction since all basketball entities throughout the world are on the same page with regards to our program. From the outset, we have received full support from all organizations.

*How and when will the requirement be enforced that only FIBA licensed agents be authorized to operate in the international basketball scene? FIBA certified agent licenses have only been available since March 2007, so how much time has an agent in order to get his FIBA license?*

It was simply not feasible for us, from all standpoints, logistically, time-wise, from an operational point of view, to implement and enforce everything starting from day one. It was simply impossible.

In 2008 we are planning to conduct tests in the Americas, Oceania, and Europe, continuing to license agents, and explaining the program throughout the world. This is a process that obviously requires some time. After that, sometime around late 2008 and in the beginning of 2009, we will be in a position to be much stricter and will really make sure that all rules are enforced. In about three years we will not have a single person operating on the international scale and dealing with international transfers who is not a FIBA licensed agent. This is one of the reasons why I would strongly encourage all agents to go through this process as soon as possible.

*How many agents have already passed the test? What are FIBA's expectations or goals with regards to the number of officially licensed agents in the future?*



So far, we have had 130 people who passed the test and received their license. We really do not have a precise idea of the amount of people that are interested in becoming a FIBA licensed agent. Our initial guess was that around 200 people would eventually become FIBA-certified agents, but this number might end up being a too small an estimate. For us, this is simply not about numbers.

This is about reaching a certain quality, a certain level of performance, and getting to really understand the problems and views of all parties involved. It is very important that only FIBA-certified agents are the ones who do the business in basketball.

*Let's say that a representation company has 30 agents working for it. Do all of*





*these agents need to get a FIBA license or only the one(s) signing the contracts?*

We are being very practical here by only requiring that the person, or persons, signing the contracts get their FIBA license(s).

For us this is not about creating a money-making machine. We are investing in people, in time, in IT systems, and in many other operational aspects to provide the best possible service.

*How often do tests take place? And where will the next ones be held?*

In 2007 we already held two tests in Europe and one in Oceania. This year, we will organize two tests in Europe and one in Oceania, plus we will stage one or two in the Americas. The dates are yet to be confirmed, but we will most likely stage one in the Americas, Europe, and Oceania in March, and one in

Americas and Europe in October.

If there is a need, we might eventually organize another test in the Americas in 2009. Due to the limited number of agents in Africa and Asia, all African and Asian applicants are required to come to Europe to take the test.

*What types of financial requirements are needed to opt for a FIBA Players' Agents license?*

We created this program with the sole objective to service the agents, and create better conditions for everyone involved in basketball. FIBA is investing its money and funding everything in order to provide a service with very limited costs for the agents.

The fee required for an applicant to take the test is 250 Swiss francs, which is around 150 euros. Afterwards, once one has passed the test and has obtained his or her license, there is an annual fee of 1,000 Swiss francs, which is a bit over 600 euros a year. Needless to say, these fees are relatively modest.

The monies collected in fees is re-invested immediately into the service. We have a person dealing directly with all agent-related issues. We are also slowly starting to link our letters of clearance and transfers to the players' agents; there is an agent section on our website. We are also considering creating a letter of clearance in electronic format. We will continue to make investments in a strategic field such as this one.

*Is the license the only requirement or are there any refresher courses that FIBA certified agents will be requested to undergo on a periodical basis?*

In the future, we will be organizing refresher seminars and will be up-dating agents on the new developments. In addition, our goal is to be completely transparent. This is why all the information can be easily found on [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com). All awards and decisions, the complete FAT requirements, and the list of the players and their representatives will be displayed on our website.

We strongly believe that our website constitutes the best possible reference tool for our certified agents. We don't want agents to have to cope with unnecessary expenses, especially taking into consideration that this program also entails a time-consuming workload for them.

*Letters of clearance will include all players' agents' details. What is the reasoning behind that?*



Nowadays it is extremely rare for a player not to have an agent. In order to simplify and speed up the whole process, we have to start by knowing who are the people involved in a transfer. Therefore, we must have all players' transfers linked to the name of an agent. For instance, we have recently begun to request that the copies of all the transfers between national federations be delivered to FIBA.

*Please describe how the FIBA Arbitral Tribunal (FAT) will work.*

FAT is a completely independent tribunal created to resolve disputes between clubs, players, and agents. The tribunal will review cases of club versus player, player versus agent, or agent versus club. FAT, which represents a true revolution in the world of sports, will hopefully be a simple, quick, and inexpensive way for resolving the disputes that may arise between the various parties.

FAT is seated in Geneva, but is not an integral part of FIBA. It is rather a completely independent tribunal presided over by Ms. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler of Switzerland, one of the most prominent and prestigious arbitrators in the world. FAT arbitrators render a decision within six weeks from the end of the proceedings on an ex-aequo et bono basis. Decisions are based

on general considerations of justice and fairness, without reference to any particular national or international law.

*Is FAT a supra-national tribunal? What kind of legal and enforcement powers does it have when it relates to specific countries and/or jurisdictions?*

According to the New York Convention, ratified by about 170 countries, arbitrations such as FAT's are recognized and enforced.

However, we do recognize that in a number of countries, labor disputes, which can be disputes between a player and a club, cannot be settled by means of arbitration. In those cases where a FAT award or decision cannot be enforced in a specific country, FIBA, while it has no power to enforce FAT awards, does have a provision that states that this International Basketball Federation can sanction parties who fail to honor FAT awards. Those sanctions range from financial penalties, to bans on international transfers in the case of players or clubs, to withdrawal of agent licenses. Moreover, we are studying the possibility of banning the participation of teams in international competitions.

*What are the main points of difference between the FAT and the Court of Arbitration*

*for Sport?*

Procedures in front of FAT are much quicker and less expensive. In addition, its decisions and awards are taken by a single arbitrator on an ex-aequo et bono basis, based on justice and equity. The Court of Arbitration for Sport, which features three arbitrators, is the last instance to go in the case of an appeal. Its process takes considerably longer and is more expensive than FAT's.

*The first FAT case was recently decided, which involved a dispute between the player, Djuro Ostojic, and the PAOK Thessaloniki basketball club in Greece. What was the outcome?*

This was a relatively easy case because PAOK decided not to participate in the proceedings. This award, like all future cases, was made public and can be found on our website. Djuro Ostojic recently asked FIBA to sanction PAOK because PAOK refused to honor the FAT's award.

We really want to be as transparent and clear as possible because we believe that there is no reason to hide anything. In many sports, people are proud to make public earnings, salaries, taxes' figures, everything. We strongly believe that the fact of being transparent will help basketball to grow even more.





WE ADMIT.  
WE HAVE A TRAFFIC PROBLEM.

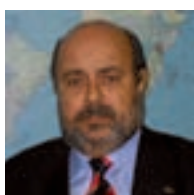
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by Mauro Schiavone

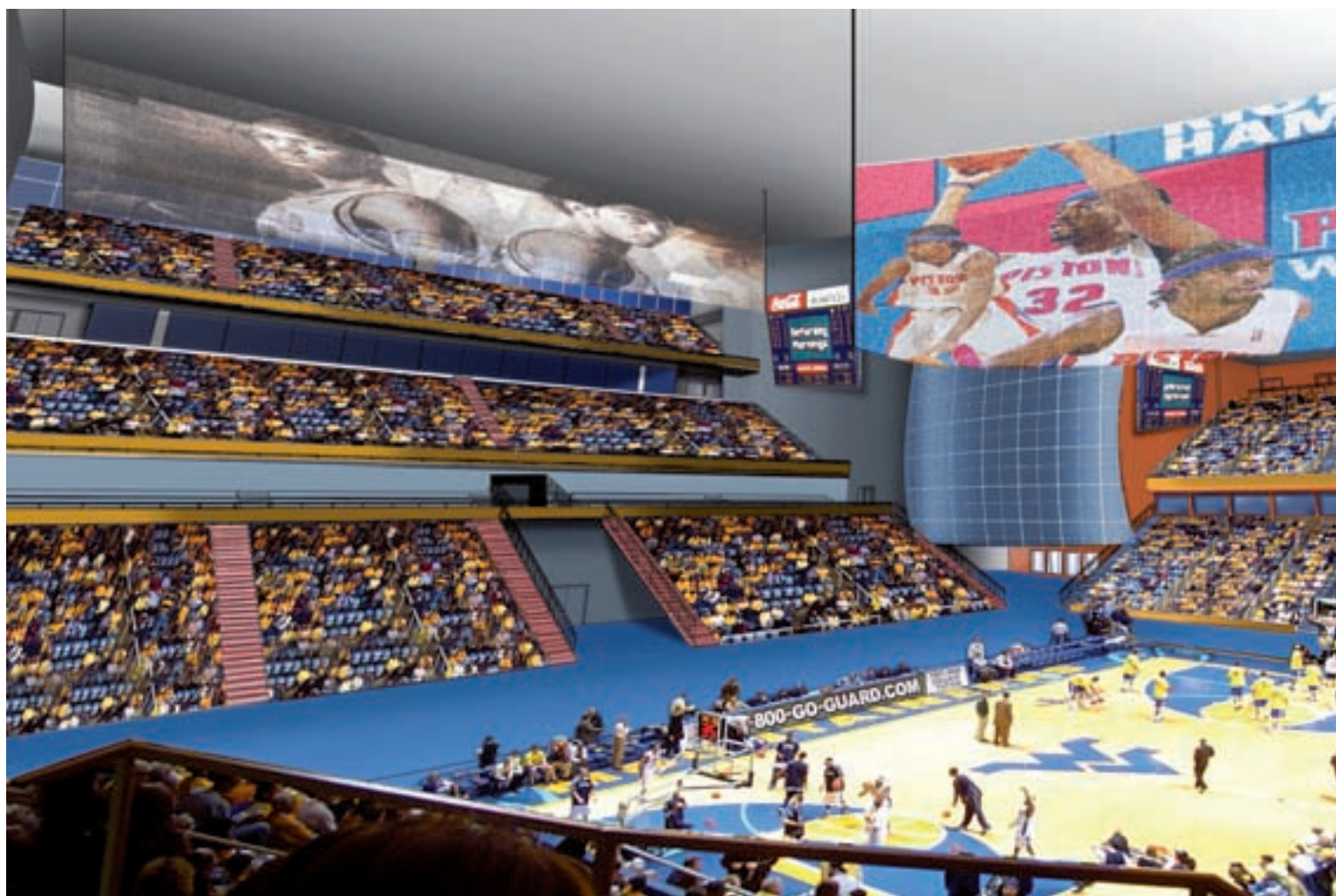
# THE GUIDE TO BASKETBALL FACILITIES

**Mauro Schiavone is an architect and a consultant for sports installations for the Italian Olympic Committee of the Lazio Region in Italy. He also serves as a consultant for national and international sports Federations (football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, skating, boxing), and he collaborated with IAAF from 1980 to 1987, and FIBA from 1994 to 1996. An expert in the management and maintenance of sports installations, he has also taught courses for sports managers of the Italian Olympic Committee and other groups.**

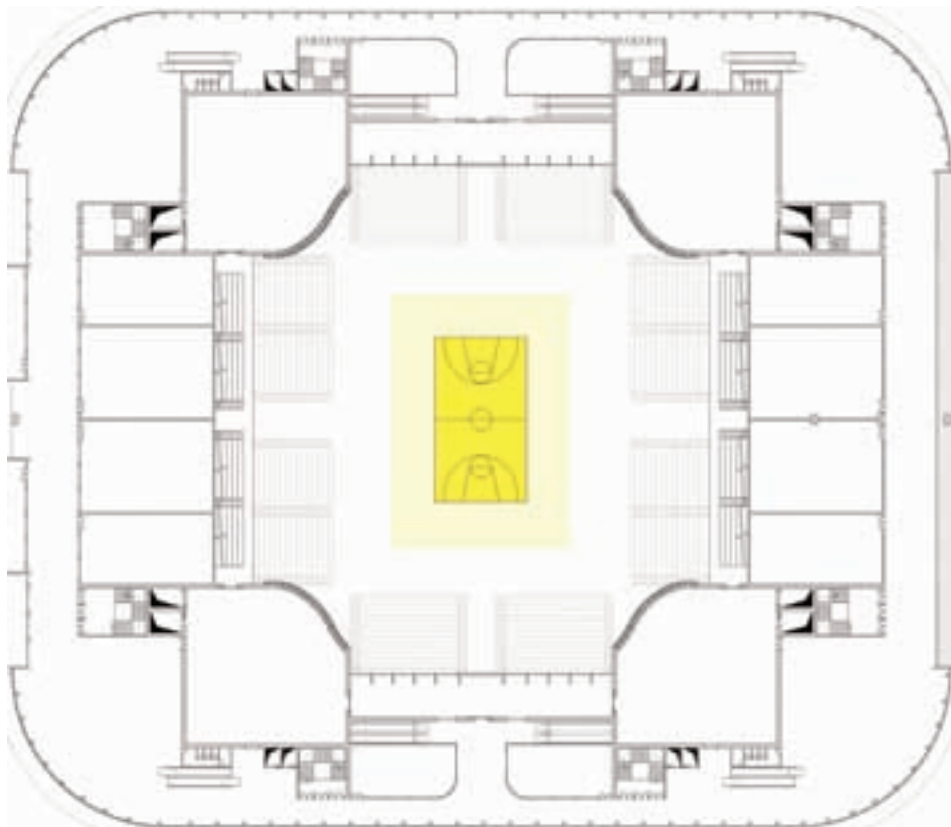
Ten years after the publication of the "Guide to Basketball Facilities," the revised edition

will soon be released. This new guide, packed with practical advices and information, targets all types of facilities and all types of basketball. For here we have a game that is continually increasing in popularity, one that calls for the latest, updated rules and regulations. The evolution and progress of our sport has clearly had an impact on the facilities that welcome and accommodate it, and this inevitably gives rise to new requests and new problems. Playing rules change. Athletes, coaches, and spectators change; their needs and expectations change. Even basketball facilities change, and so does their mission. Recent experience has shown a need for facilities to be more versatile, and

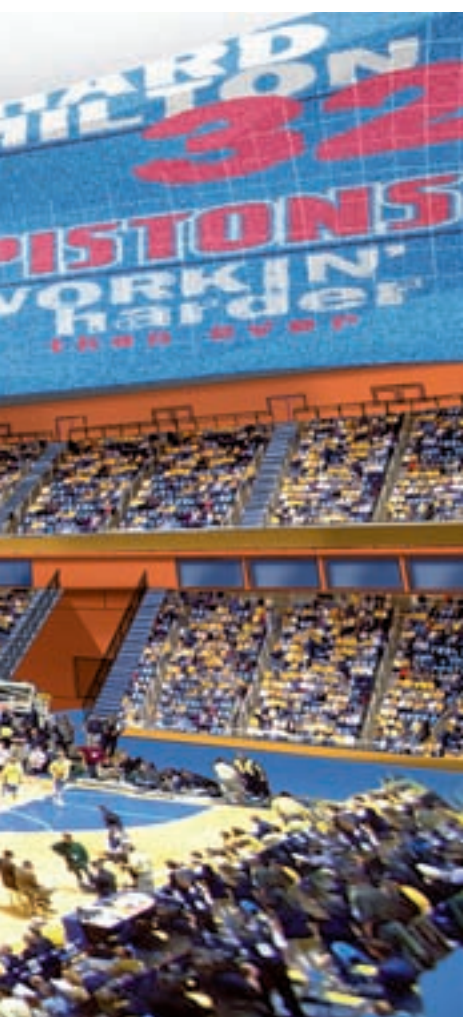
more accommodating to users, spectators, and investors. Whether indoor or outdoor, large or small, old or new, basketball facilities of today should be all inclusive and non-exclusive. A game as big as FIBA's clearly bears upon all these elements and possibilities, and so we must try to identify the basic requirements entailed in organizing basketball events in a sports facility. Written to meet FIBA's need to continue to inform and educate all potential organizers of large basketball events the world over through its "Study Centre for Sports Facilities", this new guide, extending to outdoor events, is being updated to reflect the latest international regulations and organizational requirements







and with a facility's actual location. This new edition probes aspects such as flooring and acoustic systems, as well as the requirements of the technical area surrounding the court, such as television recording equipment, a press area, photographer stands, and VIP areas. It also covers more obvious elements concerning game equipment. From baskets to balls, from luminous information boards to clocks, from whistles to basket supports. The book explores issues regarding the use and maintenance of sports facilities with a view to achieving maximum long-lasting efficiency, not only of the buildings themselves, but also the utilities within, the fixtures, fittings and the equipment, relying on the standard required maintenance, both planned and supplementary. One chapter is dedicated to management planning development based on the management program followed by one particular basketball facility that does not limit itself to basketball but also hosts numerous other sporting activities, shows, and events. In this facility, the cost of energy-saving systems represents a substantial part of the budget, alongside the security and public safety systems. The book also considers the homologation procedures for indoor basketball facilities for existing venues and those yet to be built, as well as the procedures affecting installations and equipment for outdoor basketball.



that have materialised over recent years in relation to sports facilities. The purpose of the guide is to continue to provide a concise yet complete reference aid with updated information on all the aspects that organisers, both public and private, must address when hosting an international basketball event in a sports arena. The contents of the guide range from sports-technical matters to managerial related topics, touching on security issues and concluding with the proposal of a model-facility. This new guide is produced by architect Mauro Schiavone, editor of the first edition published in 1996, under the supervision of Aldo Vitale, Director of the FIBA Study Centre. In updating this new guide, the editorial staff draws from the experience and competence of FIBA partners, profiting from their knowledge and familiarity with the various materials, equipment, and systems in use, all proven and tested over the years, and from innovations and experiments with new components and installations.

#### CONTENTS

Starting with an analysis of the prevailing regulations of the International Basketball Federation governing sports facilities and equipment for use in official competitions, the guide goes on to introduce the general aspects involved in the planning of basketball facilities according to the kind of competition or event to be staged, such as national team or club competitions. The hosting of events must correlate with the demand for basketball venues in a specific area,

#### NEW TO THE GUIDE

This revised edition also investigates several areas that were not covered in the first edition.

**Technological services:** This chapter assesses services and technological systems typical for a sports complex, such as air-conditioning installations, electrical systems, and artificial and emergency lighting. Facilities for the public, staff, tradesmen, athletes and officials, and doping control areas and offices are also assessed. **Security:** The safety aspects are examined. These complex matters involve management executives since these people are ultimately responsible for everybody using the facility, including in-house staff, athletes, officials, managers, or the general public. **Reduction of architectural barriers:** This chapter looks at how sports facilities, both new and already existing, can best welcome the widest spectrum of visitors possible. **Event organization:** Aspects and requirements, requested and necessary, for a venue to be able to host an event at the local, national, or international level. **Correlations between FIBA and the NBA:** The differences between the technical requirements requested by FIBA and those characteristic of the National Basketball Association. **Designing a model venue:** This chapter offers an array of alternative ways to play basketball, and puts forward an example of sports facility planning where the playing area is intended to host not only basketball events but also various other sporting activities, shows, and performances.

*Figures from Erminio Ravasio*



by Bill Foran  
and Robin Pound

**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

# AGILITY

Bill Foran is project coordinator for the book and is cofounder of the National Basketball Conditioning Coaches Association. He has been the strength and conditioning coach for the Miami Heat since 1989. Before working for the Heat, Foran was the head strength and conditioning coach at Washington State University (1981-1985) and the University of Miami (1985-1989).

Robin Pound is associate coordinator for the book and is cofounder of the National Basketball Conditioning Coaches Association. He was the strength and conditioning coach for the Phoenix Suns from 1991 to 2003 and the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury from 1997 to 2003. Pound was an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the University of Oregon from 1979 to 1985 and the head strength and conditioning coach at the University of California at Berkeley from 1985 to 1991.

## DEVELOPING AGILITY

To improve agility, you must perform quality repetitions of a variety of agility drills that mimic the movements required during the game. Agility drills train the body to react more quickly and under control. By performing drills repeatedly in a practice setting, you become better when the skill is needed during the game. Just as shooting jump shots and free-throws will help you become a better shooter, practicing agility, thereby making you a better, more efficient all-around player.

By practicing agility movements, you will learn to cut down on the wasted motions that cause fatigue faster. And by learning to do the drills correctly and under control, you will learn to move more efficiently.

Because of individual physical differences, agility movements and technique are described only in general terms. Players move through a number of horizontal and vertical planes and must perform a variety of unpredictable movements rapidly. Agility involves acceleration, deceleration, and change of direction while moving at a fast speed and under control. The development of these components involves speed, power,

quickness and balance. Basketball agility requires you to move rapidly and under control. You must train other components—flexibility, strength, speed, power, and balance—because these components contribute to improve agility.

## YEARLY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Agility training should play a major role in a yearly conditioning program.

**Off-season:** During the off-season, players should make their greatest gains because they have more time to train. The off-season is the time to learn new drills and develop proper technique for all drills. Entire workouts can be devoted to agility training. Agility training should be done 2 or 3 days a week.

**Preseason:** Agility training continues, but the workouts are shorter and the work gets sharper. Agility workouts should be once or twice a week, depending on the needs of individual players.

**In-season:** Agility training is limited to a few drills that may be done as part of the daily dynamic warm-up. Players who do not play many minutes can continue agility training throughout the season. The amount depends on the needs of individual players.

## GUIDELINES FOR AGILITY

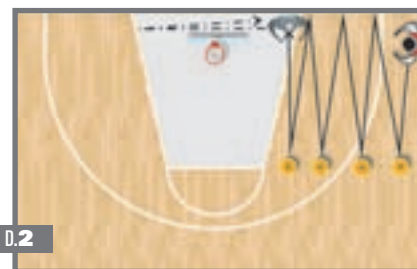
Agility training requires proper footwear (basketball shoes) for agility drills. Drills should be done on a nonslip surface, such as a clean gym floor.

Perform drills at slow speeds first, beginning with a proper technique and footwork. When you can perform repetitions successfully and under control, you can increase speed. For every agility drill, start in the ready position: feet shoulder-width apart; ankles, knees and hips flexed in a quarter-squat position; head and shoulders slightly forward with hips and ankles in a straight line. Keep knees and hips flexed and your center of gravity over the feet.

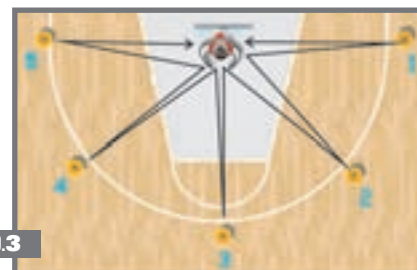
The body cannot move quickly when it is standing straight up. From this position,



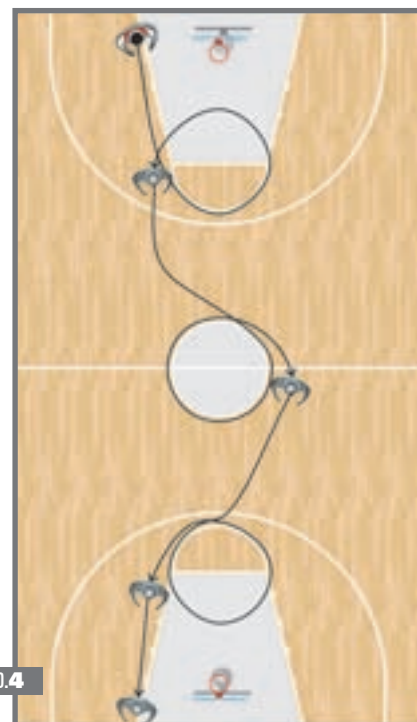
D.1



D.2



D.3



D.4

you are ready to move in any direction and can hold this position if bumped from any angle. This ready position is the most efficient position for moving and reacting. Agility drills should be short in duration (anaerobic), approximately 20 to 30 seconds. Each workout should include a variety of drills that involve multiple changes of direction as well as sprints, backpedals, shuffles, hops, skips, turns, rotations and jumps. Workouts should start with a good





warm-up and flexibility program and finish with a cool-down.

#### AGILITY DRILLS

##### Lane shuffle, sprint, backpedal

1. Start in the ready positions at the right corner of the baseline and lane, facing the court.
2. Shuffle to your left across the lane. Touch the line with your left foot, change directions and shuffle back to the start.
3. Immediately sprint up the free-throw line. Shuffle to your left across the lane and back.
4. Quickly backpedal to the starting position. Caution: be aware of the baseline wall during the backpedal finish.

##### Lane agility

Setup: Set a cone in each of the 4 corners of the free-throw lane.

1. Start in the ready position outside the left hand corner of the free-throw line extended, facing the baseline.
2. Sprint to the baseline past the cone. Defensive shuffle to the right past the cone. Backpedal to the free-throw line past the cone and defensive shuffle to the left to the starting edge of the free-throw lane.
3. Immediately change directions and defensive shuffle to the right past the cone, sprint to the baseline past the cone, defensive shuffle left past the cone and backpedal through the starting line.

##### Four corners

1. Start in the ready position at the center

of the lane facing the free-throw line.

2. Sprint to corner 1 and backpedal back to the start (diagr. 1).
3. Shuffle to the right to corner 2 and shuffle to the left back to the start.
4. Backpedal to corner 3 and sprint back to the start.
5. Shuffle to the left to corner and shuffle to the right back to the start.

##### Jump, shuffle, jump

1. Start in the ready position in front of and below the right edge of the backboard, facing the baseline.
2. Jump up as high as possible with both hands above your head. Touch the backboard if you are able.
3. Land on both feet and immediately shuffle left. Jump as high as possible in front of the left edge of the backboard.
4. Shuffle back to the right edge of the backboard and jump as high as possible.
5. Continue this over-and-back pattern for 3 to 5 repetitions.

##### Extended-lane drills

Acceleration, deceleration, backpedal, jump and shuffle

Setup: Set 4 cones feet apart along the free-throw line extended, starting 3 feet from the left sideline. Set cones at 3 feet, 6 feet, 9 feet and 12 feet from the sideline (slightly less than 1, 2, 3 and 4m).

1. Start in the ready position behind the left corner of the baseline and sideline, facing the court.
2. Sprint to the first cone and backpedal to the baseline (diagr. 2).
3. Sprint to the second cone and backpedal to the baseline.
4. Sprint to the third cone and backpedal to the baseline.
5. Sprint to the fourth cone and backpedal to the baseline and the edge of the lane.
6. Immediately jump as high as possible and then shuffle across the lane on the baseline and back.

Caution: Do not step on the cones.

Advanced version: Repeat the drill all the way back to the starting position.

##### Four-way closeout

Setup: This drill is done along the free-throw lane.

1. Start in the ready position at the baseline along the left side of the lane, facing the court.
2. Sprint up the lane to the free-throw line and stop quickly in a defensive stance.
3. Shuffle left a 45-degree angle for 2 shuffles and right for 2 shuffles, then backpedal to the start.
4. Repeat this sequence on the right side of the lane.

##### Five-spot closeout

Setup: Spread out 5 cones evenly around the three point arc.

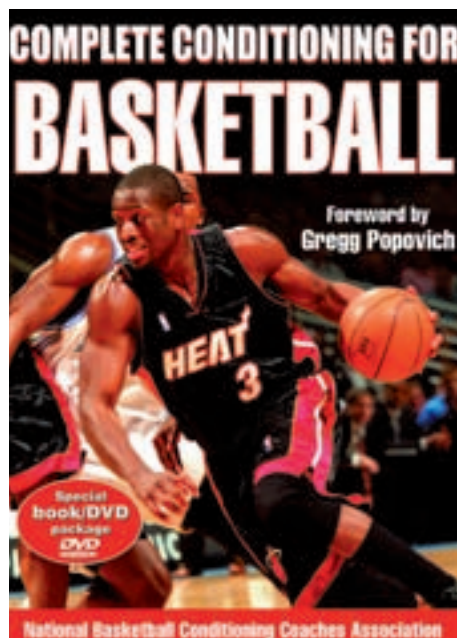
1. Start in the ready position under the basket, facing the court.
2. Sprint to the first cone, jump stop, and backpedal to the start (diagr. 3).
3. Repeat the sequence to the second, third, fourth, and fifth cones.

Advanced version: a coach or teammate stands at the first cone with a basketball. Sprint to the coach and react to the coach. If the coach pump fakes, react to block the shot. If the coach moves to the right or to the left, defensive shuffle a step or two to cut off the coach. Immediately backpedal to the start as the coach moves to the second cone. Repeat the sequence to the second, third, fourth and fifth cones.

##### Full-court drill

Circle run

1. Start in the ready position on the baseline at the end of the right lane, facing the court.
2. Run up the right lane and run counterclockwise around the first jump circle (diagr. 4).
3. Continue to the left of the half-court jump circle and run clockwise around the circle.
4. Continue to the right of the far jump circle and run counterclockwise around it. Finish at the baseline.
5. Return from the left lane so the pattern on the way back is opposite.



*Taken from the book "Complete Conditioning for basketball", National Basketball Conditioning Coaches Association, Bill Foran and Robin Pound, Human Kinetics, 2007*



# FINCH LOOKS TO BUILD ON BRITISH MOMENTUM

The 2012 Olympics are a long way off, but that doesn't mean Great Britain coach Chris Finch can't start dreaming about the possibilities. "I've always said the thought of medaling in 2012 is not just a pipe dream," Finch said to FIBA. "It's not beyond the realms of possibility. We're a long way from that, but we're doing everything I believe in the right way and we have got the right success at the right time." That success, of course, is the country's promotion-winning campaign to FIBA EuroBasket Division A. They ran roughshod over all opponents this summer. Britain now have a chance to qualify for the FIBA Europe Championship that is to be staged in Poland in 2009.

When London was awarded the 2012 Games, basketball's world governing body FIBA said they wanted to be sure the Britain's men and women will be competitive enough and only then

would they guarantee the Brits the places that are normally reserved for host nations at Olympic Games. Once Finch had his team together - and that included Luol Deng of the Chicago Bulls and Scotland's Robert Archibald - no team was able to match them in Division B. Finch, who played basketball in England with the Sheffield

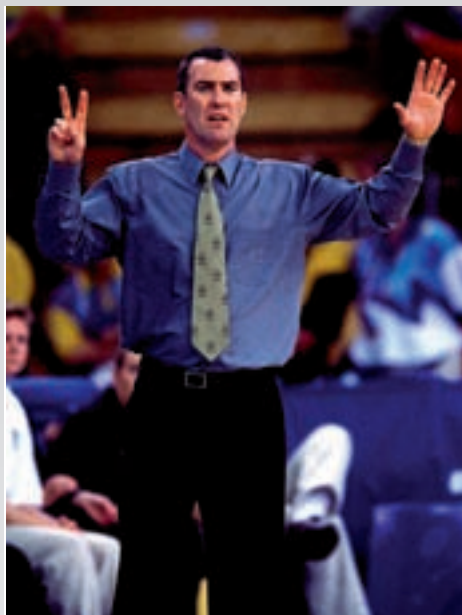
something done in 2012." The Olympics are five years away, but Finch does believe he has a good nucleus of players to work with. "I think we have got the pieces of a good team and we have to put them together," he said. "We have to maintain the momentum that we have started. Most importantly, we have to maintain the level of profes-



Sharks and then coached the team, is right now holding the reins to Belgian league leaders Dexia Mons Hainaut. He knows that in Division A, the games are going to be more difficult. They will face teams that have played in recent EuroBaskets. Finch says it's vital for Britain to reach the EuroBasket in Poland. "We need that tournament experience", Finch said, "to try and get to FIBA EuroBasket 2009 and 2011, which are very similar tournaments to what we'll see come 2012 and when we have that experience on top of our [overall] experience, I think we can really sharpen our results to try and get

sionalism that the program has been run with over the last couple of years. If you can get the players involved, keep them happy and get them to play hard, then I think you have gone 75% of the way to success. We have talented players and we have to try and get that last 25%. I think in the couple of years we can make some moves in the top division. It's about getting that experience, understanding each other and going through the fire together. I think we have to build. We have enough knowledge, talent and skill. What we need now is the experience together to start and grow."





# MAHER'S 'GREAT RIDE' IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

When Tom Maher leads China's women at next year's Beijing Games, it will be the third national side he has coached at an Olympics. Maher, 57, led Australia to bronze in 1996 in Atlanta and four years later to silver in Sydney. He also guided New Zealand on an unexpected run to the quarter-finals of the Athens Games in 2004. Maher has, not surprisingly, formed some strong opinions about the women's game. He answered some questions from Jeff Taylor on behalf of FIBA.Com.

**FIBA:** You have been very busy of late. We saw you in Italy at the FIBA EuroBasket Women scouting potential opponents for next season's Olympics in Beijing, and you also took your team to Europe and the United States. Who impressed you at the FIBA EuroBasket and what can you tell us about your team's travels?

**TOM MAHER:** "Our tours to Europe prior to the USA tour were of great value to us. Perhaps the players were a little mentally tired by the time we got to the USA and we didn't play with a great deal of enthusiasm. As far as the European Championships were concerned, I thought it was a year of high drama. Some teams overachieved and some teams underachieved. Amaya Valdemoro was sensation-

al for Spain, Gunta Basko and Anete Jekabsons were great for Latvia and the entire Russian team was very impressive."

**FIBA:** In Chieti, you offered some strong opinions about the length of some domestic leagues in Europe. Since many of the players also compete in other leagues like the WNBA during the close season in Europe, when do you think the domestic leagues in France and Russia, for example, should start and finish and why do you believe this would be good for the game?

**TOM MAHER:** "Absolutely, this is one of the major issues in women's basketball. Women's Basketball is a great product and, if the public at large have more opportunity to appreciate that, then I'm sure they will. The fact is, players are now playing 12

months of the year and there is not enough opportunity to promote international test games. The EuroLeague, the WNBA, international competitions and other domestic leagues are all great products that should complement one another, rather than compete for players and scheduling. The WNBA season is only three months long, and international competitions fits into gaps, therefore it is the length of the domestic European leagues that have the capacity to change. I think the finals for the EuroLeague should be the culmination of the European season, domestic European play-offs go for too long."

**FIBA:** When did you take command of the Chinese team and what changes have you been able to bring in that have made a positive impact on the players?

**TOM MAHER:** "I started coaching China in 2005 after the Athens Olympics. Primarily, our coaching staff has tried very hard to help the players become more pro-active and dynamic. Lack of these qualities really hampers a team defensively and in winning possession of the ball."

**FIBA:** Turning the clock back, you coached

Australia for a long time and even grabbed the helm of New Zealand. Going to Asia to lead China must have been quite a change. What has this experience been like?

**TOM MAHER:** "It's been a great ride for me. Beijing will be my second home Olympics, my fourth Olympic Games and my third Olympic team."

**FIBA:** I seem to remember you saying at the last Olympics that you felt the Chinese may have practiced too hard and for too many hours. Is that right and have you changed that?

**TOM MAHER:** "China has a tradition, of committing itself to outwork its opposition. This is not always the most productive method, especially in a dynamic game like basketball. We have tried to change the philosophy of training from one of high volume to one of dynamic intensity."

**FIBA:** What was it like coaching Washington in the WNBA? What did you like and dislike, and did anything surprise you about the players, coaches or clubs?

**TOM MAHER:** "It was a good experience although it was difficult. We had a very difficult playing roster problem which needed a long term approach. Nevertheless I met some good people and certainly valued the experience."

**FIBA:** Regarding China, what can you tell us about the make-up of your team? Who can we expect to be the standout performers next year at the Olympics and are there any youngsters coming through who could make an impact?

**TOM MAHER:** "Our biggest problem is the health of our players. Although we have a lot of people playing basketball, we don't have a lot of depth of quality, therefore we cannot afford to be without any of our main players. Chen Nan, Miao Lije, Bian Lan and Song Xiao Yun are all players capable of impressing at the Olympics."

**FIBA:** And finally, the United States, Australia, Russia and Brazil have been the powerhouses in the world game in recent times. Is that about to change?

**TOM MAHER:** "Certainly the USA, Russia and Australia are all super teams; the question mark will be how Brazil adjusts to a number of their older players retiring."

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PLANET  
BASKETBALL

# THE WORLD IN BRIEF

## SPAIN DRAWN WITH BRAZIL, CUBA WITH BELARUS IN OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

Spain are hosting the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women this summer in Madrid yet their passage to the Beijing Games will be anything but easy.

That was assured on 14th January in the Spanish capital at the draw for the event. Five places for China will be up for grabs. Evaristo Perez's Spanish team, which finished runners-up to Russia at the EuroBasket Women last October in Italy, were put in Group C along with South American giants Brazil and Oceania representatives Fiji. The Brazilians are historically one of the powerhouses in the world game and they eliminated Spain at the quarter-final stage of the Athens Olympics. In Group D, the EuroBasket's bronze-medal winners Belarus will take on Cuba, the side that finished second to the United States at the FIBA Americas Championship, along with Chinese Taipei. The Czech Republic will be pleased with their draw after landing in Group B with Angola and Argentina, while in Group A, Latvia will be happy as well after being paired with Senegal and Japan - teams they will be expected to beat. Latvia lost in the bronze medal game to Belarus at the EuroBasket while the Czechs finished fifth.

The reason why Spain, Brazil, Belarus and Cuba will be somewhat anxious is because the next stage, the quarter-finals, look extremely difficult. The format of the tournament places the team that finishes first in Group C against the second-placed team in Group D in one quarter-final, with the second-placed team from Group C against the Group D winners as another quarter showdown.

If, as expected, Brazil and Spain take the top two spots in Group C, their



quarter-final opponents are likely to be Belarus or Cuba.

The winners of the quarter-finals qualify for the Olympics. The quarter-final losers will drop into a pool of four teams that will play in semi-finals and a final for the one remaining Olympic place. "We have been drawn in the most difficult group," said the Spanish team captain Amaya Valdemoro. "While I don't think Fiji will pose any problems for us, we will face a tough test against Brazil. But the real danger will be in the quarter-finals where we will face either Cuba or Belarus. Cuba is a team that has changed a lot with respect to the past couple of years, they play a very similar basketball to us and should we face them, it will be a very difficult game. But it doesn't matter if we finish first or second (in Group C). With respect to Belarus, we faced them twice at the EuroBasket and we beat them twice. But they should be more aware of us than we of them."

## FIRST FIBA ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL CASE IS SETTLED

The first FIBA Arbitral Tribunal (FAT) case concerned a dispute between the Montenegrin player Mr. Djuro Ostojic represented by FIBA licensed player agent Mr. Miodrag Raznatovic as Claimant, and the Greek Basketball Club PAOK KAE Thessalonica, Greece as Respondent over the player's salary. As the Respondent chose not to participate in the proceedings the FAT arbitrator had to make use of the default provisions in the FAT Arbitration rules on 16th August 2007. After the failure by the Greek Basketball club PAOK KAE to honor the FAT Award, and after numerous reminders to honour the FAT Award, FIBA had to entail a sanction on 29th November 2007 to the PAOK KAE club in banning them of the registration of new players, as provided in the FIBA Internal Regulations. After intervention and help of the Hellenic Basketball Federation the case has been settled and the ban on PAOK





KAE club to register new players has been lifted. The FIBA Arbitral Tribunal (FAT), a true court of arbitration under Swiss law, has been operational for nine months. It has been created by FIBA in order to facilitate and speed up the resolution of disputes between clubs and players/agents. Proceedings before FAT are swift, efficient and inexpensive. Failure to honor a FAT Award may entail sanctions by FIBA to clubs, player agents, or players, as provided in the FIBA Internal Regulations. For further information on the FIBA Arbitral Tribunal: [www.fiba.com/fat](http://www.fiba.com/fat)

### IVKOVIC TAKES REINS OF SERBIA

Serbian coaching great Dusan Ivkovic has returned to his homeland to guide the national team once again. Ivkovic, who led Yugoslavia to the gold medal at the 1990 FIBA World Championship and to European titles in 1989, '91 and '95, will try to revive a national team that has been struggling. Yugoslavia captured the gold at the 2002 FIBA World Championship as well under Svetislav Pesic, but have won no medals since. At the 2007 FIBA Europe Championship under Zoran Slavnic, Serbia crashed out of the competition at the group stage, which meant they failed to even reach the FIBA Olympic Qualifying

Tournament. At his unveiling in Belgrade, Ivkovic spoke of his sadness that the national side will not be at the Beijing Games.

"This is an "Olympic year" a bit sad for us, known across the world as 'basketball land', since we won't have basketball team in Beijing," Ivkovic said. "But, this is the right moment for a new start. We have new coach, that's me, but we don't have a national team at all. Our main goal is to form the team that will represent us at 2012 Olympic games in London. It will be a difficult task, but I believe we have the qualities to qualify for next FIBA Europe championship in Poland, and then to go to both the 2010 FIBA World Championship in Turkey, and FIBA EuroBasket 2011 in Lithuania, where we should get a ticket for London Olympics."

Ivkovic's outstanding coaching career started at Partizan Belgrade (1978-1980), and he then left the country to work at Greek side Aris (1980-1982). He returned to join Yugoslav teams Sibenka (1982-1987) and Vojvodina (1987-1990) before going abroad again. Ivkovic, who now serves as the President of the World Association of Basketball Coaches, led four more Greek clubs, including PAOK (1991-1994), Panionios (1994-1996), Olympiacos (1996-1999) and AEK (1999-2001) and then went to Russia where he guided city rivals, CSKA Moscow (2002-2005) and Dynamo Moscow (2005-2007).

During that period he won six national titles, with Partizan, PAOK, Olympiacos and three with CSKA, also got trophies of the Radivoje Korac Cup (1979), EuroLeague (1997), Saporta Cup (2000) and ULEB Cup (2006), and achieved silver medals with Yugoslavia at the Olympics in 1988 and 1996.

Ivkovic knows that internationally, the game has taken giant strides and the level of competition is much more intense now than it was when he led the side two decades ago. Also, the breakup of Yugoslavia saw the formation of new national sides. Instead of drawing on the leading players from the former Yugoslavian Republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro and Serbia, Ivkovic will now lead Serbia. "Just don't tell me I'm the coach without a defeat at big international competitions," he said. "Those were different times. We were in a different country. Everything was different, including basketball." Ivkovic will miss the Olympics, but he says that "...there's no time for sadness and sorrow."

And he says relations between players and the federation can't be strained as has been the case for some in recent years, which led to some choosing not to take part in national team competitions. "I was in New York as a member of FIBA commission where we talked with the representatives of the



NBA and NCAA about new rules," Ivkovic said. "I used my trip to the USA to visit our NBA players, also. As we want to re-build our basketball authority, as well as players' belief in the national team, I want to start that process immediately. We won't face "thanks, but no thanks" situations (by some of the players) anymore, as I'll be in contact with them on a daily basis. I believe in our players, and will believe in them. That's very important for a good start."

### **BIDDING PROCESS FOR THE 2014 FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OPENED**

FIBA has opened the bidding process for the 2014 FIBA World Championship for Men on 10th January 2008. A considerable number of affiliated National Federations from all five Zones have already expressed their initial interest in bidding for the organization of FIBA's premier championship in 2014. All National Federations interested in hosting the FIBA 2014 World Championship are required to comply with the following schedule: Letters of Interest must reach FIBA by 30th April 2008.

All National Federations having correctly submitted their Letter of Interest will be invited to participate in a two-day Workshop, to be held on 26th and

27th June 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. At the Workshop, the National Federations will be guided through all the steps of the bidding process and through all details necessary to guarantee a successful organization of the FIBA 2014 World Championship.

After having carefully studied the 'FIBA World Championship for Men 2014 Bid and Event Manual' and after having participated in the Workshop, those National Federations having decided to continue with their respective bidding processes will be invited to hand over their candidature files in person, in Geneva, on 5th December 2008 (date to be confirmed), during an official presentation ceremony in presence of the FIBA Central Board.

Between December 2008 and March 2009 the FIBA Evaluation Commission shall examine all presented and duly confirmed bids and shall present a complete report, after conducting visits to all bidding National Federations, to the FIBA Central Board.

The complete bidding process will end in April 2009, when the FIBA Central Board decides the host of the 2014 World Championship for Men.

### **TROVOADA RETURNS TO ANGOLA TO COACH, RETAINS CAPE VERDE REINS**



Cape Verde coach Emmanuel Trovoada has taken the helm of Angola's top-flight newcomers Desportivo de Huila. Trovoada, who was born in Angola, but moved to Portugal at a young age, and spent most of his life there before then relocating to Cape Verde, caused a huge stir in international basketball last year, when he guided the tiny African country to the bronze medal at the FIBA Africa Championship.

That secured a place in the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for the tiny African country. There had been

speculation that Trovoada was quitting Cape Verde to coach in Angola, but he told FIBA.com: "No, I haven't quit as head coach of Cape Verde. There is interest from both parties, Cape Verde and myself, to extend my contract after the FIBA Africa Championship in 2009 in Nigeria. But there are still a few details to sort out." Trovoada and Cape Verde had an amazing 2007, and the fact that he is returning to the country of his birth makes for an even more intriguing story, especially when considering the basketball giants Primeiro de Agosto are involved.

The center of basketball in Angola is Luanda, while Huila is a smaller city far away from the capital city. Luanda-based De Agosto team, which won the FIBA Africa Club Championship before Christmas, have terrific young players as well, but because they have such a star-laden team, those youngsters would play little, if at all with De Agosto. The club, sensing an opportunity, when Desportivo da Huila won promotion to the Angolan League, expressed an interest in investing in Huila by having their youngsters play for the newcomers. "It's a very interesting project of Primeiro de Agosto," Trovoada said. "This team will be based on young players, who couldn't get a place with the Primeiro de Agosto main team. I came here to Huila to help promote basketball in the country. We will be focused on working with the young players. I would never reject this opportunity of developing the game in the interior of Angola." Trovoada has a lot on his mind, from taking on a new challenge in Angola, while also keeping the momentum going with Cape Verde. The country will discover on 31st January at the draw in Athens, which teams they will play when the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament is staged. With only three places up for grabs and an incredibly talented field that also includes Cameroon, Greece, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, Brazil, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Canada, Korea and Lebanon, it would seem to be a mission impossible for Cape Verde. "I'm looking forward to the draw in Athens," Trovoada said. "Anything can happen with all of those teams involved."

### **PRIMEIRO DE AGOSTO WIN FIBA AFRICA CHAMPIONS CUP**

The FIBA Africa Champions Cup for Men title will remain in Angola for at least another year, after Primeiro de Agosto triumphed against Petro Atletico





de Luanda at Pavilhao da Cidadela Desportiva in the Angolan capital, Luanda.

On 22nd December playmaker Miguel Lutonda poured in 13 points to lead Primeiro de Agosto to a 61-53 against defending-champions Petro Atletico de Luanda.

Primeiro de Agosto led 33-25 at half-time and they maintained their eight-point advantage to the end. Petro Atletico's American playmaker Shannon Crooks top scored with 18 points, but the Angolan champions were unable to defend their African title. Despite Lutonda's outstanding performance, Primeiro de Agosto boss Jaime Covilha insisted it was a team victory. He told FIBA: "I agree that he had good game, but I prefer not to single out anyone in particular. I reckon this was a team win. We played very well offensively and defensively." Covilha, who was Mario Palma's assistant coach when Primeiro de Agosto claimed the competition title in Cairo in 2004, added: "We started the game with a tremendous determination to win. We assumed always the leading position. I acknowledge that Petro wanted to win this game, but we wanted it much more. Our team was very well prepared to win this game. It was not an easy win, though." Primeiro de Agosto's board invested heavily after losing both the African and Angolan titles to rivals Petro Atletico last year. Portugal international Francisco Jordao signed from Petro, while Cape Verde internationals Marques Houtman and Rodrigo Mascarenhas, who made an impact in the recent AfroBasket 2007, signed from Portugal outfit FC Porto.

Covilha said: "Yes, we have new good players with great quality. What we need was to create conditions for them to make winning even easier. They are still adapting, which is understandable." This is the third African title for Primeiro de Agosto after consecutive victories in 2002 and 2004, before the event became annual.

In the bronze-medal game, Abidjan Basketball Club (ABC) beat Angolan outfit InterClube de Luanda 60-53. The Ivory Coast team, who beat the Angolans in the final of the competition two years ago, were behind 26-24 at the break. InterClube coach Manuel de Sousa "Necas" admitted mistakes had been costly, but congratulated the Abidjan side. "We didn't remain calm and stumbled towards the end of the game", he said. "They took advantage of our lack of composure at an important moment of the game. If there were a



draw in basketball, I think that it would have been the fair result. "They were not superior to us, but I have to congratulate them for the victory."

#### THE FINAL RANKING OF THE 22ND FIBA AFRICA CHAMPIONS CUP FOR MEN WERE:

1st.	Primeiro de Agosto
2nd.	Petro Atletico de Luanda
3rd.	Abidjan Basketball Club (ABC)
4th.	InterClube de Luanda
5th.	Niger Potters
6th.	APR
7th.	BC Onatra
8th.	ASB Kauka
9th.	MBC
10th.	Aspac
11th.	Stade Malien
12th.	Ferrovuario da Beira

#### AIDIN BAHRAMI DIES IN A CAR CRASH

Aidin Nik-Khah Bahrami, one of the most prominent players of Iranian national basketball team, died in a car accident in Chalous, north of Iran.

Saba Battery's player, 26, he played his last game with the team against Pardis, a few hours before he said goodbye to his teammates and drove away to the north. Both Aidin and his brother Samad were members of Iranian national team for a long time, and played crucial role in Iran's qualification for the 2008 Olympic Games, a dream which came true after half a century and Iran took the championship in the whole big continent of Asia. The incident is a big loss for the whole Iranian basketball community and a big tragedy for his family, specially for the nice father, who was always among the fans in stadium, whenever any of his two sons had a game.

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## MONTECCHIA HOOKED ON FISHING

Most point guards would rather have a good hook shot than a good fishing hook, but Argentina's Alejandro Montecchia is different. The 2004 Olympic gold medalist is consumed by a new sporting passion. "I



prefer to fish than play basketball," he told Olé, the Argentinian publication. For the better part of the last three years, he has not had a choice. Injuries

ruined his spells with Valencia and then Milan, and finally, having returned to Argentina to play for Regatas Corrientes, his Achilles tendon snapped. Now, as a 35-year-old with time running out to find fitness, his anxiety is kept in check. "My career allowed to me to fish in beautiful places, near Reggio Calabria and Valencia. "A few minutes from Corrientes City you can find a beautiful place called Paso de la Patria. It's spectacular. I don't like boats. I prefer spinning."

## EVERYONE LIKES BIG DABA IN CHINA

Mongolia-born center Mengke Bateer is one of the most popular players in China and for good reason. Fans love him



because he dominates on the court, while teammates adore him because he's a great friend, a supreme tactician and even, according to

one, a "spiritual leader". Xinjiang star Bateer once played for Beijing, where he teamed up with Jiao Jian, and the two were good friends. But, Jiao fondly remembers, Daba (Bateer's nickname) used to feed him

a tasty meal every now and again. "When Daba was in Beijing, I often went to his place to enjoy some food.", Jiao says in comments reported on sina.com., "His wife is a very good cook, and every time I was there, I was privileged to eat the food. I love Mongolian boiled lamb, eaten by hand. That was fabulous! Every time, I ate a lot." All good things come to an end, though, which happened when Bateer left for Xinjiang. Jiao longs for the old days. "Now Daba and his family have moved to Xinjiang and it's very difficult for me to eat Mongolian boiled lamb," Jiao says. "I can understand that Daba decided to move from Beijing to Xinjiang. We are not young anymore, and he has a large family to be taking care of. He has to consider the income. It's obvious if someone pays more than he would come." Chen Lei was also a teammate of Bateer's at Beijing and he treasured his experience with the big fella. "People may think Daba is very rigid," Chen says, "but he's a very approachable guy." "I joined the team in 1999 and at that time I was a "Green Bird" (Chinese for novice). I was young with zero experience, and all I did during training was concentrate on defending and pounding the boards. "But even when we made mistakes, Daba never complained about us young players. He just told us that there is nothing to be afraid of, just do it." Was Bateer the type of player to take out his anger in the changing room after a defeat? No, according to Chen. "Daba was our spiritual and tactical leader," he says. "I remember one time, we lost to Jiangsu in an away game. "After the game, Daba said to us that it doesn't matter, it's only a game and that we will win back at home. These words impressed me. In 2002, we were fighting Aoshen in the Guangan stadium. "We were so eager to win because after the game, Daba was going to America (for the NBA). I can't remember the result. After the game, Xia Song and an American coach put a Denver Nuggets' jersey on Daba. It was very touching. We were all very sad to watch such a nice brother leaving."

## K'S TEACHING FINDS HOME ON SOCCER FIELD

Jay Heaps, former Team USA and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's player, is no longer playing basketball, but he played the final for the Major League Soccer between his own New England Revolution and the Houston Dynamo, which won the 2007 title. The 31-



year-old defender helped his team to reach four MLS finals in six seasons. Heaps originally went to Duke to play soccer, but

made it on the basketball team as a walk-on, before earning a scholarship. Used mainly as a reserve, what he learned from Coach K has stuck with him. He told FIBA: "I wasn't playing as much, but I was able to observe, to watch Coach K and see how he approached the situation, how the guys really came together. It was a great experience for me to be on those teams and to transfer that to soccer. "It's a little bit as a different sport, but all the emotions are there, the intensity is there, so it's an easy transition. In any sport, great coaching transcends. You need to have the right personality and the right mental make-up which Coach K has. It's a good comparison between the two and for me personally I've been lucky to learn a lot from Coach K and (Revolution coach) Steve Nicol. Heaps remains in touch with all his teammates from that time - players like Shane Battier and Elton Brand, who are now in the NBA - and he also goes back to Duke each year, playing in pickup games and hanging out with the current players. "I go back and get to go behind the scenes and watch Coach K in person, to get an understanding of his take on the season," Heaps said. "What's amazing is how he approaches each team. Each season is different and he's had great success, because he reinvents himself every year."

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