



Thoughts on Defense

In choosing what defense to play, you must ask yourself:

- 1. Can it beat the best teams on your schedule?
- 2. Can it win on the road?
- 3. Can it help you advance in the tournament?

PHILOSOPHY ON INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

- 1. We believe everyone in our program can be an effective defender if they accomplish the following:
 - a. Give great effort
 - i. "Play Hard"
 - b. Understand the scheme and play "team defense"
 - c. Be a communicator

What We Do:

Every year we ask our kids to identify 3 things that they want to be know for:

- 1-We Play Tough and Physical
- 2-We Play as a Team
- **3-We Rebound**

PACK LINE PHILOSOPHY

- 1. Build a wall around the paint (Pack line is a couple of steps below the 3 point line)
- 2. Team vs the ball
- 3. Not a "rotation" defense The help is pinched to the gap
- 4. Exaggerated help and perfect closeouts
- 5. The post won't beat us

NON-NEGOTIABLES

- 1. No paint Consequences for offensive player
- 2. No baseline drives Send everything to the middle
- 3. No rhythm 3's
- 4. No fastbreak layups
- 5. No second shots

ON-BALL DEFENSE

- 1. Heat up the ball In your face, nasty, and uncomfortable for the ball handler
- 2. Seek to maintain baseline leverage
- 3. Active hands
- 4. Turn the ball handler Level off and zig zag
- 5. Lateral step to mirror offensive players first step
- 6. "GUARD YOUR YARD"
- 7. "Jump to the ball" when the ball is passed out

HELP DEFENSE

- 1. One pass away:
 - a. Pinch the gap and stay inside the packline
 - b. Ball foot is always up with vision
 - c. Your help is by alignment
 - d. Exaggerate the help
 - e. Move on the air time of the pass Jump to correct position

Do plant and ready to pinch to the year on the passes

- f. Dead ball Face guard defender
- g. No cuts across the lane Beat him to the spot
- h. React to back cuts Flip and find
- 2. Two passes away:
 - a. Straddle the lane line

POST DEFENSE

- 1. Always on the top side in a three quarter cup position
- 2. Push the post out of the "post box" (No two foot catches)
- 3. Deny feeds from the top
- 4. If the ball is entered slide to a straight up position (Wall Up)
- 5. Option for a big to big post trap
 - a. Passer is face guarded
 - b. High and rim defenders
 - c. Once a pass is made we must matchup

CLOSEOUTS

- 1. Close out feet: Sprint, sprint, chop, chop
- 2. High hands
- 3. Closeout to baseline leverage
- 4. Jump back or jump up depending on the offensive players motives
- Jump back against the drive: Glass hands and level off on the drive
- 6. Jump up against the shot:
 - a. Head on the ball
 - b. Trace the ball with one hand and hand above the shoulder to contest the shot

CLOSEOUT DRILLS

You need to work on closeouts everyday:

Vegas Closeouts

Hurley Drill

1 on 1's

3 line Close Outs

COMMUNICATION

- 1. All great defensive teams overcommunicate
- 2. Our communication will consist of the following:
 - a. "Ball" (on ball defender)
 - b. "Gap" (one pass away)
 - c. "Help" (two passes away)
 - d. "Hedge or switch" (your man is the screener)

Pick and Roll Coverage

- 1. Guard to Guard-Switch
- 2. Big to Little-Hedge
- 3. Big to Big-Switch

This is our coverage 95% of the time. You must work however you choose to defend ball screens every day.

Transition Defense

In our defense, we rebound 3 and 2 get back in transition. Once the opponent has the ball:

- 1. Sprint Home-No buddy running
- 2. Load to the ball
- 3. Match Up-mismatches don't beat you, open shots do-This takes great communication

Transition Defense Drill

Gonzaga Drill-We use this drill to work transition defense, but then turn it into an end of game drill:

- 1. 3:00 on the clock-keep score
- 2. Run "Gonzaga Drill"
- 3. Play out remaining time as an end of game situational drill.

Change Up Defense

Very rarely will you be able to play the same defense every game, all season.

- 1. 1-2-2 into a zone
- 2. 1-3-1 (Vampire)
- 3. 1-1-3 (Monster)

Kills

This is an in-game stat that we keep.

3 defensive stops in a row=1 kill

Our goal is 7 "kills/game"

Kids really buy into this



