

COMMON PITFALLS

The defender in the strong side corner sags in to help defend the paint

Get a corner option you are comfortable with and teach the players to throw the ball to the corner when the defense is sagging. If the defender is sagging far enough to bother the action, there should be a shot in the corner or movement from whatever your corner option may be that keeps the defense honest and keeps the offense organized and attacking.

The defense is sagging and bumping our cutters aggressively

Use more L-cuts and down screen flairs. If your spacing is good, you should finish each Circle Motion cutting series with a player at the rim, a player at the weak side wing, and a player at the top of the key. Your players need to read the defense and find who is open, and against sagging defenses, it's usually the top of the key and the down screener flairing to the wing after screening. Teams may need to play more patiently against sagging teams, but good scoring opportunities will show up against this style of defense.

Denial defense is causing the offense trouble making entry passes

Use down screens to enter the offense automatically. Master the pressure release techniques, particularly the down screen and back cuts. Your goal as a coach should be to make the offense unpressurable, so that pressure contributes to positively our ability to score.

Our wing passers aren't able to hit cutters in tight passing windows

This is a skill that needs to be honed. It's easy when cutters are wide open, but passers in this offense need to be able to read and anticipate the defense to fit passes into small windows. Usually the passer needs to be ahead of the defense, meaning once he sees the pass is open, it may be too late. As the coach, we need to teach the players to catch, square up, and read. We cannot make the passes required in this offense off the dribble.

Our team is having trouble getting a specific player the ball

Embracing this offense is embracing team basketball where all players make decisions and handle the ball. Within the offense, you can align your players into positions where they will commonly use the most options with the greatest chance of success. Using a consistent shooter in the corner is a strong option. Using a good interior finisher on the wing is a great option. Granted, players will play all positions in the offense, but getting them where you want them will give them more opportunities to do the things they are best at. Also, teaching patience to the team when running the offense will get more

chances for a star player to touch the ball. With all the movement in the offense, it will be hard for a team to load up on a start player without sacrificing somewhere else in their defense.

A non-ball handler is constantly making turnovers as a passer

You can create a set of rules for non-ball handlers to limit their touches, such as: whenever they are on the wing and an entry pass is being attempted to their side, they should automatically back cut or down screen. This limits their touches at the wing. Also, if they are on the wing, you can have them only make a contested pass into the defense if it is wide open. Other than that, they should just get the ball reversed through the top of the key. Using this offense through the developmental years should help players get comfortable as a ball handler, so when they are at the Varsity level, they aren't making so many turnovers.

We lack interior touches using this offense

Your interior touches in this offense are your cuts to the rim - curls, back cuts, slips. It is hard to control who is getting those touches in a 5-out interchangeable position of offense. You can have your interior player always cut to the rim as down screen slippers or curl/back cutters from the wing when he has a decision to make. This will improve his chances of getting the ball on the interior. You can also use set plays to have a bigger emphasis on getting the ball inside to a specific player.

We lack penetration when using this offense

Players need to understand where the penetration opportunities are within the offense: top of the key catches, on the reversal to the wing, off the skip pass, and against heavy pressure as a wing passer. The offense is geared around cutting, screening, and off the ball movement. Penetration opportunities do occur, and the more they are emphasized, the more the players will find them.

MY STORY

Thanks for purchasing this product! I'm Coach Matt Hackenberg from Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. I'm passionate about the game of basketball. My love of the game started when I was 7 years old. My dad came home from work one day to find me playing in a mud puddle in our driveway, feeling pity that his dirty son had nothing better to do, he asked "do you want to go to a basketball camp?" I replied, "sure," and quickly followed that up with, "what's a basketball camp?" I attended the camp, and a love affair with the game blossomed.

Growing up I used basketball as an outlet, met most of my friends through the sport, and learned countless valuable lessons about life as I refined my playing skills. I ended my high school career as a 1st team all-state player in Ohio in 2004, and went on to play small college basketball at Kentucky Christian University, amassing over 2,000 points and 1,000 assists in my four year playing career.

After college I moved back to Canton and immediately began coaching at East Canton, a small rural high school. We had a great team returning, and had an exceptionally memorable 20-0 regular season. As a first year assistant coach, I thought, "this coaching thing is easy," convinced I was much more than just a bystander for a group of talented kids that worked hard for their incredible achievement. When those players all graduated, I got a real baptism in coaching, staying at the same school as an assistant for the next two years and working with a limited roster that didn't produce many wins. It was an eye-opening experience, fully comprehending that there are a lot of intelligent people in the coaching community, and that I didn't know nearly as much as I thought.

In 2012, I got my first head coaching job at St. Thomas Aquinas, a small private school in the area. Taking over a program that hadn't achieved true success in quite some time but had a decent run of athletes coming through the pipeline, something magical happened. We went on an unprecedented four year run, winning our district (equivalent to the "Sweet Sixteen" of the NCAA Tournament) all four years, and making it to the state finals one season, losing to a very good team. My time at St. Thomas taught me a lot of things, most notably how important a strong support staff is and also how important character is with the players on a team.

Due to the success at St. Thomas, I was able to parlay that success into a coaching job at Canton GlenOak, a large public school in the area. GlenOak is most known for sending CJ McCollum and Kosta Koufos into the NBA. My time coaching at GlenOak didn't overlap with the aforementioned, but they've been great supporting the program as they continue their professional careers. GlenOak is a top-notch school in one of the toughest basketball conferences in the state of Ohio. It's a great place to learn how to build a basketball program and expand my coaching skills.

So that's me. A basketball junkie following my passion as a career. I write these guides and make Youtube videos mostly for me, to provide clarity of thought around basketball concepts I'm trying to master. I enjoy sharing my independent basketball studies with the world and getting feedback. I enjoy getting emails asking for advice about basketball. I enjoy having a little extra spending money in my pocket when people are gracious enough to pay for the things I write and videos I make. So thank you for the support, and let me know if I can help you, as a coach or fellow basketball enthusiast, in any way.

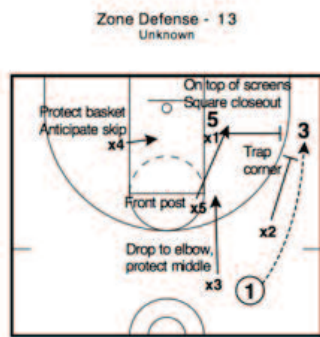


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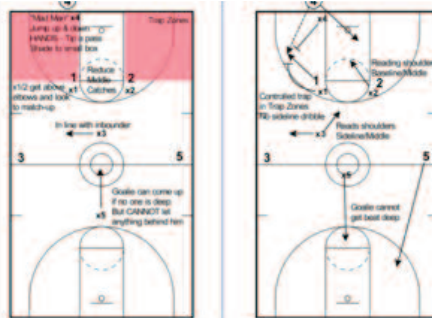
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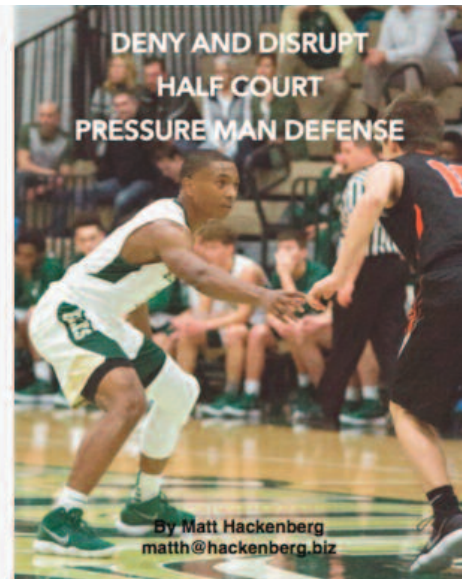
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