

Adam Spinella – ATO Situations: Best Plays and Practices

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- Where Offense Come From (NBA stats)
 - 34% after a make
 - 32% after a miss
 - Everything after a make or a miss, is about organization
 - You can think about them as merged to form your base offense
 - 33% special situations
 - Inbound plays (OBU, SOB, full-court)
 - Late-game inbounds
 - ATO plays
 - Area coach can most control during flow of the game
 - Requirements for success
 - Foresight/Planning
 - Understanding of strengths of your team
 - Analysis of weakness in opponent
 - Communication of end-goal to your team
- Two Schools of Thought
 - 1) Only do something we practice
 - 2) Draw something up that we believe targets our opponent
 - These don't necessarily have to be mutually exclusive
- Do Something We Practice
 - Pros
 - Avoids confusion of trying something new when stakes are high
 - Everyone has confidence in their teammates to run it correctly
 - Empower players to take ownership; eliminates excuses
 - Cons
 - Limits our ability as coaches to react to what opponent throws us
 - Need to have practiced against the type of defense you're facing
 - If you're well-scouted, success may be mitigated
- Target Our Opponent
 - Pros
 - Allows our team to hit their most vulnerable spot consistently
 - Can catch well-scouted opponent off-balance and generate easy looks
 - Teaches players how to react on the fly; increases their overall IQ
 - Cons
 - Puts onus on coach to communicate quickly, clearly and precisely to all players
 - Unroots mistrust between teammates & lack of understanding of "contingency plan"
 - High-risk, high-rewards; if play fails, hold up the mirror
- Some top ATO plays & themes
 - Get a shot for a specific player
 - Can you get your team a layup/dunk?
 - Do you have something to score quickly?
 - Can you disguise it within your offense?
- Jazz – "UCLA Bumper" (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241451148457975811>)
 - Hawk look trying to get a shot for Gobert
 - Action happens quickly once Gobert is put in position to score
 - Flows into 4-out 1-in offense/spacing if it breaks down
- Magic – "Ram Deuce Down" (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241451702101913602>)
 - Backdoor play
 - Backdoors work well in ATO because it keeps the defense on their toes and gives you a chance to generate a layup or dunk
 - You don't always have to run a ATO for your best player – can use it to get a complimentary piece going
- Celtics – "SLOB Post-Up" (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241451986148605955>)
 - More of a late game quick hitter
 - Calling a timeout in front of your bench (as opposed to in the backcourt) limits the defenses options to throw you a curveball
 - One of the best ways to get a shot close to the basket is through a direct post entry
- Grizzlies – "ATO actions out of multiple entries" (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241452208174051328>)
 - Encapsulates everything that goes into great ATO plays at the NBA level

- Uses multiple entries (stagger & Iverson) to try to run the same concept (backdoor for Morant)
- Scouting 101
 - While maximizing your offense is vital, defensive ATO success has a higher correlation to winning games
- Some Scouting Suggestions
 - Pick 1-2 sets your opponent runs frequently
 - Know how you are going to try and defend them
 - Know how to communicate that to your team quickly
 - Trust your assistants!
- Utah Jazz: ATO Defense
 - Jazz foil a popular Suns ATO by pressuring and avoiding a back screen/taking away lob. Results in a steal-and-layup (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241452502924623882>)
 - Jazz foil a Hawks play for an alley-oop. You can see the impact of an assistant calling out the plays on the sideline to help his players avoid getting screened. (<https://twitter.com/Spinella14/status/1241452781648699392>)
- In NBA average ATO is 44-46%, actually slightly less than in the normal flow of play (due largely to defensive preparation)
- Summary
 - Have a philosophy for ATO plays and plan around your players
 - Find ways to disguise what you're running
 - Take layups whenever possible
 - Scouting ATO plays isn't just for the NBA