

15. Billy Donovan

Head Coach Oklahoma City Thunder

Offense and Defense Thoughts

- High School coach had a dramatic influence on his life and his future
 - Started the saying 12.7.4 (12 months a year, 7 days a week, 4 hours a day)
- Playing for Rick Pitino his junior and senior year of college then coaching with him at Kentucky after finishing up his playing career
- Discussed how Pitino emphasized 3pa and defending the 3 point line really before most of college basketball embraced the concept
- Recommends the book Good to Great
- Compares the College to the NBA game – different rules & different dimensions on the court
- Offensive Philosophy – pace and tempo, making the extra pass finding the open man
- Defensive Philosophy – pressure and changing defense trying to force turnovers
- Scouting Reports – personnel, matchups, what the other team is running and how his team is going to guard certain actions. Preparations for adjustments that will most likely need to be made
 - Evolved as a coach to give his players less to help the focus on priorities
- Asked about his coaching tree Donovan responded that it all started with his experience as an assistant under Pitino
 - Pitino gave all of the assistants coaching responsibilities in practice and games that forced them to develop and grow
 - When Donovan became a head coach he instituted the same type principles
- Culture – always going to be a byproduct of your people
- Comparing practice in college to NBA - with 82 games once the season gets going in the NBA there are not many grueling practices. Preseason and training camp are vital there
- Scenario: End of Game Situations O & D – What has your team practiced? What are they comfortable with? Don't want to ask them to do something they have not been prepared for.
- Scenario: Best player picks up 2 fouls in the first quarter Donovan typically does not typically sub him right away. Tends to **trust** his best player and risk playing them at least a little longer
 - Does not want them to get out of rhythm
- Special situations to cover before first game :
 - Trailing at end of game when to foul and when to trap depending on time left
 - Block out responsibilities on FT especially end of game
 - BLOB / SLOB at end of game w/o timeout
- Drills
 - 4 v 4 or 5 v 5 shell mirroring the opposing teams actions
- Non-negotiables
 - Defense – pick and roll defense, transition defense, contesting shots
 - Offense - Ball movement, Pace, Execution
- Set Plays / Families
 - 6 to 8 different families
 - 4 to 5 plays for each family or alignment
- Discussed the difference between selling his program at Florida at the beginning v. after the championships
- Ball Screen Coverages – Drop, Hedge , Trap
 - NBA 3 point line plays such a factor in scheme
- Things he misses from college is the opportunity to practice as much
- Things he enjoys about the NBA working with the best players and basketball 24/7/365 opposed to college where certain months have limitations to working
- Thoughts on one and done and players starting to skip college and go to the G League
 - The different rules and different court measurements can make development tough
 - Can we get to the point where basketball at all levels plays with a similar set of rules