



AdBhoops

N.8
OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE NOVEMBER
DECEMBER 2020

ANDREAS ZAGKLIS

FIBA SECRETARY GENERAL
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



DIMITRIS ITOUDIS

CSKA MOSCOW

TRANSITION GAME



Pinturas a L'altura dels
MÉS GRANS

"Paints at the tallest ones' level."

Pinturas Isaval
co-patrocinador
oficial del **Valencia**
Basket Club



valencia
basket
club
des de 1986



Adb Hoops Publisher

Is a digital publication of the Alqueria del Basket, C/ Bomber Ramon Duart S/N 46013, Valencia, Spain

Editor-in-Chief

Giorgio Gandolfi

Editorial Office

Tel.+39-0372-460585

E-mail: ggandolfi@adbhoops.com

Art Director: **Lisa Cavallini**

The magazine is published six times per year

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank for their collaboration all the authors, who shared with us their knowledge. Thanks to: Ms. Lisa Cavallini, Art Director, Mr. Carles Orive, Spanish translator, Ms. Elisa Michel, English editing, Mr. Alberto Chilet, Valencia BC Media Director, and Ms. Paula Mas, Alqueria del Basket Community Manager for the collaboration. To Mr. Manuel Pena and ProCoach for the Dimitris Itoudis' article; Mr. Nikolay Tsynkevich, CSKA Moscow Media Director, and Mr. Mikhail Serbin for the Dimitris Itoudis' photos; Mr. Cole Mickelson, Phoenix Suns Sr. Basketball Communication Manager and the photographers Barry Gossage, and Anthony Gonzales, NBA Photos; Mr. Roey Gladstone, Maccabi Tel Aviv Head of Communication, and Mr. Omer Geva for the Regev Fanan's photos; Euroleague for the Anne Panther's photos; Spanish Basketball Federation (FEB/Alberto Nevado) for the Alqueria News photos; British Wheelchair Basketball / SA Images for the Haj Bhanian's photos; Mr. Patrick Koller, FIBA Communications Director, and Ms. Liz Fulton, Corporate Communications Sr. Coordinator, for the collaboration on the Mr. Andreas Zagklis' interview.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

THE FUTURE OF BASKETBALL 5
GIORGIO GANDOLFI

COACHES

TRANSITION GAME 6
DIMITRIS ITOUDIS

SHARING SOME OUT-OF-BOUNDS IDEAS 14
(FIRST PART)
JOTA CUSPINERA

VARIOUS TOPICS

BIG MEN WORKOUTS 20
RICCARDO FOIS

VIDEO LIBRARY

EARLY OFFENSE: "SLICE" 26
ECOACH - NBA COACHES ASSOCIATION

FENERBACHE ISTANBUL 27
SIDELINE OUT-OF-BOUNDS
CLAUDIO PRIETO

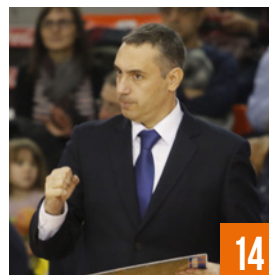
ALEXEY SHVED, A NIGHTMARE 28
FOR EVERY BIG MAN IN EUROPE
PASCAL MEURS

MINI BASKETBALL

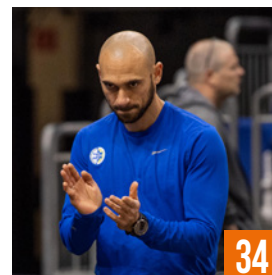
MINI BASKETBALL IN EGYPT 30
REHAB ELGHANNAM

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACHES

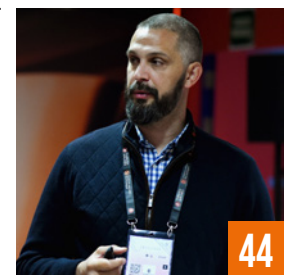
THE IMPORTANCE OF IN-SEASON 34
RECOVERY SESSIONS
REGEV FANAN



COACHES
SHARING
SOME OUT-OF-BOUNDS IDEAS
(FIRST PART)
JOTA CUSPINERA



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COACHES
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MARKETING,
MANAGEMENT & DIGITAL
"TOGETHER WE STAND,
TOGETHER WE CAN"
FILIP SUNTURLIC

REFEREES

DIGITALIZATION: CURSE OR BLESSING 38
ANNE PANTHER

RULES QUIZ 42
ROBERTO CHIARI

MARKETING, MANAGEMENT & DIGITAL
"TOGETHER WE STAND,
TOGETHER WE CAN" 44
FILIP SUNTURLIC

ALQUERIA NEWS

L'ALQUERIA, BASE OF OPERATIONS 50
OF THE SPANISH TEAM
ALBERTO CHILET

ALQUERIA EVENTS 52

ALQUERIA SERVICES 54

HOOPS FOR ALL BASKIN

THE THREE TOP ASPECTS 56
OF BASKIN TACTICS
FRANCESCO LONGHI

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

SYSTEMS OF PLAY: 60
OFFENSE (SECOND PART)
HAJ BHANIA

AROUND THE COURT

ANDREAS ZAGKLIS 64
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
INTERVIEW BY GIORGIO GANDOLFI

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THE FUTURE OF BASKETBALL

In these difficult times it is mandatory that we not stop and complain about life, but, rather, that we learn, as in sport, to plan and work for the future: it's a strong sign that life must and will go on.

We are particularly glad that Andreas Zagklis, Secretary General of FIBA, has accepted our invitation to speak on the future of FIBA, and the worldwide future of our sport in all its different facets. His past experience includes a career as a basketball player and coach in Greece, as a top level executive within sport and in sport's law firms, so he fully understands the intricacies of what basketball means in its most wide-ranging implications, but also in the bigger picture, what a sport must do to improve. He talked with us on the FIBA 2019-2027 long term plan and we are particularly proud to share his thoughts with our readers worldwide.

For Dimitris Itoudis, all his previous experiences, including 13 years as assistant coach at the Panathinaikos Athens with Zelimir Obradovic, the winningest coach in Europe, have helped to build his knowledge on how to guide a team and how to reach the top. Since 2014, he

has been the head coach of the CSKA Moscow and he showed why he is one of the top European coaches, winning two EuroLeagues and five Russian and VTB titles. I had the chance to meet him in Valencia at a clinic and at a dinner with other top coaches, and I was impressed by him as a coach and as a person.

Young basketball executives are achieving great results for their basketball clubs. One example is Paulius Motiejunas of Zalgiris Kaunas, whom we interviewed in a past issue, and in this current issue, we hear from Filip Surturlic of the Crvena Zvezda Belgrade team, also known as Red Star. He explains how, although his club may not be among the richest and most powerful in the EuroLeague, he was able to achieve great results with innovative ideas on marketing and fan engagement by relying on a dedicated fan base that numbers in the thousands across Serbia, and the world, not just in its own home town.

We are also pleased to have on board in this issue for the first time an author from Africa, Rehab Elghannam. She is a Member of the Board of the Egyptian Basketball Federation, in charge of Mini Basketball and 3x3. Egypt is a country where basketball is very popular and is a powerhouse in our sport among the African countries. We are planning to have more authors from Africa, where the Basketball Africa League, the partnership of FIBA and the NBA, that we talked of in the last issue, could bring a big boost in popularity to our sport on that continent, which has a great potential for basketball.

We are working with the new Marketing Director of Valencia BC and the Academy Alqueria del Basket, Ms. Mercedes Añon, on a new worldwide promotion of our free, digital magazine, which already has thousands of subscribers from 54 different countries. Our aim is to reach all possible coaches, referees, strength & conditioning coaches, and executives around the world, who share our passion for improving every aspect of basketball, independently by level and championship.

We are always happy to listen to your suggestions with the hope of enlarging our "family."



WHAT
BASKETBALL
MUST DO TO
IMPROVE



When I came to CSKA in 2014 we had a very athletic team and I was asked to attract more young people into the stands with a more engaging and dynamic style of play. So we set out to find ways to score more points in transition, and thus be more effective at winning games. The current players do not usually run unless we, the coaches, set goals for them, and so, as a team, we set out to score 30% of the points through the open court. This is a philosophy that can be applied to any team we coach, either youth or professional.

When I talked about it with my players, they told me that they didn't want to run so much because, once they were on the offensive half court they had to continue to think in a lucid way, and running and being lucid don't usually work together in the half-court game. Therefore, our philosophy of running had to be applied to all our practices

TRANSITION GAME

SCORE 30% OF THE POINTS
THROUGH THE OPEN COURT



TWO EUROLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS AS HEAD COACH



so we could be ready to play the transition during a game.

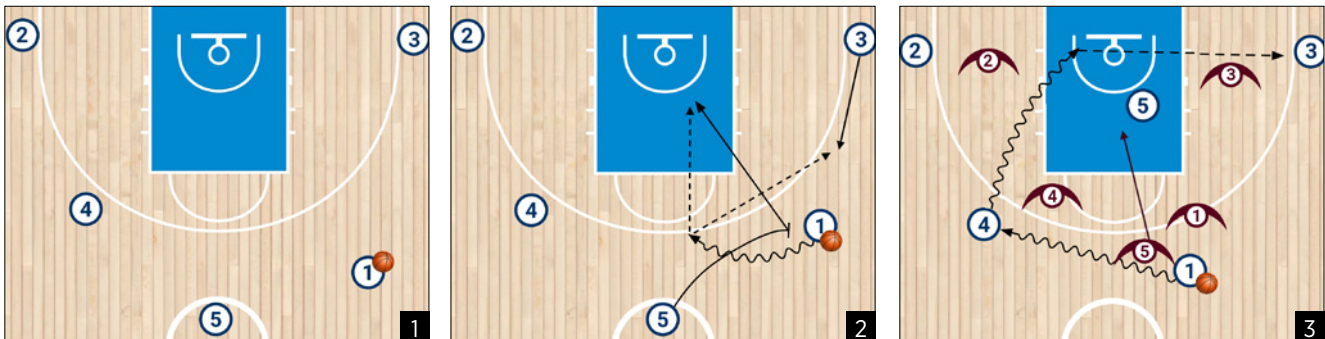
Statistically, in both the NBA and the EuroLeague, the most popular shots on basket that teams prefer are lay-ups, free-throws and spot up shots created after good spacing, thanks to the penetrations and kick out passes. Timing is very important, but if I have to stick with some of my game in transition it is with good use of spacing. How can we create spaces to score lay-ups, gaining free-throws and open shots?

There are three other fundamental aspects that we ask ourselves to see if our game is efficient. The first

question is: how long does it take to get the ball on the court? In our terminology, the transition points are those that occur during the first seven seconds of the offense.

The second question is: who is the player, who brings the ball on offense? At CSKA we learned that who the player is, who brings the ball up is not so important, because on many occasions we lose valuable seconds searching for our point guard. When we've had people like Kyle Hines or Will Clyburn that's not a problem.

The third question is: how do we occupy our other four offensive spots? In our teams we have developed such



COACHES ▶ TRANSITION GAME

automatic responses that allow us to reach and occupy the offensive spots very quickly. As a general rule, our five, a big man, will be the player who rebounds and arrives as a trailer, therefore, the other four spots must be filled as fast as possible (**diagr. 1**). However, it can also be the other way around and our point guard will be the player who arrives to occupy the center lane.

We call our first basic move "Drag", playing the direct screen between the ball handler and the player, who is the trailer. If we can play it correctly, the strong side player in the corner goes up for the return pass (**diagr. 2**).

If, for example, the defense goes under and we have to re-screen, then it is the player who is set at a 45 degree spot who should occupy the free space. That player is preferably a four, a forward, but, in reality, we don't care too much, because the important thing is that each player knows the spot that he should occupy and that when he receives the ball, he becomes a real shooting threat. With this movement alone he could already generate a good spot up shot.

The movements from there will depend a lot on the type of defense that we face. Assuming the defender makes a "show" on the ball screen, we would have a choice that the player, who received at 45 degree spot, works on the close out, both for the possibility of lay-ups, as well as gaining free-throws or an open shot. If the triangulation was negated by the last defensive player (which in turn could cause a mismatch), we could even penetrate and generate the pass to the corner for another good spot up shot (**diagr. 3**).

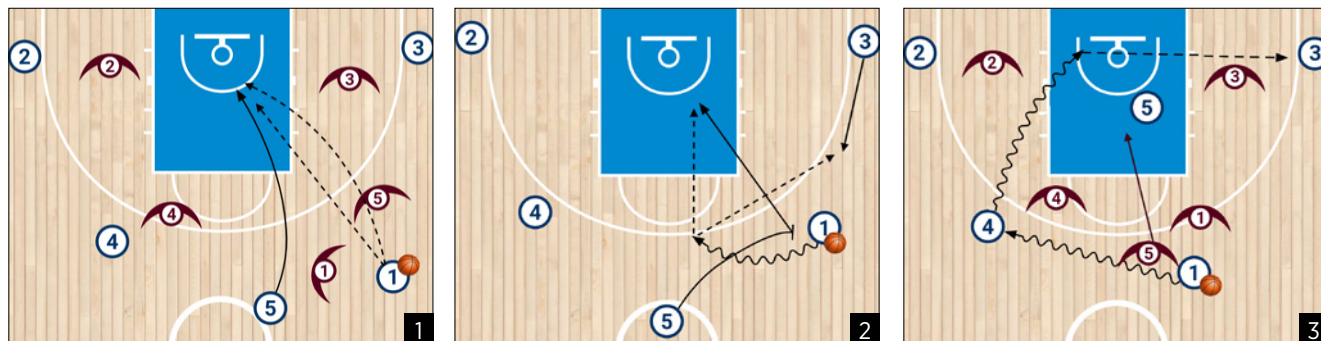
Other teams will try to deny us from going to the center court with the ball defender. In this situation, players such as Sergio Rodríguez and Othello Hunter were able

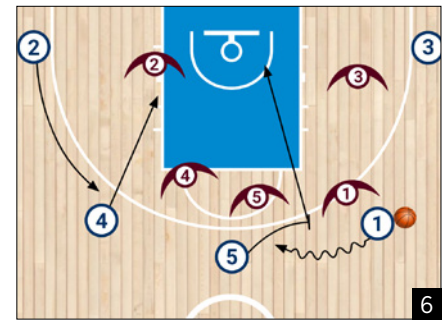
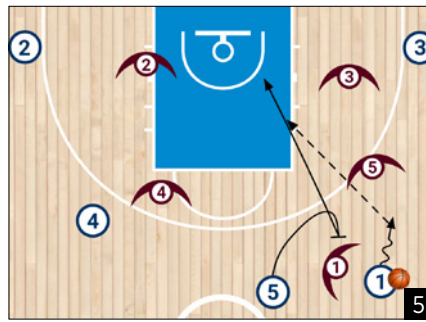
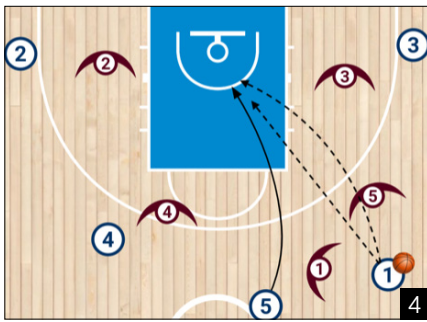


TWO EUROLEAGUE COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

to read it very well and you didn't need to put in any type of rule. It's enough that the pivot rolls and the point guard passes the ball to him, either with a lob pass or even a pocket pass between the two opposing defenders (**diagr. 4**). The key here is that the ball handler does not stay near the sidelines, which are "extra defenders," because the defending center can make a trap. If he gets enough space the point guard can even attack the rim by himself. If the ball gets inside and our inside player is closed, we create spaces for receiving the ball outside and get shots.

Another option that would be open to us would be to





make a vertical screen to the defensive player, who is denying getting to the court's center (**diagr. 5**). This movement carries a great risk since the screener runs to make the screen and we are on the verge of an offensive foul, but we also have the possibility of running a screen on the side or even on the back, where the big player would already be in a position to roll to the basket and read the different situations. In this situation, the point guard must take responsibility to gain space and time, trying to hold his defender for a while. If the defense played flat and tried to buy time jamming inside because the player at the 45 degree is not a great shooter, then we can make a cut, because a direct pass does not bring us any advantage.

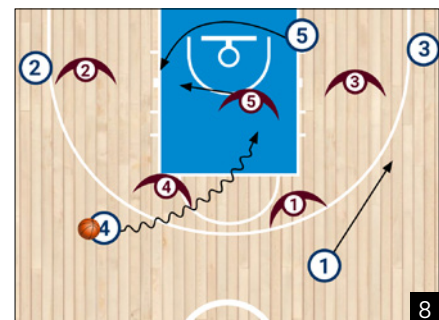
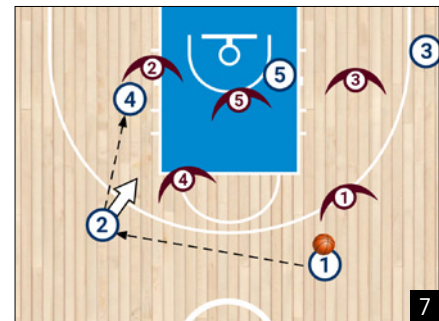
Here is what we call the "Drag Slice." The player in the corner would go up and we would read if his defender follows the cutter or not (**diagr. 6**). If the defenders change, then we could get an interesting mismatch on the low post (**diagr. 7**). The other opportunity is to attack the close out and play the most common spacing situations (**diagr. 8-9**).

TIDBITS

He owns a German Shepherd named "Roxy"

He often attends the CSKA football and ice hockey teams' games

He likes to spend time with his family

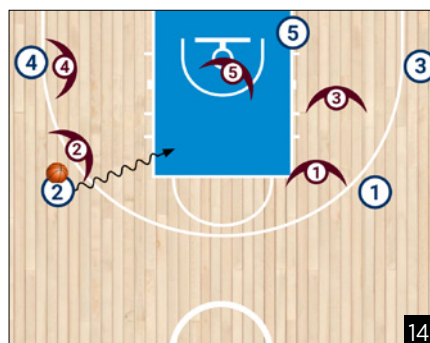
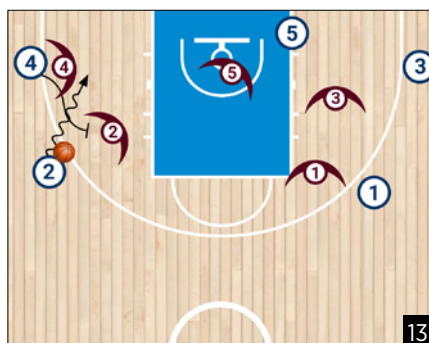
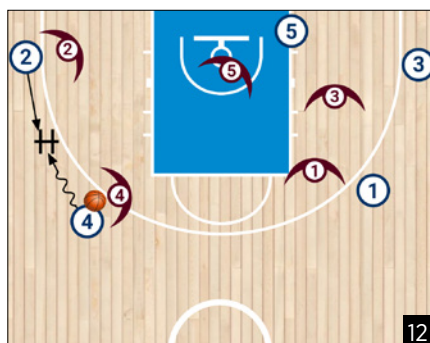
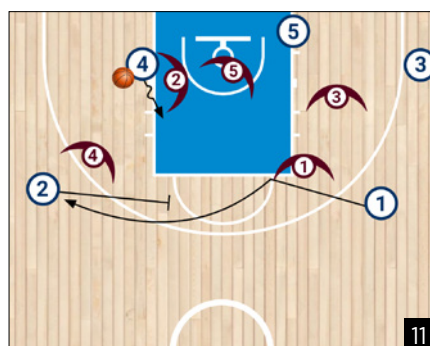
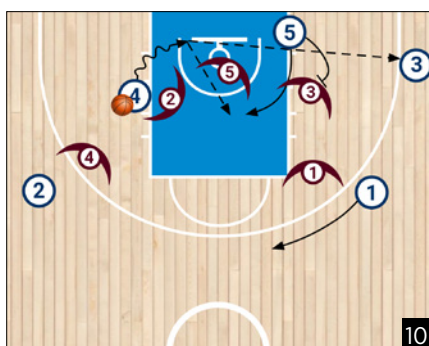
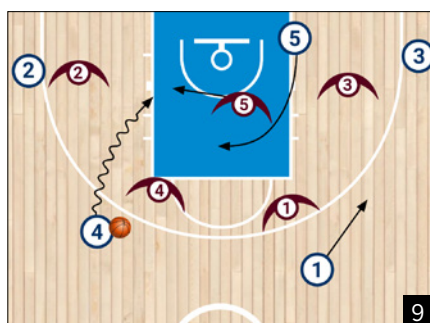


COACHES ▶ TRANSITION GAME

Within the mismatch situation that we have mentioned before, two possibilities are open to us. First is that the four, a power forward (for example, a player such as Johannes Voigtmann), chooses to attack the hoop directly or by dribbling. If he chooses to play on the low post, the other big man comes into the play. Usually the player in the low post will have closed the center of the lane by the big man defender on the bottom. This forces the outside weak side defender to be the second helper, so the other big man on the weak side could receive the ball by making a self-screen. However, if he is too late to do that, he can screen with a back pick on the second helper so that our player in the corner is free, he can receive the ball, and make a three-point shot (**diagr. 10**). That pass to the corner is difficult for a big man and it doesn't have to necessarily be a direct pass.

Another option we have at CSKA is that when the inside player starts to have body contact on his defender and dribbles to go inside the lane, we want to create an off ball strong side pick. In this case, many players, such as Nando de Colo or Cory Higgins, would go straight to make the screen, while they would have to get contact with their defensive player for them to use the screen (**diagr. 11**).

An opportunity also arises when the ball reaches the player at the 45 degree spot with a hand-to-hand





and gets an inside position with the other four spots occupied. In this case, if there is a type of player such as Kosta Koufos, we let him fight for the position and we pass the ball to him right away (**diagr. 15**). We can also send him up for a vertical screen to the ball handler. In this situation, following the rule, we have to set the screen at least 80 centimeters away from the defender to avoid an offensive foul by the screener. Again, it's basic that the ball handler must change the angle and not go straight to the screen. When he dribbles over the screen, he must be aggressive and get the defender out of balance (**diagr. 16**).

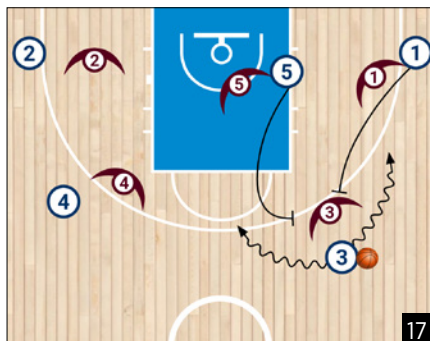
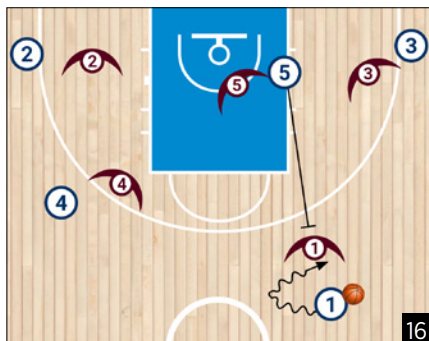
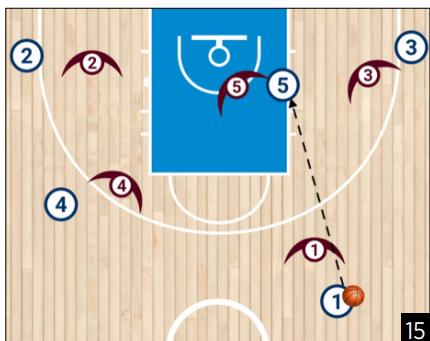
Starting from these basic plays we have several options, depending on the players, who are on the court. For example, we can call the play "Fist 3," in which our forward, Will Clyburn, brings the ball up and the center makes a back screen. Additionally, instead of the center's making the screen, the point guard can also make the vertical back screen, which opens two dribble options for the ball handler (**diagr. 17**). If it is the guard who screens and the defense changes, we have the opportunity to play the mismatch at the low post (**diagr. 18**). If we cannot get this outcome, then we can play with the big player making a flare screen for the point guard's shot or his roll to the basket (**diagr. 19**). These are other "Fist 3" options. The ball handler passes to the forward, then there are two possibilities: giving the ball back to the passer with a hand-off pass, or dribbling to receive the direct, on ball screen from the inside player (**diagr. 20-21**).

pass with the player in the corner (**diag. 12**). As in all the above situations, we must read how the defense reacts to choose the best solution. Again, if the defender of the player, who receives the ball, goes under the screen, we can re-screen. If it happens, then the ball handler has the option to drive to the basket (**diagr. 13-14**).

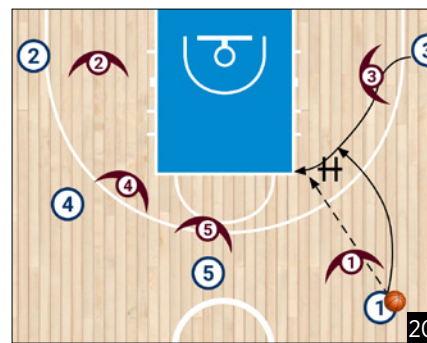
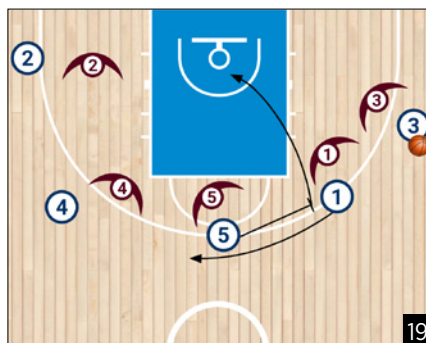
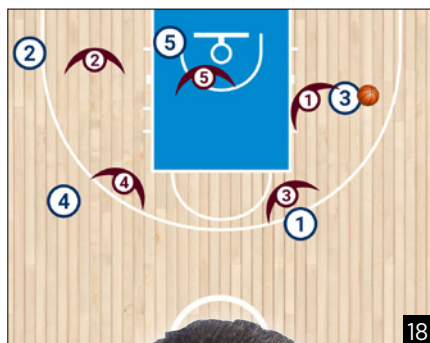
We also get more opportunities with the "Fist4," a play in which it is the power forward who has the ball and we play exactly the same option as above.

This is another basic move that we call "Fist." This move starts if the big man is the first on the transition

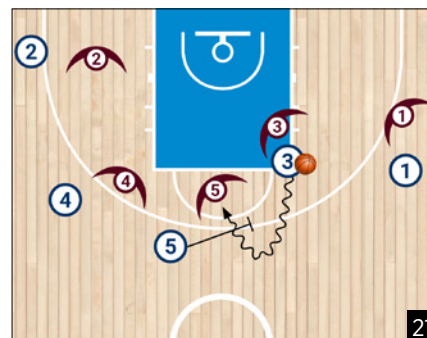
Let's now show the "Fist Side" play. When we call this play we set a stagger screen for the ball handler, in which the power forward, who can pop out, and the center, who can roll the rim are involved (**diagr. 22**).



COACHES ▶ TRANSITION GAME



FIVE RUSSIAN & VTB LEAGUE TITLES AS HEAD COACH



Also, the power forward can choose to roll to the rim after the screen.

Another move is to clear the corner on the strong side to play "Fist Move." The player in the corner clears out and the point guard is screened by the center, with the same concepts previously shown. Here the screening angle of the center is very important, so we want him to take an extra step to sink the screen (**diagr. 23**). From there, we can work on a continuity movement to generate offensive opportunities (**diagr. 24-25**). These options can also be played even if the forward is the ball handler, but in this case we must start with a hand-off pass.

People may say that we give the players too much freedom, but what we are doing is giving them options to play in a certain system or with certain rules based on what the defense does. It's a kind of intellectual freedom we encourage to interpret where and how we can hurt the opposing team. When I had a player like Milos Teodosic and he had a particular reading of the game, I didn't always control him because he wouldn't always do everything I wanted him to do. With these options we have chances for penetrations, shots, post play, spacing, mismatches and many situations to read and react to, which is what we look for from a player on the court.



 <https://www.facebook.com/dimitris.itoudis>

 @ItoudisD

 dimitris_itoudis

CAREER

1992 - 1995
ZAGREB, CROATIA
ASSISTANT

1995 - 1996
PAOK, GREECE
ASSISTANT & HEAD COACH

1996 - 1997
PANIONIOS, GREECE
ASSISTANT

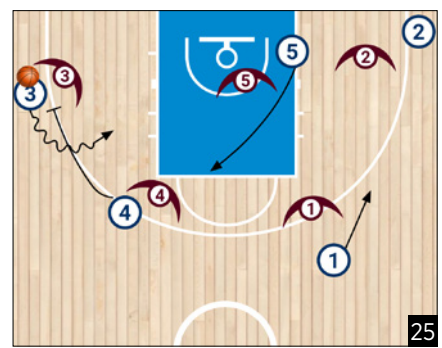
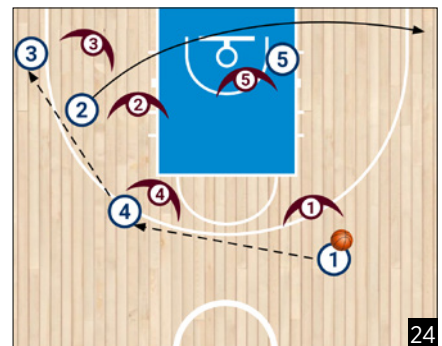
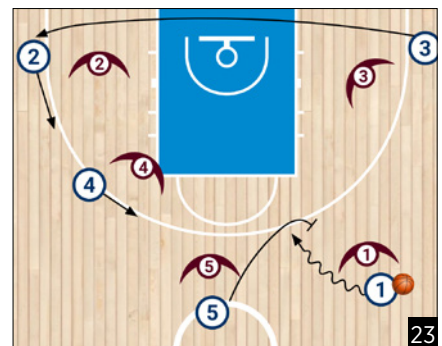
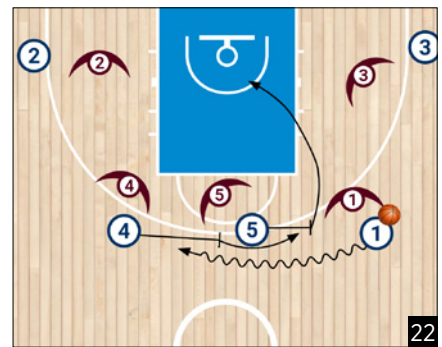
1997 - 1999
PHILIPPOS THESSALONIKI, GREECE
HEAD COACH

1999
M.E.N.T., GREECE
HEAD COACH

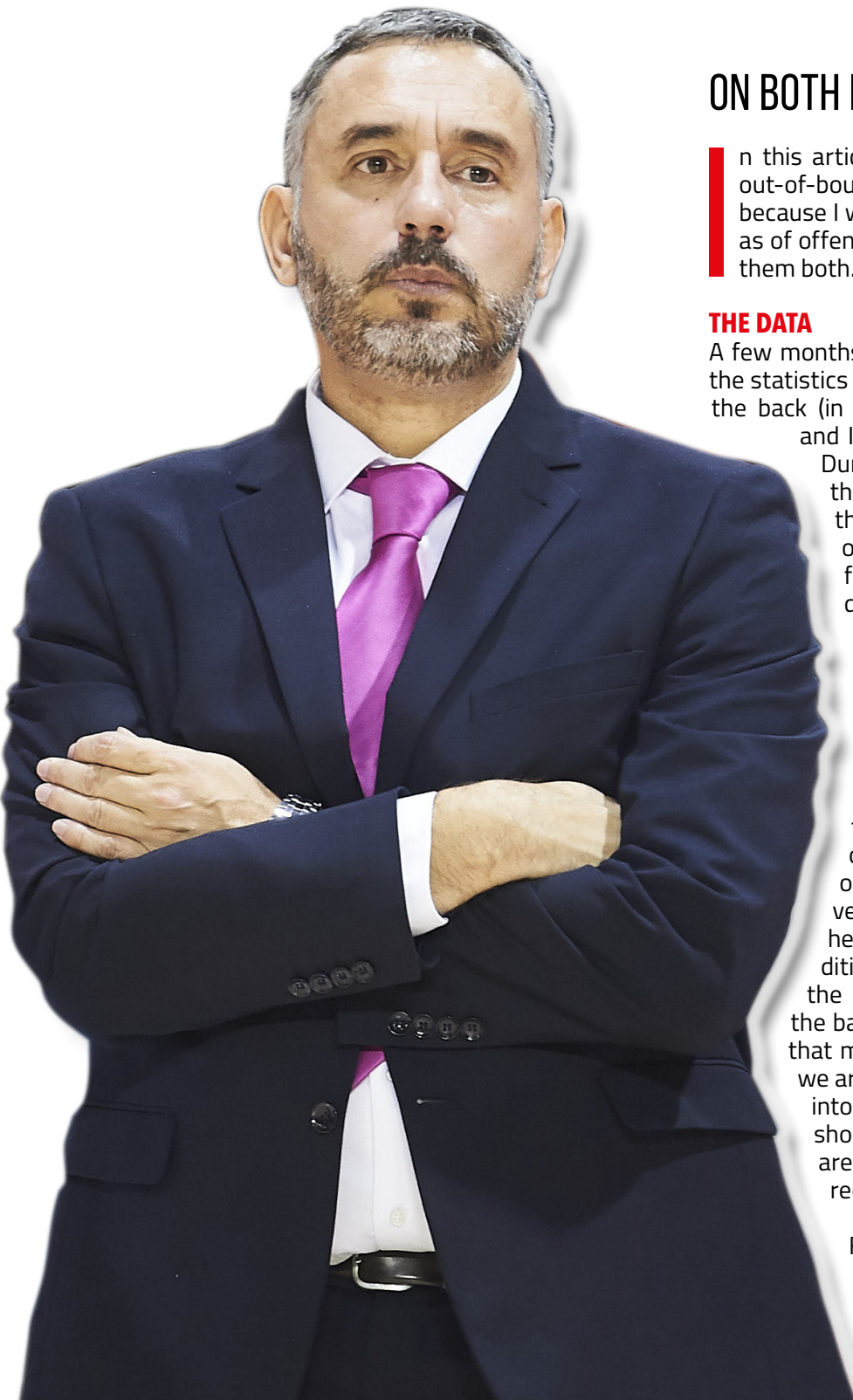
1999 - 2012
PANATHINAIKOS, GREECE
ASSISTANT

2013 - 2014
BANDIRMA, TURKEY
HEAD COACH

2014 - PRESENT
CSKA MOSCOW
HEAD COACH



SHARING SOME OUT-OF-BOUNDS IDEAS (FIRST PART)



ON BOTH DEFENSE AND OFFENSE

In this article I want to share some ideas about out-of-bounds movements. It may seem a bit odd because I will alternate ideas of defense with ideas of offense that I hope can enrich your vision of them both.

THE DATA

A few months ago, using a Synergy tool, I gathered the statistics relative to the times a team plays from the back (in their offensive court) during a game, and I admit that they caught my attention.

During the 21 ACB League games played this season before the Covid-19 break, the average number of kick-offs (in the offensive court field) per game ranged from 5.17 in Bilbao to 3.7 in Fuenlabrada, with the average of the teams in the League at 4.51 per game. That is to say, we take only one background time per quarter approximately on average ... my guess would have been that there were many more.

When I see a kick-off, one of the things that strikes me the most is the position of the defender on the offensive player outside the baseline (**diagr. 1-2**). I see, very often, that he faces the inbounder; he faces his chest. I imagine this is conditioned by how we teach defending in the 1 vs. 1 (interposing the body between the ball and its trajectory to the basket), but that makes little sense, in my opinion, when we are defending the introduction of the ball into the court with an entry pass. Here, we should be looking to hinder passes to the areas where we do not want them to be received.

For me, there are three preferential receiving areas for the offense and one area for safety:



AS ASSISTANT
AT REAL MADRID,
ONE ACB, TWO
SUPERCUPS AND
KING'S CUPS

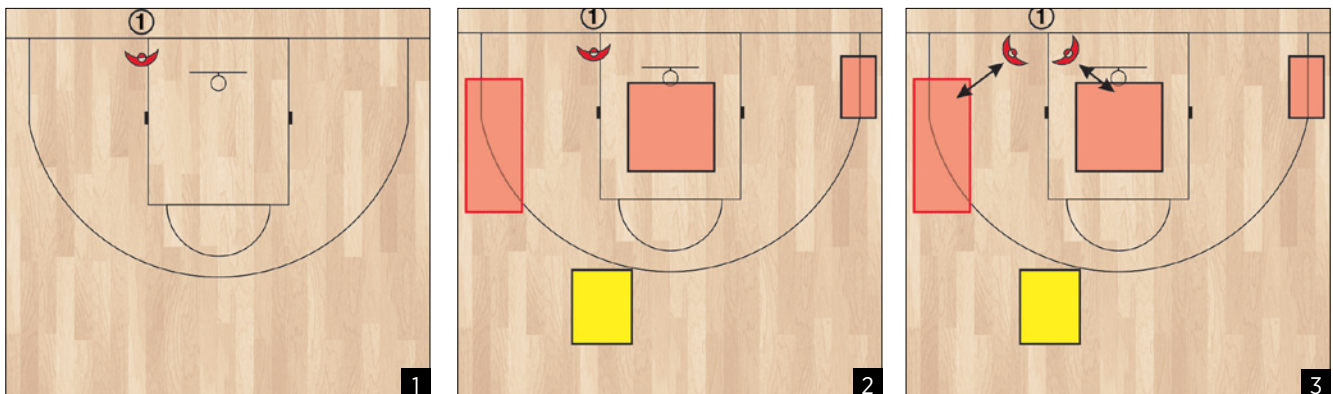
The

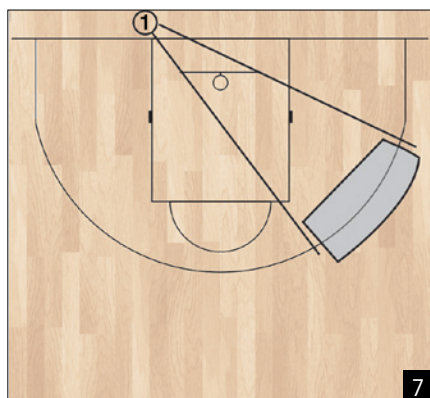
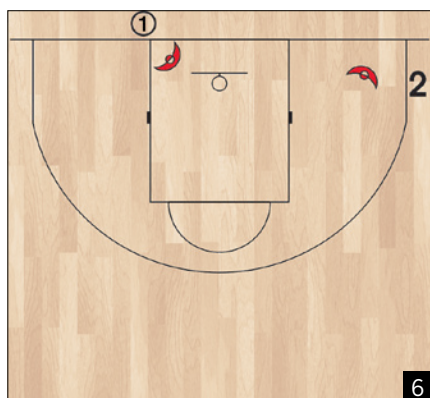
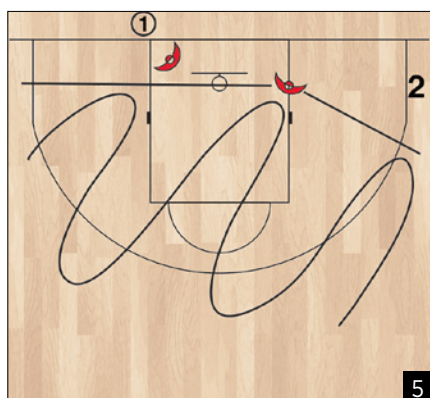
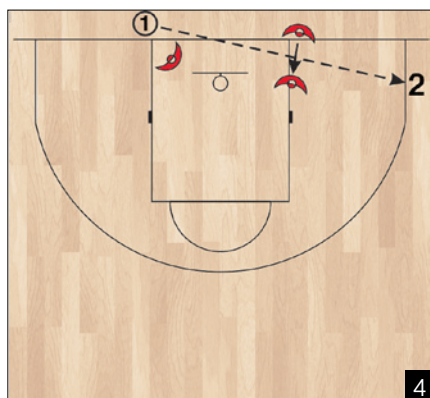
1. Within the area near the lane.
2. The three-point line on the passer side.
3. The three-point line on the opposite side of the passer.
4. The safety area is the perpendicular to the server from the three-point line to midcourt.

Thus, the position of facing the inbounder's chest does not protect any of the preferential receiving areas and only intervenes in the direction of the pass to

the security area (it's inefficient because this pass is usually a mid-height or a bounce pass and cannot be practically hindered by the defender of the inbounder). Therefore, the natural position of defense must be one that makes it difficult to pass to one of the preferential reception areas of the offense (**diagr. 3**), with the exception of a decision based on actual scouting of the out-of-bounds play.

In addition, this body position can be accompanied by





TIDBITS

He owns a German Shepherd named "Roxy"

He often attends the CSKA football and ice hockey teams' games

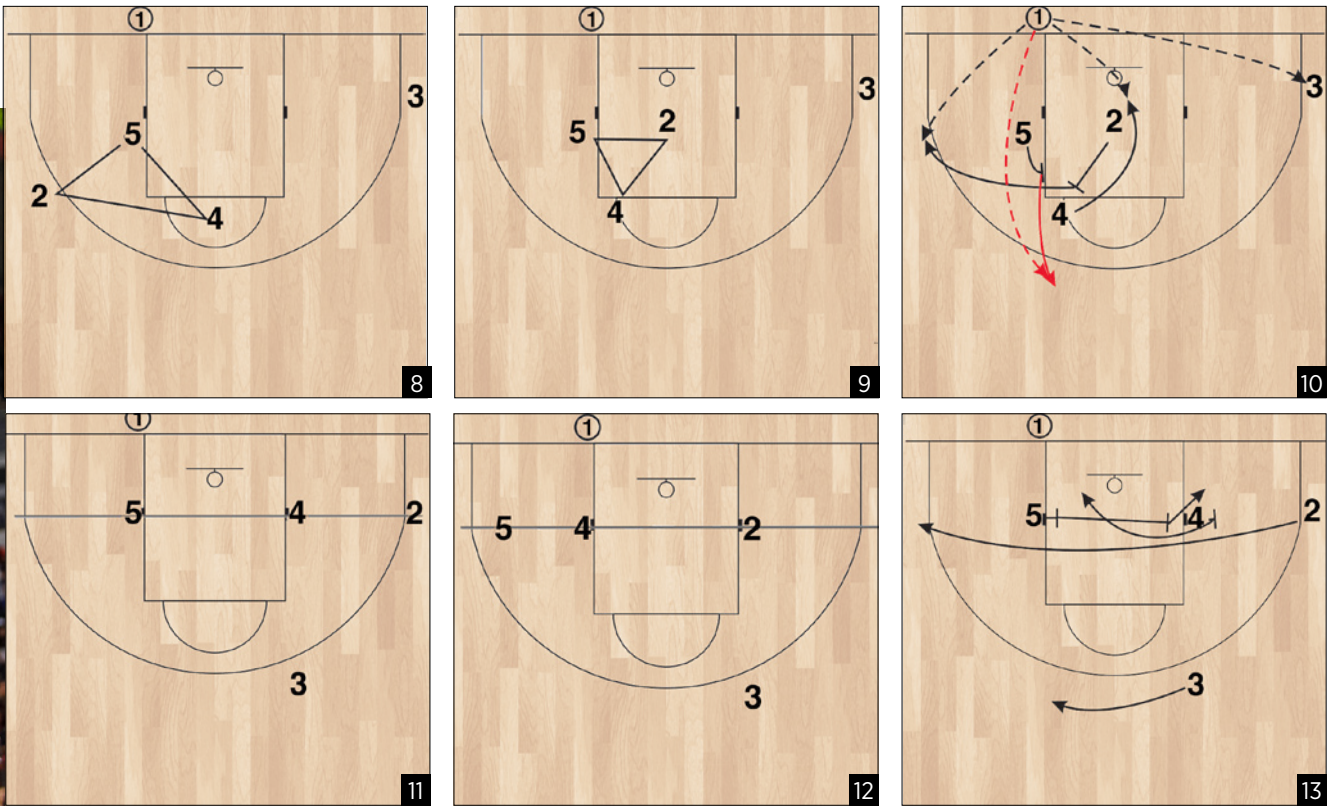
He likes to spend time with his family

a greater or lesser distance to the inbounder. The farther we move away from the inbounder and get closer to the preferential reception area, the more difficult we make the reception in those areas of the court, even when the ball enters the court. Yet, the farther we are from facing our offensive player on the court, the more readily they can initiate an action moving away from our position. So, we will have to play with risks in one direction or another.

Keep in mind that this body position and distance to the inbounder can be dynamic and change during the course of the five seconds that the attack has to make the inbound pass. The defender of the inbounder must also turn his neck to see what is happening on the court and, depending on what is going on, react to the different situations that occur (often informed and facilitated by scouting).

The corner on the opposite side is a special case. This position prevents the maintenance of traditional defensive triangles, being a special reception area. To maintain a traditional defensive triangle, the defender should be out of the court, a situation that he will not accept, which is why he usually passes the ball from that theoretical position, releasing the pass to the corner (**diagr. 4**).

Some coaches theoretically propose changing the orientation of the triangle, but this arrangement pre-



vents the defender from seeing everything that happens on the court and also ends up facilitating possible cuts towards the rim (**diagr. 5**).

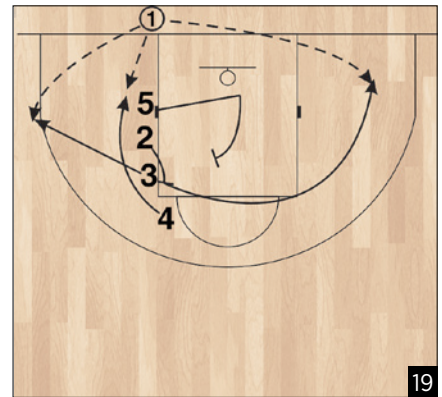
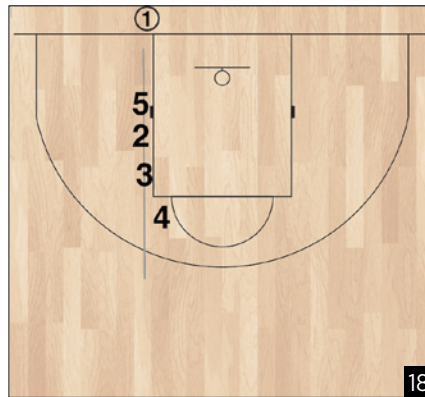
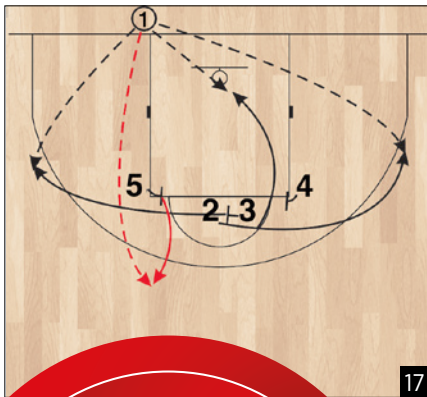
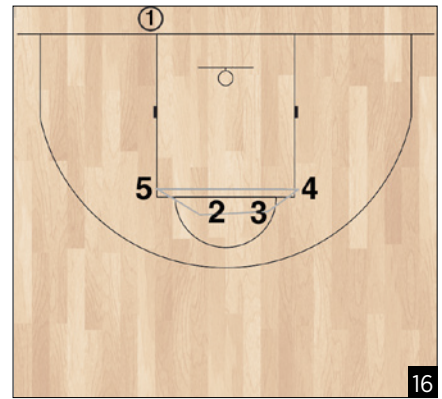
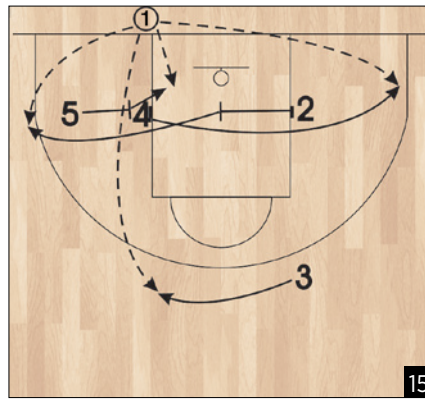
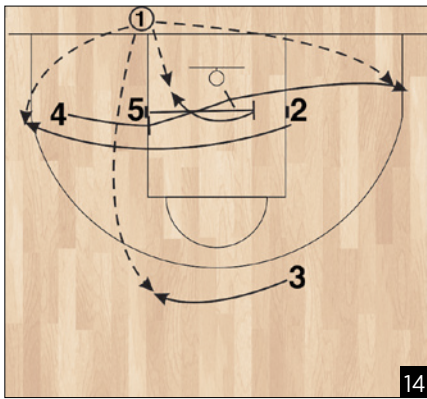
Finally, the way that many of us defend that position is by bringing the defender closer to his offensive player (**diagr. 6**). This solution ends up freeing up more space for the offense, which given the characteristics of the inbounder (he can only pass), had been put in a numerical inferiority of 4 vs. 5 that, although it remains, is bypassed with that corner position "eliminating" a defender from the equation (or facilitating the passing line to the corner) and increasing the space to receive 3 vs. 4.

In addition to scouting, the only situation where you'd assume the position of facing the chest with the inbounder would be when the seconds to inbound run out, and after having defended the preferential reception areas, you have to try to hinder the safety pass, forcing the defender to jump and pump a lot to pass to that area.

The defense, in addition to having a starting numerical advantage, has an additional ally that is rarely taken into account ... the "shadow of the board" area. The board makes it difficult or



COACHES ▶ SHARING SOME OUT-OF-BOUNDS IDEAS (FIRST PART)



WITH THE SPANISH YOUTH TEAMS, ONE GOLD, TWO SILVER & ONE BRONZE MEDALS

even prevents certain passes if they are to be hit at half height or pumped, that is to say at the 3-point line (diagr. 7). This is a concept that we usually take into account in our serves on the defensive field/ exit attack field. We do not usually act on it in midfield, and it can help you make defensive decisions in the shadow area as well as help you in your attack decisions when developing movements. Obviously, the shadow area varies depending on where it is taken from.

TYPICAL INITIAL ARRANGEMENTS TRIANGLE

It is probably the arrangement that you will find most often, and is usually played with the concept of whoever blocks is blocked, starting with a blind block to try to receive within the zone, and with a shooter exiting from the one who has blocked (diagr. 8-9-10). It's a "free verse" that we usually place statically or dyna-

mically in the corner on the opposite side. The placement variations in the triangle can be multiple, although the two shown are usually the most typical.

LINES

We will divide them into Horizontal Line and Vertical Line, and the Horizontal into Low Horizontal and High Horizontal.

LOW HORIZONTAL LINE

The positions can be interchangeable (diagr. 11-12). Curiously, the traditional movements for this type of arrangement are also that who blocks is blocked but in a single plane (diagr. 13-14). Think that these are just examples and that there may be different looks, for example

HIGH HORIZONTAL LINE

Although I include it as a horizontal line, in reality, it is usually given as a flattened trapezoid (diagr. 15-16), due to the issue of locking angles. In this situation, we can already find more tactical options, with exits to both sides, or cuts to the hoop and a shooter exit, etc. (diagr. 17).



VERTICAL LINE

With exits to different sides including curls over each other to achieve the different exits (**diagr. 18**), a typical option is usually the blind pick for the farthest player to enter into a vertical cut to the passer (**diagr. 19**): one of the cases where defending with the chest facing the server and with distance can be a good option to stop that cut and whoever picks is blocked. In this case, take into account the shadow areas of the board when deciding whether to chase or go through.

As you can see, in all the situations drawn, the preferred reception areas are kept constant.

When it comes to defending, you must choose with whom you are going to protect the situations of those who have a screen blocked. If you protect the first screen between those involved, it is a good option to protect the next one with the server, and vice versa. If you protect the first option with the server, don't get involved with whomever comes out with the taker of the second, as this allows certain guarantees to defend this option.



Jota Cuspinera



www.facebook.com/jotacuspina/



www.instagram.com/jotacuspi/

CAREER

1990 - 2003
ESTUDIANTES MADRID
YOUTH TEAMS ASSISTANT,
COACH AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

2002 - 2003
ESTUDIANTES MADRID EBA
LEAGUE COACH

2003 - 2005/2008 - 2009
ESTUDIANTES MADRID ACB
ASSISTANT

2006 - 2007/2013 - 2014
NATIONAL SPANISH YOUTH
TEAMS COACH

2009- 2010/2013 - 2014
REAL MADRID ACB
ASSISTANT COACH

2014 - 2015
BASKONIA ACB
ASSISTANT

2015 - 2017
FUENLABRADA ACB
HEAD COACH

2017 - 2018
ZARAGOZA ACB
HEAD COACH

2018 - 2020
FUENLABRADA ACB
HEAD COACH

BIG MEN WORKOUTS

GOOD BIG MEN ARE ALWAYS IMPORTANT

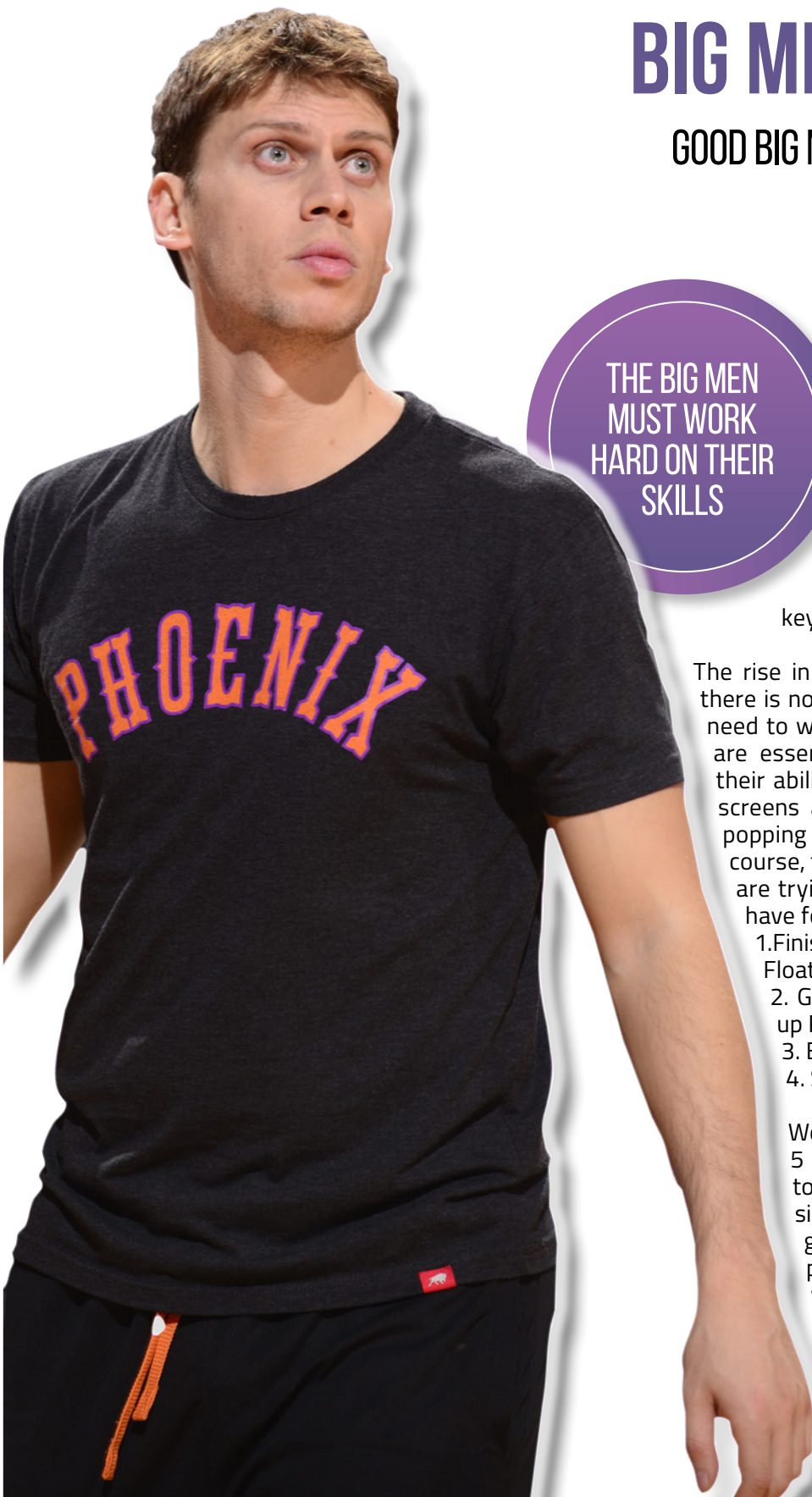
THE BIG MEN
MUST WORK
HARD ON THEIR
SKILLS

Being a big man in modern basketball offense is not an easy task. Many players struggle to find an identity, some think that shooting is the only way they can be successful, others are happy to be role players setting screens and rolling. The reality is that good big men are always important when they can do what the team needs, as we saw in the NBA with the Toronto Raptors' Marc Gasol and Serge Ibaka, or in the World Cup where Spain, Argentina, France all had key players in Gasol, Scola and Gobert.

The rise in popularity of small ball doesn't mean there is no space for traditional big men, but they need to work on their skills. Many big men today are essential playmakers for their teams with their ability to read the floor, move the ball, set screens and roll, making defenses collapse (or popping out and creating mismatches). Off course, the work with big men is tied to what we are trying to get from them and the vision we have for them in our organization:

1. Finishes around the rim (Touch, Jump Hooks, Floaters)
2. Go-to move in the Post (Post Up or Face up Routine)
3. Ball Screens
4. Shooting

Workouts are normally around 45 minutes, 5 free-throws in between drills. I also like to work two players together, when possible, so they can get a little more rest by going against each other. Also, when one player is older, he can jump in and help the younger player while modeling the necessary work ethic.





1. FINISHES AROUND THE RIM

When working around the rim there is one big goal for every big man: they should score when they have the ball in the paint. In order to do that we will first start with some muscle memory techniques to warm up.

Jump Hooks and Floaters

10 jump hook makes, in 5 spots right hand (10 left hand): 100 total

Alternate: some days catching and going straight up, others adding one dribble, adding a defender, adding a shot fake. Keep it different so that it doesn't become boring.

Teaching Point: have the big man learn how to play staying low on his knees and strong on his legs with a solid base. Every repetition he should be exploding up with great balance, and finish high, extending his shooting arm. In time, he'll learn how to use the off arm to avoid being blocked.

Floaters

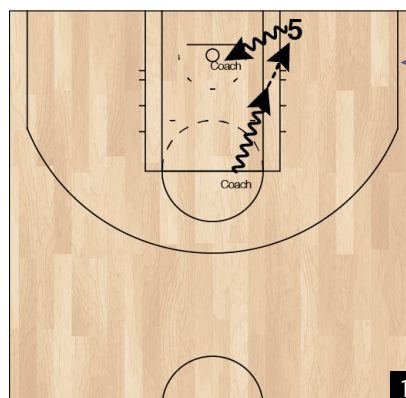
10 floater makes, 5 spots right hand (not a big fan of weak-hand floaters)

As with the jump hooks, play with the kind of floaters you want to work on that day: catch and shoot it, one dribble, two dribbles, running forward, shot faking, adding a defender, keeping the ball higher off a rebound.

Dunker Spot finishes

3 finishes outside hand, 3 dunks, 3 reverse inside hand, 3 reverse outside hand

A huge pet peeve of mine is when the big men are not able to initiate contact, embrace their physicality and score against tougher defenders. That's what this drill and the next one are meant to address. I really believe it's a mindset that carries over, a big man should never finish fading away from contact in the paint (**diagr. 1**).



DUNKER SPOT

1

VARIOUS TOPICS ▶ BIG MEN WORKOUTS

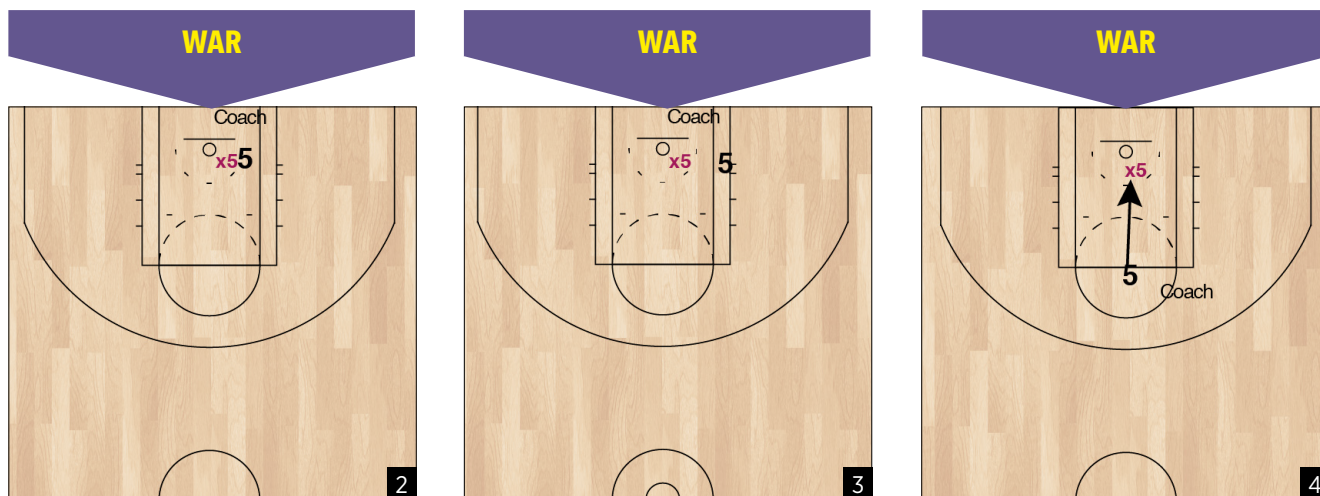
Start with the big man in the dunker spot, and a coach with a pad under the basket. When the big man is ready to catch on the dunker in a low engaged position, a coach will pass him the ball. The big man will take one power dribble staying low, hitting the coach with a pad on an angle, ending with the proper finish. What's important is for the player to have controlled rage, to learn how to use his body to hit the defender without losing balance.

Do the same drill adding a shot fake after the contact. The idea is for the big man to learn how to hit and go up, or hit, fake and go up as explosively as he can, always finishing with his hand at the glass. To make it more competitive once the player is used to the drill, make it livelier with the big man reading the coach's position to decide his finish. You can also do the same drill without the use of one dribble.

- ▶ Post up technique: Teach the big man how to take position using his hips and his feet to keep the defender behind him. Open up the arms and the elbows 90 degrees, showing the jersey number to the passer, don't allow the defender to get in front him.

2. GO-TO MOVE IN THE POST

If you want to be a multiple threat on offense as a big man you need to be efficient in the post and command a double team. All the best players are doubled in the post. I developed a routine that over time we perfected while I was working at Gonzaga University with Domantas Sabonis, Zach Collins and Rui Hachimura, and it was a perfect fit for Gonzaga basketball. Post Up Routine (If you don't have post up players you can work on the same exact finishes, starting every catch opening up to the basket and working on a jab and go routine).



1 on 1 War

1 on 1 win: first to score 3 points, with no dribbles or one dribble

To finish the touch segment, I like to have the guys play a quick 1 on 1 game in the paint with no dribbles or one dribble. The coach will be on the baseline with a ball while the two players will face him, with the defender in the circle, and the offensive players with one foot in the circle. Give him the ball and he has to score.

Do it on both sides of the paint. Finish with the rim running version with a big man with his feet on the circle as a defender and the other big guy coming down from the free-throw line, duck in and look to show his number to the coach, catch the ball and score. As I said you can tinker with the rules, add a dribble or not (diagr. 2, 3, 4).

- The routine consists of 4 spots: left and right block, rim run middle left and rim run middle right.

On the block:

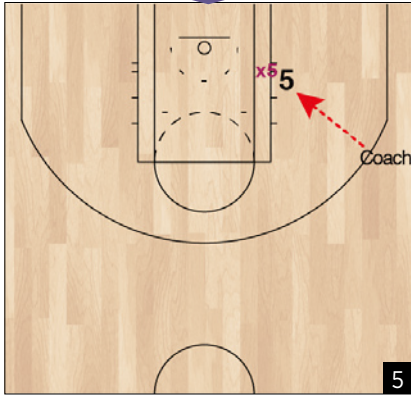
Going Middle

- ▶ 3x Running Hook
- ▶ 3x Jump Hook Off Two Feet
- ▶ 3x Shot Fake and Jump Hook Off Two Feet
- ▶ 3x Shot Fake and Step Through with Right Foot
- ▶ 3x Shot Fake and Step Through with Left Foot
- ▶ 3x Drop Step to the Glass
- ▶ 3x Drop Step to a Jump Hook Off Two Feet

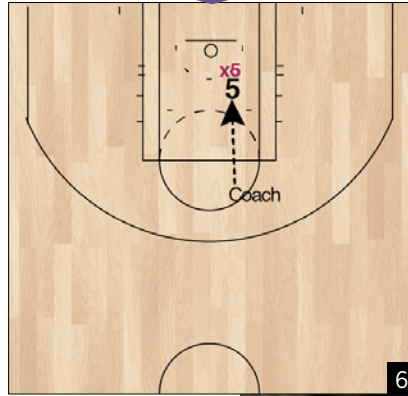
Going Baseline

- ▶ 3x Quick Inside Hand
- ▶ 3x Reverse Inside Hand

POST UP ROUTINE BLOCK



POST UP ROUTINE RIM RUN



THEY MUST LEARN HOW TO USE THEIR BODIES AGAINST THE DEFENDER

3x Reverse Outside hand

*For players who are capable shooters, add face up shooting at the end of it.

Initially use a defender to show the big men when it is proper to use each of the finishes. Keep stressing staying low after the shot fake while drop stepping or stepping through (diagr. 5 - 6).

Players will tend to navigate towards the moves they are more comfortable with. The good part of this routine is that you can really break down every option: working, for example, on drop stepping low and towards the rim earlier in the workout, or in the weight room before it transfers to the workout and eventually to 5 on 5.

On the rim runs

- ▶ 2x Jump Hook on Each Shoulder
- ▶ 2x Shoulder Fake on the Catch and Finish the Other Way
- ▶ 4x Leg Whip vs. a Front Defense and Catch the Hi-Low Finishing and Keeping the Ball High

3. BALL SCREENS

There are many things to work on with big men when it comes to ball screens, like how to set a screen and when to slip out. Today we are going to focus on a big man setting up the Ball Screen, how to get out of it quickly for a finish, or reading the help.

Side P & R Finishes

With a coach on the side have the big man come and set the screen and sprint out of it as quickly as he can. After rolling and finishing at the basket he will sprint again to the screen for the next finish. It's a good conditioning drill for big men but the key is to focus on the "get in and get out

TIDBITS

He loves soccer and rugby

One of his pastimes is reading, and he recommends: "Breath, the New Science of a Lost Art" by James Nestor

He likes all the movies with Will Ferrell and Netflix history documentaries

He is trying to learn how to play the Ukulele, the Hawaiian guitar

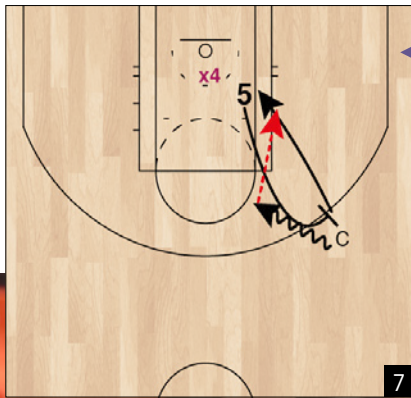


VARIOUS TOPICS ▶ BIG MEN WORKOUTS

quickly" from the ball screen (**diag. 7**).

- ▶ 2 x Finish Outside Hand
- ▶ 2 x Dunks Outside Hand
- ▶ 2 x One Dribble Reverse Layup Off Two Feet
- ▶ 2 x Floaters
- ▶ 2 x One Dribble Spin to the Middle
- ▶ 2 x Alley Hoops
- ▶ If he is a good shooter you can add a slip to the corner for a 3-point shot.

Rest for 5 free-throws and repeat on the other side. You want to expose the player to the different game



SIDE PNR



scenarios of help defense that the other team might do and make quick decisions accordingly.

Step Ups x 10

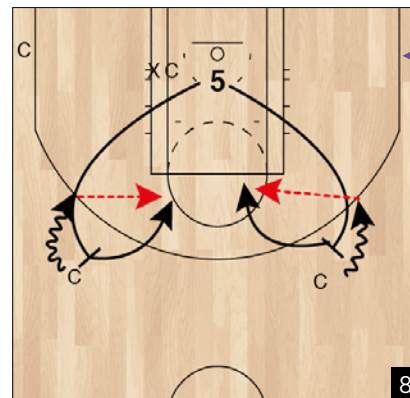
Have two coaches ready with a ball on the slots or wings. The big man will sprint into a step up and short roll, while the coach will hit him with a pocket pass. You can do this drill for jump shots, for floaters or to play 1 on 1 from the elbow. After the shot the big man will immediately sprint and set the step up on the other coach and repeat the drill (**diagr. 8**).

The more competitive you make the drills, the more you might want to lower the reps. At an advanced level you can also add another player in the corner with a defender, and now the big man will have to make a read to see if he can attack or skip to the corner.

Trailer 3 vs. 0, 3 vs. 1, 3 vs. 3, 4 vs. 4

Start the ball with a coach on the wing, the big man in the middle as the trailer and another coach on the other side. Give the ball to the big man and now let him be creative - he is free of reversing the ball, going back to the passer, playing a dribble hand-off, faking one side and chasing on the other one - get him used to moving the ball quickly into an action.

If you are working only one big man, once the dribble hand-off or screen is set, the coach will pass it to him and the big man will work on his finishes reading a defender coach in help under the basket. What I like



STEP UP SERIES

about this drill is that you can really use it in individual workouts or team practices of 3 on 3 (or 4 on 4) and adapt it to your personnel and opponent defenses you are going to face.

The idea is to teach the big man to take responsibility for being the playmaker of the team and create offense while reading his teammates and reading the spacing on the floor.



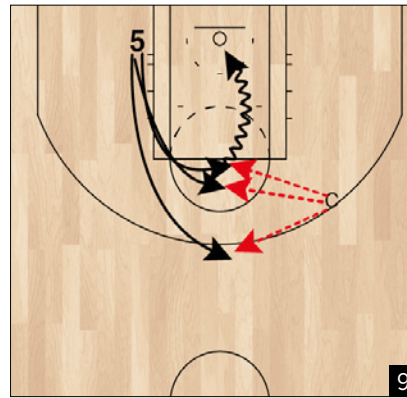
Perfect 10

- ▶ Start with the big man rebounding, pass it to the coach and sprint for a rim run duck in on the opposite basket, after scoring 10 push-ups.
- ▶ The coach will sprint to the other end and the big man will set a drag screen and roll, after making 8 push-ups.
- ▶ Repeat alternating rim runs and drag screens, all the way down to 0 push-ups (8 courts).

* If it's during the season with many games, you can eliminate the push-ups and focus more on the running and basketball part.

4. SHOOTING

There are many shooting drills for any level. One that I like with big men, who are improving their shooting, is sprinting from the block.



Elbow Shooting

- ▶ The big man will start on the left block and sprint to the free-throw line for 6 makes, catch and shoot jumper (it's fine to catch and jab and shoot, or catch, look for the high low and shoot).
- ▶ The next 4 makes he will sprint behind the 3-point line for 3-point shots.
- ▶ Finally, he will finish by sprinting again to the free-throw line, but this time he will work on 1 on 1 moves from there to get to the rim.
- ▶ Repeat on the other block (**diagr. 9**).

The best part of this shooting drill is that it helps to build confidence in a player who is not a great shooter and it forces him to be sharper with fewer higher quality reps.

The final goal of all these drills is to give a structure, a blueprint, to coaches and players on what areas to attack for a player to learn individual techniques and get his body ready to fit into the team tendencies, and eventually use what he is working on in practices and games. It's important for every player to understand your vision for him and to be part of that vision.

It's a fine line of channeling players towards what you want from them while giving them the freedom of being themselves. But nobody more than big men is in need of help nowadays and nobody more than big men can make or break the success of our organization, so it's important to focus time on their development in our system, day after day.

CAREER

2012 - 2014
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

2014 - 2019
DIRECTOR OF ANALYTICS AND
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

2017
ITALIAN MEN'S NATIONAL
TEAM ASSISTANT COACH

2019 - PRESENT
PHOENIX SUNS
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER
DEVELOPMENT



www.facebook.com/rick.fois



@RickFois

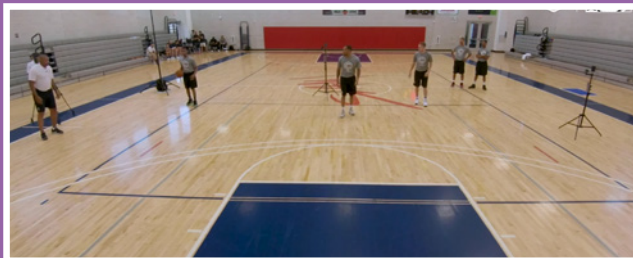


rick_fois

EARLY OFFENSE: "SLICE"

Doc Rivers, former head coach of the Los Angeles Clippers, and next season on the bench of the Philadelphia 76ers, teaches his early offense. He goes over what each player should be doing in the play and gives the goals for each movement. "In transition, it is very important to flatten out the defense. We want one of our big men to sprint to the front of the rim. The power forward and the center are interchangeable, as well as the perimeter players. Our target is to score in the first five seconds of the action. If the big man on the low post is free, we pass the ball to him. But, if he can't go straight to the basket, his

job is to be a passer to the outside player on his side, and we run a pick and roll for creating a defensive mismatch."



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**NATIONAL BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
PARTNERS WITH ECOACH TO TEACH
BASKETBALL TO THE WORLD**

FENERBAHCE ISTANBUL SIDELINE OUT-OF-BOUNDS



The Fenerbahce head coach, Igor Kokoskov, has vast experience in the NBA, having worked as an assistant with several teams, from the Los Angeles Clippers to the Sacramento Kings and having won a title with the Detroit Pistons. He was also head coach of the Phoenix Suns. He notes that it is extremely important to exploit each and every possession and the NBA coaches are masters at doing so with the out-of-bounds plays; they spend a lot of time working their tactics and we are gradually starting to see these plays in the EuroLeague. In this video of the out-of-bounds vs. Anadolu Istanbul, the play is started having three players inside the lane and two outside, and they run a left side stagger screen to get an entry pass, while the final action has all five offensive players outside the lane trying for an inside shot.

Claudio César Prieto

Argentine professional coach, who also holds Spanish citizenship, he is a FIBA Licensed coach, has attended many clinics and has been the guest of teams worldwide, including the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA. Prieto was on the staff of the

Michael Jordan Brand Classic in Barcelona. He has coached Catalan teams, has the FIBA and top Spanish and Argentine coaching licenses, and is an expert in video analysis. He is a FIBA Certified coach. www.thecoachclaudioprieto.com



ALEXEY SHVED, A NIGHTMARE FOR EVERY BIG MAN IN EUROPE

The game of basketball has evolved greatly over the last decade, with the increased use of the three-point shot being one of the significant differences. The number of shots from behind the arc has gone up, but so has the shooting range of players. Over the last few years we have seen specific shooting coaches added to the staffs of teams at the highest level. Furthermore, some old dogmas on shot selection have been thrown overboard. At the highest level, whether a shot is good or bad is a data-driven decision. The deep-range three, from very early on in the shot clock has a huge impact on the big men defending the ball screens. Years ago, the centers' first priority in defensive transition was protecting the paint. Nowadays, they have to be ready to show high and early on a drag screen in transition. The prototype of a player in the EuroLeague being lethal from deep is Alexey Shved of BC Khimki. In this video, I highlight

how he puts the opponent's big men in trouble, either early in transition behind a drag screen or late in the shot clock demanding a ball screen. He punishes late/low drop coverages with a deadly shot or he puts them on skates when guarding high. Last season Shved averaged 21.4 points per game in the EuroLeague, with 9.8 attempts from three-point range per game (hitting 34%).



Pascal Meurs is currently the head coach of Sparta Bertrange (Luxemburg). Recently, he worked for six months as the head coach of EuroProBasket International Academy for professional players in Valencia, Spain. He has experience as a head coach at the highest level in Belgium, The Netherlands and France. Pascal is an expert in advanced basketball analytics and a skilled speaker at coaching clinics. He also runs a coaching website and newsletter: www.pascalmeurs.com



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MINI BASKETBALL IN EGYPT

WE FOCUS ON ALL THE ELEMENTS

We identified the fact that the mini basketball sector of our Federation had much scope for development. We were privileged to have the unlimited support of the Chairman of the Board of the Egyptian Basketball Federation, Dr. Abu Freikha, and his respected board members, dedicated mini basketball volunteers, and the guidance of the game experts as well. Aided by these factors, we were able to achieve remarkable progress in this sector during the few past years. A unified system for mini basketball was produced, a new generation of over more than 150 mini basketball referees emerged and flourished. By that stage, an awareness culture in both the mindset and vision of most of the coaches was also observed.

At first, the main aim was trying to focus on all the elements of the system, i.e. players, referees, coaches, and executives. As achievements were realized in some

NEW
VERSION OF
SCORER SHEET
TO IMPROVE THE
PLAYERS'
SKILLS





WE GET FUNDING FROM DIFFERENT SPONSORS



areas, it was clear that more development was needed in others. Securing a healthy, safe, psychologically pressure-free practice environment where the children developed an attachment and fondness for the game was always a top priority. Some amendments have been applied to the system to include all the players, and the concept of win/lose has been eliminated in the early stages. Mini stages start from under 8 till 13 years of age with small games, 3 on 3 half court, then 4 on 4 full court, to end with 5 on 5. The refereeing system of mini basketball was next in line for some revision. Enormous attention was paid to young players, and they were encouraged to en-



MINI BASKETBALL ▶ MINI BASKETBALL IN EGYPT

COACHES,
A BIG
PART OF THE
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN



ter the field of refereeing and to attend camps, and clinics. A number of activities ran simultaneously with these sessions, like engagement workshops, introductory courses on the game, and teaching the unified mini-curriculum. The required style of coaching and handling of these young children was also emphasized. In addition, a new version of the score sheet was adopted to improve the players' skills, rather than merely calculate their scores.

Coaches were a big part of our mini basketball development plan, as they have the most influence on these



 @RehabElghannam

CAREER

2012 - 2017
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
CAIRO BASKETBALL ZONE

2017 - PRESENT
EGYPTIAN BASKETBALL FEDERATION BOARD MEMBER - 3 X 3 & MINI BASKETBALL HEAD ARAB BASKETBALL CONFEDERATION WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

young players both on and off the court. Several workshops and international mini basketball clinics were carried out and we hosted two international clinics from FIBA and the Italian Basketball Federation, with mini basketball Technical Director and Coach, Maurizio Cremonini, as well as the Serbian instructor, Nenad Trunic.

Funds were successfully raised from different sponsors, one of which was a highly regarded dairy products manufacturing company that ran a campaign to distribute their offerings among the players. Finally, we are looking at how the player's parents - who are equally important stakeholders in the development plan - may best be involved going forward. Because not enough progress has been made in this area to date, an action plan has currently been put together to consider the specifics of how they will participate and contribute to the ongoing success of our mini basketball program.

TIDBITS

She played basketball for 15 years for Ahly Club and for the Egyptian National team

She loves music, swimming and watching movies

She is mother of three sons, who play volleyball



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THE IMPORTANCE OF IN-SEASON RECOVERY SESSIONS

THE RECOVERY PROTOCOL IS BASIC

As s&c head coach of Maccabi Tel Aviv for the last six years, one of the main things I have been trying to develop and assimilate into our system is recovery protocols for our players, a system to “milk” good performances from them within a very tough and demanding schedule, at times up to three to four games per week. Today’s high level basketball leagues, competing in local and European competitions, have created a demanding environment for their teams that follows a schedule similar to that of the NBA, playing 70-90 games per season.

One of the most crucial elements for this new generation of players has become the strategic way to manage their heightened physical load and to develop protocols to keep them playing at their best, able to maintain the high performance required of a most competitive and demanding league such as the EuroLeague.

A full staff effort is needed to create the proper conditions when developing and running a well thought of recovery system: the facility, schedule, and sessions are all on the agenda.

Habits and work patterns must be dictated by the staff of the s&c coaches, together with his medical team, and must be adopted by the players.

Every player reacts differently to the level of load, and as such, must have a very strict and individualized program tailored to their requirements. It is critical to explore and develop work patterns to prepare the roster and help them maintain stability and even more, when discussing their status and game readiness at any given moment.

Team life is characterized by a lot of ups and downs during the season: injuries, high load periods during weeks or months, air flights and bus rides moving to different facilities. Above all else, the right strength and conditioning formula will elevate the capacity and performance of our players.

It must be well built, using all we have on hand to contribute to the process of healing as fast as possible and to optimum recovery.

Sometimes even the best tools or recovery sessions

cannot help a player, who loses hours of sleep, and has a terrible red-eye flight, but most definitely we can try to reduce the injury risk or increase some percentage of his performance.

STRATEGIES WE USE FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS

Nutritional Effectiveness

Food is one of the most important and optimal tools for recovering players. When players skip meals, eat the wrong kinds of food, or don’t eat the right amounts for maximum effect, they are not in top condition and their recovery suffers. Food, supplements, and vitamins are few ways to help.

If we can control the schedule and quality of the play-



ers' diet, we can ensure their readiness to play. Often, we'll meet a player with bad eating habits, and these are usually the ones who get injured or don't recover properly. We are dealing with very tall players of higher than usual weight and, as such, require great amounts of carbs and proteins. By talking about nutrition and teaching players its value, by supplying them with quality meals pre- and post-practice, we can control a very large portion of the recovery phase.

Light Basketball Practice

The recovery day basketball session is usually a light to moderate tempo movement in order to keep guys at a much lighter pace than game tempo. Breaking a sweat, increasing heart tempo to around 50% of maximal heart rate with very light load, and non-contact work, it is used mostly to get the blood flowing, regain range of motion, and scatter lactic acid. Exercises such as shooting, light running, and perhaps 5 on 0, with no speed above 60% can be good ones for this session.



EVERY
PLAYER REACTS
DIFFERENTLY
TO THE LEVEL
OF LOAD





TIDBITS

He loves spending quality family time with his children

His hobbies include watching movies, collecting sneakers, and discovering new restaurants

Aside from basketball, which he played, he likes volleyball and track and field

As a player for Maccabi Tel Aviv he won a Euroleague

Weight Room Session as Recovery

One of my preferred ways to restore some of the loaded players is bringing them into the weight room post-gameday. The main goal is to repair muscle tissue which was damaged during the game the night before. My suggestions are to get the player to lift a total body workout against light weights or bodyweight exercise, which are not considered a high load lift, and intensity level stays low and core work exercises can be performed as well off course.

The range of repetitions will be around 8-12 reps, with two sets per exercise.

STRETCHING

Stretching techniques are used in our system almost daily, but when it comes to recovery day (match day+1), I like using the old-school static stretching, unlike regular practice and game days where we use dynamic and body activation to increase muscle tone. The goal on recovery day will be to lengthen the muscle tissue and regain range of motion after it was shortened or damaged at the game the day before.

It might not be very popular with the new generation of coaches and players, but I find it to be quite efficient and players report feeling their bodies well stretched and much looser.

Massages, Treatments, High Tech Machinery

Each player in our system who enters the arena on recovery day knows that one of his stops before going up to the basketball court is at the medical staff for specific treatments, massage, use of Norma Tech machine or game ready pressure sleeves, etc. It is the more passive part of the recovery day, but no

CAREER

2007-2013
ISRAEL U18 MEN'S NATIONAL
TEAM S & C COACH

2009-2012
BNEI HASHARON DIV. I
S & C COACH

2012-2013
GILBOA GALIL DIV. I
S & C COACH

2010
ISRAEL MEN'S U 23
NATIONAL TEAM
S & C COACH

2015-2018
MACCABI RAMAT
HEN WOMEN'S DIV. I
S & C COACH

2018 - PRESENT
MACCABI TEL AVIV
S & C HEAD COACH

FOOD IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOLS FOR RECOVERING PLAYERS

less important than all the other elements. When we have “hands on” control of our players we can communicate better, and both see and feel the acute problems that they face on that specific day.

Stationary Bike Use

Biking right after the game or at gameday+1 day after the game is a great way for our players to recover, especially for our big guys. The main advantage of using the bike over running or jumping is, of course, that it is an impact-free activity and can really speed the recovery of our players without moving them onto the court, thus reducing the time of impact and taking great load off their joints. When we talk about the bigger, heavier guys on the roster, who often suffer from chronic knee problems or low back weakness or pain, it is one of the most efficient ways to help them recover.

Ice/Cold Tub/Cryotherapy

Used daily by players post-practice or match as a recovery tool.

Icing is one of the most acceptable and common practices among basketball players; it is something they really pay attention to in their routines and agendas. The ice has numerous positive effects on the players' bodies such as:

- ▶ Delays/stops anti-inflammatory process
- ▶ Overall wellness
- ▶ Mental relaxation-some of them use it to meditate
- ▶ Pain relief
- ▶ Musculoskeletal disorders treatment
- ▶ Metabolic activation
- ▶ Encourages blood circulation

The ice treatments are not new in the world of sports as recovery tools or treatment strategies. They are favored by almost all players on our roster and are being executed on a daily basis by medical staff and players.

These simple techniques are just a few examples of how we are trying to keep our players healthy, and in good condition, ready to perform at top physical status. It is often the team that recovers fastest that gets to have the post-win smile.



Period of Time	Technique	Duration
Post-Game	Ice Baths	15 min. +/-
Gameday	Treatments	20-30 min.
Gameday+1	Massages	45-60 min.
Post-Game or Gameday+1 after the game	Biking Jogging	20 min. light load 10-20 min. light
Post-Game or or Gameday+1 after the game	Static Stretching	10-15 min.
Post-Game or Gameday+1 after the game	Basketball Recovery Session	30-45 min. light
Gameday+1 after the game	Weight Room lift light load	20-30 min.

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DIGITALIZATION: CURSE OR BLESSING

HOW IT CHANGED OUR LIVES AS REFEREES

When I started playing, there were no recordings made of our games. Basketball itself was not on television in my home country, which is why topics such as the Bundesliga or international competitions were not available to watch. When I became part of the German Basketball Federation's (DBB) funded development programs at the age of 23, topics areas such as: "Filming yourself to see how you act" or: "How your running paths/styles don't work", were suggested as subjects that you could work upon and improve for the first time.

There were colleagues, who actually came to the gym with a video camera and filmed themselves so they could review how they looked and how they moved. At that time complete recordings of games and broadcasts

were only available from the First Division (BBL), on Pay TV.

When I went to the Third Division, it had just been decided that all games had to be filmed. For a certain fee, we, the referees, could then buy a DVD of our game to watch it later. I will never forget when I first saw myself on video, I was shocked! My clothes looked too big, my posture was without tension and expression, my signals also made me look like a bad referee, and generally my sequence of movements, and much more just did not look good. So, I ordered all my own games and when I heard about another interesting game I ordered that one as well to see both the game and the other referees. I noticed how things that bothered me when I was watching the video automatically shot into my head at the next game in similar moments and I was able to correct them. Suddenly I had opportunities to make comparisons, and could see a change or improvement in myself. However, I was also able to determine how poor the quality of some of my decisions were, depending on the quality of the recordings. From then on, the video study of all games became part of my regular routine and over time, the quality of the recordings got better and therefore the higher you rose through the leagues, the better the opportunities became. In the meantime, all matches of the First Division (BBL) in Germany are broadcast on Magentasport in HD, the games of the Second and Third Division men (Pro A and Pro B), as well as the matches of the First Division women (DBBL) are streamed live on the Internet. This was unthinkable 10 years ago. For us referees, this development is both a curse and a blessing.

WE SCOUT
THE TEAM
AND KEY
PLAYERS



THE CURSE

In the past, only sporadically were games shown on free TV or on the Internet and these were usually the more special games. Referees occasionally received VHS cassettes if they were lucky, but in some cases only one to two weeks after the game. So the impression that one had gained in the gym usually counted for more when reviewing and reflecting on your work. The video work

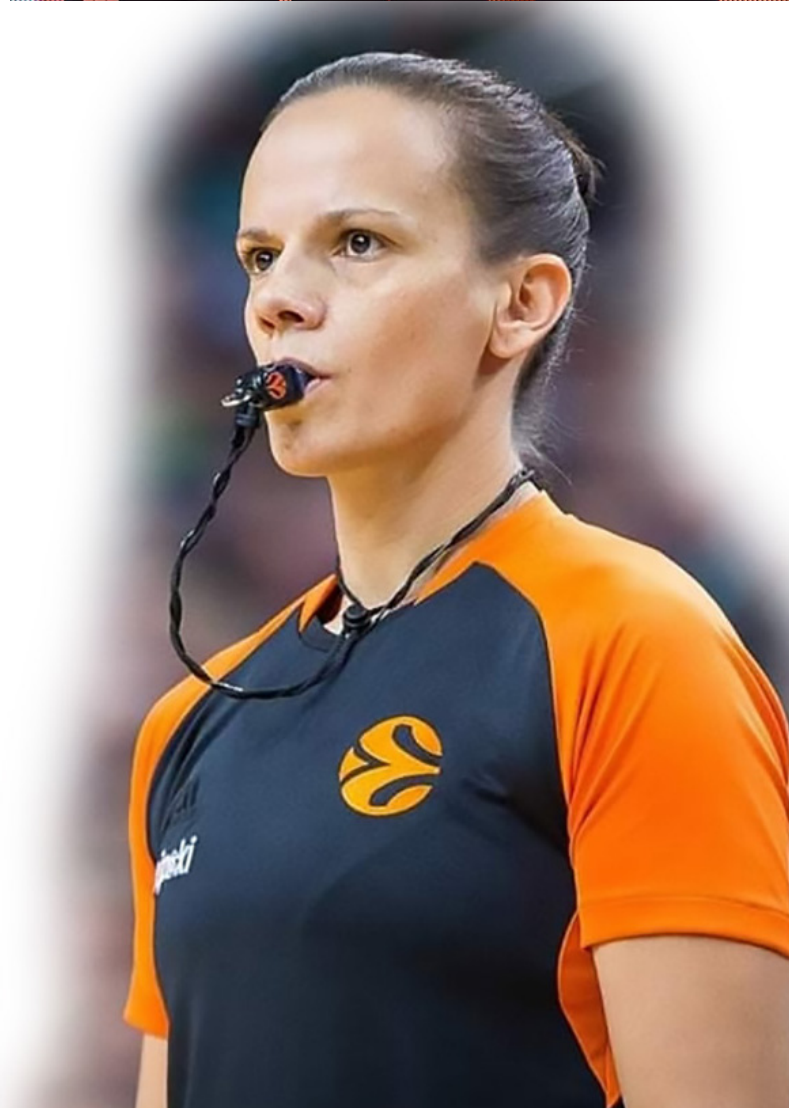
was not the first choice for the referees themselves, it was more common to watch games live, or to learn from their own experiences and from feedback to each other and by referee instructor.

Nowadays, it is the case that video work is more common, because every game in Germany from the BBL can be seen live and on-demand in HD. The Euroleague, 7DAYS EuroCup, Basketball Champions League and other national and international competitions are now open to everyone. For us as referees, it means that every game is under the microscope. Everyone knows immediately when and what mistakes the referees have made, even if none in the gym knows it yet, the spectators at home know it.

I remember my "Waterloo" game. We made a serious mistake about two minutes before the end of the game. When we left the court we were in a good mood, because we were convinced that we had delivered a really good performance in the game and when we got into the locker room, we picked up our mobile phones as usual. I had 28 messages and in each one it was almost the same "Hey congratulations, good game, but why did you ...? That was wrong?" And then we knew we had made a really big mistake. I got mad/ angry/ disappointed all at the same time and the mood immediately turned in the opposite direction and every one of us knew the season was over for us. We took a shower and all went home. We didn't talk to each other for a longer period, because everybody was so disappointed with themselves and the team.

The game actually had to be replayed. I've watched it countless times on video since then, but at the time I didn't understand how this mistake could have been made - we were so sure! Millions of people had also seen this clip within seconds and when we left the gym there were already countless entries and recordings on YouTube. I was attacked and insulted on social media for weeks. Across Germany, everyone had been talking about this game the day after. Even people who had nothing to do with basketball had already heard about it. I had to go to an international referee training clinic a few days later and there, too, everyone had already seen it. There are situations in the games when slow-motions are played on the video cube in the arena of situations that have just been decided. We can't see this, but the spectators in the gym can. You might say it used to be easier to hide mistakes.

Today it is a question of who first discovered it. Of course, opportunities are seized and clips of games are sent to the League, but I haven't yet seen a series of clips where only good actions by the referees were put together.



REFEREES ► DIGITALIZATION: CURSE OR BLESSING

I remember my first EuroLeague season. At the end of the season I got a statistic and a "film" about my decisions from that season. My initial feeling about a good season was quickly put into perspective and I was surprised by the number of decisions that were: "Not so optimal!" This only motivated me more and increased my ambition as I wanted to do better.

This development of digital media and possibilities within that, naturally increases the pressure on the referees. Because every little mistake can be immediately recognized and it is not "only" that the clock is not running for 3 seconds in the running game (which can still mean at least 1-2 attacks in a tight game). Small mistakes are magnified and more obvious. Accordingly, the expectations, requirements and challenges for us are constantly increasing. In addition to the fact that the game is getting faster and more athletic, the transmission technologies with HD, super slow-motion and multiple camera angles are constantly evolving.

In addition, social media has become more important. Today, these outlets serve marketing, socializing and opinion-forming, using the facade of the 'www,' to more readily make an opinion public around the world or to personally attack individual people. "Go back where you belong, to the shop windows with the red lights," "I hope you have a car accident on your way home" to "If you enter our country again, you are ..." are all some of the messages I have already received. It's a new form of pressure and a test of mental strength that the referees have to deal with and carry with them today. This is a new and tough challenge, especially for young referees.

As much as this may disappoint, hurt and put pressure on you, it helps us to get better and to be stronger.

THE BLESSING

As already mentioned, it used to be difficult for referees to get an insight from their own game. Accordingly, one was dependent on honest feedback and one's own perception.

Nowadays it is normal for us to prepare and recreate every game. That means, in preparation for the next game, we'll be watching at least the last game of the teams involved. If possible, we also look at the national leagues. We scout the teams, and key players (shooters, perimeter play, left or right-handed players, set plays, defense, strengths and weaknesses of the teams). From this deep study we know what we have to prepare for, what are the plays we have to pay attention to and what may be the likely resulting game plan for the opponents and much more.

After the game, of course, we look at each game again to review which plays were decided correctly, which not,

why (wrong position, wrong focus, lack of concentration), how was the communication, and so on. Post-game clips are cut and discussed. In addition, we receive weekly video feedback and mandatory regular video tests, among other things. All this, of course, not "only" for the international games, but also for the national ones. This results in enormous benefit, which means that digitalization helps us a lot in continuous improvement and preparation.

With the possibility of countless video clips available on all possible game situations, we can train our eyes. I have heard many people say, "How is it possible that the referee can see it in normal speed if we need a slow-motion?". Well, we are trained and we continue to train. The more videos and sequences you see, the better you get. At the same time, it is possible to watch a lot of games during the week without having to be there. You can learn from others through their mistakes and their positive, correct actions and decisions.

We always say we can fill our drawers and when we ourselves are confronted with a particular situation, open the appropriate drawer and get the solution. We can look into specific quarters of a game with the possibility of on-demand technology and don't always have to watch the entire game. In addition, there are platforms and software that make scouting the referees much easier for the leagues.

LEARN
FROM OTHERS
THROUGH THEIR
MISTAKES AND
CORRECT
DECISIONS



TIDBITS

She loves hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, and cycling

One of her pastimes is reading

In the area of communication alone, video work helps us referees enormously. We analyze the body language of ourselves and our counterparts, discuss facial expressions and external impressions. We have also worked with police and sports psychologists and can continuously improve ourselves through all this input. In the training and further education of the referees, many tools are indispensable. Rules tests can now be performed at short intervals. The same

applies to video tests.

In my recruiting program in Germany, I can see all referees who are in my program at any given time, since all games are available online. Accordingly, my team and I can offer a much wider range of support and funding on how referees can specifically move forward and improve with the right resources.

As much as social media and interaction with others can hurt you, it can also help in sharing positive feedback. From "You inspired me not to stop officiating", to "I, as a coach, always am happy when you enter the gym, because I know what I'm getting" to "Could I get an autograph?" There are countless positive messages that helped me return to the court after my "Waterloo" game. I've met people around the globe through basketball



and can keep in touch with them through social media. My family can see me, even if I'm not there, whether it's video telephony, live games on TV and much more. Of course, all these points make my work a bit easier.

A few years ago, the Instant Review / Replay System was introduced due to its fast pace, digitalization and useful possibilities. This gives us the opportunity to consult the video in crucial situations (but only specific ones, defined within the rules). This introduction also represents both a curse and a blessing for us. If I had had that opportunity in my Waterloo game, the mistake would have never happened. Accordingly, it helps us to verify and if necessary, correct serious errors that are crucial for the game, but the review must be covered by the rules, the procedure must be adhered to, and the video image must give a clear resolution.

I've seen games where we made the right decisions based on the video, but the review wasn't covered by the rules. This can sometimes lead to a penalty for us if we do not follow the correct procedure. I've also seen games where referees used the review system correctly, but the decision was not correct in the end. We also saw that sometimes referees weren't as decisive and used the IRS (Instant Replay System) as a steady backup, which sometimes detracts from the spectacle for the spectators. Because of these reasons it can be said that thanks to digitization, a great tool has been integrated into refereeing, which can make our job difficult in certain situations, but can also make it much easier. I don't want to be without the IRS, but it requires additional discipline from us and we still have to keep in mind that the referee's decision on the court still counts as the first step in calling a play. It can also be the last step if it happens that the case is not covered by the rules or that the video image does not give us a clear solution.

Therefore, it can be said that digitalization is both a curse, and a blessing for us referees!

CAREER

2009 - 2019
GERMAN MEN'S DIV. I FINALS
AND GERMAN CUPS

2012
FIBA REFEREE LICENCE
U18 EUROPEAN CHAMPION
WOMEN'S BRONZE GAME

2013
U19 FIBA WORLD WOMEN'S
SEMIFINAL

2014
EUROLEAGUE
WOMEN'S FINAL 8

2014
FIBA WORLD WOMEN'S
SEMIFINAL

2015
EUROBASKET WOMEN'S FINAL

2015 - 2016
EUROLEAGUE WOMEN'S
FINALS

2016
U20 EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
MEN'S FINAL

2016 OLYMPIC GAMES
MEN'S GAMES & WOMEN'S
BRONZE FINAL

2019
EUROLEAGUE
FINAL FOUR



<https://www.facebook.com/anne.panther>

RULES QUIZ

- 1) A1 receives assistance from his team's physiotherapist who fixes a loose taping, but doesn't set foot on the playing court. A1 received assistance and a substitution should be made.
 - ▶ YES
 - ▶ NO

- 2) The crew chief tosses the ball for the opening jump ball. Immediately after the ball is legally tapped by jumper A1, A2 is charged with an unsportsmanlike foul on B2.
 - ▶ B2 shall attempt two free throws with no line-up. As soon as B2 receives the ball for his first free throw, the direction of the alternating possession arrow shall be placed in favor of team A. The game shall be resumed with a team B throw-in from the throw-in line in its frontcourt with 14 seconds on the shot clock.
 - ▶ B2 shall attempt two free throws with no line-up. As soon as B2 receives the ball for his first free throw, the direction of the alternating possession arrow will not be placed in favor of any team. The game shall be resumed with a team B throw-in from the throw-in line in its frontcourt with 14 seconds on the shot clock.
 - ▶ B2 shall attempt two free throws with no line-up. As soon as B2 receives the ball for his first free throw, the direction of the alternating possession arrow shall be placed in favor of team A. The game shall be resumed with a team B throw-in from center line with 24 seconds on the shot clock.

- 3) A1 ends his dribble and places the ball between his legs and fakes a pass or shot.
 - ▶ LEGAL PLAY
 - ▶ VIOLATION

- 4) A1 jumps in the air on his attempt for a 3-point field goal. B1 fouls A1 when A1 has one foot on the playing court. The ball does not enter the basket. This is the 5th team B foul in the quarter.
 - ▶ A1 shall attempt two free throws as he is no longer considered a player in the act of shooting.
 - ▶ A1 shall attempt three free throws as he is still considered a player in the act of shooting.

- 5) A1 passes the ball from the 3-point field goal area. The ball touches a B player on the playing court in the team A 2-point field goal area before it enters the basket.
 - ▶ No basket
 - ▶ A1 shall be awarded three points
 - ▶ A1 shall be awarded two points



ANSWERS

- 1) es - OBRI: Example 5-3

- 2) B2 shall attempt two free throws with no line-up. As soon as B2 receives the ball for his first free throw, the direction of the alternating possession arrow shall be placed in favor of team A. The game shall be resumed with a team B throw-in from the throw-in line in its frontcourt with 14 seconds on the shot clock. - OBRI: Example 12-6

- 3) Violation. - OBRI: Example 12-6

- 4) A1 remains in the act of shooting until both feet return to the playing floor. A1 shall attempt three free throws. - OBRI: Example 15-5

- 5) A1 shall be awarded three points. - OBRI: Example 16-6

OBR = Official Basketball Rule

OBRI = Official Basketball Rule Interpretation



SUPPORTING
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des de 1986

“TOGETHER WE STAND, TOGETHER WE CAN”

IDEAS ON FAN ENGAGEMENT AND MORE

Basketball is one of the most important and popular sports in Serbia, for most of us the most popular sport and more than a game. In any case, developing multiple platforms connected with our sport and fans, is not easy. As we know, players, coaches and the game points of view must all come into focus. The most pressing reason being that a competitive mentality is extremely important in our country. We realized that we needed to develop all other aspects of the game experience and content to expand the point of view of regular sports fans who come to every game; the fans needed added value, and they are looking for it now. Also, this creativity opened a completely new perspective for potential sponsors/commercial part-

ners and through the years we have gone step by step in managing to achieve some of our goals to increase revenue from sponsors and build more opportunities for fans to enjoy the game. All these innovations, and more real content, create a strong appeal for new partners and move us closer to our main goal – to become a totally sustainable club, which relies entirely on its own revenues. Here we return to our original starting point - sometimes the results of our contests are not the best, but that is why it is so important for us to offer the fans content that will always be interesting to them.

You have 65% of the population of Serbia (total population is 7.5 million) which supports Crvena zvezda and more than two million fans in diaspora around



the globe, and this is a good start for the club. But you need to create different types of activities, to realize what everyone wants, and to engage all of them. We don't simply want a large fan base, we want to have active supporters and to urge them to participate in daily activities and the work of our club. Based on this idea, we created a loyalty program, and from 2018 to 2020 we increased the number of club members to 5,000. They are informed about all activities on a daily basis. Also, we invested a lot in merchandising, so our Fan Store is increasing its potential from season to season. This season will be very important for us in terms of merchandising, because we have made changes that we believe are the right moves and will have significant effects.

Let's talk about our EuroLeague Award. We are glad that EuroLeague, as one of basketball's main organizations in Europe and from among all the EuroLeague Clubs, recognized us as a club that invested a great deal in brand imaging, marketing and communication. Also, they saw everything that we did in the past, so this award is not for a period of one year, but also for permanent improvement and eight years of cumulative activities, which makes Crvena zvezda a modern Eu-





FANS ARE
ONE OF THE
CLUB'S MOST
IMPORTANT
COMPONENTS

roLeague participant on the same level as the best European clubs. In those eight years, we won the “Bronze Devotion Marketing Award” and this year we won the Silver, and the campaign that won the award was named “Together We Stand, Together We Can.”

All of this is connected to our huge anniversary, the 75th year of our club, and the years of greatness and the successes that we have celebrated. We set about highlighting our success with a campaign that had the clear goal of promoting the Crvena zvezda brand and what the brand means to our fans.

We started our story from Kalemegdan fortress and park, which is a unique place for any club to start its journey – it has been officially proclaimed a European cradle of basketball – a place where many famous players and coaches started their careers. Bricks were a symbol of our players, fans and supporters, who altogether built our community and helped us to become competitive in EuroLeague. Every activity was connected and integrated into the campaign – arrival of new players, their promotion at Kalemegdan, season tickets campaign, design and branding into the arenas, merchandising, activities in fan zones, halftime programs at every game, pre-game 3D mapping show. And everything culminated in a birthday celebration

during a EuroLeague game against Maccabi. We created a specially designed retro jersey which is dedicated to our “Gold Generation” (winners of European Cups in 1974), the “Red and White” jersey. A pre-game show was created to remind us of great numbers, wins and trophies from our famous history. Also, we presented a new song for the basketball club created by the famous Serbian musician, Nikola Demonja.

We are the club that has very strong bonds with basketball and had its first steps in the former Yugoslavia. As you may recall, Bora Stankovic, Aleksandar Nikolic, Nebojsa Popovic, Radomir Saper (they are called the “Four Fathers of Yugoslavian Basketball”) were among the founders of BC Crvena zvezda mts. Together with one of the most unique physical spaces in the world for a basketball club, the Kalemegdan Fortress, you realize that ours is truly an unusual story and it has been incorporated into the presentation of our club to the world.

BC Crvena zvezda is the first club from the region whose budget is sustainable and relies on commercial and marketing activities, with minimal stakeholder contributions. We are very proud of the fact that we have sold almost 7,000 season tickets, brought in and incorporated new, very creative innovations, increased hospitality, and compiled a complete game experience for fans (pregame activities, fan zones, half time show, VIP lounge, etc.). All these activities are completely new for our Serbian fans, but maybe our biggest win is that the fans not only approve of these new ideas, but see them as a totally normal and integral part of the basketball game in Serbia, and in EuroLeague.

Let me share one example: in 2012, we set a goal to increase the profit from season ticket sales and our first milestone was to reach 2,000 in tickets sold. Now, seven years later, we are selling almost 7,000 season tickets, so, we have more than achieved in this area. For us, revenue from ticketing is crucial for our season's plans and, like a couple of other clubs, the budget is dependent on it. We have created different price-point packages for season tickets: for students, the youngest fans (zvezda's junior program), people who need to pay less (who can't buy full season tickets), Sky Boxes, VIP Lounge tickets, etc., and this has contributed to the club's new record sales.

Our greatest strength in terms of our success comes from our people in management. We are one of the youngest management teams in EuroLeague, and all of our team members understand our vision and fully accept it. And yet, we still have so much to learn, to make, because all of us know that the business part of sporting events is crucial, so important, and constantly evolving. We have improved conditions, in general, in sport in Serbia; we've opened new chapters in events organization and made so many fans happy, which is the main goal for all of us. The possibility of having all the available comforts and more fun during the game is now normal in Serbia, thanks to Crvena zvezda. From the 2011/12 season on, we have grown in all the areas required for success.





EVERY GAME
MUST BE A UNIQUE
EVENT

**DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES
FOR UNIQUE EVENTS
AT EVERY GAME**

When you come to the games you can see fan zones with different types of content for all supporters in the arena.

With our Title Sponsor, mts, the Telecom Company, we realized a lot of activities, while IDEA, the supermarket chain, was the title sponsor of our Youth program for young fans and they created special activities adapted to them. In cooperation with EuroLeague partner, 7DAYS, we did interactive photo booth activation for the first time in basketball, and in the whole of Europe (after NFL Dallas Cowboys). So, from the moment fans enter the arena, they can find content from their sphere of interest and activities to help them and their friends have a great time.

Every game in Stark Arena has had its own "Pre-Game Intro Show" and team presentation. Last season we presented 12 different 3D mapping performances, which had never been seen before in the region, and we were the first in Europe to ever make so many different ones.

There were so many interested partners to sponsor our half-time programs and breaks between quarters,

so we created a Draft for them. The Draft was held in September 2019, a procedure meant to allow participants to pair with or secure particular games, so that they would have enough time to plan their activities, allowing everyone to create mini games for half-time. In that way, we made sure that the programs would be innovative, productive and that fans would enjoy them to the fullest extent, and win some great prizes as well. Mts Telekom Serbia, IDEA, supermarkets, Hell Energy Drink, Old Spice, male grooming products, Europcar, rent a car company, and Lutrija Serbia (a lotto company), all held activities during half-time breaks. Besides that, every break during the game had "IDEA Fan Camera Program," including dance, kiss and bongo cam. And, during the other half of the break, our cheerleading team executed their choreographed routines. All these activities made for unique events, creating a buzz for the fans, eliciting positive feedback, and anticipation for the next ones to come!

We are really proud of all these achievements, but our mentality is such that we are never satisfied, always looking for the next big challenge. We don't promise too much, but we try to fulfill each and every promise we make, or goal we set. Removing limitations is our obligation.

Unfortunately, Stark Arena, one of the best arenas in the region and one of the biggest in Europe, is now enrolled in the Covid-19 program, as everyone's health

TIDBITS

He played basketball in Serbia, Cyprus, Macedon, and Iran

He likes to spend his free time in the midst of nature

He enjoys to spend quality time with his family



OUR FANS
COMPRISE 65%
OF THE SERBIAN
POPULATION



CAREER

2008 - PRESENT
FTS SPORT MEDIA AGENCY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2011 - 2018
CRVENA ZVEZDA
MARKETING DIRECTOR

2018 - PRESENT
CRVENA ZVEZDA
GENERAL MANAGER

comes first. We have started the season in a smaller venue that still feels like home, Aleksandar Nikolic Hall (formerly Pionir). Sport in the time of Covid-19 has become one of the next challenges for us, but it's the same for everybody; we are all in it together. After having built a good team with our true legends on the bench, we are building the system which will get results in the next period for us. Our fans have proven, once again, that they are some of the best in the world. We started in September with the sale of season tickets. Packages for 10, 20 and 30 games in the 2020-21 season were offered (all games are backed by our assurance that if they don't use this option this season their purchase will be valid for the next season), and almost 2,000 fans renewed their tickets. We feel their energy and support, which is very important for the whole club - not just for the players, but for the coaching staff as well - because our fans are one of the most important parts of our story. Actually, they were our inspiration for the whole campaign for this season: red and white DNA and our line of life - these are the two things that describe our red and white family. Furthermore, the strength of the relationship between the club and its fans is something that is recognizable wherever we go.

So, the future for Crvena zvezda is very bright, not just because right now is the golden era based on domestic and regional league results, and constant participation in EuroLeague, but because we set the standard, we know what we need to do and how to develop our club, now and down the road. We are ready with young and educated people in management, poised to learn every day, follow all new trends and take the club to the next level.



www.kkcrvenazvezda.rs



Filip Suntutlic



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EArOp_hlLoc



L'ALQUERIA, BASE OF OPERATIONS OF THE SPANISH TEAM

After hosting the concentrations of the training categories last summer, the house of European basketball not only repeats, but also consolidates itself as an incomparable space in which to concentrate the best national players. Boys, girls, 3x3 and the main events on the international calendar, regardless of the modality and the particulars of each concentration, demonstrate just how readily the facility adapts and is able to put all its resources at the service of national teams, something that is beginning to become commonplace.

November began with the concentration of the top Spanish women's team. Coach Lucas Mondelo's players worked at L'Alqueria from November 9th to 13th, even playing a preparation match at the Fonteta Arena on the 12th, with up to four Valencia Basket players. In the absence of games, since the Spanish national team is classified as host for the EuroBasket 2021, the training sessions increased in level on the Valencian parquet. To be precise, that appointment in red on the calendar will also be held at the Valencia Basket facilities next year.

The concentration of the women's 3x3 national team coincided with those same dates in November. This modality, which does not stop growing and will continue to do so with its new role as an Olympic sport, has not missed the opportunity to work under the best conditions in preparation for the Women's Pre-Olympic Qualifying Tournament that will be held in Graz (Austria) in the month of May, and that will grant three places for the Tokyo Games. The summoned list was made up of Aitana Cuevas (Ynsadiet Leganés), Vega Gimeno (Durán M. Ensino), Sandra Ygueravide (ESBVA Villeneuve), Marta Canella (Barça CBS), Paula Palomares (Ynsadiet Leganés), Irene San Román (Sinergia Real Canoe), Gracia Alonso (Movistar Estudiantes), Georgina Bahí (Cadí La Seu), Gala Mestres (Cadía La Seu), Laia Flores (Campus Promete), Laia Raventós (Cadí La Seu) and Bea Sánchez (Durán M. Ensino).

The action did not stop there in a month that was synonymous with top-level basketball. Although developing most of the action in the Fonteta, the men's international windows also chose Valencia as the venue for the group matches in which the Span-



ish team is framed. From November 23rd to the 30th, Israel, Poland and Romania accompanied the Reds in a concentration that also had four clashes. On the first day, it was Romania vs. Poland and Israel vs Spain. On the second day, Israel faced Poland and Spain faced Romania.

FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, reported having taken into account, fundamentally, the efficient work carried out by Valencia Basket in the "bubble" format developed so far to make that decision. The Exceptional Final Phase of the Endesa Spanish League was a great example of this and did not go unnoticed by the organization, which did not hesitate to choose Valencia for this concentration.

But it didn't end there. The Spanish men's 3x3 team passed through the Ciudad del Túria from November 23rd to the 25th. This team thus joined its female namesake and the senior national teams, taking advantage of the break week through the qualifying windows for EuroBasket 2022.

The list of those summoned that prepared the next international commitments in the facility was formed by Sergi Pino (CB Esparraguera), Nacho Martín (CB Valladolid), Sergio de la Fuente (CB Valladolid), Xavi Guirao (Badalonés), Nil Briá (Martorell), José Blázquez (Onil 3x3), Javi Vega (Leyma Coruña), Sergio Mendiola (CB Almansa), Xabi Oroz (Gipuzkoa Basket), Christian Díaz (Covirán Granada), Álex Llorca (Bàsquet Girona) and Carlos Martínez (Onil 3x3).

All this activity was a great test for the organization in the European basketball training house. Together with the Trinidad Alfonso Foundation and the Valencia City Council, of the EuroBasket 2021 in the city, it will be the culmination of the work carried out by the club and the facility, taking sanitary measures and precautions to the maximum, always reducing risks and causing basketball to be more active than ever. Through all this work, numerous clubs and institutions around the world have already established protocols for themselves, in their own competitions, based on the example set by L'Alqueria and Valencia Basket, thus betting on safety in sport everywhere.





TRAINING THAT RISES IN LEVEL THANKS TO THE BASKETBALL CHAIR

L'Alqueria del Basket maintains its commitment to offer top-level coaching training open to all. And this year that training is rising to new heights as it expands its record of excellence by adding a collaborative element to its program. Thanks to the work of L'Alqueria LAB, the Co-Innovation Department of L'Alqueria, and its relationship with the University of Valencia in developing the first specific Basketball Chair at a national level, the training sessions will offer extra value for each coach who attends.

L'Alqueria del Basket has reached an agreement with the University of Valencia so that all those attending the conference receive university accreditation for their participation, through the Basketball Chair, a qualitative leap that adds value to each of the clinics. It is one of the main novelties of the season that is beginning. But it is not the only one. By paying the registration fee for each of the days, the coaches will also have access to the online clinic, able to enjoy it as many times as they deem necessary. This support makes it possible to globalize the online training sessions organized by the Club this year, sharing the experience with more than 20 countries around the world.

In the coming months, the facility will continue to offer the experience of the best speakers, both at coaching level, and in any cross-sectional areas related to basketball. Find out about the next sessions and sign up [here](#).



THE VALENCIA BASKET CUP WILL REACTIVATE BASKETBALL IN JANUARY

The tournament, which is in **its fifth edition**, has already brought together more than 800 participants and will repeat its activity at L'Alqueria next January, employing all the necessary security measures to ensure that all teams can enjoy their favorite sport at the home of European basketball training.

ADIDAS NEXT GENERATION TOURNAMENT, BACK AT L'ALQUERIA

The best U18 players on the continent will meet again at the home of European basketball training. As EuroLeague Basketball announced today, Valencia repeats as one of the venues for the most prestigious junior tournament: Adidas Next Generation Tournament.

There will be three qualifying tournaments, with Munich and Belgrade joining as the two additional venues. Eight teams will participate in each event, with the first classified being the one that achieves their pass to the finals in which five additional teams will also participate, including some of the best teams that have not achieved the pass in the qualifying tournaments, and those that receive a wildcard from the competition.

The **Valencia tournament** will repeat at L'Alqueria del Basket from December 27th to 29th, for the third year in a row. FC Barcelona, Herbalife Gran Canaria and Unicaja Málaga will be the Spanish teams competing in addition to Valencia Basket, while LDLC ASVEL Villeurbanne and Nanterre 92 (France), Ratiopharm Ulm (Germany) and Umana Reyer Venice (Italy) will be the international teams participating.

Our first team players, Vanja Marinkovic, Klemen Prepelic and Guillem Vives, have already lived through the experience of playing in this tournament, a springboard to the pros.

Marcus Eriksson and Niels Giffey (ALBA Berlin), Vasilije Micic (Anadolu Efes Istanbul), Luigi Datome (AX Armani Exchange Milan), Borisa Simanic and Branko Lazic (Crvena Zvezda mts Belgrade), Nikita Kurbanov (CSKA Moscow), Nikola Mirotic, Sergi Martinez and Thomas Heurtel (FC Barcelona), Diego Flaccadori, Leon Radosevic, Nihad Dedovic and Sasha Grant (FC Bayern Munich), Alexey Shved (Khimki Moscow Region), Yovel Zosman (Maccabi Playtika Tel Aviv), Livio Jean-Charles (Olympiacos Piraeus), Nemanja Nedovic (Panathinaikos OPAP Athens), Alberto Abalde and Usman Garuba (Real Madrid) and Arturas Gudaitis (Zenit St. Petersburg), are other players who once participated in the tournament before making the final leap to the maximum level as professionals.



THE CHRISTMAS CAMP AND SCHOOL WILL ACTIVATE BASKETBALL ON DESIGNATED HOLIDAY DATES

Valencia Basket opens the deadline to sign up for the XII edition of the **Christmas Camp**, which will take place at the IALE de L'Eliana School from December 26th to 30th for boys and girls between ages 6 and 17. The price is € 180 for half board and € 205 for full board.

The camp will feature specific training sessions, triple, free throw, 3x3 and night league contests, as well as a visit to L'Alqueria del Basket where the protagonists will be able to train with a professional shooting machine.

The **V Christmas School** is also coming. L'Alqueria del Basket will be the venue for this activity that will take place on December 23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st and January 4th and 5th. From 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., all boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 11 (born between 2009 and 2015) will be able to enjoy training sessions, games, shooting contests and many surprises in a few days that will serve to promote the practice of the sport and continue developing the values of the "Culture of Effort."

Valencia Basket will make all the necessary hygienic measures available to the players, in accordance with the current recommendations of the health authorities. The Club has already demonstrated the reliability of its past Camps and Summer Schools in terms of guaranteeing the health of young people and coaches, as all came through totally without incident.



LAST SEASON AT A GLANCE

L'Alqueria del Basket is a driving force for basketball. It provides the largest facilities in Europe, at the service of its users. Tournaments, events, training sessions and much more, are held in what is already considered the home of European youth basketball. It stands as a reference for NBA teams and institutions around the world. L'Alqueria is also the headquarters of Valencia Basket youth teams, with more than 550 boys and girls working on their basketball skills and the values of the "Culture of Endeavour", both on and off the court. This is the video of the third year!

 <https://youtu.be/Pds9JXsFmQg>



COURT RENTALS / GUIDED TOURS / COMPANIES

Eight of the facility's courts are open to all audiences. The L'Alqueria del Basket website has a [rental service](#) so that any team, group, school or organization can make arrangements to use them. You can also visit the facility to learn all its secrets in detail or [hold an event with your company](#) in a single space. Be in touch!

CAMPS AND SCHOOLS

Some of the most popular and recurring activities at the facility are the [basketball camps](#), especially during vacation periods. Children and young people have the opportunity to use their free time to improve their skills individually and collectively in a relaxed environment with their peers. The

Valencia Basket Camps are for summer, Easter and Christmas; the Women's Technification School, the Shooting Academy or the Skills Camp are some of the already consolidated camps. The little ones also have their space in the [Schools of L'Alqueria del Basket](#). Choose yours!





INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Valencia Basket puts its experience and its working model at the disposition of other clubs.

Services include:

- Training of coaches
- International camps
- Advice, consulting and training management
- L'Alqueria Academy, one year academic-sports program in Valencia
- Tryouts with the best international universities
- The best international tournaments
- Valencia Basket Training stages

Always with the possibility of adapting the service to your needs, ask for more information at internacional@alqueriadelbasket.com



CONCENTRATIONS, PRESEASON AND INDIVIDUAL WORK

National and regional teams or sports clubs can choose L'Alqueria del Basket as the venue for their concentrations prior to tournaments and official championships. The best service is also offered to all those players who want to prepare for the start of the season or recover for the return to the courts. Get informed!



CONTINUOUS TRAINING

The philosophy of continuous training at L'Alqueria del Basket is not only for the players, but also for the coaches. The facility hosts activities from [open training days](#) to professional courses such as Pro Coach, which has brought in world-class coaches to pass on their knowledge and experience. Now in addition, activity goes beyond the court for those seeking training in all areas of sport with the introduction of transversal days. These include a cross section of disciplines conducted under the aegis of the Club's Co-Innovation Department, [L'Alqueria LAB](#), and the first National Basketball Chair at the University of Valencia.

THE THREE TOP ASPECTS OF BASKIN TACTICS

THE RULES CREATE A SERIES OF CONSTRAINTS

The three key aspects of Baskin tactics are:

1. Deployment on the court
2. Offense management
3. Defense management

1. DEPLOYMENT ON THE COURT

The regulations impose a series of constraints on the formation to be deployed on the court, so as to ensure that a certain variability of roles, skills and gender is represented. According to the regulations, it is mandatory that in the formation deployed on the court:

- ▶ At least two must be role 5
- ▶ At least one must be role 3
- ▶ One and only one must be of role 1 or 2 (Pivot)
- ▶ Between roles 4 and 5, at least one female player must always be present on the court
- ▶ If a team plays three 5 roles, at least one of them must be female
- ▶ The sum of the role numbers of the players on the court must not exceed 23

These rules allow us to use nine different formations on the court, variability that further increases if we take into account that the 5 role can be either male or female:

- ▶ 1-3-3-3-5-5
- ▶ 1-3-3-4-5-5
- ▶ 1-3-4-4-5-5
- ▶ 1-3-3-5-5-5
- ▶ 1-3-4-5-5-5
- ▶ 2-3-3-3-5-5
- ▶ 2-3-3-4-5-5
- ▶ 2-3-4-4-5-5
- ▶ 2-3-3-5-5-5

The choice of the formation to be deployed may depend on the particulars of the individual roles, the team identity, and the reading of the situation in the match.

Each side has its center of gravity and its strengths and weaknesses, because each role has characteristics that make it ideal for certain strategies.

For example, if we were in the lead and had to manage the score we would be more inclined, with the same effectiveness as with the other pivots, to play a role 1 with two shooting possibilities and have more chances to score points and manage the difference.

Another example is that of reading the opposing team. If the opponents have only one role 3 while we have two, we can afford to deploy one of ours near the high basket and one near the pivot so that they cannot be marked at the same time and, thus, have an advantage.

2. OFFENSE MANAGEMENT

Offense is that phase of the game in which the particu-





THREE ARE THE KEY TOP TACTICS

lar team is in possession of the ball. The goal is to create situations that give the defense an advantage, trying to realize this advantage by gaining a basket.

Baskin is a sport where the offense is favored, and this is thanks to its being one of the few sports in the world, if not the only one, to have two offensive goals located in two different areas of the court where it is possible to score. In fact, because it is possible to drive on both the "regulation basketball" basket and to the area of one's pivot, there is a very high level of dynamism and a frenetic pace of play that puts the defense in constant difficulty, which finds itself having to protect two areas at the same time.

The other characteristic that favors the offense is the rule governing the defensive roles where it is specified that a role can be marked only by its leader or by a lower role. It follows that the defense, in addition to having to divide numerically into two areas, also has to take into account the roles at its disposal to ensure that it can defend on each role.

The offense has numerous ways to gain an advantage, but the main concepts are:

- ▶ **Outnumber:** confronting a number of offensive players that is greater than the number of defenders so that at least one offensive player is free.
- ▶ **Matching of roles:** also called "outnumbering of role," or putting a lower role in front of a higher role so that it cannot be marked.
- ▶ **Space & Timing:** being able to arrange your players in the right spaces and teach them to move at the right times, reducing the possibility of adaptation of the defense.
- ▶ **Use of two baskets:** The single-issue offense towards a single defensive basket makes the defense's job easier, while a balanced offense on both baskets creates a constant insecurity in the defense that must defend on both fronts.
- ▶ **Change of basket:** Unbalance the defense by drawing it in on one of the two baskets and then change the basket and not give the defense time to adapt. It is Baskin's main offensive maneuver - the simplest and most effective - and can be performed both individually, and as a team.

HOOPS FOR ALL ▶ THE THREE TOP ASPECTS OF BASKIN TACTICS

- ▶ **Deployment on the court:** Vary the structure of the formation on the court by shifting the center of gravity of the game to one role rather than another. (See what was previously written).
- ▶ **Collaborations between players:** Use solutions between multiple players to obtain a direct advantage, such as give and go, hand off, pick and roll, taking into account that compared to basketball there is the possibility of collaboration between multiple roles, obtaining both a numerical and a role advantage.

These concepts must be balanced and modeled by each team, following the characteristics of the players available and the ideas of the coach. To do so, each team must ask itself questions that define its identity, such as: Who has the task of creating the play? Who is in charge of finalizing the game? What are our strengths and weaknesses? Ball to the best or involve everyone? Targets? Etc.

3. DEFENSE MANAGEMENT

In speaking of the advantages of the offense, we have

actually already faced the difficulties of the defense, which finds itself constantly chasing the offense, seeking continuous adaptation to the opponent's maneuvers.

Yet, the defense must not be passive; if well structured it can make the difference, because in a game where defending is normally difficult, whoever manages to anticipate the offense by limiting it, even just a little, can gain great advantage. This is why it is very important to work hard to obtain an excellent organized defense.

There are different types of defense, each with its strengths and weaknesses, but broadly speaking they can be grouped into two categories:

- ▶ **Individual:** it is the defense where everyone has the individual responsibility of a player. It is excellent when you have balanced defensive combinations and you want to limit the probability of defending on lower roles by committing illegal defenses. Its greatest difficulty lies in the fact that in Baskin there is no longer a defensive triangle because it has been taken beyond that. The defensive triangle is normally formed by the lines between





IN BASKIN
THE OFFENSE
IS FAVORED

the offense, the basket and the ball, but here there are two goals, so you go from a defensive triangle to a defensive roar with the obvious difficulties of an easily unbalanced defense.

- ▶ **Zone:** to remedy the problem of the defensive rumble, there is the possibility of placing oneself in a zone, with a responsibility that is not linked to a single individual but belongs to the whole zone, that is to say, all the offensive players at the goal to which you are assigned. This defense allows you to be more balanced and never leave either of the two objectives uncovered, however it also has weaknesses. First of all, you are more subject to offensive outnumbers since some of the defenders remain at the other target. Then, it is impossible to always have all the roles available in both areas so you risk finding yourself unable to defend against certain roles.

Of course, there are many other defenses that are based on these concepts and arrived at by shuffling the cards on the table, such as the mixed defense, the pressing defense (man or zone), the unbalanced zone defense, the "shuttle," etc. The bottom line is that there is not one type of defense that is better, regard-

less, but every defense depends on the characteristics of your team, the characteristics of the opponents, the time of the game, the tastes of the coach, etc. The important thing is that the defense be of high quality and an active factor to be counted among the strengths of a team, and not a mere passive obligation to limit the damage on the court.

BASKIN LEARNING METHODOLOGY

Everything we have said so far may seem interesting, but not excessively complex, or at least no more than other sports. The real difficulty lies not in setting up a team tactic but in making the whole team learn and internalize the lessons according to the level of understanding.

The classic teaching methods cannot be used, but must be customized from role to role and from person to person. We need to get out of the classic patterns we are used to and create new communication strategies to internalize these tactical notions to every type of player in compliance with how much each different athlete can learn.

 <https://baskin.it/>

SYSTEMS OF PLAY: OFFENSE (SECOND PART)

SCREENS ARE ESSENTIAL ON THE OFFENSE

Screens and screening are essential and an underrated and under-coached part of the game. A screen is usually set and established at the side of the key between two defenders and can be both on either side of the key. On the ball side, the player with the ball will place themselves behind the screen in line with the screen and basket and create indecision between the defenders as to whether they should jump out or not and who should go. The screener can create a pick & roll, a curl on or off the ball or work to deny either of the defenders jumping out to give the ball handler an open or semi contested shot. On the off

side, the players can run a curl or a shooter sits out behind a screen waiting for a reversal or skip pass. A curl is usually set by a guard for a forward to create a mismatch in the key for the forward or a mismatch shot near the basket or edge of the key. There will be some or continuous movement to make the defenders adjust and be out of defensive alignment, the forward will "hold" one or both defenders so that they are unable to release off the contact. The guard sets the curl high or low and clears out or seals the defenders inside the key, the forward follows and will have a mismatch shot.





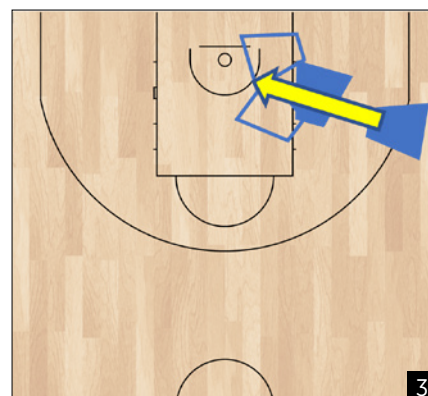
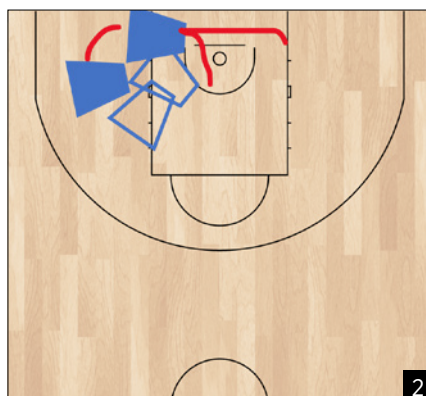
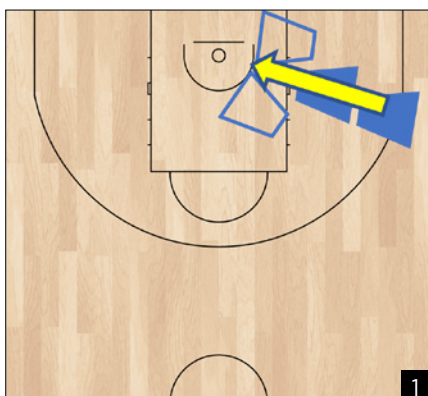
All the above require skilled players to effect picks, screens and curls. Although these players may not score many points and their actions are not be included in stats, their actions and effectiveness can make the difference in the game outcome. The abili-

ty to execute these skills effectively can be the difference between a good offense or a turnover due to an offensive foul. Players must have chair position and actions to avoid fouling.

**BALL SIDE SCREEN
BALL-HANDLER BEHIND SCREEN**

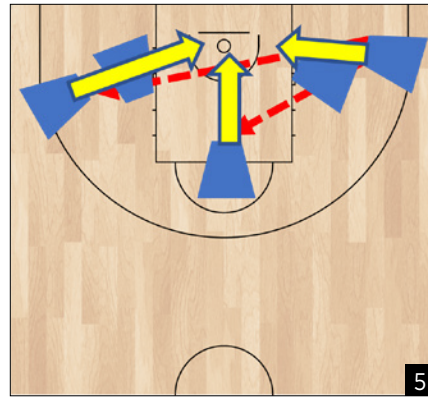
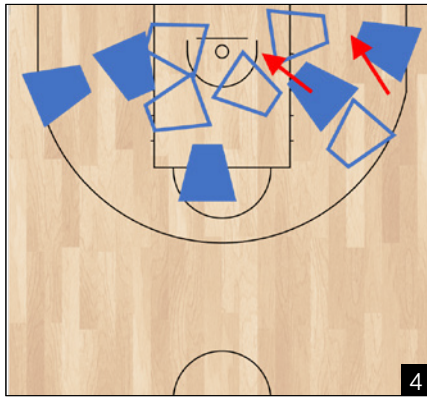
**OFF-SIDE CURL
GUARD CAN SEAL OR CLEAR
CAN GO HIGH OR LOW**

**SIDE SCREEN
DENY DEFENSE JUMP FOR SHOT**



HOOPS FOR ALL ► SYSTEMS OF PLAY

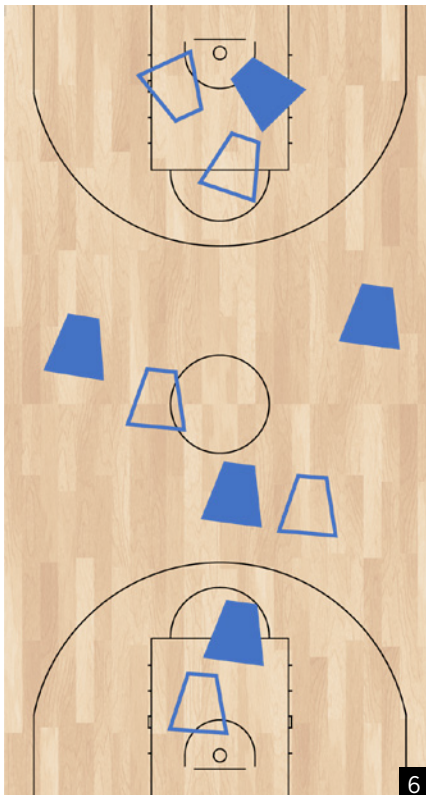
OFFENSE HAS CREATED OPTIONS FOR P & R, SHOT OFF THE PICK, REVERSE TO POINT FOR SHOT, SKIP TO OFF SIDE FOR OPEN SHOT



OFFENSIVE SETS, STYLES, OR SYSTEMS

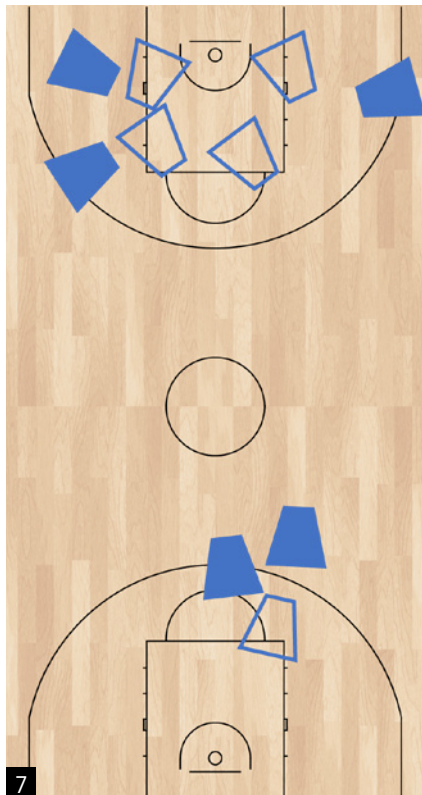
TRANSITION

Creating a break and Mismatch. Offense player is at the basket looking for the pass. 2 defenders are drawn creating space for others



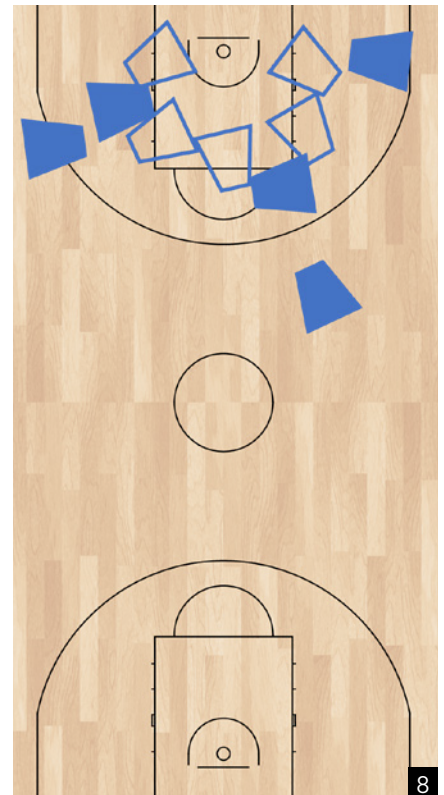
PICK BACK TRAIL

As shown above Team will pick with one or more players and pick back one or more player



3 POINT SET

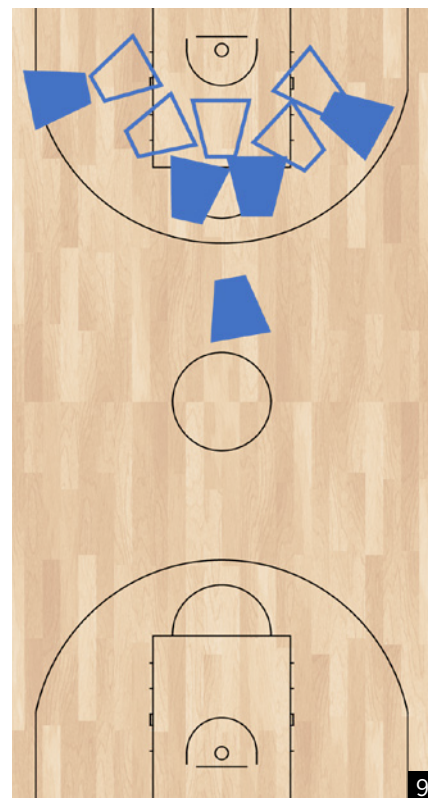
Offense has established position with a high screen. Any jump will create a pick & roll & any help will create a shot elsewhere





HORNS SET

3p set, any jump creates a P&R
 Ball-handler goes either way & receives a secondary pick from the wing
 On the off-side, Offense can curl



Transition basketball is an effective first phase of the offense. Defenders jumping out to shooters will continue past the shooter in the hope of a miss and a quick, long outlet to drive for a lay-up. Teams and players are playing faster and looking to create more scores from numerical advantage – 3 vs. 2/4 vs. 3/5 vs. 4. A first option can be to create a size mismatch early.

In the half court, teams will have their own systems of play. This will include set plays, motion, free-lance. These systems will be reliant on most efficient ball handlers, scorers, pickers/screeners with high level technical and tactical experience and ability,

floor balance and spacing. Any team is likely to have 2-3 dominant ball handlers and scorers

The wheelchair game is dominated by forwards or higher classification players, 3.0 – 4.5s. They are the main ball handlers, scorers and rebounders and this will be shown in the stats. They also play more minutes. This is not the same for centre's who play the typical post roles with the ability to score from extended 2-point and 3-point ranges. Their efficiency relies on the work undertaken by the guards or lower classification players who are continuously and consistently picking, screening, curling, cutting and support roles





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

THE FIBA 2019-2027 PLAN

INTERVIEW BY GIORGIO GANDOLFI

We have the pleasure of hosting an interview with Mr. Andreas Zagklis, Secretary General of FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, the governing body of basketball with 213 affiliated Federations. His expertise in our sport ranges from playing to coaching, and to governance. But his vast experience goes well beyond basketball, because he has also worked in the sport's law at the highest level. Appointed when he was 38, he is the second youngest

FIBA Secretary General, after the late Patrick Baumann, and he brings a new, modern, 360° vision to the office. We asked Mr. Zagklis to go deeper into the FIBA 2019-2027 Plan and share with us how FIBA is working to cover the different aspects of basketball on every continent, and specifically, how the federation is doing so while grappling with the challenges and impact of a highly problematic, worldwide pandemic.

FIBA Roadmap for Future Basketball 2019-2027. It's a great, complete and exhaustive plan. Can you kindly explain it better?

FIBA has eight strategic objectives defined by the FIBA Congress in Beijing last year: Empower national federations, women in basketball, enlarge the FIBA family, develop youth basketball, continue to build 3x3, shape international club competitions, excellence of FIBA competitions and sustainable financial growth.

The focus of the cycle for 2019 – 2023 is the first three priorities.

The first of the eight objectives is a continuation of the work done in 2014 – 2019. FIBA is committed to empowering National Federations by helping them sustainably reach their full potential.

We need to support them and offer our resources across all levels, from grassroots upwards, and be transparent in the process to allow the development and the strengthening of our members across all National Federations.

To make basketball the most popular sports community, gender diversity must be increased and considered in every aspect of the game, on and off the court. This is why the second priority is so important.

FIBA is committed to having more women in basketball: increasing the number of women playing, coaching and officiating, as well as growing the number of fans following the women's game and ensuring more women are involved in the **governance of the game** within the FIBA family. Women's basketball had a pivotal year in 2019 with the optimization of the women's national competition sy-



FIBA
HAS EIGHT
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES



A LEADING
INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION
IN DIGITAL

stem, the introduction of the FIBA 3x3 Women's Series and the election of Carol Callan, the first female President for the Americas. In 2020, we approved new rules for additional FIBA female referee licenses and we made it obligatory that there be a female coach in women's junior youth events.

These are great success stories; however, there is still a lot more work to do across all levels.

FIBA is committed to enlarging the FIBA Family by increasing its visibility and popularity, which includes growing the number of licensed basketball and 3x3 participants.

We want to attract as many people as possible to basketball. 3x3 has proven to be a great success, particularly with it's being added to the Olympic Games for Tokyo. 3x3 basketball is one of our organization's key elements and has grown dramatically over the past five years. It's our mission now to make it a success and put on the best show possible next year in Tokyo.

FIBA also aims to increase its engagement with other stakeholders, not just players, and to that end, implement various programs within the global basketball community.

One example of this is the FIBA Esports Open, which has been a huge hit within the global basketball gaming community. The second edition of Esports Open has already started, and has more than double the number of teams, compared to the first tournament in June of this year.

Covid-19 is creating huge problems in all sports. How are you addressing the situation in the international competitions, how is FIBA organizing "bubbles" and which guidelines has the Federation's Organizing



Committee adopted?

FIBA was one of the first federations to take drastic measures at the beginning of the pandemic.

In February, we moved one of the FIBA Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments from Foshan (China) to Belgrade (Serbia), and we were able to organize it professionally and appropriately for our players within nine days. I appreciate the efforts of the federations of China, Serbia, and those of Great Britain, Spain, and Korea, who demonstrated flexibility and professionalism.

Then on March 12, we decided to suspend all FIBA competitions and after the announcement of the new dates of the Olympic Games, we managed, with the efforts of everyone in the FIBA family, to approve a calendar in nine days that has been adapted for the next three years.

We (FIBA) have demonstrated that we can quickly adapt to such a difficult and extraordinary situation.

In addition to what is related to competitions and events, we are an International Federation that regulates

basketball activity throughout the world and we have, or through the Basketball Arbitral Tribunal (BAT), created guidelines on how to operate in this challenging period with respect to the players, coaches, clubs and federations.

We have published and updated our Return to Basketball – Restart Guidelines for National Federations, with the first edition in May, and then in August for the second edition, with an additional set of key recommendations. These guidelines have been developed by FIBA Medical Commission and the FIBA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group (MAG), and in consultation with the FIBA Players Commissions. A basketball-specific Risk Assessment Tool was also produced in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Basketball Arbitral Tribunal, the independent body officially recognized by FIBA, which provides resolution services for disputes between players, agents, coaches and clubs through arbitration, published a set of

AROUND THE COURT ▶ LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

BAT COVID-19 Guidelines. They were written to provide actual and potential BAT users with guidance in proceedings and help facilitate amicable settlements within the basketball community.

We have seen the return of basketball in different parts of the world, not only in national leagues but also internationally and FIBA so far has executed successfully FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hungary Masters 2020 in Debrecen, Basketball Champions League Qualifiers in Cyprus and Bulgaria, and also the Basketball Champions League Final 8 in Athens. In each of these tournaments, strong protocols were developed in conjunction with the WHO and the NBA, and we are using the experience we have gathered to continually adapt and improve our protocols where necessary.

FIBA decided to conduct the upcoming Continental Cup Qualifiers for both November and February tournaments in "bubbles" following a recommendation from its expert Medical Commission and Competitions Commission. The "bubble" tournament-style has been chosen in order to ensure the health and safety of players, coaches and officials, and FIBA, together with each host, is putting strict health measures in place.

The ACB finals in Valencia and later the NBA playoffs in Orlando: Do you think that there might be some good

examples and protocols to follow for the National Federations and leagues, based on these experiences?

Yes, of course, we have used all the existing experiences to develop our guidelines and protocols and our Medical Commission held a meeting with the Medical Directors of all ULEB-member European leagues, including the ACB.

The protocols put in place at the three recently executed FIBA events were developed after consultation with the WHO and the NBA and these measures will be enforced at the upcoming FIBA Continental Cup Qualifiers in each region. We saw already the implementation of the protocols in the EuroBasket Women's Qualifiers.

The FIBA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group (MAG) has been regularly reviewing the latest scientific knowledge as well as all the information, including know-how, best practices and challenges in the context of the return to basketball. This information has been provided by those National Federations and various leagues, including the ACB and the NBA, who have been able to resume their basketball activities and competitions.

Digital is of the utmost importance now to establish direct contact with fans and retain their loyalty, since they cannot get on the courts, or only able to do so with extremely limited capacity. Could you kindly tell me



FIBA
DELIVERED 5
WEBINARS PER
DAY DURING THE
LOCKDOWN

which FIBA digital strategies are employed at international competitions to bypass this situation and keep up contact with the fans?

FIBA is one of the leading International Federations in digital and has been among the top three highest ranked International Federations in social media for quite a few years, and currently has the most popular Facebook account for International Federations.

Throughout this time, we have been engaging with our fans in a few different ways, as well as sharing clips and content created by the community.

We launched the #FirstBasket digital campaign to unite the global basketball community and provide a positive message for the day basketball returned to action.

We have held two voting campaigns for fans with the Dunk of the Decade and also the Assist of the Decade, which have proven to be very popular.

And we are going back through our exciting history

and reliving some fantastic basketball moments with our extensive archival footage.

We are currently live streaming on the FIBA YouTube account numerous leagues from around the world in order to provide our community with live basketball action (Australia, Japan, Philippines, Mali, Slovenia, France, Switzerland).

FIBA is the basketball governing body and it sets an example for the National Federations to follow. For many Federations, digital is practically limited to the web site and the social networks, and is seen as a cost, while it should be an investment. Does FIBA have a plan to help work together with the Federations on digital aspects and strategy?

Since the successful launch of the FIBA World Cup Qualifiers in 2017, where we saw 80 teams take the court in 157 different venues, FIBA has been working closely with our National Federation members to assist them in their organization of events, and also with their marketing activations and communications.

FIBA has executed numerous workshops and webinars with our National Federations and we offer tools and digital templates to help ensure consistency.

Our regional offices are in constant contact with our National Federations to provide help and support.



FIBA is doing an outstanding job at the coaches and referees level. But another very important part of our basketball world is the executives. Unfortunately, generally speaking, the Federations and the Clubs put much more emphasis and resources on the technical side, and less on management, marketing and digital. What is FIBA planning to do to help the Federations and clubs improve this component; what resources can bring stability and a future to the Federations, as well as the clubs?

This is something that FIBA is addressing on a global level through different programs across our regions. For example, FIBA in Europe recently launched its second edition of the successful TIME-OUT program, a leadership and management program to help basketball players across Europe transition from sport to work. This year's participants represent 28 European National Federations, and the knowledge they will gain will directly benefit their federation, club or other basketball organization once they have completed the program. Earlier this year, FIBA in the Americas launched the ADELANTE Program, a program designed to identify,



CAREER

SOME NOTES ON MR. ANDREAS ZAGKLIS

He received under- and post-graduate degrees from the Law School of the University of Athens, and he also spent two semesters as a visiting student at the University of Salamanca in Spain and the University of Western Ontario in Canada. He recently attended the Leadership in Corporate Counsel Program at the Harvard Law School in the USA. He started his career working at two pioneering sport law firms, Pantelis Dedes in Greece and then, Dirk-Reiner Martens in Germany. He was instrumental in the growth of the Basketball Arbitral Tribunal (BAT), and was hired in 2016 as FIBA Director of Legal Services & General Counsel, after having spent nine years as FIBA External Legal Advisor. He was appointed FIBA Secretary General in December of 2018.

educate, motivate, develop and unleash the next generation of female leaders in the Americas. It has been developed by the Regional Office and the two most senior female representatives of Americas in FIBA, first-ever woman FIBA Americas President, Carol Callan, and Central Board member Michele O'Keefe.

Women's basketball. It's another important part of our sport. How do you plan to enhance all the different aspects of women's basketball, as well as to increase the number of female fans in the arenas, as stated on the FIBA Roadmap?

The optimization of the women's national competition system, which commenced in November 2019 with the FIBA Women's Olympic Pre-Qualifying Tournaments, will continue with the goal of raising the profile of the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup. Both the EuroLeague Women and the FIBA 3x3 Women Series are key focus areas, with the objective of raising the profile of both disciplines in order for them to become flagship events in women's basketball, as well as identifying new commercial partners. FIBA plans to evaluate its fan-base on different media platforms and at venues, and from the information gathered, formulate new campaigns with the aim of reaching a more diverse, larger audience.

Another basic aspect of our sport is developing youth basketball. This is one of the topics of your 2019-2027 plan for Future Basketball, and going into schools appears to be of the utmost importance. How would you like to reach this target and which tools would you like to provide to help the National Federations make strides in this area?

FIBA has been working hard to address this aspect at both Headquarter and regional levels. Numerous programs have been developed that include: Mini Basketball conventions being conducted all over the world, the youth development fund in Europe, numerous youth development camps in the Americas, Ball N' Schools program in Asia, the Basketball Without Borders program, and also the Jr. NBA program with the NBA. The World Association of Basketball Coaches (WABC), with FIBA, has also completed a new coaches' manual, which provides an outstanding resource for coaches across all levels and is available to everyone.

TIDBITS

He speaks five languages, French, English, German, Spanish, and Greek

He is married and has two children

He always travels with his Kindle

He developed as a player at the Academy of Maroussi BC in Greece

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