CHAPTER 15 Part 8
6-on-5
READING
THE
DEFENSE
READING THE DEFENSE

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Introduction

Reading the defensive positioning of the guards on the 6-on-5 is difficult and requires years of experience in reading the placement and movement of the guards as the ball is passed the extra man. A certain pass, the long pass from 1-6 (EU 5-1) creates a possible open man on the post or in the corner.

How the guards will play the long pass is known. The passer has to be aware of what a pass will do to the guard(s) and the goalie.
Introduction

There are 3 guards on the 2-meter line and 4 offensive players. The ball can move faster than the guards so someone is open when the long pass 1-6 (5-1) is thrown. The passer must read the inside post players to see which one is the freeman.

In age group and high school, none of the outside or corner passers ever look inside at the post players to read the defense and see if someone is open. Reading the defense is a skill that must be taught and learned by the player.
15. READING THE DEFENSE

READING THE DEFENSE

The passer and the shooter on the 6-on-5 “read the defense” *before* throwing the ball.

Reading the defense: offensive players read the 5 guards positions and find the open man.

Someone is open!
USA 4-2 Guards Are Numbered

X-1

X-2

X-3

X-4

X-5
US 4-2 Guards Numbered

1
X-1
2
X-2
3
X-3

X-4
4
X-5
5

6
US 4-2 Guards Numbered
4-2 European Guard Numbers

- X-5
- 6
- X-3
- 3
- X-1
- 1
- 5
- X-4
- 4
- X-2
- 2
READING THE DEFENSE

6-ON-5 DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

Corner guards $X_1$, $X_3$ defend 1 & 6-players.
Middle guard $X_3$ covers 2,3, two post shooters.
READING THE DEFENSE

6-ON-5 DEFENSIVE POSITIONING  \( X_1 \ X_2 \ X_3 \ X_4 \ X_5 \)

When corner guard, \( X-1 \) or \( X-3 \) is out of position,
\( 1 \) or \( 6 \) shooter is open for a shot.

Middle guard cannot be on both posts, \( 2 \) & \( 3 \).
One post is open. Ball is passed to open post.
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6-on-5 DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

X₁   X₂   X₃
  X₄   X₅

Outside guards are numbered 4 and 5 in US system.
Outside guards 4 and 2 in the European system.

Outside flat left guard is 4 (EU 4)  X₄  X₅
Outside flat right guard is 5 (Euro 2)  X₄  X₅
READING THE DEFENSE

Guard is Out Of Position—Shoot/Pass to Freeman

When Corner guard is out of position— 1, 6 shoot. Middle guard not on post—pass inside— 2, 3 shoots.

1st example  Ball at 1, X-1, guard off angle—1—Shot

2nd example  Ball at 1, X-2 on right post, 3 open—Shot
READING THE DEFENSE

Guard is Out Of Position—Shot/Pass to Freeman

When Corner guard is out of position—1, 6 shot
Middle guard not on post—pass inside 2, 3 shot

1<sup>st</sup> example  Ball at 1 X-1, guard not positioned—1-Shoots
2<sup>nd</sup> example  Ball at 6 X-3 guard not positioned—6-Shoots
READING THE DEFENSE

Read 1 And 6 For Opening

Long 1-6 pass forces corner guards to follow ball, move from covering post player (2, 3) to defend 1, 6.

Ball at 6, left corner guard defends left post 2. 1-Open.

1 reads X-1 guard’s position. 1-6 pass beats X-1 moving to cover goal post/shooting angle. 1-Shot
X-2 ISOLATED ON LEFT POST

1  X-1  2  X-2
    3  X-3

X-4

4

X-5

5

6
X-2 ISOLATED ON LEFT POST
US 4-2 Guards Numbered
US 4-2 Guards Numbered
US 4-2 Guards Numbered
READING THE DEFENSE

Read The Corner Guard 1 or 3 (EU 5, 1)

1-6 Shoots if corner guard Off Shooting Angle

A corner shooter, 1 or 6, has the corner guard (X-1, X-3) out of position to block the shot.
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3 Open 1-3-Shot

Both Guards on 2

2 Open 6-2-Shot

Guards on 1, 3
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Read The Middle Guard’s Position

The middle guard X-2 commits to one post.

Guard on **Right Post** Pass—**Left Post** (2)

Guard on **Left Post** Pass—**Right Post** (3)
READING THE DEFENSE

Read The Middle Guard’s Position

The middle guard X-2 commits to one post.

Guard on **Right Post** Pass—**Left Post** (2)

Guard on **Left Post** Pass—**Right Post** (3)
READING THE DEFENSE

1-3, 6-2 Middle Guard On Wrong Post

Post shots, 2, 3, created when no coverage on a post by X-2. The pass is 1-3 or 6-2 for the shot.

No guard on 2—pass to 2

No guard on 3—pass to 3
READING THE DEFENSE

1-3, 6-2 Middle Guard On Wrong Post

Post shots, 2, 3, created when no coverage on a post by X-2. The pass is 1-3 or 6-2 for the shot.

No guard on 2—pass to 2

No guard on 3—pass to
15. READING THE DEFENSE

1’s Shooting Lane Open

Shoot

1

2

3

6

1’s Shooting Lane Covered, Blocked

No-Shot

1

2

3

6
15. READING THE DEFENSE

1's Shooting Lane Open

1's Shooting Lane Covered, Blocked

Shoot

No-Shot
READING THE DEFENSE

Read The Middle Guard’s Position

Middle guard X-2 commits to right post.

Guard on Right Post Pass—Left Post (2)
READING THE DEFENSE

Read The Middle Guard’s Position

Middle guard X-2 commits to right post.

Guard on **Right Post** Pass—**Left Post** (2)
15. READING THE DEFENSE

1-6 Pass to Shot

Right Guard on 3—6 Shot
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1-6 Pass to Shot

Right Guard on 3—6 Shot
READING THE DEFENSE 2

Read Middle Guard’s Position
Middle guard X-2 commits left post.
Guard—Left Post  Pass—Right Post (3)
Shoot—3 (EU 6)
READING THE DEFENSE 2

Read Middle Guard’s Position
Middle guard X-2 commits left post.
Guard—Left Post   Pass—Right Post (3)
Shoot—3 (EU 6)
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X-2 on Left Post, X-3 on—6.
3 open. 4-3 pass-to-shot.
15. READING THE DEFENSE

X-2 on Left Post, X-3 on—6.
3 open. 4-3 pass-to-shot.
15. READING THE DEFENSE

5-2 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 2—2 Shot
15. READING THE DEFENSE

5-2 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 2— 2 Shot
15. READING THE DEFENSE

6-2

1 2 2 3 6

6-2 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 3
6-2 Shot
15. READING THE DEFENSE

6-2 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 3
6-2 Shot
15. READING THE DEFENSE

1-3 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 2—3 Shot
15. READING THE DEFENSE

1-3 Pass to Shot
Middle Guard on 2—3 Shot
The 6-on-5 offense reads the defense to see where the open man is located. Most shots fail to score on the extra man not due to shooting errors but due to throwing the ball into the guard’s outstretched hand or the goalie’s arm.
6 on 5 Summary

In the previous PowerPoint Presentation, Part 7, the correct passing sequence creates the open man. In Part 8, we have created the open man and we need to recognize him or her.

Many times the passing sequence does not create and open man—the defense does.
6 on 5 Summary

Many times the passing sequence does not create and open man—the defense does.

The guard is asleep and not guarding the offensive player and leaves him or her wide open.

Read the defense and find the open man.
6 on 5 Summary

Long pass 1-6 creates a freeman on the post and corners. Triangular passes create a freeman outside, post and corners. And lazy guards create freemen anywhere.

The alert player reads the defense and finds the freeman.
6 on 5 Summary

The passer must key off the post players to see if they are open. Play on the 6-on-5 consists of reading, passing and shooting.

Anytime the middle guard X2 is beaten one post is open.
Anytime 1 or 6 sees corner guard is beaten, X1 or X3—shoot.
If the outside guard is off 4 or 5 (EU 4, 2)—shoot.
Anytime the goalie does not move with the pass—shoot.
6 on 5 Q & A

1. When a post is open, pass the ball around.
   True
   False

2. Not necessary to look for freeman, pass 5 times—shoot.
   True
   False

3. The long 1-6 pass creates a open post.
   True
   False
6 on 5 Q & A

4. Middle guard X-2 takes left post with ball at 1 (EU 5). X₁ attacks 1 (E 5). X₃ stays on 6 (EU 1). Who is open?
   A. 1 (EU 5)
   B. 2 (EU 6)
   C. 3 (EU 3)

5. Middle guard X-2 stays on right post 3 with ball at 1 (EU 5), with X-1 attacking. Who is open?
   A. 2
   B. 1
6. (EU 5) gets pass from 6 (EU 1), X1 stays on left post, goalie is beaten to left corner. Who is open?
   A. 1 (EU 5)
   B. 2 (EU 6)
   C. 3 (EU 3)

7. Middle guard X-2 guards no one, Ball at 1 (EU 5), with X-1 and X-3 attacking. Who is open?
   A. 2, 3 (EU 6, 3)
   B. 1, 6 (EU 5, 1)
TEST ANSWERS FOR Q & A

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. A
The End
Chapter 15
Part 8

Based on the Science of Shooting Books
Available from lulupress.com

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