How to Win with Less Talent

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Purpose of the talk is to stimulate your thinking. Nothing is gospel. Remember, this is only one way of doing something. It all comes down to two things: A) How well you teach and B) Do you have talent to make your philosophy work.

How do you get your guys to be good free throw shooters? Shoot F.T.'s 20 minutes a day at lunch time. Make 2 in a row then rotate. No talking.

I know you can win when you have all the talent but can you compete and win when you have less talent?

Keys to winning with less talent

1. Control defensive boards
   Sounds easy but it's not (USA team just lost 3 games to Argentina, Yugoslavia, and Spain and was outrebounded in all 3 games)

2. Get more shots
   Don't tell me you have a bad shooting team - I know that already. Because you're either too young or just starting to develop - we've all been there. Don't think you're the only one to go through this. And if you haven't been through it already - just wait because it's coming.
   A. Force turnovers
   B. Offensive rebounding

3. What are you shooting on the line? How many free throws are you getting?
   - You must have an inside game doesn't have to be a post up game - can be dribble penetration - want 3 point plays
THE KEY IS CAN YOU GET TO THE LINE? CHECK THE NBA
STATS: 9 OUT OF 10 TIMES, THE TEAM THAT TAKES
THE MOST FOUL SHOTS WINS. 9 OUT OF 10.

GIVE ME THE BIGGEST GAME YOU LOST THIS YEAR —
DID THE OTHER TEAM'S BIG 3 PLAY ALL 32 MINUTES?

WHEN YOU GET OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS AND YOU
ATTACK THE PAINT THE OTHER TEAM FOULS. THEN
THEY HAVE TO SUB. YOUR GUY MIGHT HAVE LESS
TALENT THAN THEIR GUY BUT MORE TALENT THAN THEIR
SUB.

4. GET YOUR BEST SHOOTERS HIGH PERCENTAGE SHOTS
   3 BEST IN THE PROS 2 BEST IN HIGH SCHOOL

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE RUNNING THE PASSING GAME OR
THE SHUFFLE AND ARE GETTING HIGH PERCENTAGE SHOTS
FOR YOUR 2 BEST PLAYERS — ESPECIALLY AT THE
END OF THE GAME.

THINK OF YOUR 2 BEST SHOOTERS — DO THEY SHOOT A
HIGH PERCENTAGE FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE FLOOR AND
FROM THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR?

CHART YOUR SHOOTING DRILLS AND YOU’LL SEE
THAT THEY SHOOT WELL FROM 2 OF THE 3 SPOTS,
BUT NOT ALL 3.

IS YOUR OFFENSE GETTING YOUR BEST SHOOTERS SHOTS
THAT THEY CAN MAKE?

WHAT % DO YOU SHOOT OFF OF THE BREAK?
   IF YOU'RE NOT SHOOTING 60%:

1. INCORRECT TEACHING
2. POOR SHOT SELECTION
3. TOO MANY TURNOVERS
Is the offense for you or is the offense for the team?

Hubie tells story of putting in the flex as part of secondary break. Bernard King and Bill Cartwright asked Hubie to ditch the flex - they didn't like where they were catching the ball. Since they were his two best scorers, Hubie ditched flex immediately.

Gospel of offense

1. Spacing - no one defender plays 2 guys
2. Be able to reverse the ball
3. Have a short pass and a long pass
4. Leave an area and replace
5. Be able to start the offense if they take away the first pass
6. Have a backdoor game

Argentina kicked USA's ass by running 1-4 high and back cutting.

The difference between great teams is often the time it takes to advance the ball from top of key to top of key.

What kind of a zone trap do you use after a 2-2-1? We used a 2-2-1 because it can be used after both a make and a miss.

Put 2 guards on fiti lane and center back get right into press regardless of make or miss.

1 hand inbound pass = $50 fine.
Can't pull it back.
Throw chest pass or 2 hand overhead pass.
Work on rebound and turn in one motion.
Against Full Court Pressure. Not everyone does this. Some coaches are just happy to get the ball past half court. I'm going to press those teams/coaches all night long.

Attacking Full Court 1-2-1-1

This alignment puts pressure on middle back and should create 2 on 1 break.

The easiest place to post is on the dotted line in front of the rim. Why? Because everyone plays behind you!

You watch 1000 games next year and I guarantee you won't see 2 teams front that guy in the center of key.

All pressing coaches press in the 1st 1/2 so they can see your press break — let's them make adjustments at halftime.

In your shooting drills do you practice the shots you're going to get in your offense and press breaks?

Attacking a 1-3-1 (Morgan Wootten at DeMatha HS.)

1 passes to 4
5 breaks opp block to occupy low defender
3 breaks out to corner
either 3 or 2 will be wide open
ATTACKING a 2-3 Zone

Never have 2 players low at same time - Doesn't matter if playing against man or zone
Instead always be high/low

Great offenses start one way then reverse the ball

\[
\begin{array}{c}
1 \text{ passes to } 2 \\
2 \text{ returns ball to } 1 \\
5 \text{ posts in middle of key} \\
\text{as } 5 \text{ posts } 4 \text{ runs to low block}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
4 \text{ breaks to opp block} \\
\text{if bottom defender stays then } 5 \text{ passes to } 4 \text{ for layup} \\
\text{if bottom defender leaves with } 4, \text{ then } 5 \text{ passes to } 3 \text{ for shot/layup}
\end{array}
\]

Trapping the low post: Trapper forms an "L" Doesn't allow post to turn middle. Turns Post towards Baseline. Emphasize "Turn His Shoulder."

ATTACKING A Box & 1

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Offense line up in 1-3-1 w/shooter} \\
\text{on Baseline slightly behind Basket} \\
\text{pass to wing - shooter runs along Baseline using defenders as picks}
\end{array}
\]
ATTACKING Box & 1

```
    4
   3
  5
  X X
1
```

(3 is being FaceGuarded and keeps moving)

1 dribbles up to both guards and passes 2 zone shifts
2 passes back to 1
5 picks zone
4 gets shot

```
    4
   X X
  2
  X X
1
```

IF center runs out then
4 dumps 10 to 5

ATTACKING triangle and 2

```
  2 X
 X X
 X 3 X
 4 X 5
  1
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Put players being defended down on blocks

What about movement?

You don't need a lot of movement
If you have great alignment.

Do the people in your league know what to do against a triangle & 2?

TRANSITION

Rebound and outlet to outside
2nd pass goes to GD in middle
3rd pass goes to wide wing side filling lane for layup

This drill forces:
1. Guards to catch & look up
2. Players to pass the ball
3. See first guards to give it up
4. Bigs to run & fill the lane

The only person happy running suicides is the coach!
Don't let any kid wag your tail. Kareem & Oscar Robertson were extremely coachable. On every great team, the two best players are coachable.

It's when you allow the dog, the kid who never comes through in the big game, to wag your tail — that's when you'll have a problem.

Think of the biggest game you played last year and lost — the kid who's ass you've been kissing all year — making all the exceptions — I'll bet you $1000 right now that kid didn't play up to his potential when you needed him the most.