

CAN YOUR TEAM SURVIVE WITH A SHOT-DEPENDENT SUPERSTAR?

BASKETBALL COACH WEEKLY

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CREATE OPEN 3s

HIGH-POST ENTRIES LEAD
TO PERIMETER SHOTS

**POUND
THE DEFENSE WITH
DOWN SCREENS**

HORNS PLAY

**SET UP A SHOOTER
WITH OPPOSITE
DUMMY ACTION**

**8 THINGS TO DO
THE NEXT TIME
YOU SCOUT**



◀ WASHINGTON
STATE'S **ERNIE
KENT** RUNS A
HIGH-OCTANE
OFFENSE

LAUREN HILL INSPIRES OUR SPORT

Hill's Story Important To All



Basketball Coach Weekly Issue 61

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Sideline Stories

I just watched the ESPN piece by Tom Rinaldi on Lauren Hill, the freshman women's basketball player at Mount St. Joseph's who has an inoperable brain tumor ... and I'm crying.

I'm crying because Hill only has been given until December to live. I'm crying because what she wanted most was to step on a college basketball floor and she did just that earlier this month.

Of course, she did more than that. She has inspired a nation. She has inspired

“Make them appreciate what they have and honor the game in the way Hill did...”

people who love this sport in its purest forms. And she even scored a basket 14 seconds into the game with her left hand as she's lost feeling in most of her right side.

Staring death in the face and setting out with a purpose, Hill chose basketball. And with that choice she proved within those court lines, it's just you and four teammates coming together as one cohesive unit.

It's a game where you rely on your peers, you work together and you find common ground. In this case, the common ground was to get Hill in a game before she was unable to do so (the NCAA allowed the game to be moved up two weeks on the schedule due to the circumstances).

While she says she wants to give a face to the pediatric brain cancer cause (she's suffering from diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma known as DIPG), she's accomplished much more. In our game, she's provided a face to all the players out there who work so hard. There is a reason why all of us love this sport and it was on display in a packed arena in Cincinnati.

Too often in basketball we get caught up in the day-to-day minutia. We don't stop for a moment and realize how lucky we are to dedicate our lives to a game. Hill dedicated some of her final life's moments to the game. She didn't want to jump out of a plane or drive a car 120 mph — she simply wanted to be with her teammates, see a cheering crowd and feel the floor shake in a real college arena.

Have your players watch the piece on Hill. It's a moving, powerful seven minutes and nine seconds they'll never forget. Show them how fortunate they are to be healthy and able to step on the court every day. Make them appreciate what they have and honor the game in the way Hill did.

Don't just stop there and allow this to be a one-time thing you do early in the season. Revisit Hill's courage and determination. Keep her memory strong and allow her to be the face of why we have dedicated our lives to this great game.



Michael Austin
Michael Austin
Editor-in-chief



Treat the game with respect and honor, and set aside differences for a common purpose

In this issue...

3 CREATE OPEN 3-POINTERS OFF HIGH-POST ENTRIES

Washington State's Ernie Kent knows how to power a high-octane offense — he shares two Horns plays netting 3 points each

4 POUND THE DEFENSE WITH DOWN SCREENS

Place your posts at the elbows, execute several down screens and set up a 3-pointer on the opposite wing

5 SET UP SHOOTER WITH OPPOSITE ACTION

Several off-the-ball screens set up the point guard dribbling across and passing to a corner player moving into a shooting window

6 DO THESE 8 THINGS THE NEXT TIME YOU SCOUT

Scouting is an exhausting yet imperative process, make it worth the time invested

QUICK HITTER SLOW DOWN YOUR SUPERSTAR

Through the Lakers' first five games of the season (all losses), Kobe Bryant shot the ball an astounding 122 times. The team had taken 423 shots, which means Bryant hoisted 28.8% of the team's total attempts. In a 112-106 loss to Phoenix, Bryant shot 37 times ... and the rest of the starting five took 35 shots.

You're never going to coach

a player of Bryant's caliber. He's a once-in-a-generation talent. But, he's a superstar on a not-so-talented team — this is a situation you may find yourself one day.

How would you handle it? Would you sit down the superstar and ask him or her to distribute more? Is it different at the high school level where one talented player can influence

the outcome more? Do you risk the superstar checking out and you having an even bigger mess on your hands?

I'm interested in your thoughts. Shoot me an email at [michael.austin@basketballcoachweekly.com](#) and I'll run your ideas and observations in an upcoming issue.

- Michael Austin

Ernie Kent's teams love to run, use spacing and create open 3-pointers — he shares two sets to do just that



Create Open 3-Pointers Off Entry Passes To The High Post

Ernie Kent, now the head men's coach at Washington State after a 4-year absence, knows how to get offenses moving and create good looks for distance shooters

Inside basketball circles, people know Ernie Kent as a coach who knows how to build a program ... and how to run an offense.

Kent helped push St. Mary's into a competitor during his time there (1991-1997) and he's best known for helping Oregon gain its national standing again after leading his alma mater to two Elite Eight appearances, one conference title and 235 victories in 13 seasons. Now, he's leading the Washington State Cougars.

His teams are guard-focused and get up and down the floor. In describing his offensive coaching philosophy during a live chat on *The Seattle Times* website shortly after his hiring, Kent paid homage to an open style of offense while alluding

to a similar shift in football.

"The spread offense has revolutionized college football. There is no newfound offense or gadgetry in college basketball," Kent said in response to a question from a fan. "The biggest change will be when teams can spread the floor and everybody can shoot the three. Then I would think you'll see a different game, more like the European style, with American athletes."

Today's two sets from Kent accomplish exactly what he wants in an offense — spread the floor, keep everyone in motion and create an open shot. Both plays come from a Horns look (posts positioned high at opposite elbows with guards in opposite corners) and both enter to

either high post, indicating which corner is the shooter.

In the first, upon entry into the high post, the corner guard moves along the baseline, curls off a double screen and comes free on the opposite wing. The second leaves the shooter in the corner, creates extra action on the opposite side and comes to fruition as the point guard dribbles across the top and the corner player finds an open shooting window.

What's great about both plays is if the 3-point shot isn't available off the action, the potential shooter still has an option to toss the ball into one of the screeners who sealed a defender on the block (in the first play) or to the rolling, weak-side screener in the second play.

Words by:
Michael Austin

Activities by:
Ernie Kent, head men's coach, Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.

Pound The Defense With Down Screens

Place your posts at the elbows, execute several down screens and set up an open 3-pointer on the opposite wing from which the ball is entered

WHY USE IT

Defenses struggle against Horns sets (a post at each elbow, a guard in each corner) because forwards and centers typically don't have to guard so far from the hoop. Move your posts to the elbow, then push the action low to set up an open 3-pointer.

SET UP

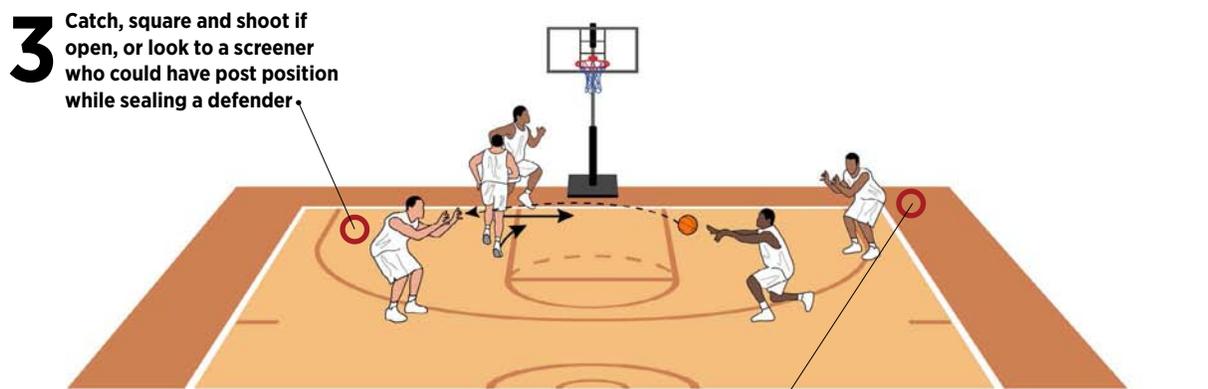
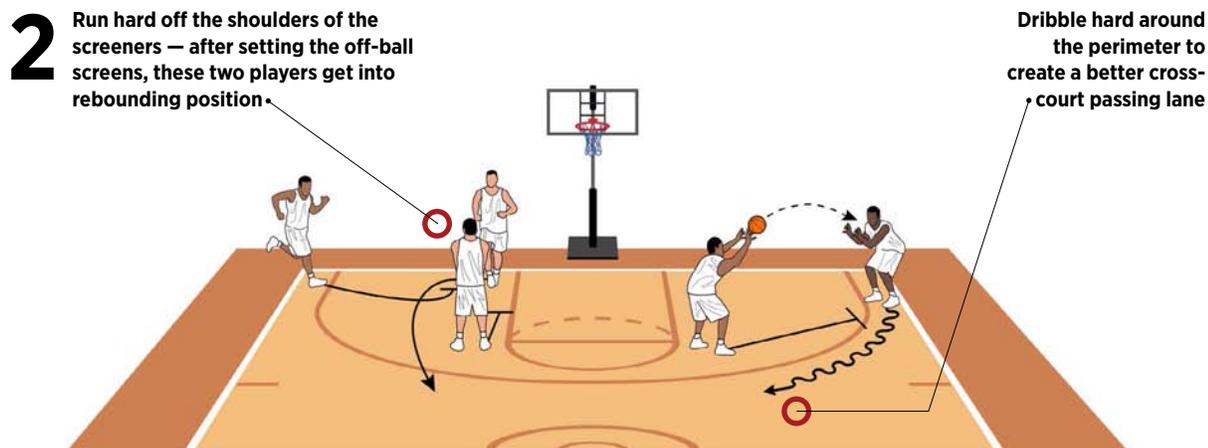
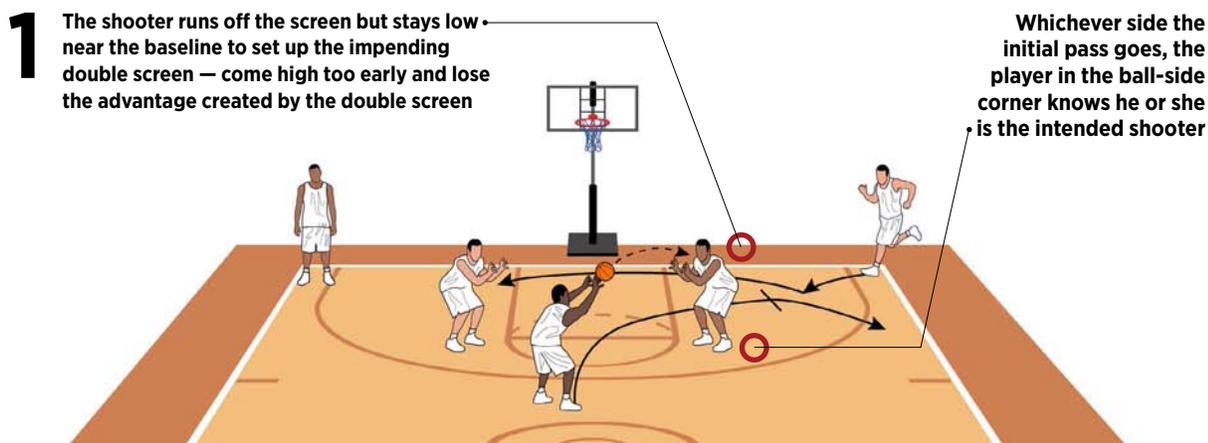
Go from a traditional Horns set with your bigs at opposite elbows and guards in opposite corners.

HOW TO PLAY

The point guard enters the ball to an elbow. In this example, the ball went to the right, which indicates the right-corner guard is the shooter. The point moves down and screens for the shooter, who cuts to the opposite block. The point continues to the ball-side corner [1]. The new ball handler pivots and passes back to the point, then sets a ball screen. The opposite-side corner and elbow down screen for the shooter, who pops to the wing as the point dribbles toward the top [2]. The point passes across to the shooter for the 3-pointer [3].

TECHNIQUE

If the shooter doesn't come free, the point looks back to the ball screener on the roll, who either pops to the perimeter or rolls to the hoop.



Set Up Shooter With Opposite Action

Several off-the-ball screens set up the point guard dribbling across the top and passing to the weak-side corner moving into a shooting window

WHY USE IT

As opposite-side action distracts the defense, the weak-side-corner player typically is forgotten. Have this player curl into a shooting window for an open 3-point look.

SET UP

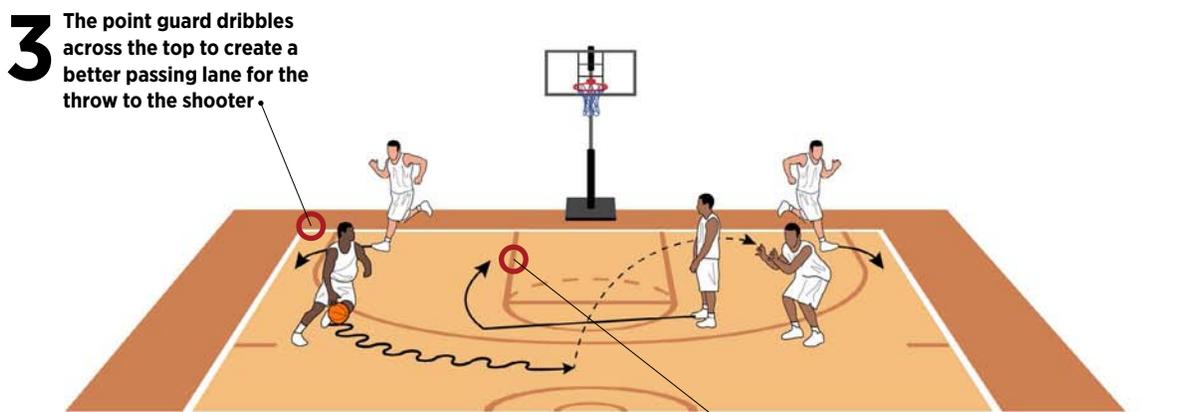
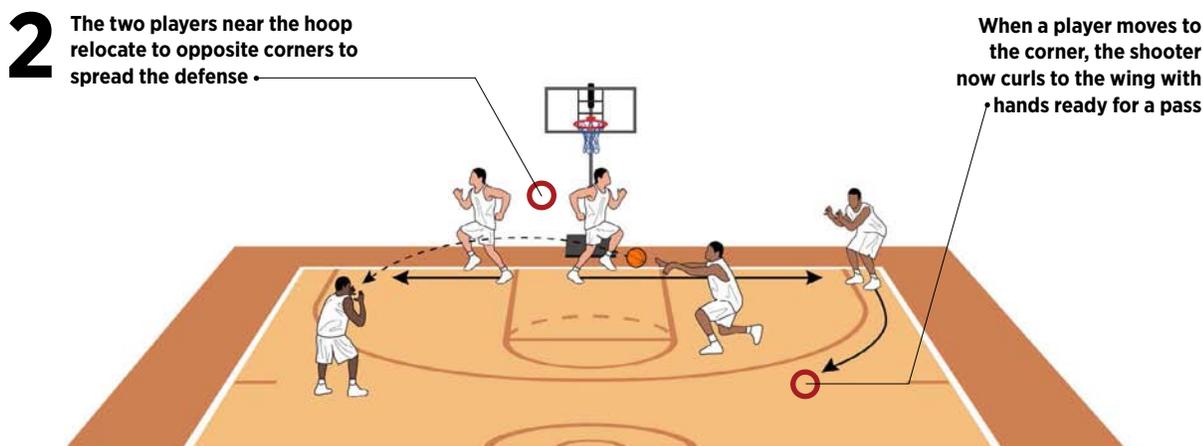
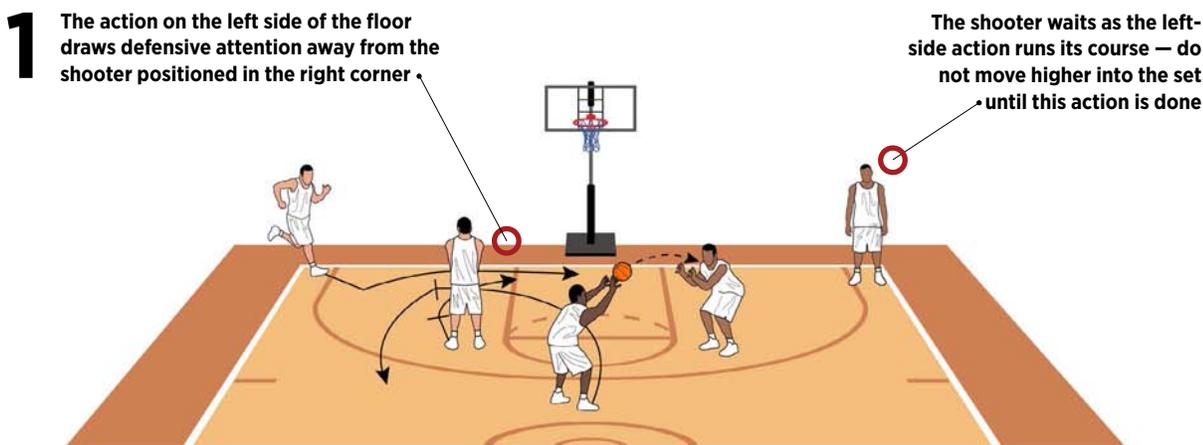
Go from a traditional Horns set with your bigs at opposite elbows and guards in opposite corners.

HOW TO PLAY

The point guard enters the ball to an elbow. In this example, the ball went to the right, which indicates the right-corner guard is the shooter. The point then moves low and screens for the left-corner player. The left elbow down screens so the point can circle back to the perimeter [1]. The ball handler fires a pass across the point on the left side. The two low players relocate to the corners as the right corner moves into a shooting window [2]. After passing, the right elbow sets a ball screen. The point dribbles across and fires a pass to the shooter [3].

TECHNIQUE

The shooter waits in the corner until the ball moves left, then finds an open shooting window. The ball screener rolls to the hoop and may be open for an over-the-top lob if the shooter sees it develop.



Player movement → Ball movement - - - → Dribble ~~~~~ → Shot →



Do These 8 Things Next Time You Scout

Scouting is an exhausting yet imperative process, so make the time worthwhile by increasing efficiency and charting trends

Scouting takes a tremendous amount of time and effort — but when done properly, it provides incredible insight into an upcoming opponent and a marked advantage for your squad.

Here are eight things for you and your staff to do when scouting your next game.

1 SCOUT LIKE YOU

Get out and scout with your assistants early in the season. Teach them what you are looking for, how to watch the games and what stats to track.

2 BE ON TIME

I've done a lot of scouting during my career and remain amazed at how many coaches show up to games late. Get there early! Watch players warm up. See the spots on the floor where the best shooters gravitate. Study dribbling habits and if shooters like to dribble (and how many bounces) into a shot. See what hand everyone favors. These are transparent to scouts as players warm up.

3 SET UP A SHEET

Record the team scouted and date. List each player by name and number. Note the starters but list everyone on the roster. Leave space to record notes on players' strengths and weaknesses, including favorite moves, degree of ball handling, shooting, rebounding tenacity, where do rebounders outlet the ball, do they use ball fakes, where do they line up on defense, how do they play the post, etc.

4 BRING EXTRA BLANK DIAGRAM SHEETS

Make sure you have full- and half-court diagrams pages with you. Diagram as many offensive sets as you can. Don't forget about defensive sets. And, make a time-of-game mark on all diagrams including the score so you know what the other team uses in certain situations.

5 CHART THE SCORING TREND FOR EACH HALF

List the score and time throughout each

half and see if there are any trends due to lack of conditioning or any kind of end-of-half or end-of-game patterns.

6 FIND PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR

Include a section to list players who stand out as difference makers and record notes about them.

7 CITE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPLOIT WEAKNESSES

Make observations about team and individual weaknesses. Does the team have a weak bench? Poor rebounding? Struggle against certain defenses? Does a certain player turn his or her back to the ball?

8 RECORD GENERAL NOTES

Make this section for anything not covered in the scouting report. Note what the team likes to do offensively and defensively coming out of timeouts. Find a trend and use it to your advantage. Sometimes, stealing an extra possession in the middle of the game is the key to a victory.

Words by:

By Brian Vukadinovich, retired men's coach, Ancilla College, Donaldson, Ind.

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