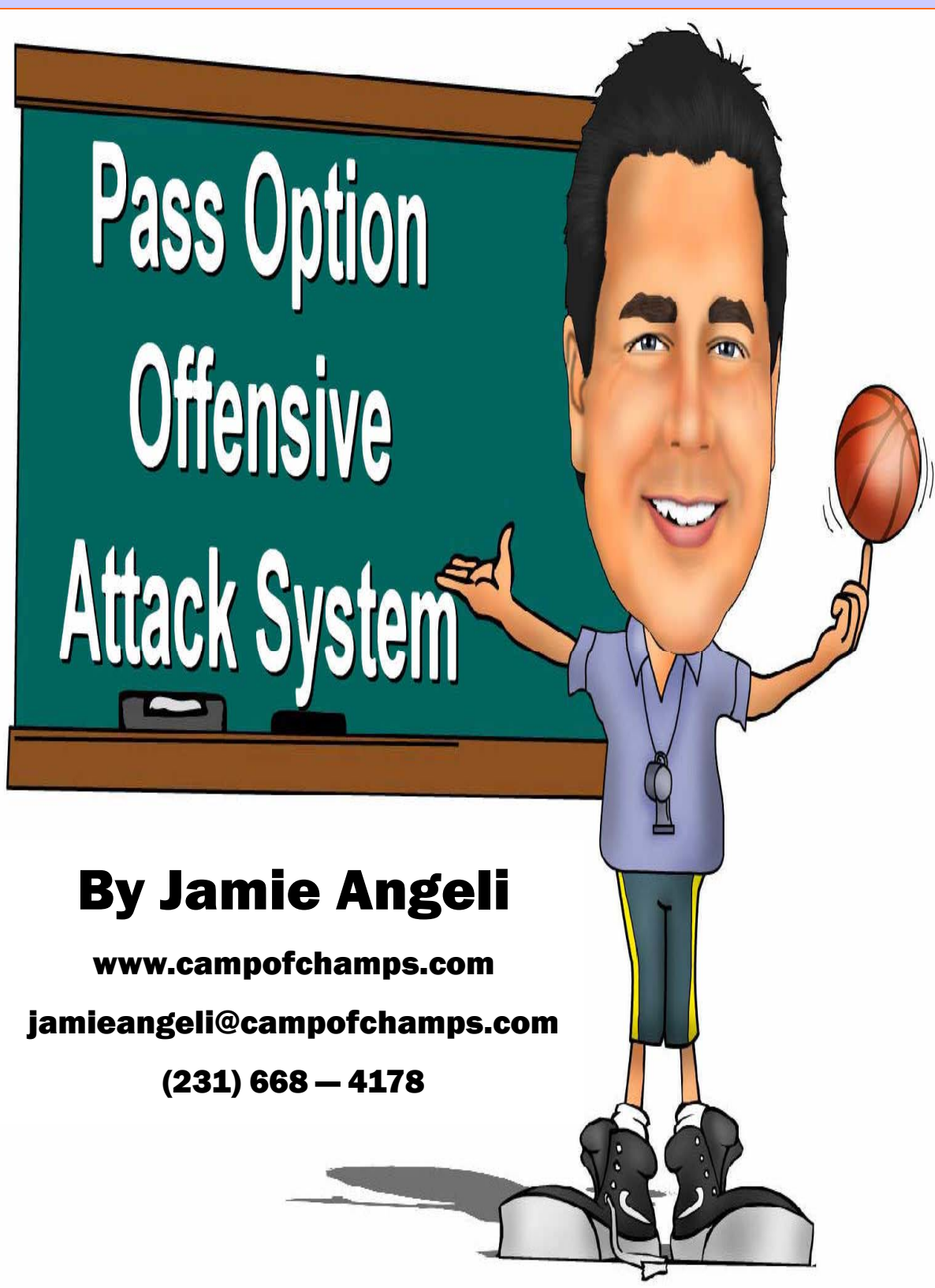


Primary / Secondary Break



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The Pass Option Offense

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The Pass Option Offense

I. Introduction

The following pages, dedicated to the Primary / Secondary Break -Pass Option Offensive Attack System, is a compilation of ideas, concepts, and strategies I have picked up throughout the course of my 20+ years in coaching. I have had the privilege of working with some outstanding head coaches in my career from whom I have gleaned valuable teaching techniques, practice ideas, set plays and drills, as well as numerous offensive and defensive alignments and philosophies.

After spending a dozen or so years as a Division 1 and 2 assistant coach, in 1994 I decided to settle on a head high school coaching job near my hometown area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. After years of watching, learning, advising and suggesting, it was time to put all that I have experienced and believed into action. It was then that I sat down and put together an offensive “system” that incorporated some of the best ideas from each coach whom I have had the pleasure of working with, studying and observing. In September of 2005, I have modified the system slightly after analyzing years of game action.

When putting my offense together I knew from the start there were some concepts I absolutely loved and some that I wasn't comfortable with and had to be eliminated from my arsenal.

After careful thought and many hours of looking over the various amounts of literature I had accumulated throughout my coaching career, I developed the “Primary / Secondary Break—Pass Option Offensive Attack System”.

The Pass Option Offense

I. Introduction (con't)

The Pass Option Offense is a sideline fast break system that relies on the point guard's pass in your secondary offense to "key" what your particular attack will be that time down the floor. If it sounds difficult, believe me it isn't. With constant repetition in practice on each of the handful of "pass options" included in this manual, your players will soon be executing them in their sleep. It is my hope that this concept of using the pass to key certain offensive plays and / or alignments will give you some ideas of your own to incorporate. Perhaps you will only use a few of the concepts in your present system. After all, that is exactly how I formulated this system in the first place. Taking what I had learned and read and adapting it to my belief system.

I am happy to report that I have used this system exclusively as the head boy's basketball coach at Norway High School in Norway, Michigan and most recently as the head professional coach of the Al Rayyan Basketball Club Team in Doha, Qatar. I firmly believe it was the major reason for our success and allowed the Knights of Norway in 1998 to win their first District Championship in over 20 years. Just this past season, my first season as an overseas professional head coach, our Al Rayyan team posted a 37 – 2 record, won a league championship and three tournament championships, including the coveted 2005 Asian Cup Championship in Manila.

The Pass Option Offense

I. Introduction (con't)

First, I wanted an offense, like the motion, that was difficult to scout and lacked predictability. I knew the motion offense would be incorporated in my system somewhere, but didn't want it to be the main focus of my attack, mainly because I wasn't comfortable giving all that freedom to my players. I wanted some control over where the ball was going and what we should be looking for each time down the floor.

Second, I wanted to fast break and attack quickly in transition once we secured the rebound.

Third, I wanted an offense that went from our primary and secondary offense into our half court attack quickly and seamlessly.

Fourth, I didn't like backing the ball out and calling plays while the defense had time to set up and perhaps key on our verbal signal as to what play we were running. That went against my philosophy of keeping the pressure on the defense while staying somewhat unpredictable.

The Pass Option Offense

II. Influences on the Pass Option

The following is a list of people I have either had the privilege of working under, studying their work, or listening to them at various clinics both on video and in person.

John Wooden	Head Basketball Coach, Emeritus, UCLA
Steve Lavin	Former UCLA Head Coach, Now ESPN Analyst
Jim Larranaga	Head Coach, George Mason University
Stan Albeck	Former Bradley Head Coach, Former NBA Coach
Terry Smith	Former Grand Valley State Head Coach
Marty Fletcher	Former University of Denver Head Coach
Kelvin Sampson	Head Basketball Coach, Oklahoma University
Jim Saia	Former UCLA Asst. Coach and Head Coach at USC

Coach Wooden	Practice structure and habits, organization, and emphasis on team play and conditioning.
Coach Lavin	Terminology, practice / conditioning concepts, teaching and communication.
Coach Larranaga	Secondary options in the half court sets.
Coach Albeck	Transition game concepts and drills.
Coach Smith	Practice structure and drills, secondary offensive system.
Coach Fletcher	Sideline break philosophy, teaching points and organization.
Coach Sampson	Inclusion and development of the 1-4 offense.
Coach Saia	Inclusion and development of the 1-4 offense.

The Pass Option Offense

III. Why Use The Pass Option?

- 1) **Creates quick, easy baskets and high percentage shots.**
- 2) **Puts pressure on the defense every possession.**
- 3) **Makes your opponent prepare for your transition game.**
- 4) **Reduces opponents desire to crash the offensive boards.**
- 5) **Improves your ability to play catch-up basketball.**
- 6) **Similar to the “no huddle” offense or the scripted plays in football, the “pass option” offense has no verbal or physical play calls (other than who receives the pass), forcing the defense to react on the fly.**
- 7) **Through the included transition breakdown drills for practice, your team becomes better conditioned with an improved ability to pass, catch, dribble, and make decisions at high speed.**
- 8) **Creates an environment of enthusiasm, confidence and preparation knowing that you have several offensive options at your disposal each time down the floor.**
- 9) **The included transition breakdown drills combine work for transition game, shooting, individual offensive moves, team offense and execution as well as conditioning. These all - inclusive transition drills will save you time for work on your defense and other areas of your team’s development.**
- 10) **Gives the coach control over most of the offensive structural decisions being made. It provides structure within a multiple—pass option—offensive attack system.**

The Pass Option Offense

IV. General Keys for Success

- 1) **Sprint the floor every time. Primary break options are always your first priority.**
- 2) **Nobody leaks out on the break – run lanes only when rebound has been secured. DO NOT be lenient on this one!**
- 3) **Outlet to the point guard is critical; must work on getting ball out of the net and inbounds quickly.**
- 4) **For success in any transition and secondary offensive system, your players, especially the point guard, has to have an understanding of and know the difference between the “freeway” area (speed zone from top of key to top of key) and the “city” area (control zone from top of key to basket). The freeway zone is all about speed and sprinting. The city zone is start and stop action, quick change of direction, and lower, stronger stances.**
- 5) **Your transition game must take what the defense gives - be flexible.**
- 6) **Execute the details / fundamentals of each option (repetition, repetition, repetition).**
- 7) **Point guard must keep his dribble until pass option is available. The point guard should never pass ahead unless they feel they will have an open 3-point shot, lay-up, or penetration opportunity. If that is the case, the ball should be passed ahead and the primary break options should be executed.**
- 8) **Players sprinting the floor must turn heads and find the ball at half court or shortly thereafter.**

The Pass Option Offense

IV. General Keys for Success (con't)

- 9) Anytime the ball enters the low post – all remaining set plays are no longer in effect. When the low post man receives the ball, the opposite high post player dives to the basket and perimeter players improve spacing on the floor for a return pass out. We will then play our “32” (3-out 2-in), “41” (4-out 1-in) or “50” (5-out) motion offense or passing game for the remainder of the possession. Any breakdown in our primary or secondary options will also result in immediate motion offense or passing game.
- 10) Anytime the high post player is denied in your trailer entry options, they should immediately back cut toward the basket looking for the back door pass from the point guard. The back side wing will recognize the back cut by the post and immediately fill the top spot on the floor and look to receive the pass from the point guard. We will run our 1 – 4 offense from this point OR you could run your continuity offense or motion offense. This is explained in detail inside the offense.
- 11) You can run the “pass option” primary and secondary break vs. man-to-man and match-up zone defenses. You should run only the primary break options into your zone offense vs. all basic zone defenses.
- 12) Depending on the strong hand of your point guard or inboundng post player, you will primarily run that side of the floor more times than not. However, a good balance of right and left side transition should be used and encouraged.
- 13) I cannot overemphasize enough how important the “parts” are to the “whole” in the success of this system. Getting your players to be in a stance, ready to catch, shoot, and dribble is essential and should not be overlooked in your day-to-day teaching.

The Pass Option Offense

VII. Secondary Break

(Corner Entry Pass Option)



The beginning of our first “pass option” series assumes you have pushed the ball down the floor and did not find any of the primary break options. Each of the next three “pass option” sections deals with a particular pass made by the point guard that will key an offensive series that time down the floor. There are no verbal signals, no hand signals, and most importantly, no backing the ball out and setting up your half court offense. You will run seamlessly from your primary break to your first secondary break option concluding with your half court offense.

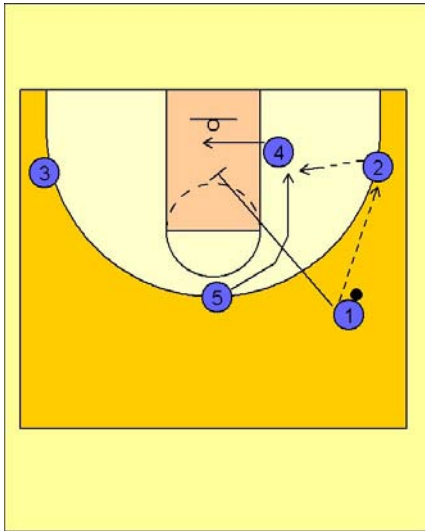
It is important to note that the point guard has to recognize when the primary options are not available and “switch gears” and down shift to the secondary mode of the offense. At times, that might be slowing up a bit to some trailing players are in the action before they begin the “pass options”.

The fact there is no set-up time by the offense, leaves the pressure all on the defense to react quickly to the constant and quick changes in your attack. The fact that there is a new attack with each different entry pass from your point guard makes this a very unique offense and very difficult to scout and defend. Let’s look at our first entry – the “corner entry” pass.

Transition

Corner entry (pass)

1



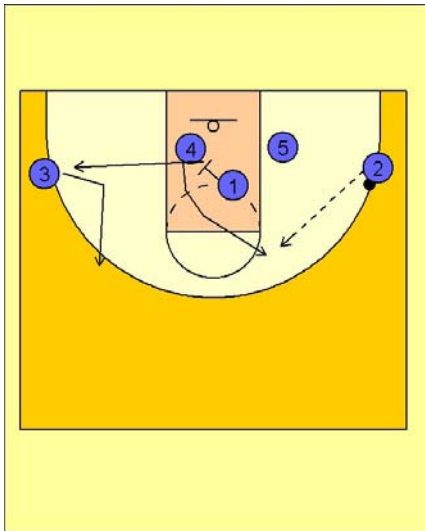
Corner Entry

#1 enters the ball to #2 on the right wing. As a reminder, this action can be run on the opposite side of the floor.

Once #2 has the ball, #1 cuts through the lane around the free throw line elbow area while #4 is stepping into the middle of the lane.

#5 cuts right off the back of #1 cutting through the lane, running his defender into the back of #1. #2's first look is to #5 cutting to the low right block.

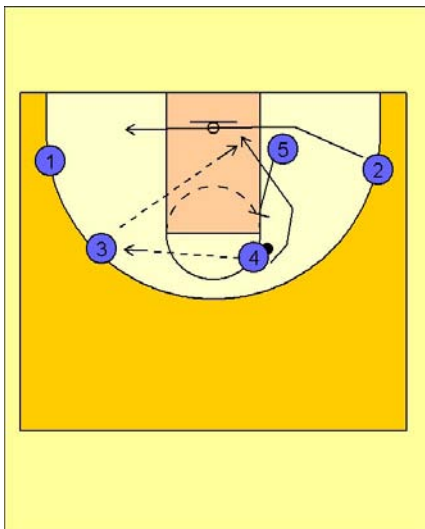
2



Corner Entry

If #5 is not open, #1 is screening in the lane for #4 who breaks up to the top of the key area looking for the pass from #2. #3 v-cuts and breaks up to the top left wing area while #1 steps out to the left wing area after down screening.

3



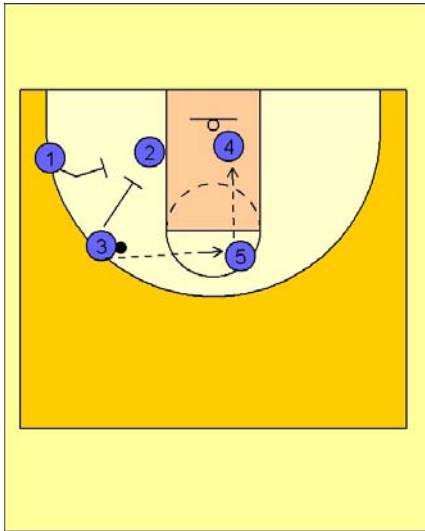
Corner Entry

As soon as #2 passes the ball to #4 on top he cuts through underneath the basket to the low left block. #4 reverses the ball to #3 on the left side of the floor and then receives a back screen from #5. #3 looks to throw the lob pass to #4 if he is open.

Transition

Corner entry (pass)

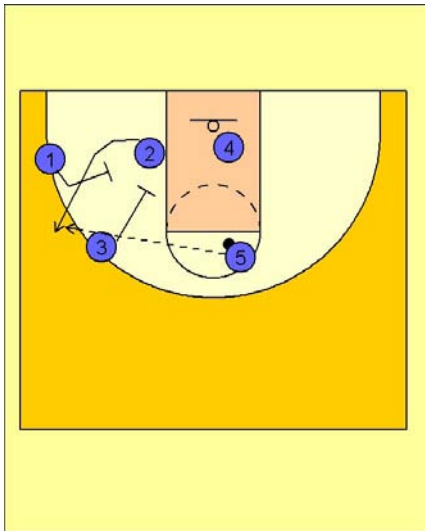
4



Corner Entry

If #4 is not open, #3 will pass the ball to #5, who has stepped out after back screening. #4 is taught to attack the rim on the lob, regardless of whether or not he will receive the lob pass. This aggressiveness will force the defender to move to the basket area to stop the lob pass. This will allow #4 to seal with good post position under the basket and receive the post entry pass from #5 on top.

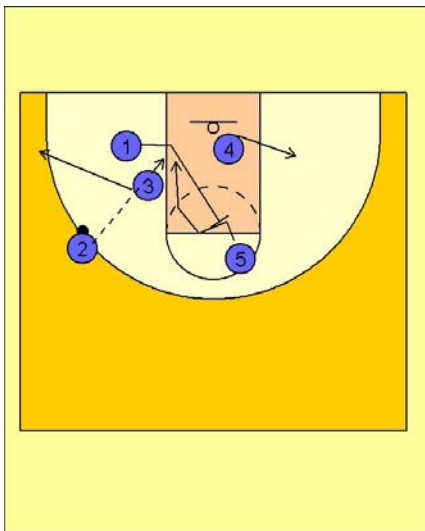
5



Corner Entry

While #4 is posting up, #1 and #3 are setting a double down screen for #2. This action will take away any weakside help that might try to sink in on the post player #4. #5 would then look to hit #2 for the open jumper on the left wing.

6



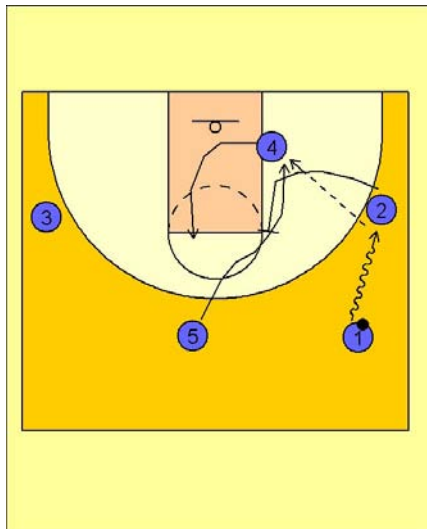
Corner Entry

If #2 does not have a shot, the low man in the double screen, #1 in this diagram, sets a diagonal back screen for #5. #2 would then look inside to #5 on the left low block.

If that was not available, we would either run our motion offense, our 1-4 offense, or a set play.

Transition

Corner entry (dribble entry)



1

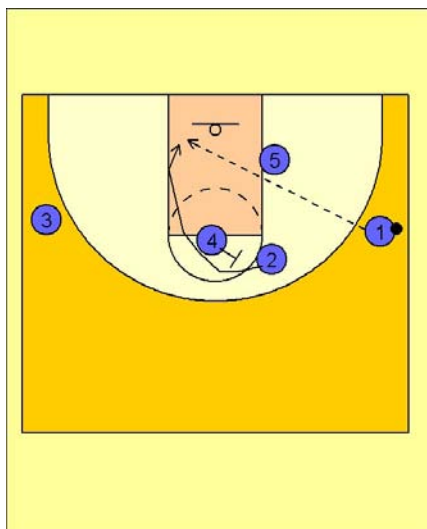
Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

This is an effective corner dribble entry option. It is important that #1 physically "wave out" #2 so that he knows to execute the dribble entry play. Later we will show you an option when the point guard does not "wave out" #2 and instead dribbles at him to execute a dribble hand-off with #2. But that is later....this is the dribble entry waving out #2.

#1 dribbles at #2 on the right wing. #2 clears out towards the lane as #4 also steps away and up to the free throw line opposite elbow area.

#2 now moves up and sets a back screen for #5 cutting to the low block. This is an effective screening action, especially if #2 and #5's defender decide to switch the screening action, putting a smaller defender (#2) on the post player (#5).

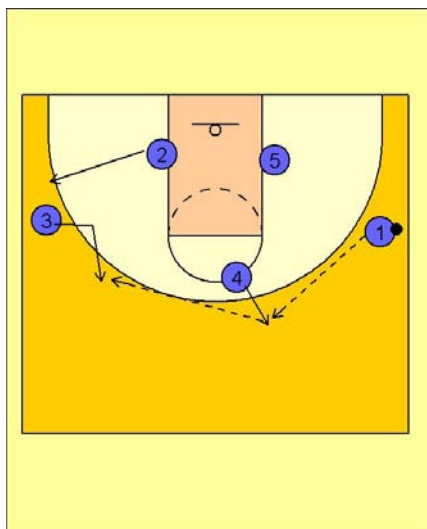
#1's first look is to #5 on the right low block.



2

Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

Once #2 sets the back screen for #5 he immediately takes a back screen from #4 and cuts to the back side of the lane looking for the lob to the basket.



3

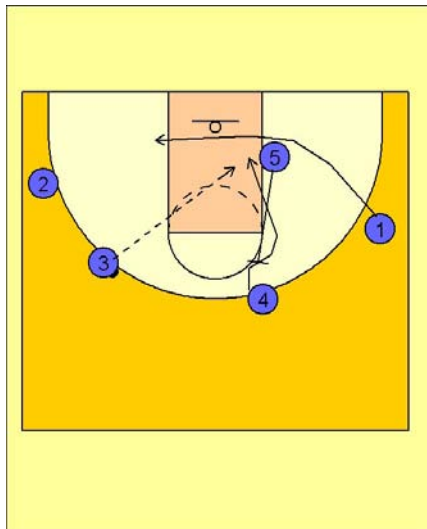
Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

If #2 is not open for the lob, #4 breaks out to the top after back screening while #2 breaks out to the left wing area.

#3 times his v-cut to get open for the ball reversal pass from #4.

Transition

Corner entry (dribble entry)

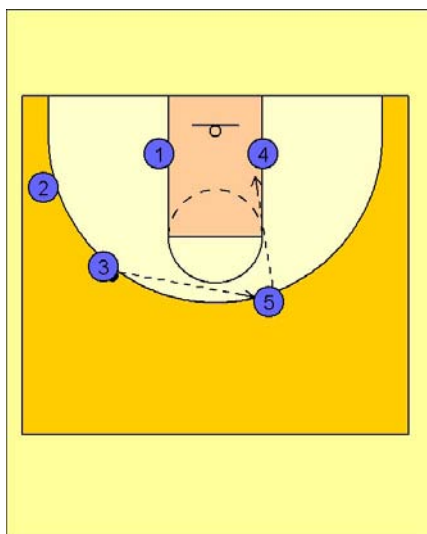


4

Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

As soon as #1 passes to #4 on top he cuts through the lane underneath #5 and over to the ball side low block.

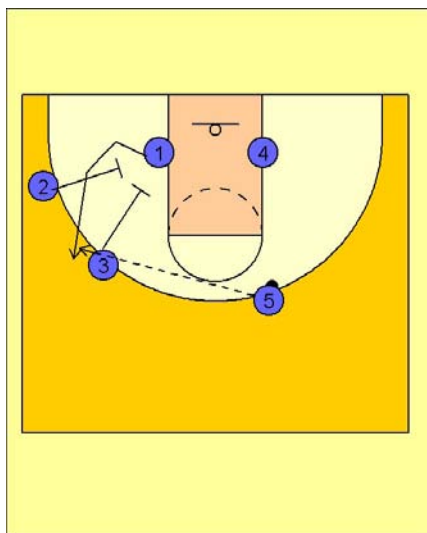
As #1 cuts through #5 is moving up to set a back screen for #4. #3 can look to hit #1 cutting to the low block, but his primary look is to #4 cutting to the basket for the lob pass.



5

Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

If the lob to #4 is not available, #5 steps out after back screening and receives the pass from #3. He then looks to enter the ball to the post player #4.



6

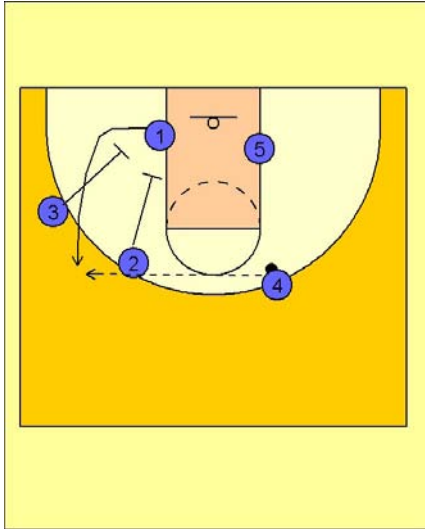
Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

While #4 is posting up, #2 and #3 are occupying the weakside defenders by setting a double down screen for #1. #5 looks to hit #1 for the open jumper on the left wing if he is open.

Transition

Corner entry (dribble entry)

9

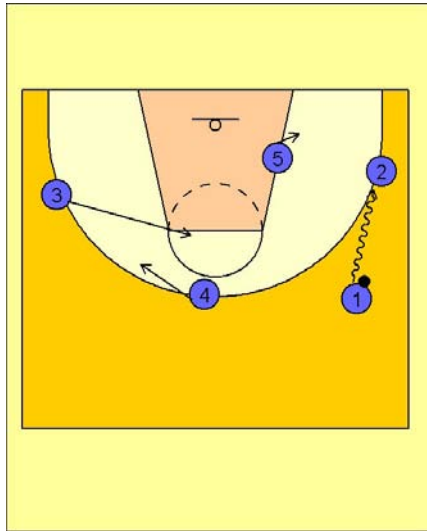


Corner Entry (Dribble Entry)

As in the previous option, #5 posts up while #3 and #2 double down screen for #1 on the left low block, occupying the weakside defenders. #4 can pass inside to #5 or hit #1 coming off the double down screen.

Transition

Corner entry (hand-off)



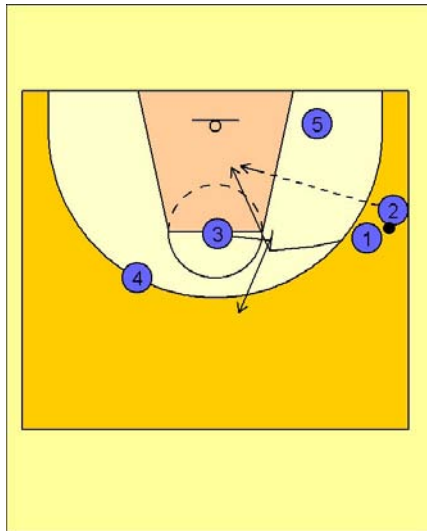
Corner Entry (Hand-off)

1

When post player #5 notices that #1 is not passing the ball to the wing or on top and instead is moving in the direction on the dribble towards #2 (without "waving" #2 out), #5 will then post up on the ball side low block area, recognizing the "hand-off" option.

#1 dribbles at #2 and hands the ball off to #2.

#3 recognizing the dribble hand-off flashes into the high post calling for the ball.

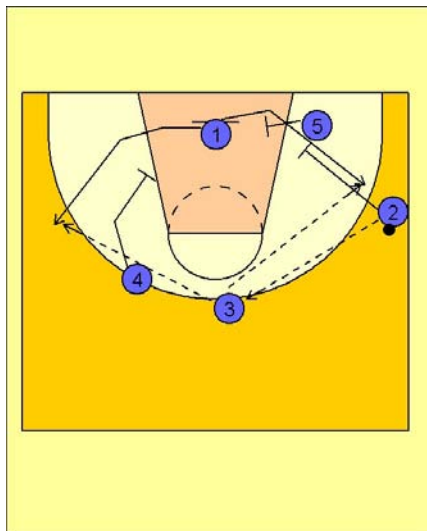


Corner Entry (Hand-off)

2

Once #1 gives the ball to #2, #3 continues his movement toward the ball and sets a back screen for #1 at the freethrow line right elbow area.

#2 then looks to throw the lob pass to the cutting #1 while the screener, #3, steps out on the perimeter.



Corner Entry (Hand-off)

3

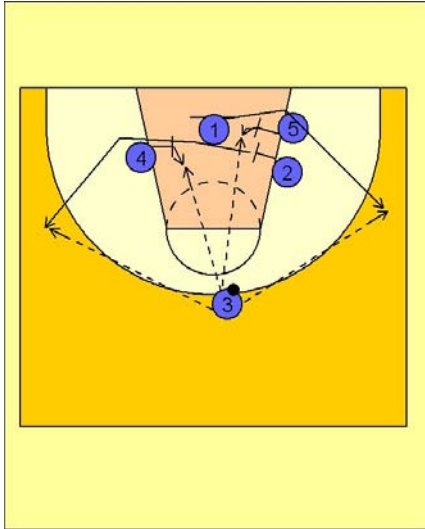
If #1 does not receive the lob pass from #2, #2 hits #3 popping out on top after screening for #1.

#1 is now at the basket area looking to use a single down screen on the left side from #4 or a double or double staggered down screen from #5 and #2.

Transition

Corner entry (hand-off)

4

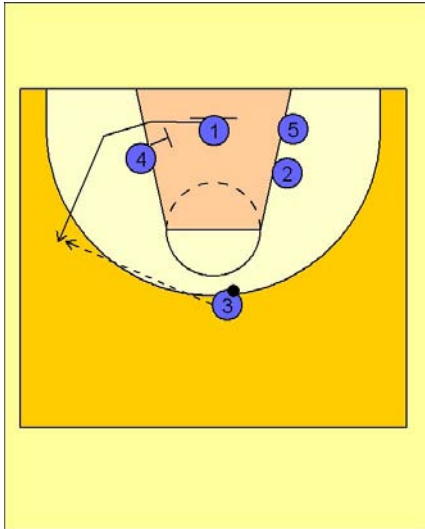


Corner Entry (Hand-off)

If #1 uses the double screen on the right side of the floor, #2 would then cut off the single screen on the left side as soon as #1 came off their double screen.

#5 and #4 would look to step in and post up once the shooters came off their respective screens.

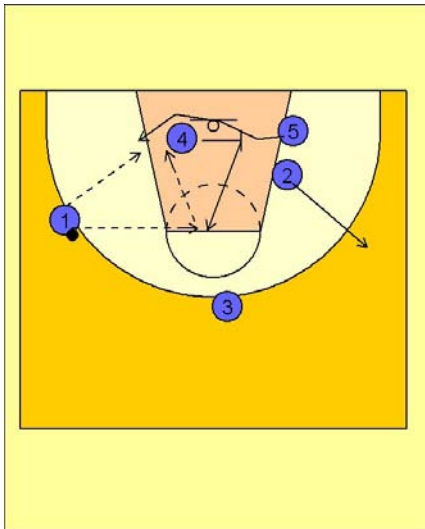
5



Corner Entry (Hand-off)

If #1 decides to use the single screen on the left side of the floor #1 will make the entry pass on the left side to #1.

6



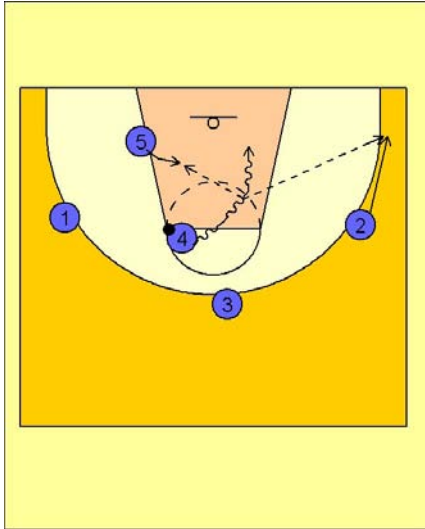
Corner Entry (Hand-off)

#4 would continue his screening action across the lane and screen for #5 and then pop to the high post. #1 would look to enter the ball inside to #5 or to #4 in the high post for the high / low entry to #5.

Transition

Corner entry (hand-off)

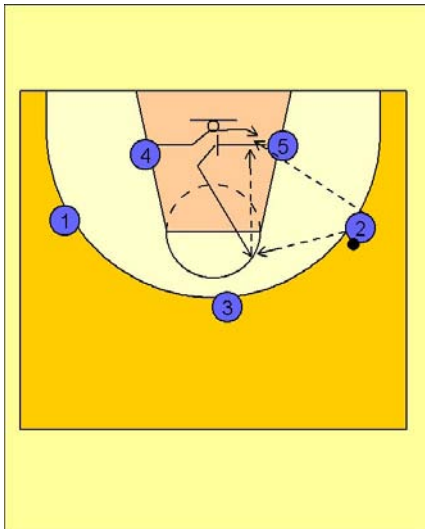
7



Corner Entry (Hand-off)

If #4 receives the ball in the high post he also has the option to attack the basket on the right side with the dribble. There is no help side defense. If #2's defender comes over to help you will have a nice drive and kick out to #2 on the right wing / corner area for an open jump shot.

8

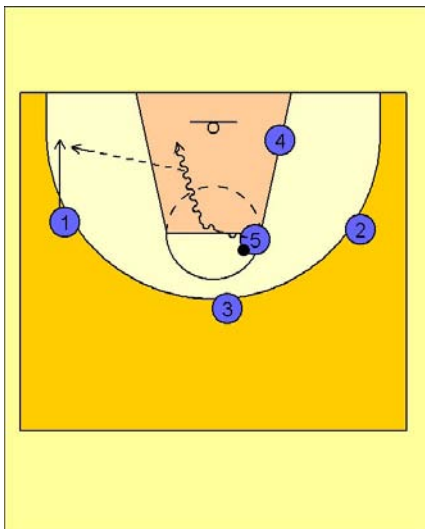


Corner Entry (Hand-off)

The same action would be duplicated if #2 received the ball on the right wing.

#5 would now screen across for #4 and then flash back to the high post. #2 would look inside to #4 or to the high post player #5. #5 would then look to make the high / low entry pass inside to the pinning and sealing #4.

9



Corner Entry (Hand-off)

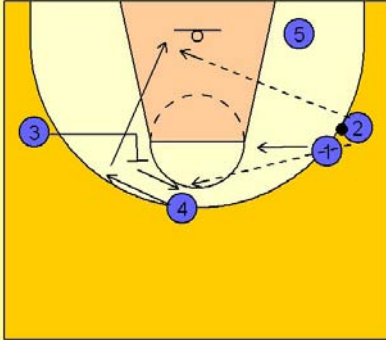
#5 would also have the option to put the ball down to the cleared out side of the floor to score or drive and kick out to #1 on the left wing.

Transition

Corner entry (hand-off)

10

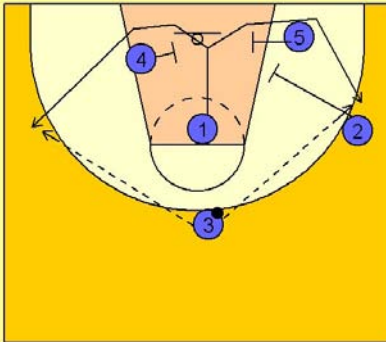
Corner Entry (Hand-off)



Another option at the beginning of this play is for #3 to occasionally stop short and screen the post man #4 for the lob. You may catch them napping thinking either #3 is flashing to the high post to catch the ball or that he is coming in to screen as in the past for #1.

11

Corner Entry (Hand-off)



The play would continue as usual if #4 did not receive the lob pass. #1 continued his cut into and down the lane and then would have #4 set up on the left side for the lob pass and #5 and #2 setting up their double staggered screen on the right side of the floor.

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