

The Shuffle

I first came across the Shuffle offense when I picked up a book "Multiple Offense and Defense written by North Carolina's Dean Smith, which also included a section by Bob Spear on the Shuffle.

I have found since using it that it enhances and improves individual fundamentals as, everyone plays each and every position on the court.

If a mismatch happens, or a guard finds himself with the ball in the post he will feel comfortable and will in fact have his opposing guard at a disadvantage because he is used to the post and his opponent will not be used to defending the post position.

I have found that coaching weak teams against strong teams, it enables the weaker team to equalise some of the inherent advantages that the stronger team has.

Between two evenly matched teams, i have found it gives the team using the Shuffle an advantage. Using with a stronger team against a weaker side i have found that the stronger teams destroys the Weaker.

I would be naive to say that the Shuffle is the any way and demand that every coach should use it, but I have found it to work very successfully at all levels from 12 year olds to senior basketball. I also have seen it be extremely effective against bigger sides as invariably I have been unlucky in not having sides with genuine size, although My Oxford University side was blessed with several Giants during the successful 1998-99 British Universities Championship season.

Since I first started using the Shuffle I have added three other options to the Shuffle that Dean Smith and Bob Spear outline, namely Greece which is a corner shot play which I came across, when I was involved in the European Youth Olympic Games at Bath during 1996 where the Greece Under 17 side scored a large number of baskets using this simple but effective play whilst playing a motion type offense.

I was fortunate to view the Princeton Offense, and this was enhanced by working with one of their former leading scorers recently, Kim Allen, and thought that their Dribble weave backdoor play would fit in nicely with the whole of my Shuffle System.

The Shuffle is not nor has it ever been immune to criticism ever since Bruce Drake at the Oklahoma University utilised this basic cut during the 1950's, which subsequently became known as the Drake

Shuffle"

The main criticism of the Shuffle is that it is too mechanical, or as an excuse to stall and keep the ball from high scoring, strong rebounding and fast breaking teams, or because the coach has a team of misfits, and lack team discipline.

After many years of coaching and using the Shuffle with all kinds of teams both male and female, I have enjoyed varying degrees of success, winning five British and English championships at senior level, one under 19 and several close misses, coming second on a number of occasions.

I have found that the Shuffle capitalises on a balanced offense which will capitalise on the on the strengths of your players and exploit weaknesses in your opponents game. It will teach young players organisation, and good basic fundamentals, and the team concept.

One thing about the Shuffle is that in my experience you have to practice it for several weeks before deploying it in a game, but it is well worth it

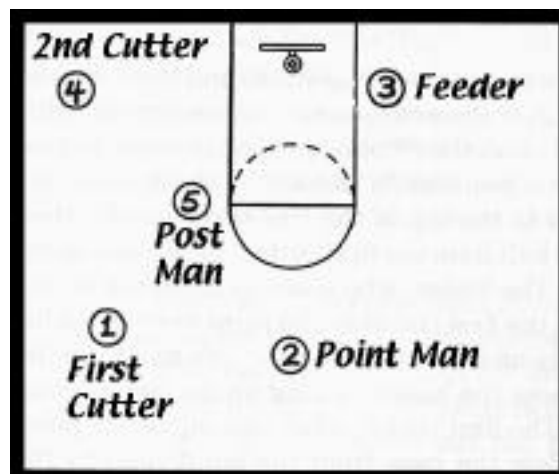
The main goal of any offense is to score, this prime fact has to be the first and foremost in the minds of every player and coach. Everytime a player receives possession of the ball in any given situation on any offense, he should square up to the basket in a triple threat position.

- ◆ Can I shoot
- ◆ Can I drive to the hoop
- ◆ Can I pass to someone who can score

Inherently built into the Shuffle offense is the ability for keeping the defense honest, which will in turn open the door for many scoring opportunities.

I firmly believe that to understand the Shuffle is to understand the court positions, which is a basic overload on either side of the court, as play flows continuously from one side of the court to the other.

For the simplification, of learning the shuffle I have numbered each position although this numbering should be dispensed with in favour of the name of each position which in turn describes the movement of the player.



The meat of the Shuffle is the Basic Cut, although this is only one of several components it is all too easy to rely on the basic cut to the detriment of the Shuffle Offense and subsequently get bogged down and fail to accomplish the goal of the offense which is to score.

Diagram 2 Point

Point Man is the playmaker of any team, the general on the court, and in the Shuffle he is the dictator who decides when and what options are to be made and taken.

The Point man should always be in his box at the top of the key to a metre or so higher. If he is to receive a ball from the first cutter he may have to release higher. If the point is receiving the ball it is important that he swings the ball quickly to the feeder, the best type of pass being a two handed overhead pass.

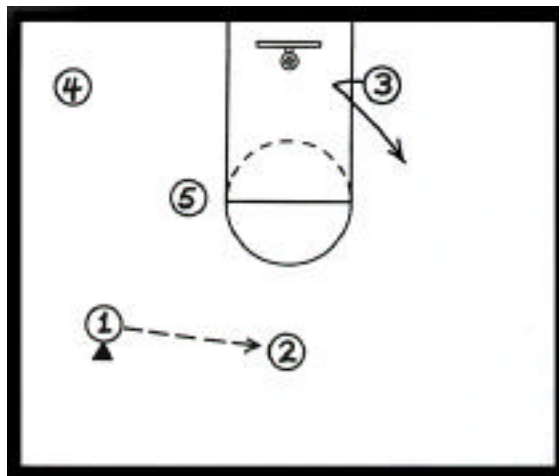


Diagram 3 Feeder

This position is the key to the whole of the basic cut, he should line up in the low post next to the Buffer Marks on the side of the key.

To prepare to receive the ball he should first fake as if looking for the back door pass, he should then release dynamically to the wing area (foul line extended) to receive the ball from the point.

Having received the ball he should square up to the basket, as loads of scoring opportunities now start to appear.

the first ones here are

- ◆ shot from the feeder
- ◆ drive to the basket 1 v 1

there is a third involving the feeder, which sees a scoring opportunity presented if the defender is overplaying the feeder denying him the pass he changes direction driving hard to the basket looking for a backdoor pass and uncontested layup.

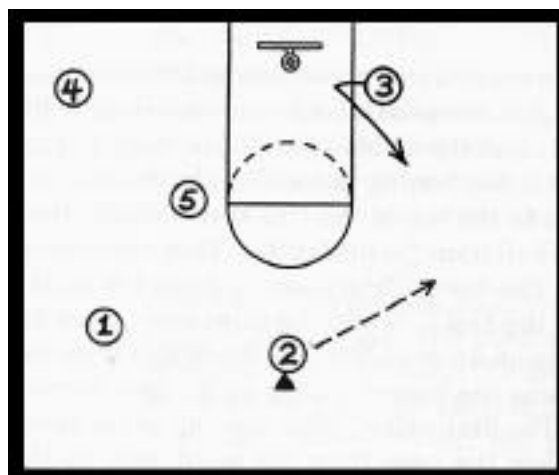


Diagram 4 First Cutter

As the feeder receives the ball so the first cutter comes off the post man's screen, as he does so he should be ready to do one of three things.

- ◆ First Rebound the feeders shot
- ◆ 2nd score off the feeders pass
- ◆ 3rd to facilitate the continuity of the offense

His first role is that of a rebounder in case the feeder takes an outside shot, secondly if the feeder has not made a move to the hoop the first cutter should expect the ball for a layup move. If He does not receive the ball he should continue through to the low post/corner and become the second cutter.



Diagram 4 2nd Cutter

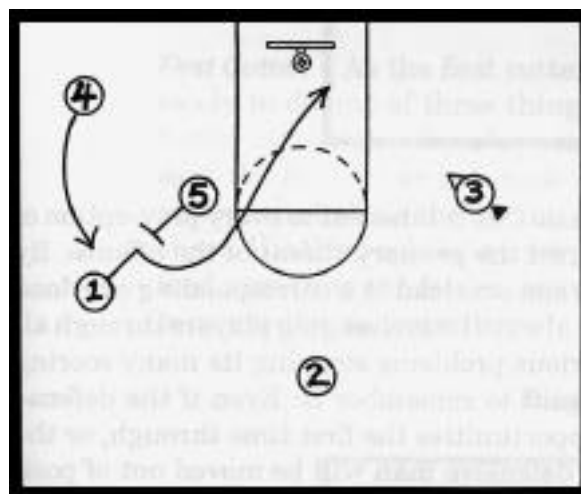
The second cutter lines up in the low post area or corner, as the first cutter makes his move off the post man, the second cutter releases up to the wing area level with the Post man

Having seen the first cutter go through and not receive the ball, the second cutter utilises the post man in the same manner as the first cutter did rubbing his man off the post as he makes a move to the hoop.

If he does not receive the ball he posts up on the opposite elbow to that of the post man, on the feeders side of the court.

Again the second cutter has three main responsibilities

- ◆ First Rebound the 1st cutters shot
- ◆ 2nd score off the feeders pass
- ◆ 3rd to facilitate the continuity of the offense

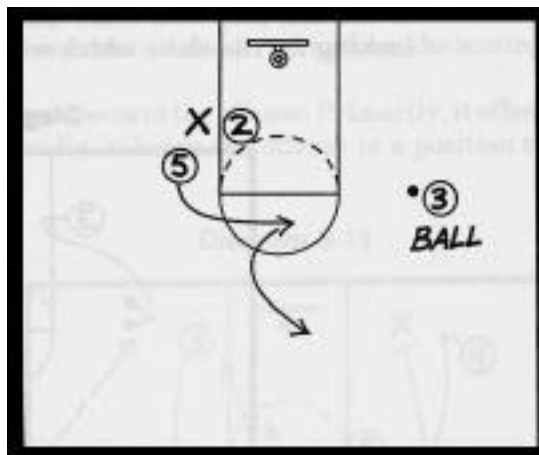


Post Man

The Post man is basically a picking machine who sets up at the elbow of the key on the opposite side to the feeder and the same side as the first and second cutters. His job as a picking machine is to head hunt the 1st and 2nd cutters defensive man.

After he has set the first screen for the first cutter he must immediately think about setting a screen for the second cutter.

These two quick screens not only set up two opportunities to score, but also provide the continuity of the basic cut.



The Point

After the post man has made the second of his two screens, he must be alert and immediately think about a screen on his defensive man by the point.

This provides the post man with an excellent scoring opportunity from the foul line. If the Post does not receive the ball he "L" cuts to the foul line which is one of the most difficult moves to defend against.

The Post becomes the point man and provides the continuity of the basic cut offense.

The point having set the screen on the post rolls to the hoop looking for an inside pass from the feeder. If the point man does not receive the ball he steps out of the lane on the opposite side of the ball to set up in the elbow post area now becoming the second cutter.

This completes the Basic Cut movement, and it is important that players realise where and when the scoring opportunities arise so that it becomes second nature, instinctive.



The Split

Having learned the basic cut it is important to see the Split as an integral part of the Shuffle.

The Split offers a complete offense in itself and becomes potent when played with and mixed with the Basic Cut.

The key to the movement of the Split starts with the the pass from the point or first cutter to the post man.

After the post man receives the ball the first cutter head hunts the second cutter to set a legal screen. The second cutter fakes to go inside coming off the first cutters screen to receive the ball from the post man for a 10-15ft jump shot.

The first cutter having set the pick rolls to the hoop looking for the ball from the post inside under the hoop

On the other side of the court the point man and feeder interchange or the point sets a pick for the feeder to receive the ball at the top of the key for a long range shot or to provide continuity of the offense by swinging the ball to the wing and the new feeder

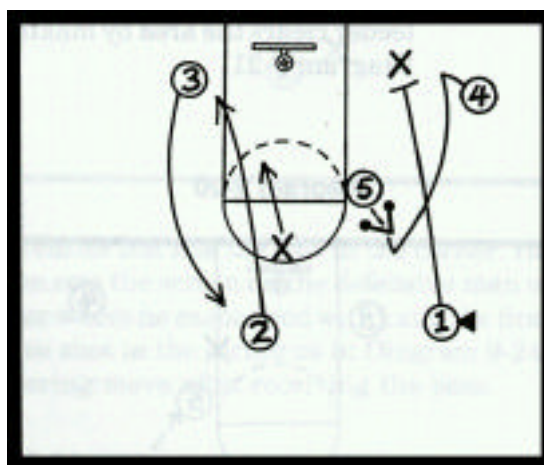
The point man having set the pick rolls to the basket looking for a skip pass under the basket, if he doesn't receive the ball he becomes the new feeder.

The post man after he receives the ball must pivot away from the passer toward the feeder looking for a backdoor opportunity presented to the feeder. The Post Man if the back door isn't on then follows through and then looks for the pass to the second cutter coming off the first cutters screen

If the post has an opportunity to drive to the hoop then he does so.

The second cutter with no shot option looks to pass the ball to the point and now becomes the first cutter in the basic cut, unless he passes the ball back to the post in which case he head hunts the new second cutters defensive man and so continue the split

The Split provides a load of positive opportunities and high scoring percentage shots.



Greece

With the ball in the First Cutter Position, who happens to be a good perimeter shooter, we can run a play that will give him a shot in the corner whilst penetrating both scoring opportunities for others and also provide continuity and balance on the Shuffle offence.

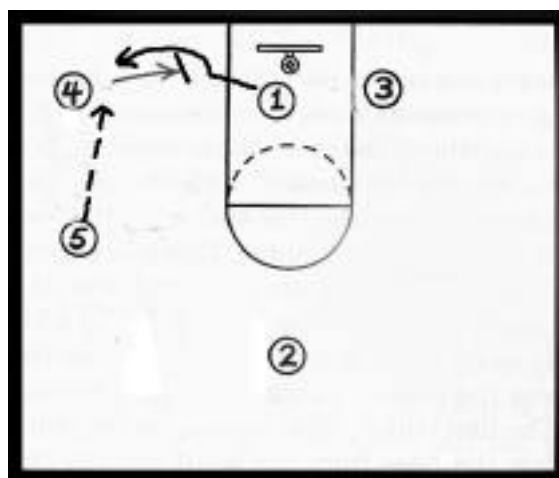
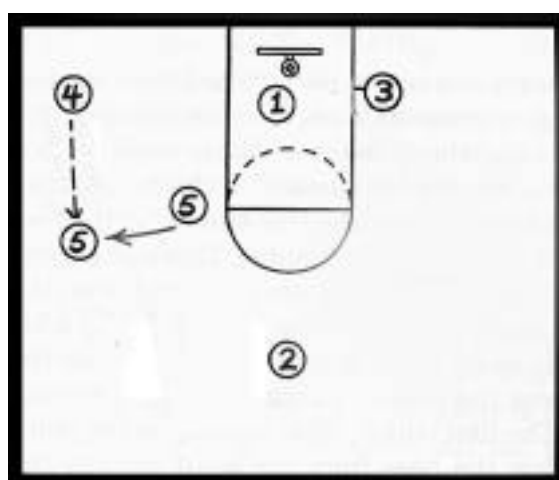
With no passing opportunities for the first cutter to pass to the point or post or inside to the second cutter posting up in the low post.

The Second Cutter pops into the corner and receives a pass from the second cutter who cuts hard to the hoop looking for a give and go.

As the first cutter cuts to the hoop, the post man steps out to receive the ball in the wing area vacated by the first cutter.

The Second Cutter having passed the ball to the post man goes and head hunts the first cutter's defensive man who has having reached the hoop does a "U" turn and comes off the second cutter's pick into the corner to receive the ball and take the outside shot over the screen provided by the first cutter.

Two other options are the pass to the picker rolling to the hoop from the post man, or the pass to the picker rolling to the basket from the First Cutter having received the ball having come off the pick.



Princeton

As a variation, if none of the intro passes are available to the point man, namely passes to the feeder, Post and first cutter.

he can effect the princeton type move which i named after viewing Princetons offensive patterns. This involves the dribble towards the second cutter. just before he reaches the second cutter he comes to a two footed jump stop and hands the ball with the outside hand to the first cutter who dribbles across the court in the direction of the feeder who looks initially to go back door (Princeton Backdoor) or replicates the receiving of the pass that the first cutter now with the ball did when he received it from the point This dribble weave continues until the following

options become open.

backdoor by feeder

drive to the hoop by dribble

shot off the screen made by the ballhandler

any of the feeds for split, corner shot, or basic cut

Swing

If the pass options of Split, Basic Cut are not available, then the Point man can dribble in the direction of the feeder giving a hand signal to clear out.

This is the signal for the feeder, First and second cutters to rotate around the post who stays where he is.

So the point man becomes the feeder with the options the feeder has open to him, the first cutter becomes point, the second replaces first Cutter and feeder becomes second cutter.