

# **Chris Beard, UNLV**

## **2016 NABC Clinic - Houston, TX**

### **Career advice for young coaches:**

-Beard just concluded his 22<sup>nd</sup> year in coaching (UNLV will be his 8<sup>th</sup> different head coaching job). "Basketball has been very good to me."

-"There is no *right* path to take in your career. There's no *right* decision. You make the decision and then you work to make it the right decision."

-Learn from every job you have.

-Beard takes great pride in the fact that at all 7 head coaching jobs he's had, an assistant has taken over when he departed. "I think/hope that says something about the culture that we've built."

### **Relationships**

-Have great relationships

- With your staff (embrace their ambitions & challenge them)
- With your players
  - Beard keeps a small note on his desk at all times that has each player's name on it. Beard wants to have face-to-face interaction with each kid every single day. He will place a checkmark next to the kid's name as he goes. He replaces the card the next day and goes through it again.

### **The Bonds that Bind us Together (as a Team)**

-Unselfishness: how we play for each other.

-Beard will ask guys before/after practice when the team huddles up, "Jake, what have you done for a teammate today?"

-Beard will do a team retreat before every season where the team goes on the road and spends a couple of days doing team-building activities.

-"The most sacred thing in our program is honesty. We won't tolerate liars."

## Bob Knight's Initial Bit of Advice

1. I've never been concerned with how hard guys work. Everyone works hard, it's about getting stuff done.
2. I hope you understand that the reason we're having this meeting [Knight, on the brink of taking the Texas Tech job, had agreed to meet Beard in the Oklahoma City airport] because your body of work has created respect from people you may not even realize [Knight had spoken to two people—Mike Kundstadt, Texas' premier high school basketball talent evaluator, and Jerry Mullens, arguably the most knowledgeable junior college talent evaluator in the country—who Beard had made an impression on.]

"You never know which relationship is going to lead to your big break. I didn't even have much of a relationship with Jerry. It was just about him observing my teams. You never know who's watching."

## Learning From Your Players

- Beard asks his players a ton of questions
  - Where do you like the ball?
  - Who's the best coach you've played for?

## Screening Game

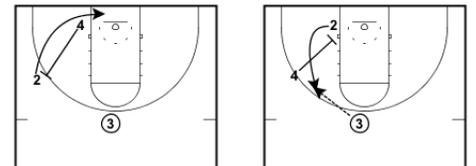
-Beard learned motion offense after working for Bob Knight for nearly a decade at Texas Tech.

-“We work every day at reading the defense.”

-Cutter always has two options on the screen.

-3 types of screens in their motion:

1. Down Screens
2. Back Screens (“We love to re-screen this one.”)
3. Flare Screens



## Ball Screens

-Beard wishes he had been able to convince Coach Knight of the advantages of a ball screen.

-Teach reading ball screens just like you teach reading your off-ball screens.

- Versus trap/hedge: quick pass out
- Versus under: pin you in or re-screen
- Versus switch: space it out and attack a mismatch (big/little or little/big)

## **Process**

-“We have a day-to-day process that we believe leads directly to winning. We don’t talk much about winning. We talk about the day-to-day process.

-Beard admires Nick Saban’s commitment to a process.

-Beard’s “Process” includes

- Nutrition: “Your resources may be limited, but what can you do to improve how your athletes *fuel* their body?”
- Weight Room: 4-5x a week out of season, 3x a week in season (including on the road - “We’ll use a hotel’s weight room if it’s good enough or an LA Fitness or ask if we can get in the school’s weight room that we’re playing.”)
- Film Room: Each player at UALR had to come into the office and watch at least 10 minutes of film with a coach every day (except the NCAA-mandated off day). “I know your resources are tight with money and with personnel, but find a way to film practice even if it’s just a segment [live stuff].”
- Individual Development:
  - “I’ve never coached a good 3:30 guy. Individual development happens when guys spend time on the court outside team practice. You don’t win championships with 3:30 guys.”
  - 300 Club: make 300 three-pointers from the first day of practice through the end of the season. “The night before Josh Hagan scored \_\_\_ versus Purdue, he was in a gym at some high school in Denver with a GA of ours making his 300.”

## **Finish Shots**

-Go back and watch all your shot attempts in the paint. Find a way to get your guys better at those.

-“You don’t lose when you make 80% of your shots at the rim.”

## **Start of Practice**

-Pass, Dribble, Shoot, Finish

- “All pros can pass, dribble and shoot and those finish shots are so dang important so I threw those in there too.”

- Beard's teams will spend 3-7 minutes doing each one of those four things before doing their active stretch (practice to follow).

### **Versus Switching**

-Screener screens his own defender.

-“Two Actions”: against a switching team, they will set a screen and tell the cutter to not read the screen and just to come off as to allow the defense to switch. The cutter will then turn and set a screen for the original screener. “Just come off the first one, execute [make the proper read] on the second one.”

### **Kills**

-Three stops in a row = “Kill”

-Seven kills in a game = win

-Kill Drill:

- 3 teams of 5. Defense stays on, offense rotating in.
- Defense stays in until they get a kill (3 stops in a row).
- Coaches are coaching the offense (letting the defense be). “You’ll see internal leadership start to crop up.”
- “Ref this hard. Call ticky-tack fouls.”