Wisconsin Zone offense (1)

Wisconsin Zone Offense

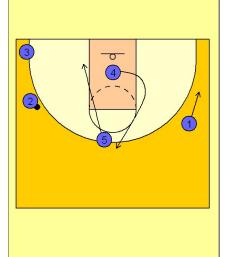
Wisconsin calls this their "X" zone offense. Some good concepts, spacing, expanding and contracting the zone in both directions, man and ball movement with some screening action. What more could you ask for in a zone offense.

Here we see #1 bringing the ball up the right side of the floor. Wisconsin runs the same lanes as they would in their man offense so getting into their zone offense is quick and easy.

#1 notices that they are in a zone defense so he dribbles #3 to the right corner. #5 steps out to the perimeter while #4 cuts into the low post. #2 is flattening out on the back side to stretch the zone defense horizontally. All of this is taking place while #1 is driving #3 to the corner.

Wisconsin Zone Offense

If the post or corner player does not receive the ball, #1 reverses the ball on top to #5. #4 steps in and tries to post for a "2" count while #3 runs the baseline looking to step in any open area. When #4 posts in the middle, #3 may have some open seems underneath the basket because of #4 occupying the post defender. If #5 cannot find #3 or #4 open, he passes the ball to #2 on the left wing. Again, because the action in the beginning by #1 and #5, both perimeter players may be guarding #1 and #5 so when the ball is passed over to #2, the low defender may have to come out and guard #2. This situation would leave #3 open running along the baseline on the ball side block area.



Wisconsin Zone Offense

Once #2 has the ball, #4 now steps out of the lane and breaks up to the top of the key area. #5, after passing to #2, cuts down to the ball side low block. Just as #2 did in the beginning, #1 flattens out on the back side to stretch the zone defense.

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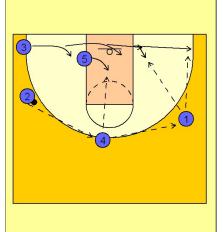
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Wisconsin Zone offense (1)

3

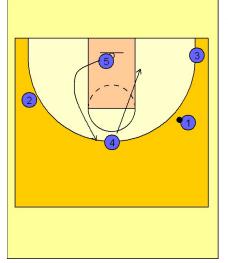
Wisconsin Zone Offense

#2 may pass to #3 in the corner at anytime. #3 will look inside for perhaps a better passing angle into the post if the defender was playing on the high side. If #5 gets the ball in the post, #4 can dive to the basket or hold while #5 turns and looks to score or kick it out opposite to #4 or #1.



Wisconsin Zone Offense

No matter how the ball is reversed the same action occurs, #5 steps in the lane and posts for a moment while #3 runs the baseline looking to sneak in behind the low zone defenders at any open area.



Wisconsin Zone Offense

Once #4 passes over to #1 he cuts through to the low block on the ball side of the floor while #5 steps out of the lane after posting for a "2" count and breaks up to the top of the key area.

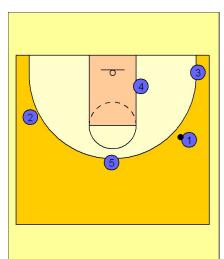
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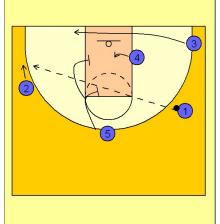
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They are now in the original alignment with good spacing, able to "touch" the post as they call it (pass or look inside to the post), while stretching the zone with #2 on the back side of the floor.

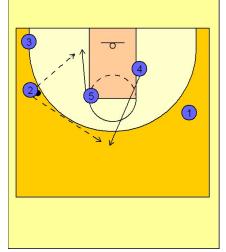
They will continue to run this movement from side to side. We will look at some screening action that they will throw in as well in the next few diagrams.



Wisconsin Zone Offense

At anytime the post man on the perimeter, #5 in this diagram, can back screen the back side defender. He has the option to screen the top guard defender or the low defender on the zone.

#1 would look to skip the pass to #2 while #3 runs the baseline looking to receive a pass if #2 does not have a shot.



Wisconsin Zone Offense

The same rotations occur when the ball is skipped. We already told you #3 ran the baseline as usual. #5, after screening the back side of the zone would look to post up while #4 would flash to the perimeter area on top.

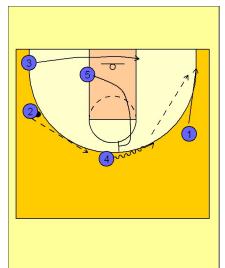
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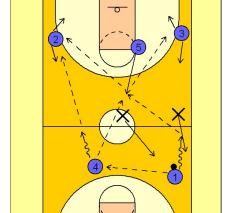
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Wisconsin Zone Offense

Another screening action can occur when the two post players screen for each other on the perimeter. This screen can come from any direction at any time. It will be a read as to when and where the other post player will come from when the screening action takes place.





Wisconsin Zone Offense

As mentioned earlier, the Badgers use the same alignment in their transition for both the man and zone attack. They also like the spacing and player availability should a team decide to run up and trap out of the zone defense.

Here we see #5 coming back into the middle of the floor looking for the pass while #4 is even with the ball to receive the reverse pass. #3 and #2 move up to receive the pass and attack the basket.