

Good morning, hope your week has gone well. We are getting close to the end of the season.....games become more important, just as near the end of a game, our officiating becomes more important since teams have way less time to make up for mistakes. Be sharp, be focused and be ready!

Today's tip....well let's look at the clip first [here](#).

What do you have? What actually HAPPENED on the drive by white 11? Let's focus just on what happened when white drove the lane and 'lost' the ball.....let's NOT focus now on the potential offensive foul for hitting blue 5 in the face, etc. So white 11 drives the lane.....when he lost the ball, WHAT was he attempting to do? The answer to that will tell us the answer to the questions at the beginning of the clip.....Travel? Double Dribble? Fumble? Nothing?

So, what do YOU have white 11 doing when he lost the ball? Different officials with different angles could certainly determine that white 11 was attempting something different! Let's look at the option.....

White 11 was shooting: If it is determined by the officials that white 11 attempted a shot, then the entire play as shown is legal. Remember that a shot attempt allows ANY player to recover a rebound (even a rebound on an airball). Since this would technically be an airball on the shot attempt, white 11 MAY recover the 'rebound' and dribble again.

White 11 was passing: If it is determined that white 11 was passing the ball, he may certainly go recover the errant pass. What he may NOT do is dribble again since he already used his dribble and the ball was not touched by another player before he dribbled again. Thus, if we determined that white 11 was passing the ball, we would have a double-dribble on this play after he recovers the pass and dribbles again.

White 11 fumbles: If it is determined that white 11 has fumbled the ball, we have to know what happened BEFORE the fumble. In this particular case, he had ended his dribble and then fumbled the ball (before we deemed it a shot or pass, that's why it is a fumble). Since he had ended his dribble AND he was the first to touch the ball after the fumble, he may only recover the fumble.....he may NOT dribble again (if a player who fumbled were permitted to dribble again, 'creative' offensive players would 'fumble' on purpose to gain another dribble). SO, if we deemed this play a fumble, white 11 would have double-dribbled. Let's consider the case of a fumble before the dribble ended (during the dribble).....in this case, if he is the first player to touch, he may go recover the fumble by either grabbing it and may NOT dribble again since he just ended his interrupted dribble by grabbing the ball, or if he recovers the fumble by continuing the dribble (not grabbing it), he MAY continue the dribble legally.

Remember that there can be no travel here as a player can NOT travel without possessing the ball.

How about court coverage of this play? Pretty good chance that C had the drive down the lane and L may also have had a good look at it since blue 5 was a secondary defender and lead would be officiating potential contact there. In this play, the official(s) who DID get a good look must have deemed it a fumble.....OR THEY DID NOT GUESS! If we are not POSITIVE of what happened, we can NOT guess as to what happened. We have the benefit of seeing this on replay time and time again...in slo-mo.....in real time we need to make a split second decision....and we need to be SURE of what happened. If you are not sure, don't guess. If you ARE sure, that's fine, just be able to explain it to a coach. In this play??? I can see all three possibilities being correct depending on the angle it was seen from. Every play we see is not an absolute....

Have a great game tonight, enjoy the weekend and stay healthy for the last month of the season!

Tim