

Good morning! Brrr.....this yo-yo winter is continuing in full force and February starts tomorrow....the season is winding down quickly. Hope you had a great game last night.

Today's tip is a reminder of those times during a game that we should be aware that the possibility of a TO may be wanted.....one team goes on a scoring run, so the other might want (need) a TO.....a ball handler is caught in a trap and may not have an obvious way out.....a closely guarded count is getting close to 5.....a back court count is getting close to 10.....team B just scored with 5 seconds left to go up 1.....these are few of the situations that we need to be aware and even open our peripheral vision (and our ears) to see/hear a request for a TO. (When we hear it, we need to confirm who it is from, especially if it is from the bench....it must be the head coach requesting it.)

In the clip today, please ignore our favorite commentator's comments (he gives an opinion, but also explains the closely guarded rules that are used in NCAA, not NFHS). When you watch it, we are going to have a closely guarded count and it is getting close to 5. Before it even gets to 3, a teammate of the Louisville player being closely guarded, runs towards the official with the count requesting a TO. We cannot tell if he is verbally requesting a TO, but he is visually requesting. Take a look at the clip [here](#).

The T has the count and should probably have seen black 45 running almost right to his face with the TO request. Let's say he was completely 'focused' on the closely guarded play....could/should the TO request be seen by a partner? In this particular play, L is looking out at the closely guarded play the entire time and black 45 actually comes from his primary to request it. The problem there is that black 45 is running directly away from L. (L should have eyes more on his primary than the closely guarded play). C actually is looking in his primary and officiating the matchups there.....and needs to. As the T, he probably should have his peripheral vision and especially his hearing 'opened' to hear a TO request. This looks like black 45 was in a good position to get his TO granted by the T.

OK< whether THIS particular play was handled correctly or not is not the point.....the point to today's clip is to be aware in those times of the game when a team/player might want a TO and we need to be *looking* for the TO request so that we can grant it. Be more aware in situations like this and it helps your game a lot.

Have a great game today and be safe!

Tim