

Good morning! Hope all is well with you. Just a quick shout out to all our veteran's in our ranks...THANK YOU for your service on this 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We are extremely fortunate in this great country to be permitted to speak our minds and have the choices we do...like officiating basketball just because we love it!

I was discussing the illegal screen from Tuesday with a fellow official and she said 'I have always known this, but video really opens my eyes.' Mark Lindsay said at the convention last summer that 'video is a way of putting reps into our game without the physical toll it takes on the body.' How true both these statements are. Remember, if you can get video from schools, DO IT! MANY schools use hudl these days and if you can find out which assistant coach is the video guru, it is SIMPLE for him/her to download a link to the game and email it to you. I would also welcome plays you could share!

On to today's tip.....back to screening.....

Remember, as mentioned Tuesday, this is an area we have a great deal of room for improvement....in my opinion. Think about having a ball handler/defender matchup in your own primary and a screen happening that you did not (and many times *cannot*) see coming. Makes you wonder for a split second or so if something was missed, right? We have all been caught in that exact situation and once in a while, when we wonder to ourselves about what just happened, something else DOES happen and we were not completely focused. Screens and screening happens a ton in our games....they are tough to pick up especially when the screen happens on the ball. They are tough because of just what is happening...focus from the official is on the ball handler/defender matchup. Screens that are illegal are ones I welcome calls on from my partner(s) if I cannot get a good look. This is a great topic to cover each and every pre-game conference. Knowing/recognizing the offenses run helps us understand when we might look harder for bad screens.

Take a look at the clip [here](#) for an illegal screen right inside the top of the key called by the *Lead*. The ball handler/defender matchup was initially in C's primary since he had the closely guarded count, then MAY have gone to T. With this quick switch in primaries, this is a GREAT get from L. It is also much easier for her since she had no post/paint play to officiate so extended to find a gray area matchup. This did not look as though it was going to be called from C or T...glad L got it. The ball would be taken OOB on the baseline since the foul occurred inside the semi-circle. In a two-person game, it is more difficult to get this play every time since our primaries are bigger and we usually have more players in our primary. In either case, work HARD, talk in the locker room both before, at the half and after the game about screens and get those ones that will show up on film as being blatant.

Have a great evening and enjoy the last night off for 3 months!

Tim