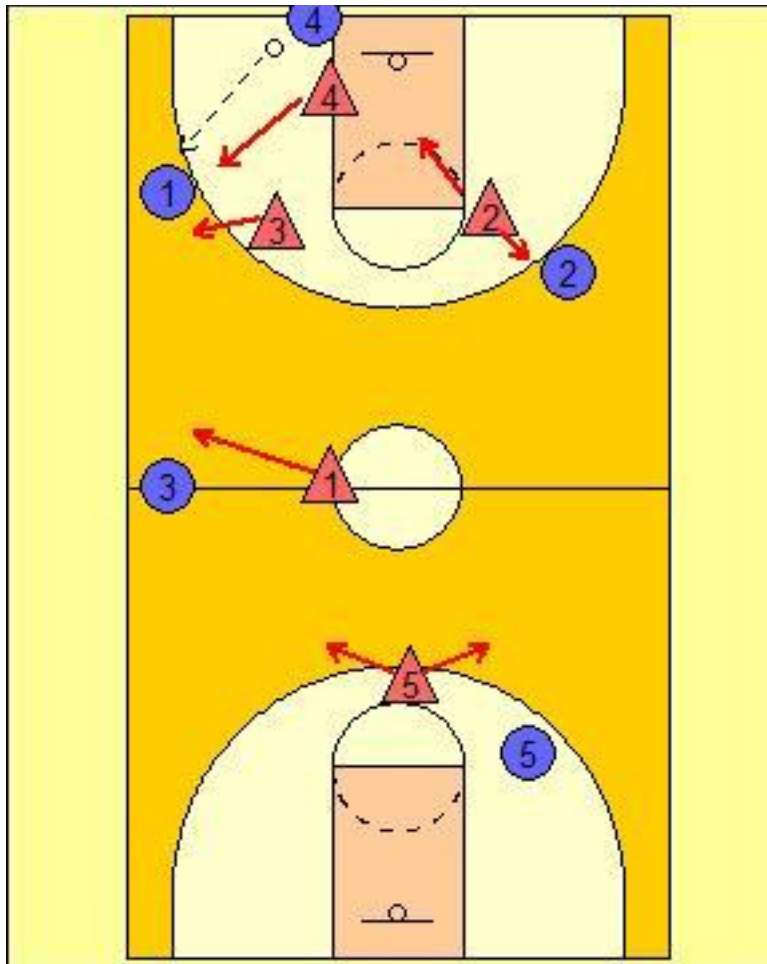




### 1-2-1-1 Diamond Press

The full court Diamond-and-one defense gets its name from the alignment as seen from above the court. One player stands under the basket, with two players at the corners and another at centercourt to make a diamond shape. The 5th player is the last line of defense in the lane if the press is broken. The difference between the Diamond and the 1-3-1 is really just the position of the guy trying to make the steal. Notice in the pic below on the left, the 4 is under the post, depending on the coach's philosophy about attacking the inbound or your personnel, and if 4 is a good interceptor of passes or the opponent is a good passing team, you can switch the PG and the 4 in initial alignment. This is a gameplan adjustment for an opponent, but I've seen Clemson play both depicted below (generally the one on the top, but we'll explain the 2nd).

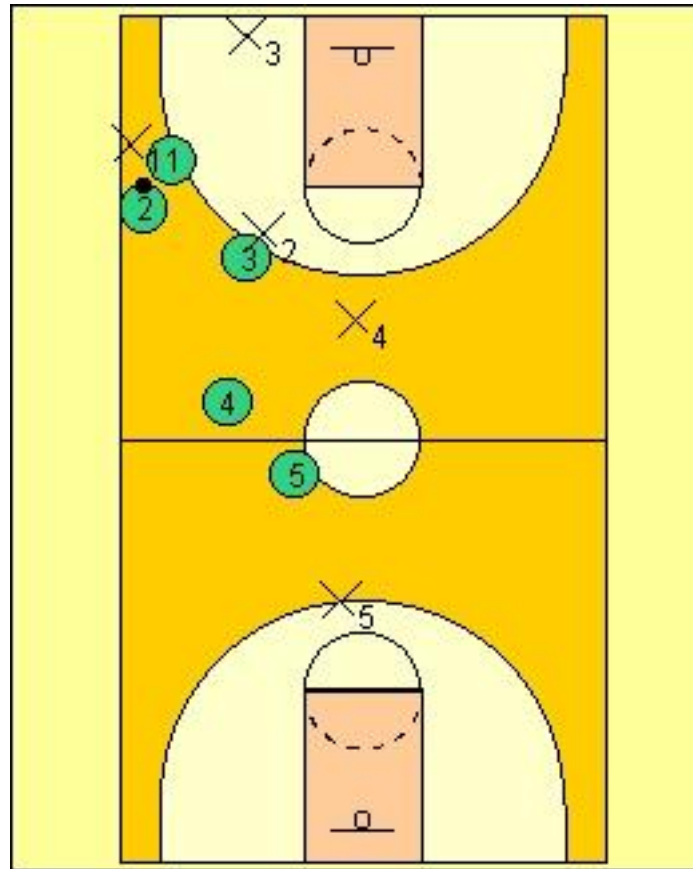




After the pass is initiated, two defenders are supposed to run to it, with arms UP, and try to pin him against the sideline. This will be the X2 or the X3 along with another defender depending on where the pass was made (**X denotes a defender, P an offensive player**). The X2/3 stays back just far enough so that the inbound pass can't be thrown behind him. If their Guard pulls back and tries to dribble around, the point defender should be there to force him to head back into the trap. One of the 2 men on the corners will come up to keep him from coming down the court. Remember, time is on the side of the defense.

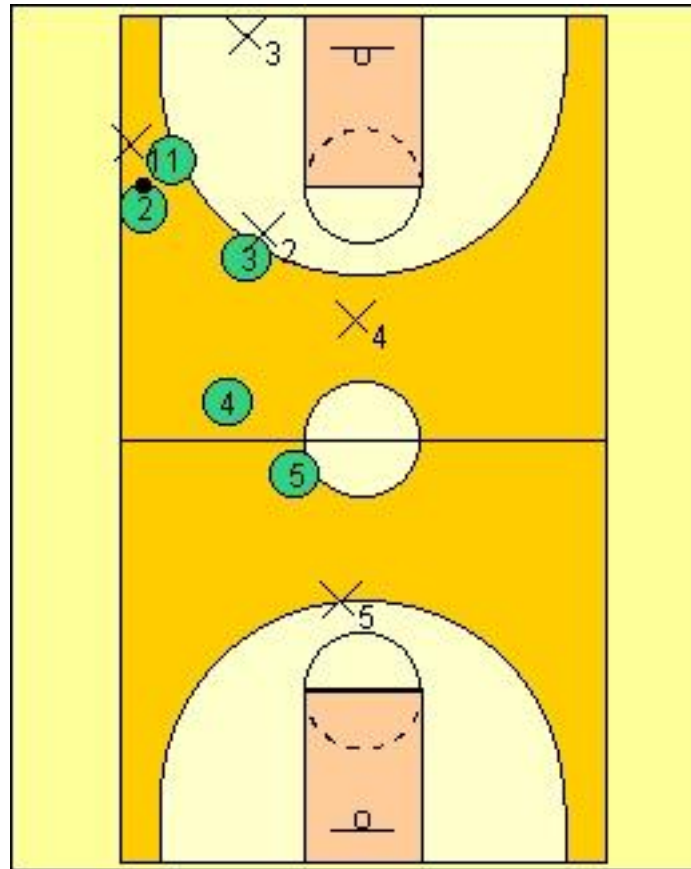
For example, if I was running a half court diamond, and if there was a P1 on X1 matchup, and he takes the ball to the left wing, our X2 should come up in front of him and keep him from coming down the court. If he goes right, the X3 should come up and prevent.

When you see the opposing Guard double-teamed, you should watch the arms of the defenders, they should be up and out away from their bodies, not reaching in to take the ball away, unless he dribbles face-on with them. **If they keep their hands down and try to reach to take the ball away, they'll get a foul called. This is not a smart foul while in the backcourt.** The defender should only move his feet into the correct position to trap the ballhandler. Their goal is only to force a bad pass by making him pick up the dribble, or get a 5/10 sec call and get the turnover. Someone else is supposed to rotate up from the other side to midcourt and pick off the pass, which should be the other corner/wing defender.

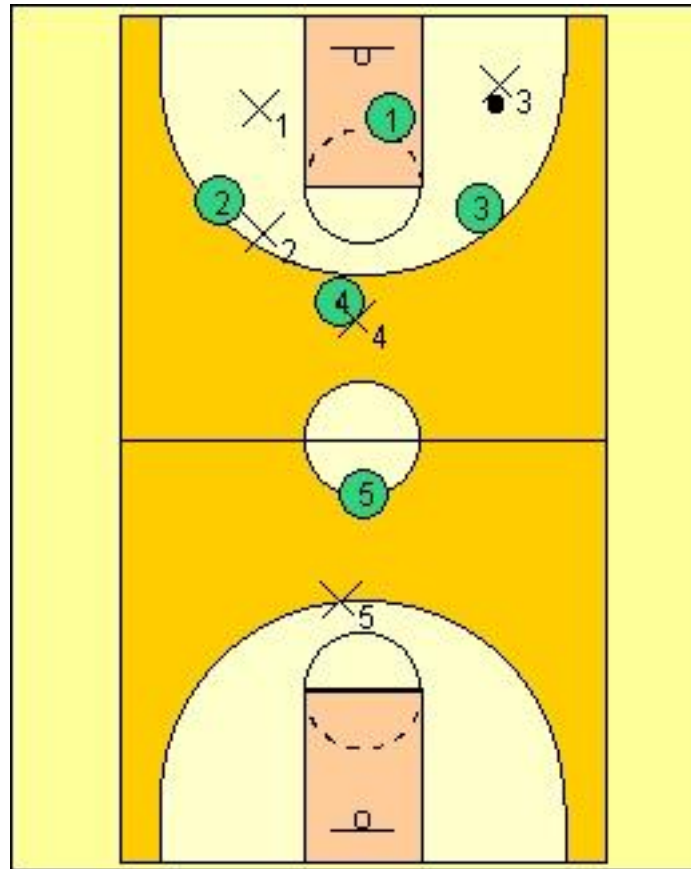


The gap-man at midcourt (who may be an X1 or X4, depending) is to shift over and stop any high arcing pass to the opposite sideline, while the 5 (the safety) stays in the lane in case the press is broken. If you see a pass and an easy layup, its because X5 was out of position to stop it, or he was outnumbered and didnt want to foul. He'll only come out to trap someone when the ball gets to the defensive corners down the court. X1/4 will only trap at the midcourt area with one of the two wings, the X2 or the X3. In a full court set, he parallels the movement of the ball: if its passed to one side of the court (side to side, not the length) then he is supposed to shift to that side. The other wing shifts back into the middle to stop any pass to the side where he was just standing. The X5 will shift but its not but a few feet, he stays in the lane or atop the key.

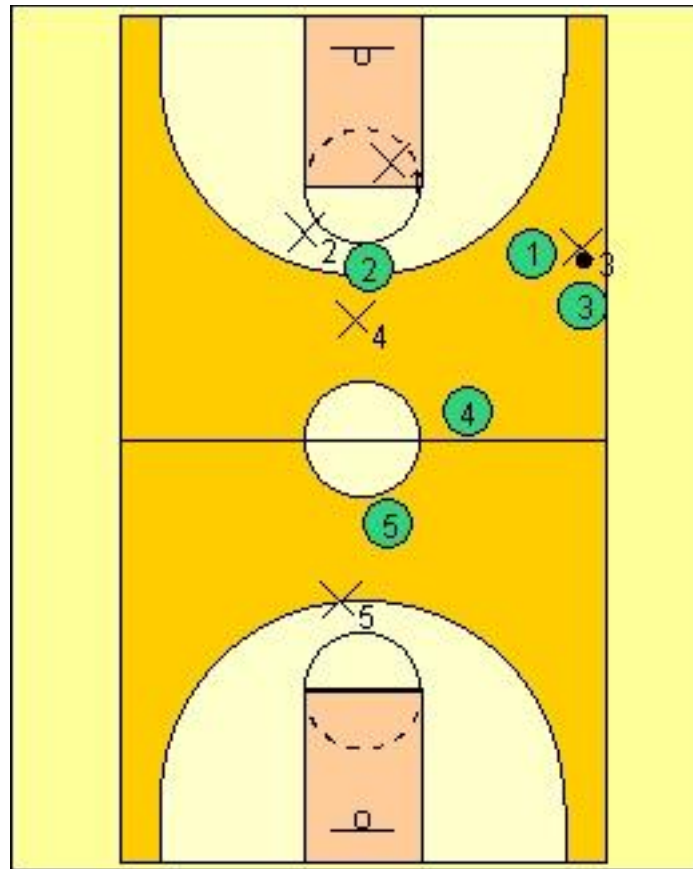
For example, the inbound pass is forced to P1 on one side of the court. Lets say the X2 comes up to guard, while the X1 runs over to trap P1. The offense brings up another guard P2 to the other side of the court, giving them 3 men in the area: P1, P2, and the inbounder P3. See below.

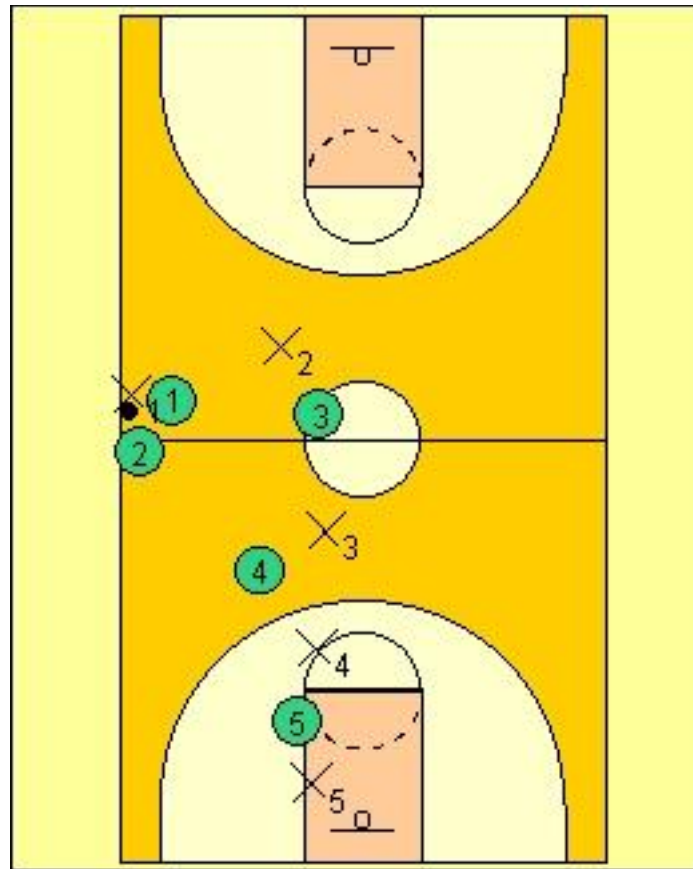


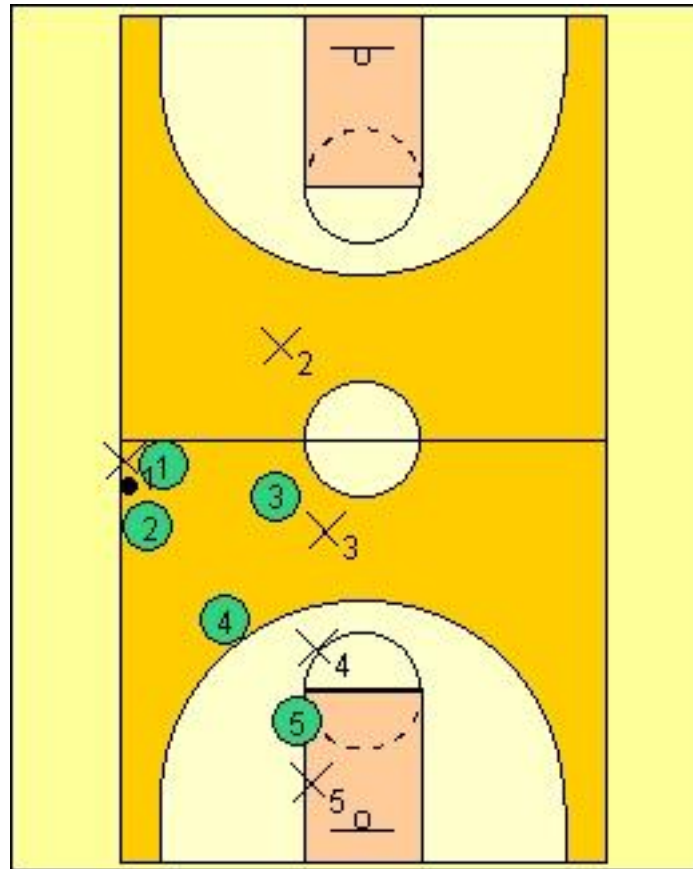
The ball is reversed back to the inbounder P3. The X1 then hustles over to help the X3 who comes up to trap, while the X2 backs up and prevents a pass back to the original ballhandler. The X4 moves closer to the sideline at midcourt, and X5 steps over to that ballside of the lane.



If the ball gets to the mid court line, the X4 should be there to prevent them from coming down the sideline, with a wing defender to assist him in trapping. The X4 moves into the backcourt area, and watches for them to pass the ball across him, keeping in mind that they cant cross that mid court line again.







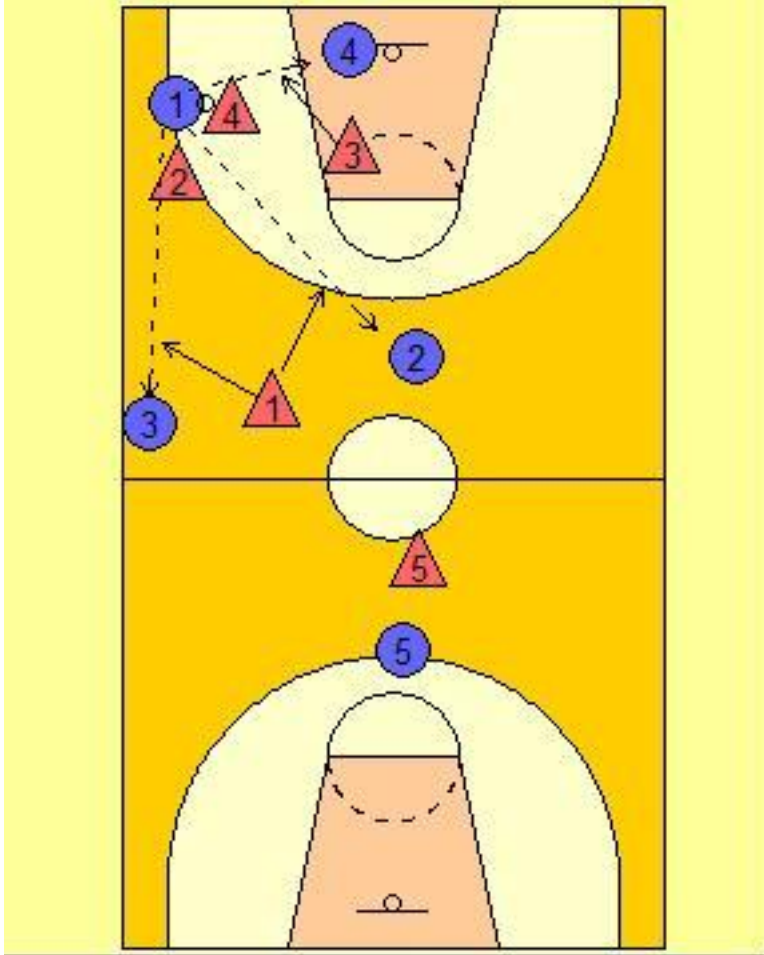
So you see they are just supposed to shift left and right, keeping the diamond alignment, as the ball travels down the court.

If the ball makes it past this trap, there could be an offensive player standing in the corner down that sideline. Imagine the P3 coming down to the corner in the picture above. You'll see the X5 come over to guard him and prevent a 3 point shot from the corner. Whomever was helping the trap will now come down and help 5, while 4 rotates back into the post area. The X2 should already be watching from the lane to prevent a pass to the backside, while the PG should be at the top of the key.

All the way down the court, there should be a 1-2-1-1 alignment. If they can get the ball past the press like this, the defense will usually settle into a half court man/man or a zone. Sometimes you'll notice us give up the trap after the first attempt fails to get a turnover, called a "one and done" trap.

That's the basics of a 1-2-1-1, but both Clemson and Tennessee do run it slightly differently, with the X4 standing under the post guarding the inbounder. He's not really guarding him, but stands there with his arms flailing and forces the pass to the short side. The PG will be back in the middle. The X4 will then go over to the





**How do most teams attack the Diamond in the full court?**

You might see something like a **1-2-2 alignment initially**, but there are a lot of ways to attack it with various screens but the general weakness of the diamond is up the sidelines. If a team consistently beats you up the sideline, you have to adjust to something like a 1-2-2 press (X5 will come up opposite X2 into the backcourt). Clemson also runs a 1-2-2 pressure at times. There will be the inbounder and 2 guards on the corners, who will start running, and their job is to take the ball quickly and pass it down court before they can get trapped to one of the other two men down the court. Once they've passed it down the court they'll have a potential numbers mismatch against the lane defender X5 and the defense must quickly get back into their half court set.

And that's why you see pure athletes playing ball at Clemson who may lack a particular skill offensively. You are forced to recruit smaller lineups, so you have to fight to win on the boards. If they are not quick, they won't be able to come up to trap before the Guard reacts, and also won't be able to get down the court if the press is beaten with a good pass. Big guys don't always run so fast. You

need guys that can run full speed, stop and shoot a 3 pointer or jumper on offense. Thats hard to do and keep it going.

If an offense has a really strong guard, you will not see as much challenging of the inbound passer, the defense will set up to take out their best guard by double-teaming him on the inbound pass, forcing the inbounder to push the ball to a weaker ballhandler. Once its in, the PG runs over to trap, and the man thats left on their best guard tries to prevent a pass back to him.