

ZONE 2

SERIES: ZONE / PRESS OFFENSE | DNA CATEGORY: ATTACK THE WEAK SIDE

IOWA

HAWKEYES

THE ADVANTAGE DNA™

- 1 Iowa moves the zone with the ball and creates a gap on the right side.
- 2 2 catches and attacks the gap instead of holding the ball.
- 3 Nebraska's zone turns its eyes and shoulders toward penetration.
- 4 The middle and low defenders step toward the ball to protect the paint.
- 5 The weak-side cutter starts moving behind the defense.
- 6 As the ball reaches the paint, the cutter accelerates to the rim.
- 7 The zone is now occupied by the ball and late to recover behind the play.
- 8 The read is simple: when the defense turns to the drive, attack the space...

ADVANTAGE FRAME — 16:13 2ND HALF



THE DRIVE HOLDS THE ZONE. THE WEAK-SIDE CUT ATTACKS THE SPACE BEHIND IT.

ACTION BREAKDOWN

1. SHIFT THE ZONE



Iowa moves the ball side-to-side and spaces the zone. The goal is to make defenders shift before the penetration starts.

2. ATTACK THE GAP



2 attacks the gap and forces the zone to collapse toward the ball. This movement pulls eyes and bodies away from the weak side.

3. CUT BEHIND THE HELP



As the ball enters the paint, the weak-side cutter goes hard to the rim. The cut attacks the space created behind the rotating zone.

PAUSE HERE

The important read is away from the ball. As 2 attacks the right-side gap, Nebraska's zone shifts and turns toward the penetration. That is when the weak-side cutter becomes dangerous. The cutter is moving behind the defense toward the rim while the low defenders are occupied by the drive. This is exactly what good zone offense should recognize — drive the gap, make the zone turn, then cut behind the help.

COACHING INSIGHTS

WHY IT WORKS

Gap penetration makes every zone defender react to the ball. The weak-side cut attacks the blind spot created when those defenders turn and collapse.

DEFENSIVE REACTION

Nebraska's shell shifts toward 2 and the low defenders step inward to protect the paint. That leaves space behind the defense on the weak side.

OFFENSIVE READ

The cutter should go when the ball penetrates the gap and the weak-side defender loses vision. If the lane opens behind the help, sprint to the rim.

COACHING POINT

Cut on the defender's head turn. Do not wait until the ball handler is trapped. The best cut arrives while the zone is still moving toward the drive.

STEAL THIS IDEA

Against a zone, penetration should trigger movement away from the ball. When the defense turns to stop the drive, the weak-side cutter can attack the space directly behind the help. Teach the cutter to read the defender's eyes and shoulders — the cut is there before the pass ever is.

DNA TAKEAWAY

DRIVE THE GAP.
MAKE THE ZONE TURN.
CUT BEHIND THE HELP.