

CLEARING EMPTY SIDE 1

SERIES: IOWA BALL SCREEN OFFENSE | DNA CATEGORY: CREATE AN ADVANTAGE

IOWA

HAWKEYES

THE ADVANTAGE DNA™

- 1 2 clears through before the ball screen and removes the strong-side...
- 2 The clearing cut empties the side and stretches the help away from the drive.
- 3 5 follows the cut and arrives into a wing ball screen for 1.
- 4 2 continues through to the top while 4 finds space at the opposite elbow.
- 5 1 rejects the screen and attacks the newly created empty side.
- 6 With no corner defender sitting in the gap, the first help is late.
- 7 5 short rolls into the middle as the defense collapses toward the drive.
- 8 Iowa finishes the advantage by kicking the ball back out to 2.

ADVANTAGE FRAME — 16:46 1ST HALF



CLEAR THE CORNER. EMPTY THE SIDE. FORCE THE HELP TO COME FROM FARTHER AWAY.

PAUSE HERE

The key is the clearing cut before the ball screen. By moving the corner player through, Iowa removes the nearest help defender and creates an empty-side lane for the ball handler. Now the defense has to protect the drive from farther away. That extra distance gives 1 room to reject the screen, attack downhill and force the next rotation.

ACTION BREAKDOWN

1. CLEAR THE SIDE



Before the ball screen is initiated, 2 clears through and empties the strong-side corner. Iowa removes the closest help defender before attacking.

2. FLOW TO THE SCREEN



5 follows directly into the wing ball screen. 2 continues through to the top and 4 occupies the opposite elbow area to keep the back side spaced.

3. REJECT + SHORT ROLL



1 rejects the screen into the empty side while 5 short rolls. The defense must collapse from distance, creating the next pass and kick-out read.

COACHING INSIGHTS

WHY IT WORKS

The clearing cut changes the help map before the ball screen even happens. Empty-side spacing makes the drive harder to crowd.

DEFENSIVE REACTION

Illinois loses its strong-side corner helper and must pull help from the middle or weak side. That creates a longer rotation.

OFFENSIVE READ

If the on-ball defender leans toward the screen, reject it. Attack the open side first, then read the short roll and the kick-out.

COACHING POINT

Create the space before you use it. The cut is not window dressing — it removes help and turns the reject into a real advantage.

STEAL THIS IDEA

Before calling for a ball screen, ask where the help defender is coming from. If you can move that defender with a cut first, the ball screen becomes much more dangerous. Empty the side, stretch the rotation and make the defense cover more ground.

DNA TAKEAWAY

CLEAR THE HELP.
EMPTY THE SIDE.
ATTACK THE SPACE.