

White Shield v. Mandaree - 1/10/2019

Summary

Solid improvements in all facets compared to the first Mandaree game. Execution was much more consistent and defense was a lot better. The biggest issues this game were turnovers against the press, forcing/settling for low percentage shots, allowing too many drives to the basket, and giving up second chances on the glass. Though we won, had we not hit as many 3s, this could have been a very close game. If we are sharp, we are 20+ points better than them.

Defense:

- When we were physical, solid, and didn't foul, they simply did not score. We played great D to set the tone early **(2, 12, 16)** but allowed far too many unimpeded drives/cuts to the basket. **(10, 15)**
- Second chance points hurt us all game. Worse than just allowing for them to score again, after playing great defense for almost the entire shot clock, not finishing the play with a board negates any momentum. This also leads to cheap fouls. **(2,3,5,6)**
- Most of #25s points came on either fairly contested shots or very well defended shots. Only a few times did we lose him. If you can eliminate everything easy for their main scorer you can live with the tough ones as they won't hurt you in the grand scheme of the game. **(11)**
- Transition defense was better, but still not great **(8, 13)**. Executing this properly can save us anywhere from 4-8 points easily, I would estimate. I suggest making the transition defense drill (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiZca8WkkRU>) a regular part of practice. During this drill, the main emphasis should be:
 1. Sprint, don't trot.
 2. Stop the ball handler's attack before he crosses half using the closest player to the ballhandler.
 3. Anyone else back sprint to the paint and eliminate threats (rim runners, shooters spotting up, etc.)

Offense:

- Executed very well early on and a few other times during the game, which they were not ready for **(1, 18)**. This allowed for some strong momentum (see below, though)
- Got away from executing after the initial focus and rushed/forced a lot of shots. **(4)** Relied VERY heavily on 3s in the second half and played in to their hands when they pressed by shooting quick shots. **(12, 17)**
- Tried to dribble through the press and/or force long passes. Beat it with the pass and keep it simple- no need for homerun passes, just beat them methodically to demoralize them. **(9, 14)**
- Run hard and with a purpose in transition to try to steal easy baskets and balloon the lead. **(7)**