



# HOOPS, HYPE, AND HAPPENINGS

Second Edition of the Shiloh Basketball Newsletter, September 2017

## HOOPS

### One Count Crew: Earn the Right for a **Green Light**

First things first... It is no secret that the importance of the 3-point shot is growing in basketball. It has become somewhat of a hallmark in today's game. And the numbers prove it. In 1997-98, the 1<sup>st</sup> season after a 3-year trial of a shorter 3-pt line (22 ft) that the league used, teams averaged 12.7 attempts per game. In 2010, teams averaged 18 attempts per game. During the 2015-16 season, NBA teams averaged 24.1 3-pt attempts per game. Last year, NBA teams average **27 3-pt attempts per game**.

For the last two seasons, the Eastern and Western Conference Champions, the Cavs and Warriors, have been in the Top 5 in 3-point attempts (Top 3 in 2015-16). Even more convincing is the fact that in 2015-16, 10 of the top 11 teams in 3-point attempts made the playoffs! So why is the game changing so drastically? One could make a strong argument that it is because current players are much more accustomed to shooting threes than previous generations that grew up without the extended arc. But the bottom line is this: Offensive strategies are evolving.

#### Analytics Breakdown: Points per Possession (PPP)

In 1982-83, NBA teams shot 23.8% on 3-pointers. Advanced Statistics show that is equivalent to 0.71 points per shot attempt. By comparison, teams shot 49.2% on twos (generated about 0.98 points per shot). A two-pointer was a much better shot. Today, NBA teams are still generating less than 1.00 point per midrange two-pointer, but improved 3-point shooting has teams averaging 1.06 points per 3-point attempt. Additionally, when the focus is on "good" 3-point attempts, efficiencies improve significantly. In the NBA, teams averaged 1.13 points per corner 3 attempt (shorter distance; 22 ft) and 1.11 points per catch-and-shoot 3-point attempt last season. **Compared to a "good" 3-pointer, a "bad" two-pointer is inexcusable.** Teams scored 0.86 points per uncontested mid-range jumper and 0.66 points per midrange shot when contested. Both are significantly less than the PPP that free throws, layups, and 3-point attempts yield. In terms of results, this means an average team could pick up 2 points per game just by replacing 6 mid-range jumpers with 6 catch-and-shoot 3's, which we refer to as "One Count" shots.

Furthermore, the threat of a 3-point shot can be as valuable as the shot itself in that it provides spacing for the rest of the offense – room to drive, cut or post-up, which ultimately creates more shots at the rim.

I understand that statistically, comparing NBA shooting statistics with our averages in Northwest Arkansas high school athletics isn't realistic. There are (large) talent disparities. There will always be teams at various stages of competitiveness. But as we look ahead to the 2017-18 season, my desire is to improve our offensive efficiency.

Shot Selection	Shiloh Boys Var in 2016-17	Shiloh Boys Var in 2015-16	NBA Average
Points per 2FG in the Paint	(412-846, 49%): 0.97	(325-680, 48%): 0.96	1.29
Points per midrange 2FG	(32-109, 29%): 0.59	(46-155, 30%): 0.59	0.86/0.66
Points per 3FG	(185-664, 28%): 0.84	(153-554, 28%): 0.83	1.06
Points per FT	(361-654, 55%): 1.16	(355-591, 60%): 1.26	1.51

What we gather from this statistical analysis is this: A free throw yields the best possible outcome in terms of the points gained per offensive possession. This is based on shot selection and shooting percentages. A layup is the second best option, followed by the 3-point attempt. The midrange shot has proved to be the least efficient shot.

At OCC, we want to practice (through repetition) free throws and 3's based on what the statistics have shown us to be the most valuable. It has been and will be our goal during these optional morning shooting sessions for each of our players to increase their percentages for both 3-point shots and free throws. A '**Green Light**' will be awarded to our highest percentage shooters, as these are the players that give us the best opportunity to put points on the scoreboard. Thus, *earning the right* to shoot!

\* Statistics gathered from *Basketball Reference* and *Nylon Calculus*



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## HYPE

Congrats to those who have earned a **Green Light** this off-season by shooting 70% on 25 consecutive 3-pt shots!

Seniors: **Jack Hutchinson** (x5 spots); **Seth Turpin** (x4 spots); **Gregory Bryant** (x1 spot)

Juniors: **Sean Cranna** (x1 spot); **Samuel Lowe** (x1 spot)

Sophomores: **AJ Schmitt** (x1 spot)

8th Grade: **Luke Himmer** (x2 spots)

## HAPPENINGS

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- Friday, September 29 — Basketball Tailgate (Huntsville FB Game)
- Monday, October 2 — Start "Mile 6" ; Off-season team practices begin (full schedule to come)
- Monday, October 9 — **BSN Online Player Packs** (more info to come)
- Friday, October 13 — End of 1<sup>st</sup> 9 Week Grading Period
- Monday, October 16 — Parent/Teacher Conferences ; No School
- Friday, October 20 — Homecoming (FB vs Lincoln)

### COACH'S CREW



Over Memorial Day weekend, our Junior High Head Coach, Heath Petten, and his family loaded up and headed to Disney World for a fun week at the place "where dreams come true." This was the first experience for Kherington (5) and Parker (2) with Mickey Mouse and all his magical friends. The trip was loaded with wonderful moments of watching sword fights in Pirates of the Caribbean, singing along side Ariel in her grotto under the sea, and eating lunch with Disney characters for Kherington's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Heath, Paige, and their family members got to take part in the newest theme park exhibit, The World of Avatar (Flight of Passage) in the Animal Kingdom Park. It is like nothing else on earth as "passengers" get to ride on the back of a banshee as part of a virtual Pandora world alive with sights and even smells. Coach Petten said he could live at Disney World if it weren't for the strollers and diaper bags!

Until next month –

**GO SAINTS !!**

*Seth Skinner*

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