

# Coaching Clinic Summary – Coach Jerome Tang (Kansas State University)

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## 1. Note-Taking Strategy for Clinics

- Coach Jerome Tang shared a simple but effective system for clinic note-taking:
    - Use “T” for Teaching Points.
    - Use “I” for Implementation Ideas.
    - Use “?” for questions or topics to revisit.
  - This approach helps coaches clearly organize their notes and immediately identify what can be used with their own teams.
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## 2. Coaching Philosophy & Staff Development

- **Staff comes before players:** Tang believes player development begins with strong, supported staff.
  - Prioritizes creating a **positive home life for assistants**, including relationships with their spouses and families.
  - When coaches feel supported off the court, they’re more effective on the court.
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## 3. Staff Engagement & Communication Culture

- Encourages **open and emotionally secure environments** for coaching staff.

- Discourages “meetings after the meeting” and promotes speaking openly during staff discussions.
  - Builds relationships through:
    - Family dinners
    - Staff retreats
    - Informal road-trip hangouts
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## 4. Enjoying the Process

- Coach Tang stresses that **enjoying the journey** matters—even during success.
  - Reminds coaches not to get lost in stress and results, but to celebrate growth and progress with staff and players.
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## 5. Player Development Philosophy

- Tang credits his transformation from a poor high school player to a development-focused coach to hard work and constant learning.
  - Believes **all players can improve with commitment**, and coaches must build systems that encourage that growth daily.
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## 6. Core Skill Development Drills

### White Line Dribbling

- Originally “black line,” renamed based on court color.
- Full-court ball handling with both hands:

- Crossovers, between-the-legs, behind-the-back variations.
- Encourages speed, control, and comfort losing the ball in practice.

### **On Time On Target Passing**

- Passing with precision into the shooter's pocket with backspin.
- Players drive into paint, jump stop, and pass—then relocate to open space.
- Adds shot fakes, footwork (split step), and pivots to progress complexity.

### **Level Finishing Drill**

- Players finish at level 1 (below rim), level 2 (off glass), and level 3 (over defenders).
  - Uses tape on the backboard to visualize shot location.
  - Contact is simulated to prepare players for in-game physicality.
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## **7. Defensive Identity: No Middle & Switching**

- Defense is built on:
    - **No middle penetration**
    - **Switching all screens**
    - **Fronting the post**
    - **Baseline help as primary rotation**
  - Aims to break opponent rhythm and force isolation basketball.
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## **8. Core Defensive Drills**

## Three-on-Three Defense

- Focus on:
  - No-middle positioning
  - Post fronting
  - Baseline help rotations
- Players practice closing out, guarding off-ball actions, and denying easy entries.
- Drills are run from different offensive spots (e.g., middle tunnel, extended elbow) for variation.

## Keep Them Out the Paint Drill

- Competitive **4-on-4 drill** with 20-second shot clock and 5 resets for:
    - Paint touches
    - Offensive rebounds
    - Scored baskets
  - Designed to simulate pressure and reward defensive stops.
  - Forces defenders to **shrink space**, rotate, and trust teammates.
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## 9. Teaching Trust & Evaluating Players

- Players pick their teams during “keep them out the paint”—revealing who they trust to defend.
- These choices offer a unique lens into:
  - Team dynamics
  - Peer-respected players

- Undervalued athletes who rise in competitive environments
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## 10. Coach Tang's Invitation

- Coach Tang concluded by inviting coaches to:
  - Visit practices in **Manhattan, Kansas**
  - Contact him directly via cell, social media, or email for questions, resources, or continued conversations