



Report on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Men's Basketball Tournament

25 July to 7 August 2021

Report prepared September 2021

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Introduction

Tokyo was selected as the host city during the 125th IOC session held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 7 September 2013. Originally scheduled to take place from 24 July 2020 to 9 August 2020, the event was postponed to 2021 in March 2020 as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. The event retained the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games name for marketing and branding purposes. The opening ceremony was held on 23 July 2021, and the closing ceremony was held on 8 August 2021. The Olympic Men's basketball tournament was held from Sunday, 25 July 2021 to Saturday, 7 August 2021 with the Gold and Bronze medal games held this day.

This report will outline the Men's tournament Groups, Format, Final Standings, Overall summary of the Defence and Offence, Analysis of each team's preparation, Style, Key Players, Impressions, General Coaching Trends, Observations, Acknowledgements and Thanks.

This report was compiled by Patrick Hunt – Australia and Nelson Isley – USA.

Venue: Saitama Super Arena



Original Draw



MEN'S OLYMPIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TOKYO 2020

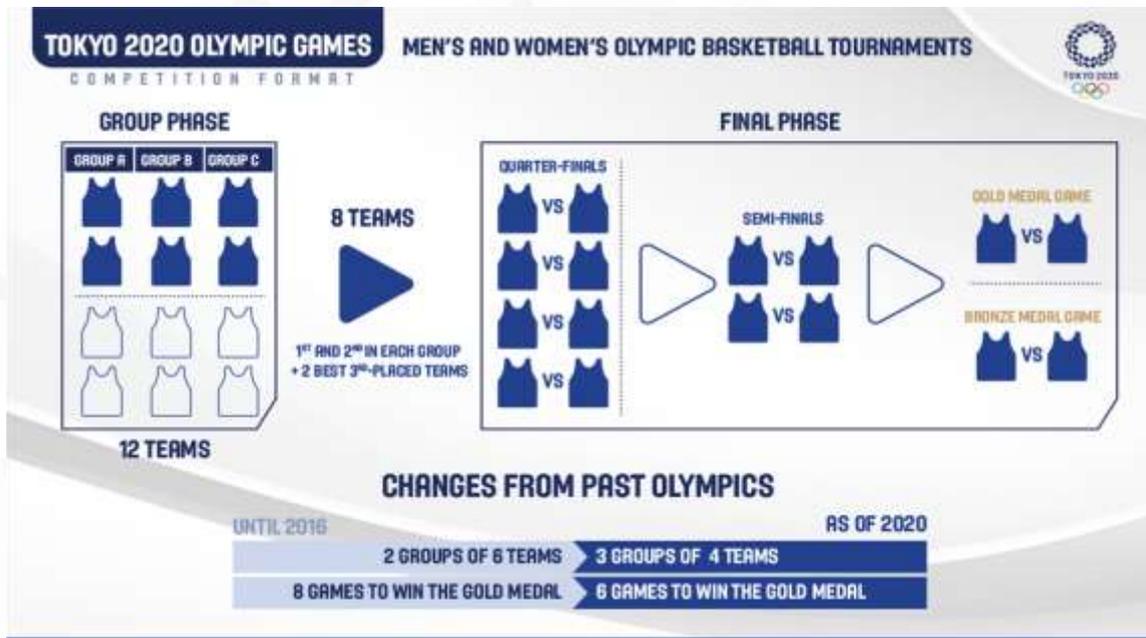
FIBA

| GROUP | A | B | C |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1. | IRI  | AUS  | ARG  |
| 2. | FRA  | WINNER OQT SPLIT (CRO)  | JPN  |
| 3. | USA  | WINNER OQT BELGRADE (SRB)  | ESP  |
| 4. | WINNER OQT VICTORIA (CAN)  | NGR  | WINNER OQT KAUNAS (LTU)  |

JULY 25 - AUGUST 7, 2021

#TOKYO2020 #BASKETBALL @FIBA

Competition Format



Final Standings

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. USA (5-1) | 7. Argentina (1-3) |
| 2. France (5-1) | 8. Germany (1-3) |
| 3. Australia (5-1) | 9. Czech Republic (1-2) |
| 4. Slovenia (4-2) | 10. Nigeria (0-3) |
| 5. Italy (2-2) | 11. Japan (0-3) |
| 6. Spain (2-2) | 12. Iran (0-3) |

Style – Overall Summary

Defence

All teams principal defence was man-to-man defence with the pick-up point varying between three quarter court and half court depending upon the circumstances of the game.

Full-court man-to-man pressure defence was also used to double team the dribbler and first receiver in the back court and at the half court line/sideline intersection and in the front court on the sideline and deep corner.

The preferred method of defending Pick and Roll was a hard show by the screeners defender to allow the ballhandler's defender to go over the screen and recover to the ballhandler. This method was also preferred for defending down screens, staggered screens and turn-out actions and defending DHO's and SHO's (Get's).

The next preferred method for defending Pick and Roll and screening action away from the ball and defending DHO's and SHO's (Get's) was the screeners defender stepping off the screener to allow the cutters defender to "go through" the space created between the screener and the screeners defender to stay with the cutter/ballhandler.

Also, with Pick and Roll defence the defender on the ballhandler would force the ballhandler away from the screen with the screener's defender stepping ball-side of the screen and helpside defence shifting towards the ball.

In all screening actions, on and off the ball and DHO's, SHO's (Gets), switching was more prevalent particularly in late shot-clock and end of quarter situations.

There was double teaming of the post in regular play and with side Pick and Roll play some double teaming of the ballhandler occurred particularly in late shot clock situations.

Very little zone defence was employed and when it was the main alignments were a match-up 3-2 (1-3-1) and 2-3.

The strategy of a box and 1 defence was used against Slovenia with different Slovenian players being defended as the man-to-man emphasis but principally Luka Doncic.

Very little zone-press was employed. On the very rare occasion a full-court or three-quarter court was used the formation was 2-2-1.

Some teams showed a half-court zone press in a 1-2-2 alignment, after a made basket and sometimes on a sideline out-of- bounds in the frontcourt, then after the first pass was made went back to man-to-man defence.

Individual closing out and containment defensive footwork technique was continuously challenged particularly after quick ball reversal, pass from a penetration dribble and pass from the post to the opposite deep corner.

Physical pressure on ballhandlers, particularly in late shot clock situations, has become more effective as has physical pressure on cutters.

Offence

The pace of the game has increased with a clear priority for all teams to move the ball up the floor at speed through passing then power dribbling. Players are getting ahead of the ball quicker and using the full width of the court.

The more prevalent offensive alignments against man-to-man defence were "Horns" and 4 out 1 in with the inside players positioning at the elbows or, with 4 out 1 in, positioning on the high side of the low block.

Effective ball movement was used to create dribble penetration enabling the “runner” and “floater” lay-up opportunities and passing to perimeter players located in the baseline corners or wings for 3 point shot opportunities.

Pick and Roll and Pick and Pop from the elbows, top and side were used by all teams.

“Slipping” action by the screener from Pick and Roll and from down screens was a common strategy particularly when a hard show by the defence on screens was employed.

Double Pick and Roll and Pick and Pop action at the top across the foul line from a “Horns” set was more prevalent.

Dribble Hand-Offs (DHO’s) and Stationary Hand-Offs (SHO’s) also known as “Gets” were used extensively by all teams creating back cut and dribble penetration opportunities and often flowing into Pick and Roll and Pick and Pop action.

Staggered double screens and some Turn-out /Floppy action were also used.

Zone Offence included 3 out 2 in alignments starting either high or low and also moving to high-low alignments, quick ball movement to create dribble penetration leading to perimeter shot opportunities, on-ball screening at the top of the zone defence and screening the back of the zone for skip passes and for turn-out cuts.

Against both zone and man-to-man defences High and Low Post “catches” and passes from the post were used to create perimeter action and shot opportunities particularly when the post was double-teamed.

The trend of “multi-skilling” for all players continues with most players developing skill-sets enabling play from the wings, point and inside “positions”. It was noticeable that advancing the ball into offence was not limited to “perimeter” players but all players when necessary were required to play a role with this.

The most common late shot clock actions included Pick and Roll, Pick and Pop middle or side and spreading the floor to create 1 on 1 opportunities from the top or wings.

Analysis of teams

1. USA (5-1) (Average Age: 28yrs | Average height: 2m / 6'7")

- **Preparation:** The preparation for the USA team was relatively short since with all their players being members of various NBA teams. They opened their training camp on 6 July in Las Vegas. Las Vegas was also host for the training and exhibition games of Australia, Nigeria, and Argentina. There were 5 exhibition games planned for the Americans but only 4 were played with the USA losing to Nigeria on 10 July by the score of 90-87, losing to Australia on 12 July 83-91, defeating Argentina 108-80 on 13 July and beating Spain 83-76 on 18 July. The return game scheduled for 16 July against Australia was cancelled at this last moment for a Covid 19 issue. During the time in Las Vegas 3 selected players were not with the team since they were in the NBA finals and did not join the team until the night before the first game in Tokyo against France (Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns, Jrue Holiday and Khris Middleton of the Milwaukee Bucks).
- **Style:** Versatility with athleticism were trademarks of this team. Some of the changes from the USA team that played in the FIBA World Cup China 2019 (team featured a more traditional post players and limited 3-point shooting) and the team that arrived at Tokyo was a roster filled with players who could play multiple positions and were shooting specialists. This change bought about a very competitive group with a strong emphasis on defence and the 3-point shot. Coach Popovich adjusted constantly during games favouring a 3-guard alignment over a big line-up emphasising defence which led to playing super scorer Lillard less than expected especially in late game action preferring to let the outstanding Kevin Durant take on the scoring load. At times they would miss needed rotations on defence and have long periods without scoring. The priority was on transition, the 3 point shot was an emphasis, normally a 5 out or 4 out and 1 in was the chosen alignment, some double staggered screens were used, and the use of high post and elbow screening action was always an alternative.
- **Key Players:** KEVIN DURANT – he was the “go to man” for the USA and provided consistent firepower. He was able to score consistently against any defence. He was the 6th overall scorer in the tournament at 20.7 points per game, 6th overall in field goal percentage at 52.9%, 2nd overall in free throw percentage at 90.5%, and 2nd overall in efficiency at 24.0. He also became the first American player to score 100 plus points in 3 different Olympic Games.

Lastly, his leadership skills throughout the tournament were outstanding. JAYSON TATUM – the former Duke University star and now a main player for the Boston Celtics came off the bench and sometimes provided immediate scoring mostly from the 3-point line. He averaged 15.2 points per game in around an average of 20 minutes per game and was 10th overall in field goal percentage at 49.3%. JRUE HOLIDAY from the Milwaukee Bucks averaged 11.8 points per game and was 10th overall in steals at 1.7 per contest. His biggest contribution was on defence where he was tremendous. He is one of the best on ball defender in the NBA and can switch on players 1 through 5. DAMIAN LILLARD – he is a main scorer for Portland in the NBA and found the international competition very challenging in Tokyo. However, he did average double figures with 11.2 points per game and averaged 3.2 assists per game. BAM ADEBAYO – while averaging 6.3 points per game he played a major role for the USA in defence by leading the team in blocks and rebounds.

- **Impressions:** The USA lost their first game to France 76-83 caused mainly allowing France to post a 25-11 3rd period result from which the USA could not recover. They easily defeated Iran in their second game by shooting 55% from the field. Their final group game was a 119-84 win over the Czech Republic as they had another great shooting night 61% from the field, 20 of 42 from the arc. In the quarter-finals they met Spain and with a 52-38 second half defeated the Europeans 95-81. In the semi-finals with a strong 32-10 3rd period, they comfortably defeated Australia 97-78 as Durant had 23 points and 9 rebounds. In this game, USA did outstanding job in limiting Patty Mills from Australia to 15 points making only 5 from 14 attempts. In the gold medal game, the USA redeemed themselves from their earlier loss against France by winning a closely fought contest 87-82. In summing up this overall performance of the USA, considering that they had 3 players in the NBA finals who never practiced with the team until the first game in Tokyo, 2 more players who had to leave training camp because of Covid (Beal) and Kevin Love (injury), two exhibition losses to Nigeria and Australia, and a loss to France in their opening game, the fact that they were Olympic champions is credit and a tribute to this team and their coaching staff.

2. France (5-1) (*Average Age: 29yrs | Average height: 2.02m / 6'8"*)

- **Preparation:** The preparation for France started on 25 June with their first training camp in Pau until 6 July. On 8 July they played an exhibition game against Spain in Malaga and lost 77-86. A second game with Spain was played

two nights later in Paris with Spain winning again 87-79. On 14 July France departed for Tokyo and had a training camp in Oshino that included games from 15 to 21 July. They played one game during this period losing to Japan 75-81 on 18 July in Tokyo. After this game they transferred to the Olympic Village on 22 July to begin official competition on 25 July.

- **Style:** The best analysis of France was observed in the games they had against the USA winning the first one in group play 83-76 but losing the most important one in the gold medal game 87-82. They always tried an early push to try and get Rudy Gobert (defensive player of the year in the NBA with the Utah Jazz) a deep catch where with his size was close to unstoppable. If impossible to get him the ball the first time they would reverse to one side and have him try to reseat. They would also in transition go directly into a high post pick and roll with the likes of Fournier/De Colo and Gobert who often would “slip” hard to the rim. To try and confuse the defence at times Gobert would screen at the high post and not slip on this first screen but rescreen and slip on this action. France could adjust well to the strategic changes of the opponents and were able to slow down the team’s transition offence. They mostly organised in a 4 out and 1 in set up and used screening action to create shot opportunities for their efficient shooters. They finished 4th in overall field goal percentage at 47.8%, and 5th in 3-point percentage at 37.4%. They were a very strong rebounding team finishing 2nd overall in the tournament at 43 rebounds per game and finished 5th in assists averaging 22 per game. They were a strong defensive team who tried to always deny passing lanes and force opponents away from their strengths. In late game situation, the coaching staff would use a double post tandem of Gobert (2.15cm) and Vincent Poirier (2.13cm) that caused headaches proved a challenge for opponents with their size.
- **Key Players:** EVAN FORNIER – Fournier is a highly efficient scorer, whose combination of shooting and playmaking made him a valuable impact player for France. He also can attack the basket and finish at the rim. He was 8th overall in scoring at Tokyo at 18.7 points per game and 5th overall in free throw percentage at 83.3%. NANDO DE COLO – De Colo averaged 13.5 points per game in Tokyo, was 3rd overall in 3-point percentage at 50%, was 1st in free throw percentage at 90.9%, and 4th overall in assists at 6.2. He played from 2012-2014 with the San Antonio Spurs and Toronto Raptors but has played great in the last 6 EuroLeague seasons. RUDY GOBERT – Gobert has a 7’9” wingspan, is skinny but has an athletic frame. His coordination and ability to run the floor are above average for an NBA big man. He has great agility and

reflexes that makes him a solid athlete. He has a reliable hook shot with his right hand plus good instinct for the put back. His mobility makes him difficult to guard for opposing big men, especially in pick and roll situations, often generating mismatches. His length disrupts passing lanes and with his shot blocking skills it is very difficult for opposing guards to get any lay ups on penetration. He averaged 12.2 points per game, was 4th overall in rebounds at 9.3 per game, and 8th overall in efficiency at 18.2.

- **Impressions:** France started positively by defeating the USA 83-76. In their second group phase game against the Czech Republic, they put together a 29-12, 2nd period and a 26-16, 3rd period to win comfortably 97-77. In the final group game, they defeated Iran easily 79-62. In the quarter-finals France met Italy in a tough game, but France eventually won 84-75. The semi-final game against Slovenia was a great game and came down to the last play of the game when Batum blocked a lay-up shot by Prepelic of Slovenia at the buzzer. In the gold medal match against the USA France was down 14 points late in the game but began to shoot well and with a strong defence aided by a timely steal by De Colo cut the lead of the Americans to only 3 points (82-85) with 10.7 seconds left but that was as close as the French got in the 87-82 loss. As a result, France finished with a silver medal. France can now look forward to the 2024 Olympic Games that will be held in their beautiful city of Paris, and it is highly possible that the majority of this French team may still be available for these home Olympics and perhaps they can move up one spot and capture the gold medal for the first time.

3. Australia (5-1) (*Average Age: 29yrs | Average height: 1.98m / 6'6"*)

- **Preparation:** The Aussies (the Boomers) did not prepare in their homeland as they began their training camp at the end of June in Los Angeles (this was a kind of "drop in" camp where 13 of the 16 final selected players showed up for some training before going on to Las Vegas). In Las Vegas (on July 3 the final 12 were selected) they defeated Argentina on 10 July by the score of 87-84, defeated the USA on 12 July by the score of 91-83, and defeated Nigeria on 13 July by the score of 108-69. They were scheduled to play a second game against the USA on 16 July, but it was cancelled due to Covid 19 issues.
- **Style:** Basically, Australia is a high IQ offence that operates off strong ball and player movement. Patty Mills has been a main leader of the team for over a decade. Coach Brian Goorjian is a defensive minded coach who emphasizes

tremendous pressure on the ball carrier, efficient defending off the 3-point line, efficient defensive rotations and contesting shots. They used the middle pick and roll as a main feature of their offence. The unfortunate injury to Aron Baynes early in the tournament disrupted somewhat this important aspect of the Boomer offensive philosophy. A matchup zone was used sparingly by Goorjian where Matisse Thybulle (Philadelphia 76er's) would be at the top since he is an elite defender and is long and active. Goorjian had coached most of these guys before and did understand their personality and seemed willing to accept feedback from the veterans. He had at his disposal multiple switching groups so he could go with a variety of combinations as needed.

- **Key Players:** PATTY MILLS – he is an Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) development product who has led Australia for many years with relentless energy. He had somewhat a different role with the Boomers as compared to his years with the San Antonio Spurs. He played more of an active leadership role in Tokyo. He ended as the 3rd overall scorer in Tokyo at 23.3 points per game, 3rd overall in assists at 6.3 per game, 5th overall in efficiency at 20.5, and 9th overall in free throw percentage at 80%. JOCK LANDALE – when Aron Baynes was injured the Boomers had a lack of depth in the big man area. Jock Landale at 2.11m and 25 years old stepped in and provided a concrete value in this area. He is very effective in pick and roll play and also has the ability to shoot from 3 point range. He is also very effective defender in pick and roll situations. He will be an important player in future Boomer squads. He averaged 12.8 points per game and was 5th overall in field goal percentage at 53.7%. JOE INGLES – Ingles is one of the established faces of the Boomers who plays for Utah in the NBA and is known for his outstanding 3-point shooting (45% in the NBA). He averaged 11.2 points per game and was 10th overall in assists at 4.0 per game. Ingles plays a slower offensive rhythm, makes astute decisions and offense, and he is a very efficient defender. NIC KAY was not a highly publicized player for the Aussies but had a great tournament. He is exclusively a 4 man but a very solid role player who works hard. He was a reliable defender and excellent decision maker in offense. He is a tenacious defender and fierce competitor. He scored 11.0 points per game and was 11th overall in rebounding at 6.3 per game.
- **Impressions:** Australia had a mixture of established players (Mills, Ingles, Dellavedova, and Baynes), and an influx of some younger and new players such as Exum (26), Green (20), Thybulle (24) and Reath (25). Both Exum and Green are young, long, and athletic wings and they can play in several

positions. while both also provide a multi-positional and switchable look on the defensive end. Exum can play guard and defend position 1-3 and his shooting has improved during his time in the NBA. Thybulle and Green are elite defenders both being long and athletic who can disrupt on defence. A brief summary of their games went as follows: They defeated Nigeria in their opener 84-67. Their second game was a tough 86-83 win over Italy where the bigs for Australia won the battle of the boards (44-30) which gave the Boomers extra possessions on offence. Their final group play game came against Germany and after losing the 1st period 18-22 came back to win the other 3 periods (26-18, 22-19, 23-17) to defeat Germany (89-76). In the quarter-finals, they easily defeated Argentina in the last game for the Argentine legend Luis Scola by a score of 97-59. They faced the USA in the semi-finals and after leading by as many as 15points, USA surged in the 3rd period to defeat Australia 97-78. They now faced Slovenia and Luka Doncic in the bronze medal game, and this would be the 8th game in which they had been winless with a medal at stake in a World Cup or Olympic Games competition. They won all 4 periods with Mills having a tremendous game scoring 42 points with 9 assists. He was supported by Ingles with 16 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 assists with Jock Landale adding 14 points. With this win the Aussies captured their 1st medal ever in a major FIBA competition (World Cup or Olympic Games). Australia had outstanding team statistics for the tournament finishing 1st in assists at 24.7 per game, 2nd overall in 3-point percentage at 39.7%, 3rd overall in scoring at 90.2 points per game, 3rd in steals at 9.7 per game, and 3rd in efficiency at 106.5.

4. Slovenia (4-2) (*Average Age: 28yrs | Average height: 1.99m / 6'6"*)

- **Preparation:** Slovenia qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games by winning the Olympic Qualifying Tournament that was held in Kaunas, Lithuania from 29 June to 4 July. They went undefeated in this Olympic Qualifying Tournament defeating Angola 118-68, Poland 112-77, Venezuela 98-70, and host Lithuania 96-85. They were the top scoring team by far in this tournament averaging 106 points per game. The main importance for this high point scoring was provided by Luka Doncic who averaged 21.3 points per game, shot 55.6% from the field, and shot 39% from behind the arc. He continued this kind of outstanding play in Tokyo. This participation in the Olympic Qualifying Tournament served as their main preparation for the Tokyo Olympics, which provided a very valuable preparation.

- **Style:** Slovenia were an extremely offensive team who emphasized the 3-point shot. They were the number 1 team in 3-point shots attempted in the tournament with 220 shots taken and shooting an average of 36.4%. Their main offensive scorer was Luka Doncic who at only 22 years of age was a very positive impact for Slovenia. They preferred an up-tempo style of play and used pick and roll and pick and pop action with Doncic and 2.13cm Mike Tobey who could shoot the 3-point shot and effectively roll to the basket. If their inside action was defended, they had very efficient perimeter shooters in Prepelic, Dragic, or Cancar. Some double high post screening action also occurred at times looking for a high-low situation for Tobey. Slovenia played at very high pace and averaged 96 possessions per game which may will be a FIBA historical record for possessions per game in a FIBA tournament. In defence, they relied on $\frac{3}{4}$ man to man and sometimes at extending to full court. On ball screens they preferred to go over the top with some hedge and recover by their teammate to help. On down screens mostly they would go through or over. Summing up this team I would say it was an overachieving squad led by a great player.
- **Key Players:** LUKA DONCIC –Doncic almost averaged a triple double in the tournament, and he was 2nd overall in scoring at 23.8 points per game, 2nd overall in rebounding at 9.7 per game, and 1st in assists at 9,5 per game. He was also 1st in efficiency at 29.2 and 1st in double-double games with 3 along with teammate Mike Tobey who also had 3. He is very effective at low post play particularly in a mismatch situation. KLEMEN PREPELIC – Prepelic is a 28-year-old 1.89cm SG who averaged 15.5 points per game and was 8th overall in free throw percentage at 82.1%. He is a highly effective 3-point shooter. MIKE TOBEY – Tobey averaged 13.7 points per game, was 3rd overall in field goal percentage at 61.4%, and 1st overall in rebounding at 10.5 per game. He is their naturalized American player who played his NCAA basketball at the University of Virginia. He is very effective in pick and roll and pick and pop play and has effective 3-point shot range. He also defends post players well. ZORAN DRAGIC – Dragic is a 1.96cm SF who averaged 12.3 points per game and was 4th overall in field goal percentage at 59.2%. He has played in the NBA for Phoenix and Miami. He fits in well with the up-tempo style that Slovenia uses since he runs the floor well. VLATKO CANCAR – Cancar is a 2.03cm shooting forward who averaged 12.8 points per game and shot 48% from the 3-point line.

- **Impressions:** Slovenia began the tournament with a 118-110 win over Argentina. Luka Doncic has an outstanding game scoring 48 points (18-29 and 6-14 on three's) with 11 rebounds and 5 assists. Slovenia easily defeated Japan 116-81. The last group game was against Spain, and they needed a 27-17 4th period run to defeat Spain away 95-87. Spain played a box and one defence on Doncic. In the quarter-finals they met Germany, which Slovenia won 94-70. Their semi-final game against France was an outstanding game with France surviving 90-89 due to an incredible block by Batum on a last second layup by Prepelic. In the end this was the first defeat for Slovenia with Doncic in the line-up, and the first time that they had scored less than 90 points in a major event since the Round of 16 in the 2017 EuroBasket. In the Bronze medal game Slovenia lost to an inspired Australian team 107-93.

5. Italy (2-2) (*Average Age: 27yrs | Average height: 1.98m / 6'6"*)

- **Preparation:** Italy booked their ticket for 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games through the Men's Olympic Qualifying Tournament held in Belgrade, Serbia from 29 June to 4 July 2021. This is Italy's first Olympic appearance since the 2004 Athens Games. On 6 October, 12 players were selected for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the team would gather in Rome for training camp from 12 to 16 July. One change was made by Coach Sacchetti from the team that won the Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Serbia and that was the inclusion of Danilo Gallinari replacing 1.98cm G Awudu Abass.
- **Style:** Italy played an up tempo and fast-paced style of basketball and also were very efficient at the half-court game. They had much depth in shooting ability of every position, moved the ball very well in team play and were well-organised and efficient. They committed the least number of turnovers in each game with only 8.8 per contest and were the top free throw shooting team in the tournament at 84.1%. They also played a sound team defence relying mostly on man-to-man. They displayed an extensive use of the pick and roll with good spacing for their group of excellent shooters. Extensive DHO (Dribble Hand Off) action occurred to create secondary screening action such as middle pick and roll/pop or flare screen action.
- **Key Players:** SIMONE FONTECCHIO – at 2.03cm, 25-year-old the future with the Italian National Team seems promising. In the Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Serbia, he averaged 19.7 points per game, shot 57.7% from the field, and shot 53.8% from the 3-point range. In Tokyo he finished 7th overall in scoring at 19.3 points per game, 7th on overall field goal percentage at 52.7%.

and shot a very respectable 45.5% from the 3-point line. For someone relatively young, he understands the game very well with demonstrating sound composure. NICO MANNION – Mannion is a 1.90cm G that is only 20 years old and plays for the Golden State Warriors in the NBA (picked 48th by them in the 2020 NBA Draft). In Tokyo, he averaged 12.5 points per game and was 9th overall in assist at 4.5 per game. He was prepared to take responsibility and lead the team at crucial times. With further experience at this level, he will play with more consistency. He along with Fontecchio, are two exciting young players for the future of the Italian National Team. DANILO GALLINARI – Gallinari was one of the most experienced players in the Italian team in Tokyo. He made a valuable contribution to the team by averaging 11.8 points per game and was 5th in free throw percentage at 83.3%. He did not have much preparation time with the team since he did not play in the Olympic Qualifying Tournament use to his commitment with Atlanta Hawks in the NBA. As the Tournament progressed, his contribution became more significant and in the quarter-finals against France with 21 points and 10 rebounds in a game which Italy eventually lost. He had a strong influence on the Italian Team as a leader. ACHILLE POLONARO – This 2.05cm 29-year-old had very good form at the Olympic Qualifying Tournament where he was selected the MVP of the event and has signed with Fenerbahce of Turkey this coming season. He contributed positively in games against Australia (12 points and 7 rebounds), Nigeria (13 points and 5 rebounds) and France (15 points and 7 rebounds). He is a rugged tenacious rebounder and strong defender.

- **Impressions:** Italy opened the tournament with a hard-fought win over Germany 92-82. The game was in doubt until Italy outscored the Germany in the 4th period 24-10 with a 10-0 run to end the game. It was a close game throughout. They won a very important game over Nigeria 80-71 in their last group game to get them into the quarter-finals. In the quarter-finals they had to face the undefeated French team and lost 75-84. Italy did shoot in this game having only 32% overall, and only 7 of 33 (21%) from behind the 3-point line. Poirier, and Fall the French was just too big for the Italians to overcome. Italy finished in a creditable 5th place and the future looks particularly optimistic with the young talent they have in Mannion, Fontecchio, Tessitori, Tonut, and Pajola.

6. Spain (2-2) (Average Age: 31yrs | Average height: 2.02m / 6'8")

- **Preparation:** Spain qualified for their 13th appearance in the Olympic Games by winning the FIBA World Cup China 2019. They have finished on the podium in the last 3 Olympic Games winning the silver medal in the 2008 Beijing Games, the silver medal in the 2012 London Games, and the Bronze in the 2016 Rio Games. The Spanish National Federation named a 18 man roster on 19 June for consideration for selection in the Spanish National Team for the Tokyo Olympics. The official training began on 25 June in Madrid and on 3 July they played Iran in Valencia winning 88-71 followed by another game with Iran on 5 July in Madrid that they also won 96-53. Later, they played France in Malaga on 8 July winning 86-77 and again on 10 July in Paris winning 87-79. On their way to Tokyo, they made a stop in Las Vegas for a few days and played the USA on 18 July losing 76-83. They opened their official Olympic Games competition on 26 July against Japan.
- **Style:** Spain was one of the older teams in the competition with an average age of 31 years. They have been together for many international campaigns and the team's cohesion is of a very high level. They used the middle pick and roll and pick/pop to good effect combined with drag screens in transition. They are a very efficient defensive team and use a variety of full court man to man pressure, half-court trapping man to man and some matchup zone. Many of their players have extensive international and the NBA experience. This combined with their very sound fundamental level has enabled them to be one of the most consistently significant teams at international level.
- **Key Players:** RICKY RUBIO – he was a leading player for Spain at the Olympics in Tokyo. He finished 2nd overall in scoring at 25.5 points per game, 2nd overall in efficiency at 24.0, 4th overall in assists at 6.0 per game, 5th overall in free throw percentage at 82.6%, 10th overall in field goal percentage at 52.2%, and 10th overall in 3-point percentage at 47.8%. His shooting efficiency has improved over the years, and he is not a potent scorer from dribble penetration and from the outside. He was well supported by SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, VICTOR CLAVER and GASOL brothers Pau and Marc.
- **Impressions:** Spain opened with an 88-77 win over Japan. Spain shot 51.6% for the game and had 4 players in double figures. Their second game was against Argentina who they defeated 81-71 and they shot 52.6% from the field, 10 of 26 from behind the 3-point line (38.5%) In their last very important group

game, they faced Slovenia. Slovenia outlasted Spain through a very strong 4th period to win 87-95. This meant that Spain faced USA in a quarter-finals game. In a very tight contest, Spain lost against USA 95-81 with USA only gaining the dominance in the 4th period. This loss to the USA most certainly reminded Spain of many years of heartbreak and brought to an end of an era of great Spanish teams stretched across 3 decades. Significantly at the end of these Tokyo Olympics, both Pau and Mark Gasol announced their retirement from international basketball bringing to an end a wonderful era for Spanish men's national team stretching across 3 decades.

7. Argentina (1-3) (*Average Age: 28yrs | Average height: 1.98m / 6'6"*)

- **Preparation:** Argentina qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as the top ranked South American team from the 2019 FIBA World Cup in China where they won the silver medal losing to Spain in the final. The Argentinian National Federation nominated 15 players on 4 June to begin training on 27 June in Las Vegas until 17 July when they would depart for Tokyo. 10 of the 15 players were members of the World Cup team that won the silver medal in China. Argentina was invited by USA Basketball to participate in a series of games with the USA, Nigeria, and Australia. They played 3 games with the first one on 10 July (lost to Australia 84-87), 12 July (lost to Nigeria 71-94), and on 13 July they lost to the USA 80-108. The final team of 12 players was named on 17 July with 9 from the 2019 FIBA World Cup team and 3 young newcomers.
- **Style:** Argentina has a free-flowing and selfless offensive style which prioritises effective ball movement with efficient shot selection. They primarily used a Horns set with Scola (pick/pop) and Delia (looked for high/low action for him) followed by some secondary flare screen action. They looked to move the ball very quickly in offensive transition through Campazzo. They also used a drag screen at times on the side pick and roll action with an option for the screener to pop or slip to the basket. Their defence was mainly half court man to man pressure with a strong denial on the passing lanes and at times would extend to full court. They also went to 4 out 1 in with Luis Scola posting up inside. A challenging area for Argentina was being able to shoot consistently. Their overall field goal percentage was at 41.9% and 3-point shooting average was 29.1%.
- **Key Players:** LUIS SCOLA – at the age of 41 led Argentina in scoring at 16.5 points per game and led the team in 3-point percentage shooting at 42.1%. This

was his 5th Olympic Games and is the 4th leading scorer in Olympic history having won a gold medal in Athens 2004 and a bronze in 2008 Beijing. He was given a standing ovation by everyone present in Saitama Arena when he was substituted with only a few minutes left in his last game of his fabulous career against Australia. A tribute well deserved. FACUNDO CAMPAZZO – he averaged 14.3 points per game and was 6th overall in assists at 5.8 per game and was one of the most exciting point guards at the Olympics. NICOLAS LAPROVITTOLA – He is a very efficient 1.94cm PG who plays for Real Madrid and averaged 13.8 points per game in Tokyo, handed out 4 assists per game, and was 3rd overall in free throw percentage at 84.2%. GABRIEL DECK – Deck is a 2.02 SF who was the 4th Argentine player to average in double figures at 11.8 points per game. The Oklahoma City Thunder player was also 7th overall in rebounding at 7.5 per game.

- **Impressions:** Argentina played Slovenia in their opening game and were defeated 118-100 on the back of 48 points scored by Luka Doncic. In a repeat of the 2019 World Cup in China they met and lost to Spain in their second group game 81-71. In their next game and final group game, Argentina defeated Japan 97-77. In the quarter-finals against Australia, Argentina was comfortably defeated 97-59 which ended their Tokyo Olympics campaign. With retirement of several veteran players over these past two Olympics cycles, Argentina will look to rebuild depth in their National Team programme.

8. Germany (1-3) (*Average Age: 27yrs | Average height: 2.02m / 6'8"*)

- **Preparation:** Germany qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by winning the Olympic Qualifying Tournament held at Split, Croatia from 29 June to 4 July. This was the 6th time that Germany competed in the Olympic Games. The Olympic Qualifying Tournament was their major part of the preparation for the Olympic Games. They had several of their NBA players not available for the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Style:** Germany played a slower paced and physical style of basketball. They had abundance of size with Johannes Voigtmann (2.09cm), Robin Benzing (2.10cm), Danilo Barthel (2.07cm), and Moritz Wagner (2.11cm). Wagner is now with the Orlando Magic in the NBA. They were a resilient team with a very competitive attitude. They played mostly a 4 out and 1 in using extensively a high post pick and roll including pick and pop, pick and rescreen, screener slipping to the basket. They also used double staggered screening action on

the help side. The dribble hand off (DHO) was also part of their offensive scheme. They were mostly a man-to-man defensive team but also used a 3-2 zone and some 1-2-2 full court press after a made free throw. They were a well-balanced team in scoring with 3 in double figures and 3 more with at least an average of 8 plus point per game.

- **Key Players:** MAODO LO – Lo is a 1.92cm PG who played in the USA NCAA system at Colombia University in New York City and recently signed with Alba Berlin for the next two years. He led Germany in scoring with 13.5 points per game, shot 46.5% from the field and was 7th overall in assist at 5.0 per game. ANDREAS OBST – Obst is a good 3-point shooter who took 35 3's for Germany in their 4 games making 40%. He averaged 12.0 points per game. He, who is at only 25 years of age, is projected to have a bright future for Germany. MORITZ WAGNER – Wagner averaged 11.0 points per game and was 2nd overall in free throw percentage at 88.2% and shot 48.1% overall from the field. JOHANNES VOIGTMANN –He averaged 8.8 points per game, was 5th overall in rebounds at 8.0 per game, and added 2.3 assists per game.
- **Impressions:** Germany played Italy in their opening game and lost 92-82. In their second game they defeated Nigeria very narrowly 99-92. In their last group game, they lost to Australia 89-76. They qualified for the quarter-finals where they faced Slovenia. Slovenian won 94-70 after posting a very solid 4th quarter. Germany were 2nd overall in free throw percentage averaging at 83.1% and 4th overall in 3-point percentage averaging at 38.8%. Turnovers were a challenge for them as they committed 16 turnovers per game.

9. Czech Republic (1-2) (*Average Age: 30yrs | Average height: 2m / 6'7"*)

- **Preparation:** It was a very difficult road for the Czech Republic to get to the Tokyo Olympics since after finishing 6th at the FIBA World Cup China 2019, they had to qualify through the Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Victoria, Canada. After some very close games in this tournament they successfully qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Style:** Czech Republic, very capably led by Tomas Satoransky, a 2.01cm PG who plays for the Chicago Bulls in the NBA, looked to play up-tempo as much as possible with an emphasis on the 3-point shot where they finished 3rd overall making 33.8% of their attempts. They were consistent in sharing the ball being 3rd overall in assists at 23.3 per game. In offence, they mostly used a 4 out and

I in alignment with high post pick/roll/pop action and screen the screener action for shooters coming up from the baseline. Also horns sets were used for big-to-big screening movement followed by a pick and roll or flare screen action. They played mostly man to man defence and would trap on side pick and roll plays. They went full court man to man after a converted free throw regularly. A 1-3-1 and 3-2 zone was occasionally used as a change-up defence. They used “show and recover” frequently when defending on-ball screens.

- **Key Players:** JAN VESELY – Vesely is a 2.13cm who plays for Fenerbahce Beko in Turkey. He led the Czech Republic in scoring at 14.3 points per game making an excellent 65.5% of his attempted shots. He also had 5 rebounds per game and 3.3 assists per game. . ONDREJ BALVIN – Balvin is a 2.17cm C who plays for RETAbet Bilbao Basket in Spain who was the second leading scorer for the Czech Republic at 14.0 points per game and finished 8th overall in rebounding at 6.7 per game. PATRIK AUDA – Auda is a 2.06cm C who averaged 12.0 points per game, shot 54.5% from the field, and 3.7 rebounds per game. He had a big game in the win over Iran with 16 points and 6 boards. He plays internationally for the Yokohama B-Corsairs team in Japan. BLAKE SCHILB – Schilb is a 1.99cm F who as mentioned earlier in this report is an outstanding 3-point shooter who shot 53.8% from 3-point range for this tournament. He averaged 10.3 points per game, 3.3 rebounds per game, and 2.7 assists per game. TOMAS SATORANSKY –He averaged 10.3 points per game, 5.7 rebounds per game, and an outstanding 8.7 assists per game which was the 2nd overall in this tournament.
- **Impressions:** The Czech Republic was opened with a hard fought 84-78 win over Iran. In their 2nd game against France, they commenced well but could not maintain this momentum eventually losing to France 97-77. The final game was against the USA where the USA won comfortably 119-84 This was the first time in the Olympic Games for the Czech Republic, and they will no doubt benefit enormously from this experience.

10. Nigeria (0-3) (*Average Age: 25yrs | Average height: 2m / 6'7"*)

- **Preparation:** Nigeria was making their 3rd consecutive Olympic Games appearance (2012 London, 2016 Rio) in Tokyo, having qualified as the highest-ranked African team from the 2019 FIBA World Cup held in China. They finished 11th in the Rio Olympics and 10th at the 2012 London Games. Nigeria invited 49 prospects including former NBA players, top college basketball

prospects, and others playing in international leagues around the globe to attend their training camp in Oakland, California, USA on 17 June. From the invited 49 players, 35 accepted the invitation to attend this training camp.). This group was reduced to 16 in advance of the exhibition games planned for Las Vegas, USA from 10 to 13 July. They played 3 games in Las Vegas winning two of which one was over the USA 90-87 and the other a comfortable win over Argentina 94-71. They lost to Australia 69-108. After these exhibition games the final 12 were announced on 19 July which included 8 NBA players, more than any other team except the USA.

- **Style:** Nigeria were a fast and athletic team, and had good shooters and strong defenders. They used mostly a 4 out 1 in formation with a variety of screening actions including high post pick and roll, side pick and roll, elbow pick and roll, drag and double drag screens. Moving the ball very quickly to offensive transition was a priority. They played mainly a man-to-man defence and on ball screens generally they would show and have the ball defender fight over the top. They would also occasionally switch. They shot well from 3-point range finishing 3rd overall at 39.8% The challenge for Nigeria was finding a consistent playmaker as they committed 20.3 turnovers per game and finished in the 11th place in assists at 16.3 per game.
- **Key Players:** Nigeria had the highest number of NBA players in any national team at the Tokyo Olympics, with the exception of USA, with 8 players. Their most outstanding player by far was the NBA Milwaukee Bucks JORDAN NWORA who finished 5th overall in scoring at 21.0 points per game, and 8th overall in 3-point shooting percentage at 48%. He is only 22 years of age. CHIMEMEZIE METU – he is a 2.11m F who plays in the NBA with Sacramento Kings. He averaged 9.0 points per game, shot 63.6% from the arc, and grabbed 6.7 rebounds per game. JAHLIL OKAFOR – This former Duke University standout now plays for the Detroit Pistons in the NBA averaged 9.0 points per game and shot outstanding at 85.7% from 2-point range. He also averaged 4.7 rebounds per game.
- **Impressions:** Nigeria met Australia in their first game and lost 84-67. Their 2nd game was against Germany, and in this very close contest, they lost to Germany 99-92. In their final game in this Group phase, they lost narrowly to Italy 80-71. Nigeria's expectations would be that they were hoping to finish in a higher placing than 10th in this tournament.

11. Japan (0-3) (Average Age: 28yrs | Average height: 1.96m / 6'5")

- **Preparation:** Tokyo was the first time for a Japanese Men's basketball participation since the 1976 Montreal Games. As the host Japan had a relatively long and positive preparation. On 14 May the Japanese Basketball Association announced 20 candidates for their 2021 Olympic team including their 2 NBA players Rui Hachimura and Yuta Watanabe. They had several training camps beginning with the 1st camp from 25 May to 1 June at the Ayenomoto National Training Centre for players who had finished their seasons. Later, from 5 to 12 June the second camp was held at the Aynon National Training Centre, and the third camp was held from 13 to 20 June in Tokyo where some domestic friendly games were played. From 20 June to 5 July the group was reduced to 15 players for a friendly tournament against Iran in Miyagi/Iwate that was called the Reconstruction Support tournament to raise funds for the survivors of the East Japan earthquake that happened earlier. They played Iran 3 games on 23 June (won 85-57), 25 June (lost 67-72), and 27 June (won 76-50). The Lifecup Okinawa Tournament was next on the friendly games schedule with Japan beating Hungary on 7 July 79-58, losing to Belgium on 9 July 70-73, and losing to Finland on 11 July 71-76. In their last friendly game before the official start of the competition they had a very solid win over France 81-75.
- **Style:** Japan, under Coach Julio Lamas had a very structured offence based mainly on their 2 NBA players Hachimura and Watanabe. The team looked to advance the ball up the floor very quickly when opportunities were available. They had 2 small guards (Yuki Togashi and Daiki Tanaka) with good speed and most of the team had sound shooting ability. They would alternate from zone defence to man to man quite often. Defending the low post effectively proved a challenge for them. They ran pick and roll and pick and pop options from the middle and the wing. Whenever possible, Hachimura was extensively involved in this action.
- **Key Players:** RUI HACHIMURA – He was the 9th overall pick in the 2019 NBA draft by the Washington team and the first Japanese player ever selected in the 1st round. He stands 2.03cm and is an athletic and explosive player who is a terrific middle-distance shooter but can shoot the 3 if he is open from that spot. He averaged 22.3 points in 3 games, had 6.7 rebounds per game, 2.0 assist per game, and shot 38% from the 3-point range. YUTA WATANABE – This 2.06cm SF is 26 years old and played in the USA NCAA system at George

Washington University from 2014 to 2018. He has played for the Toronto Raptors of the NBA. In Tokyo he gave Japan some versatility on offence and tenacity on defence while averaging 17.7 points per game, 8.0 rebounds per game (6th overall), and 2.0 assists per game. It should be noted that between him and Hachimura they scored 50% of the team points against Spain and 62% of the points against Slovenia.

- **Impressions:** Japan opened up their group play against Spain and lost 88-77. Spain took a 48-28 first half lead and even though Japan fought back in the 2nd half it was too little too late to change the outcome. They met Slovenia in their second game and were comfortably defeated by 116-81. It was clear that consistent rebounding was again a challenge for Japan. Hachimura had his best game with 34 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 assists with Watanabe adding 17 points and 7 rebounds. Japan ended their participation with a 97-77 loss to Argentina and did not shoot well from the 3-point range in this game (6 of 26 from the 3-point range, 23%). In summary Japan's main players were Hachimura and Watanabe who were supported by Yudai Baba and Gavin Edwards (prior to his injury). Developing a deeper pool of talent for their national men's team will be a challenge for the future.

12. Iran (0-3) (*Average Age: 30yrs | Average height: 1.99m / 6'6"*)

- **Preparation:** Iran qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games through their performance at the FIBA World Cup China 2019 where they finished as the highest placed Asia nation. This was their 3rd Olympic Game's appearance. The preparation for Iran was not ideal. After the Iranian Men's professional league finished and a brief break was given to the players the Iranian National Federation called 18 players to begin training for 3rd window of the qualification for the Asia Cup which had been postponed in February 2020 because of the Covid pandemic and was now scheduled for 9 – 14 June in Jordan where they would play Qatar and Saudi Arabia. These games were to be used as preparation for the Tokyo Olympics and on 12 June they beat Qatar 84-46 and on 14 June they edged Saudi Arabia 70-64. They then returned home for a few days rest and on 17 June they went to Japan for 3 friendly games. On 23 June they lost to Japan 57-85, on 25 June they defeated Japan 72-67, and on 27 June they lost to Japan for a second time 50-76. They travelled to Spain from Tehran in July for 2 games against Spain in Valencia and Madrid. On 3 July they played Spain in Valencia and lost 61-88 and on 5 July they lost again to

Spain in Madrid 53-96. This completed their preparation for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

- **Style:** Iran was the only team in Tokyo without any current NBA players, however, their veteran star Hamed Haddadi did play a couple of seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies in the NBA. Iran had size with Haddadi standing 2.18cm, Michael Rostampour at 2.10cm, and Aaron Geramipour at 2.14cm. In reality they were the most unknown squad in this Olympic Games since they really did not have many well-known talent outside of their borders except for Haddadi and Behnam Yakhchalidehkordi, a 1.91cm G who plays professionally in Germany. However, they have been one of Asia's most consistent teams playing a hard-nosed, inside-out style of game. They would use a drag screen quite often in transition involving Haddadi as a screener looking for him to roll to the basket. They also used middle pick and roll, side pick and roll and some big-to-big screening action out of a horns set. They probably played more zone including 3-2, 2-3, than any other team but started every game in a man-to-man defence. They committed to compete consistently in every game they played but the very high talent level at these Olympics from other nations proved overwhelming competition for them.
- **Key Players:** HAMED HADDADI – he is the greatest Iranian player of all time and led Iran in scoring at 15.7 points per game, 9.7 rebounds per game, and 3.3 assists per game. In the last 10 seasons that he has been playing internationally he has averaged 18.3 points per game and 13.9 rebounds per game so he should be proud of those statistics. BEHNAM YAKHCHALIDEHKORD – he is a 1.91cm G who play in Germany and is a very capable 3-point shooter as he shot 46.7% from 3-point range with an average of 13.3 points per game. MOHAMMAD JAMSHIDIJAFARABADI – he is a 1.99cm G, 30 years of age. He averaged 10.7 points per per game and 4.7 assists which was the best on the team. ARSALAN KAZEMI, a 2.01cm PF, was probably their next best player having his best game against France where he scored 11 points and had 8 rebounds.
- **Impressions:** Iran opened the tournament against the Czech Republic and after falling behind by 21 points made a very creditable comeback in the 4th period they lost narrowly by 6 points 84-78. Their 2nd game in group play came against the USA and USA won 120-66. At this point in the competition, turnovers were an issue for Iran averaging over 20 turnovers per game. In their

final game in group play and they lost to France 79-62 ending their Tokyo Olympics campaign.

For the future development of high level of basketball in Iran, it will be very important to emphasise a programme of youth development and in particular, develop a large group of Iranian grassroots coaches and provide them with sound coaching expertise.

All-Star 5 of the Tokyo 2020 Men's Olympic Basketball Tournament

- Kevin Durant – USA – MVP
- Luka Doncic – Slovenia
- Rudy Gobert – France
- Patty Mills – Australia
- Ricky Rubio – Spain

General Coaching Trends and Observations – Patrick Hunt

The standard and quality of coaching at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Women's and Men's Basketball competitions was of a very high standard.

Considering variations in available preparation time, availability of players and impacts of Covid19, teams were as adequately prepared as circumstances allowed.

Coaches of teams who participated in the pre-Olympic Tournaments had the benefit of using this opportunity to greatly assist their preparation, make adjustments and continually test, evaluate and adapt their systems and strategies.

Advanced coaching expertise was consistently demonstrated throughout all phases of the competitions.

Organisation of teams' early transition offence into half-court offence was sound, with purpose and generally suited playing personnel and combinations as were offensive structures, methods and strategies.

The tempo of games was managed very well by Coaches through the use of time-outs, substitutions and changing game strategy throughout the course of games.

Coaches saved using time-outs in the second half until the final quarter or when absolutely necessary due to game circumstances.

It was interesting to note the variation in process during time-outs. Some Head Coaches consulted with Assistant Coaches prior to briefly addressing players while other Head Coaches went directly into time-outs to address players. Input from players, particularly more experienced players, during time-outs seemed to be encouraged. For most teams, during time-outs, players in the on-court playing group were seated directly in front of the Head Coach. The configuration of other players varied from standing behind the Head Coach, standing behind the seated on-court playing group and spread to each side of the on-court playing group.

Generally, management of offensive play in the final 2 minutes of each quarter was sound. However, for some teams this proved challenging. For example, opportunities for the “go to” player at that particular time did not seem to be clearly and consistently defined.

Defensively, Coaches organized sound defensive schemes, made timely adjustments and reacted positively and proactively to required game circumstances.

Coaches clearly preferred man-to-man defence as the foundation of their defensive system. Very little Zone defence was employed throughout the competitions.

Coaches preferred using trapping defences out of man-to-man defence with very little zone trapping defence used.

It was noticeable that as the competition progressed Coaches made appropriate adjustments to their team’s offensive and defensive strategies and schemes according to scouting information gained on opposing teams and players.

Overall, management of players expectations and roles was managed effectively. For some teams this proved to be a challenging area for Coaches particularly for those teams with limited preparation time and with less previous playing experience together as a team.

Coaches’ interactions with referees were appropriate and appeared constructive. Some players reactions and subsequent ongoing interactions with referees was excessive. This was in the minority.



Overall, Coaches were well organised, positive, displayed consistent approaches and behaviour, created opportunities suited to their players abilities and skill-sets and made a positive contribution to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Basketball competitions.

As with the many Olympic Cycles these Olympics have seen the retirement of many experienced “impact” players and some outstanding Coaches. The ongoing and compelling challenge for Coaches and Federations is to have programs in place to not only produce the next generation of impact players but also programs for developing Coaches to ensure the progress and continuous elevation of playing standards for the next generations.



Acknowledgements and thanks

It was an absolute pleasure to be able to work with Coach Jill Schneider and Coach Deanne Butler as members of the FIBA scouting team at these Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Scouting information, observations and technical analysis for the Women's tournament were compiled by Coach Schneider and Coach Butler and scouting information, observations and technical analysis for the Men's tournament were compiled by Coach Patrick Hunt and Coach Nelson Isley. The scouting team's program was led and coordinated by Patrick Hunt.

As we were in attendance for all Women's and Men's games, at our daily pre-competition meetings our information gained, observations and insights were shared and collectively analysed and compared for both the Women's and Men's competitions.

Having a team of Four Coaches to scout at these Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was a most constructive and value-add initiative implemented by FIBA. This allowed for a considerably more detailed analysis of games, a more systematic and comprehensive level of observations, a more extensive coverage of games and better in-depth level of comparative insights.

Many thanks to all the FIBA staff for their much-valued and greatly appreciated assistance and support prior to and during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

We are all most grateful to FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis and FIBA Director of Sport and National Federations, Zoran Radovic for their support and guidance and trusting us with the opportunity to work at and make a contribution to these Olympic Games.

It has been an honour and privilege and gratefully appreciated by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games FIBA scouting team.

Patrick HUNT (Australia) and Nelson ISLEY (USA)