



Scouting

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One of the keys parts of preparation is knowing what tendencies the opposition has and then prioritizing which ones we are going to try to exploit.

Scouting is not an exact science however it does rely on one particular human trait – if they did it before and it worked they will probably do it again. This is especially true in pressure situations i.e at the end of a set or match.

The four points below are what we commonly look at when scouting.

1. Opposition offense
2. Opposition defense
3. Opponents serve receive
4. Their serving

1. Opponents Offense

- Who are their main attackers, are they left or right handed?
- What are their attack tendencies, line/angle/seam/to zone 1 etc
- What do the attackers do in tight/pressure situations
 - after they call a time out
 - scores are close at the end of a set/match
 - after that attacker has just made an error
- The most common attack formation (play) they use.
- Do they tip/roll and to where?
- Any backrow attack?
- Do they hit different shots from different parts of the court
- What type of offense do they run, i.e fast, high outside etc
- What is the % breakdown to each of the hitters in each rotation?
- What type of servers do they have?
- Do they run a 5-1 or 6-2 or some hybrid of this?

Setters

- Do they set they way they are moving or opposite to the way they move?
- Who are their preferred hitters in particular rotations?
- Does she tip? Where to and when.
- If they run crossing plays or combination plays does she have a tendency?
- Does she set the middle when off the net, on the net, when she jumps etc?
- Does her hand position and ball position change for different types of sets?
- Does the 2nd setter do the same thing?



2. Opponents Defense

Blockers

- **Best and worst**
- What blocking systems, if any, do they use. Especially against front row setters.
- Do they make any blocking switches?
- **How disciplined are the blockers against a moving setter?**
- **Does their middle read or shadow or front our middle?**
- How well do they block against a quick attack or combination play?
- **Where do their blockers start?**
- How well do they block the B1, 7 and slide?

Defenders

- **What defensive system do they use?**
- How do they set up defensively against a left/right/middle/backrow attack?
- Do they change their defense against particular hitters?
- **What area of the court do they give up?**
- **Best/worst diggers, slow defenders?**
- How well do they defend against line/angle/tip roll?

3. Opponents Serve Receive

- **Strong and weak passers.**
- **Their susceptibility to different types of serves, e.g topspin, deep, short etc**
- **Where can we serve to disrupt their offense?**
- Do their front row players pass, do they hit after passing?
- Do they pass overhead?

4. Their Serving

- **Who is their best server?**
- What type of serve do the starters/subs have?
- Any short servers? If so, who and to what zone?

General

- Statistical Analysis.
- Analysis in particular rotations.
- Any quirky things they do.