## Research on the Offensive Tactics of Spain Team in the 2019 Men's Basketball World Cup Research on the Offensive Tactics of Spain Team in the 2019 Men's Basketball World Cup

Xinhai Dai\*

School of Beijing Sport University, Beijing 100089, China

### **Abstract**

In the process of basketball competition, the efficiency of positional attack plays a vital role in the victory and defeat of the game, and the Spanish men's basketball team can win the world cup, which is inseparable from their good positional attack. This paper uses the methods of literature, video analysis, mathematical statistics and case analysis, and through watching the Spanish team's eight game video and summarizing the data, aims to study the Spanish men's basketball positional offensive tactics and analyze its tactical characteristics. The conclusions are as follows: (1) Spain has a stable combination of inside and outside, which can stabilize the situation at the critical moment; There are also forward players who dare to fight, so that the team has a certain impact; Also has the outstanding outside line pitcher as well as many experienced, the tactical accomplishment high outstanding player. On the whole, Spain is a very mature team, with complete lineup, appropriate age and attention to the integrity of the team. (2) When the Spanish team attack man to man defense, the most frequently used landing formation is 1-2-2 formation, and the most score depends on this formation, followed by 1-1-3 formation and 1-3-1 formation.(3) The number of joint defense in the attacking area of the Spanish position is less, and the 2-1-2 formation is more used than the 1-3-1 formation.(4) The Spanish team pays attention to teamwork, its offensive tactical system is rich and changeable, and the players are always moving in the positional attack. They use a lot of pick and roll and cover cooperation in tactics, the purpose is to form dislocation or body position difference in the attack, and rely on the series of inside and outside lines to create scoring opportunities.

## **Keywords**

2019 Men's Basketball World Cup; Spanish Men's Basketball Team; Positional Attack; Tactical Characteristics.

### 1. Introduction

In the 1994 World Championships, China defeated Spain to reach the quarterfinals, breaking into the world's top eight for the first time. In the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, China lost to Spain in a fierce overtime match by 10 points, and failed to reach the quarterfinals. At the 2019 World Cup, China failed to advance out of the group stage and finished 24th, while Spain clawed their way to the title. In a short period of 25 years, the Strength of The Spanish team has increased, while the performance of China's men's basketball team has gradually regressed. Spain is a team focused on teamwork and overall control of the team, a complete lineup, the appropriate age mix; Player's individual ability is outstanding, tactical accomplishment is high, tactical execution ability is strong, inside and outside cooperate well. As a ball handler, Rubio has a wide vision, has certain ability to attack the basket, and is good at using the breakaway ball after the pick-and-roll. Inside player Pau Gasol has excellent offensive skills, good screen quality, wide vision of passing, a certain shooting ability, can open up the offensive space; The

linemen have a good three-point shooting percentage; They usually open the interior space in the positional attack, fully mobilize every player, maximize the characteristics of each player, a lot of use of pick-and-roll screen cooperation and sudden distribution, in the attack to form a dislocation or poor body position, through the inside and outside series to create scoring opportunities. The attacking tactics system of The Spanish team is rich and changeable. There are different starting points in the same fall formation. In the execution of tactics, players can make offensive judgment according to the defensive situation on the field. Each player can match with each other and have the finishing ability, which does not depend on a single player, so there are more chances to attack and high efficiency to attack.

Can Spain won the 2019 World Cup champions and they are good at positional attacks are inseparable, the purpose of this paper is to study positional attack characteristics of Spain, will be organizing the data, then analyzes its won the World Cup winner factor, discover the characteristics of good offense, and connecting with the present situation of Chinese men's basketball team, provide reference for domestic.

## 2. Research Object and Method

## 2.1. Oubject

Taking the application of positional attack tactics in the eight matches of Spain in the 2019 Men's Basketball World Cup as the research object.

#### 2.2. Research Methods

#### 2.2.1. Literature Method

Through the library of Beijing Sport University and the database of CNKI to collect the relevant information about basketball position attack, and further analyze and summarize these information, understand the basic composition and characteristics of position attack, to provide theoretical support for writing the paper.

### 2.2.2. Video Analysis Method

By watching 8 games of Spain in the 2019 Men's Basketball World Cup, video editing software Sports Code was used to edit the games, and tactical map analysis was conducted by tactical drawing software Playbook to provide support for the research results of this paper.

### 2.2.3. Mathematical Statistics

Using Excel to summarize the data, and combined with video analysis, summed up the characteristics of their position attack.

#### 2.2.4. Case Analysis

The excellent positional attack tactics of Spain team are analyzed and summarized to further determine the tactical characteristics.

## 3. Research Results and Analysis

## 3.1. Analysis of the Basic Situation of Spain in the 2019 Basketball World Cup

From the analysis of Table 1, it can be seen that The Spanish players are tall and older. Six of them are from NBA, and the remaining six all play in Spanish First Division. As the core of the team, Rubio is 29 years old. He has rich tournament experience, outstanding personal ability, good at organizing the team, and calm playing style. He has 10 years of NBA career experience and won the MVP of this World Cup. Gasol as the inner core, the age of 34 years old, has played in many World Series, won the NBA championship, although the athletic ability has declined, but rich experience, wide vision, accurate passing, good screen quality; W. hernangomez and J.

Hernangomez, the two brothers, as the young players of the team, are tough and brave, with solid basic skills. Fernandez is an excellent pitcher.

**Table 1**. Basic information of players of Spain Team

Number	Name	Age	Position	Height
1	Colom	31	G	188
5	Fernandez	34	F	196
8	Ribas	32	G	196
9	Rubio	29	G	193
10	Claver	31	F	207
13	Gasol	34	С	215
14	W.Hernangomez	25	С	209
18	Oriola	27	F	205
22	Rabaseda	30	F	196
23	Llull	32	G	192
33	Beiran	32	F	200
41	J.Hernangomez	24	F	205
Average		30.1		200.2

To sum up, this is a team with rich experience. Although the average age is older and they are not good at quick transition between attack and defense, they are good at positional attack. The players have high tactical literacy, strong tactical execution ability, outstanding individual ability, and attach great importance to overall cooperation.

**Table 2**. Data table of The Spanish team

			*		
Indicator	Data	Rank	Indicator	Data	Rank
PTS	84.4	11	OFF	11.4	10
FGM	29.5	11	DEF	28.5	3
FG&	45.1%	12	TRB	39.9	6
3PM	9.1	11	AST	22.8	3
3P%	31.7%	19	STL	9	9
2PM	20.4	13	BLK	3.3	9
2P%	55.6%	6	TOV	12.4	20
FTM	16.3	6	Fast break	7.8	16
FT%	76.5%	10	ORTG	102	1

Through the analysis of Table 2, It can be found that Spain ranks the third in assists per game (22.8), the 20th in errors per game (12.4), the 16th in fast breaks per game (7.8), and the first in attack efficiency (102) among all the teams. Spain has a high percentage of attacking points, a high success rate and few mistakes. This shows that Spain is a very mature team, with a more perfect position attack system.

## 3.2. The Tactical Characteristics of Man-To-Man Defense in the Attacking Half of the Spanish Team in the 2019 Basketball World Cup

## 3.2.1. Analysis of the Positioning Characteristics of Man-To-Man Defense in Spanish Men's Basketball Positions

**Table 3**. The characteristics of man-to-man marking position of the Attacking position

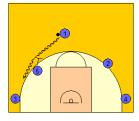
Formation	Usage	Ratio	Points	Ratio
1-2-2	237	51.30%	211	51.84%
1-1-3	82	17.75%	67	16.46%
1-3-1	44	9.52%	51	12.53%
3-2	40	8.66%	33	8.11%
2-3	25	5.41%	18	4.42%
1-4	22	4.76%	11	2.70%
2-1-2	12	2.6%	16	3.93%
Formation	Usage	Ratio	Points	Ratio
1-2-2	237	51.30%	211	51.84%

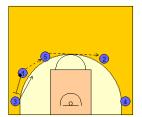
From the analysis of Table 3, it can be seen that the 1-2-2 formation is the most used by Spain, which scored 211 points, accounting for 51.84 percent of their offensive points. Played the 1-3-1 82 times and scored 67 points, accounting for 16.46 percent of offensive points; Played the 1-3-1 system 44 times and scored 51 points, accounting for 12.53 percent of offensive points. The 1-2-2 formation is also known as the bull's corner position. It refers to the 1 who controls the ball outside the arc of the 3-point line, the 4 and 5 who move up near the free throw line, and the 2 and 3 who ambush the bottom corner on both sides. This kind of position can open up the interior space and play in a variety of ways. By using the pick-and-roll cooperation between the center and the guard, the interior players of the defensive side can be moved out of the penalty area, so that there is room in the interior.

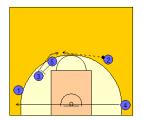
To sum up, Spain has excellent inside players and outside ball controllers as well as excellent outside shooters. Therefore, they will use this kind of set-up for man-to-man attack many times. Based on the characteristics of 1-2-1 set-up formation, they arrange various tactical cooperation and create many scoring opportunities.

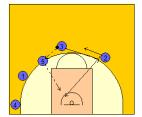
## 3.2.2. Main Tactical Cooperation of Man-To-Man Defense in the Offensive Position of Spanish Men's Basketball Team

### **Tactical 1**









**Figure 1.** Formation 1

In figure 1. The Spanish team chooses a 1-2-2 position formation. Position 1 holds the ball in the high position, position 2 and 5 wait around 45° on the flanks on both sides of the three-point line, position 3 and position 4 sit at the bottom corner of both sides, and the inside space is

opened. 1handle the ball at the three-point line and position 5 flanking and roll with 45°, then position 5 moves up near the top of the arc of the three-point line and receives a backpass from position 1. Position 1 plays a front screen to Position 3 in the bottom corner, while Position 5 passes to Position 2 on the other side, and then position 5 also plays a front screen to position 3. At this time, Position 4 walks to the bottom corner of the other side to open space, and position 3 catches the pass from position 2 outside the three-point line using the screen. Position 5 screen turned and stepped up near the free throw line to pick up a pass from position 3, then position 3 set a side screen to position 2, and immediately cut to the basket to catch a pass from position 5 for a layup.

Tactical characteristics: Use Pau gasol's size, wide passing vision, and solid pick-and-roll and screen quality to line up teams on the wing of the three-point line, along with good shooters and a big 3 to attack the paint. The tactical form of positioning makes the inside defense weak, through the pick and roll, continuous without the ball screen, the coordination to create scoring opportunities.

#### Tactical 2

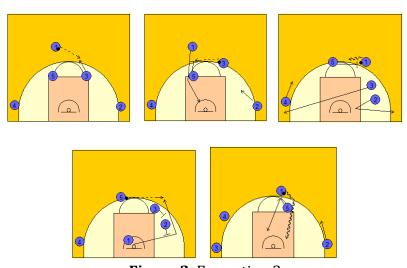


Figure 2. Formation 2

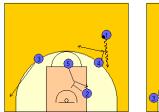
In figure 2. The Spanish team chooses a 1-2-2 position formation, position 1 holding the ball high, position 3 and 5 on either side of the free throw line, and position 2 and 4 on either side of the bottom corner. Position3 up to the three-point line, position1 passes to position 3, position 1 cut to the basket, Position 5 is the back screen for position 1. Then position 5 moves up to the 3-point line to catch a pass from position 3, and position 2 and position 3 set two screens for the 1 on the wing. Position 1 uses two screens to catch the pass of position 5, and then conducts repeated pick-and-roll cooperation with position 5. At the same time, position 2 makes a "V" cut and falls into the bottom corner. Position 3 moves to the bottom corner on the other side to open up space.

Tactical characteristics: This play is specially designed for the position 1, which uses three screen plays and a repeated pick-and-roll to delay the player guarding the position 1 to a large extent, so that the position 1 can get more space to attack when holding the ball.

#### **Tactical 3**

In figure 3. The Spanish team chooses the 1-3-1 position formation, position 1 holding the ball high, position 5 near the free throw line, position 3 and position 4 flanking the 3-point line at 45°, position 2 and position 4 on one side, near the penalty area. Position 1 holds the ball and

position 4 plays a pick-and-roll at 45° on the flank of the three-point line. At the same time, position 3 sinks to the bottom corner, position 2 plays a back screen for position 5 to do oordination.



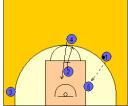
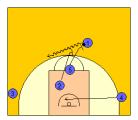


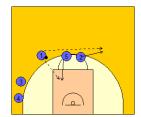


Figure 3. Formation 3

Tactical characteristics: Create scoring opportunities by using the position 4 cuts from off-ball screens and outside shooters and centers.

#### Tactical 4





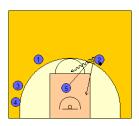


Figure 4. Formation 4

In figure 4. The Spanish team chooses 1-1-3 position formation, position 1 holds the ball in the high position, position 5 is near the free throw line, position 2 is in the reverse arc, Position 3 and position 4 are in the bottom corner of both sides, Position 5 is in the high pick-and-roll for Position 1, Position 1 holds the ball and drives. At the same time, position 2 is raised to position 5 as a side screen, position 5 is cut straight down, and position 4 of the bottom corner goes to the bottom corner of the other side, so that the side with the ball is open, easy to attack. Position 1 can choose to pass the ball to the outside position 2 or the down position 5. If there is no chance, position 5 and Position 2 can run the pick-and-roll again to complete the offense.

Tactical characteristics: The ball handler breaks through, the screen and the screen happen simultaneously, which is easy to cause the defense to have a brief confusion, the formation of dislocation, then there will be an opportunity to attack; And in the follow-up attack, the ball side of the attack space, two people can be very good pick-and-roll cooperation.

## 3.2.3. Analysis of the Basic Cooperation of Man-To-Man Defense in Attacking Positions of Spanish Men's Basketball Team

Table 4 is obtained through the analysis and mathematical statistics of main cooperation forms, times of use, times of creating opportunities and scores of man-to-man defense of Spain team in the offensive half of the field in the 2019 Basketball World Cup.

According to the analysis of Table 4, in man-to-man defense, Spain used the most pick-and-rolls with the ball (459 times), created 99 scoring chances and scored 119 points. Used 321 pick-and-rolls, created 23 scoring chances and scored 34 points; He scored 67 points by creating 55 chances in 108 breakaway rallies. Created 32 scoring chances and scored 69 points with 44 combination plays; He created 10 chances and scored 24 points with 31 passes.

<b>Table 4</b> . Main forms	of cooperation of	man-to-man d	efense in the	offensive position
i abic i. Main ioi ins	or cooperation or	man to man a	CICIISC III UIC	Oliciisive positioli

Type	Usage	Oppotunity	2PM	3PM	FTM	Total
PnR	459	99	43	4	21	119
Screen	321	23	5	8	0	34
Breakthrough	108	55	12	13	4	67
Coordination	44	32	11	13	8	69
Cut	31	10	8	0	8	24

To sum up, The Spanish team will fully combine inside and outside players in their man-to-man defense. They use a lot of pick-and-roll cooperation, can create a lot of scoring opportunities for the ball holder and screener, the applicability is very high, there is no fixed tactical endpoint, at the same time, combined with the running without the ball screen and the use of the open space caused by the aid defense, so that the Spanish team position attack more opportunities. Rubio usually holds the ball at the top of the arc, and Gasol plays the pick-and-roll. After the pick-androll combination, there will be poor positioning. At this time, Rubio will have three choices. When he plays with the ball and draws the defense off the ball, the perimeter player also gets a spot-on shot. If there is no opportunity, space can be opened again for the next pick-and-roll. In addition, Spain also be able to use the advantage of pau gasol in the paint, gasol has excellent insider attack skills, after the ball in the paint, tend to be forced to help defense or attack, and pau gasol tall, wide vision, passing consciousness is good, so in the face of attack, can quickly put the ball to the unmanned defense perimeter shooter, creating shots; When Pau Gasol gets the ball high above the free throw line, he opens up the lane and the off-ball player cuts inside to catch the ball and score, or prepares to catch the ball for a three-point shot. Although the use of the play was not high, it still created a lot of scoring opportunities for Spain.

# 3.3. Tactical Characteristics of Attack Zone Defense of Spain Team in the 2019 Basketball World Cup

## 3.3.1. Analysis of Positioning Characteristics of Attack Zone Defense of Spanish Men's Basketball Positions

Based on the analysis and mathematical statistics of the positional attack zone defense formation of Spain in the 2019 Basketball World Cup, the number of times used and the scoring situation are obtained in Table 5.

**Table 5**. The positioning characteristics of attack zone defense

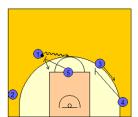
Formation	Usage	Ratio	Points	Ratio
2-1-2	12	70.59%	22	73.3%
1-3-1	5	29.41%	8	26.7%

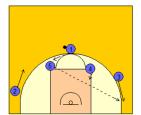
According to the analysis of Table 5, it can be seen that The Spanish team seldom attacks the zone defense, and most of them adopt the way of fast attack to break the zone defense. They scored a total of 28 points in attacking the zone, scoring 20 points in a 2-1-2 formation and eight points less in a 1-3-1 formation.

To sum up, when the attack zone in Spain, 2-1-1 is relatively commonly used three formation, usually by 1 outside the three-point line flank the ball, the 3 fall in another side outside the three-point line, 5 bits to near the free throw line, and as hubs of the attack zone, 4 fell near the base Angle, position 2 is located at the base in the three-point line, Players on the side without the ball use the screen to catch the ball and shoot, while those on the side with the ball can play

pick-and-roll to find offensive opportunities. The 1-3-1 system takes advantage of the wide perimeter movement, combined with the inside players' repeated penetration in the limits and screens in the zone formation to get open on the perimeter and finish shots.

## 3.3.2. Main Tactical Coordination of Attack Zone Defense of Spanish Men's Basketball Positions





**Figure 5.** Formation 5

In figure 5. The Spanish team chooses 2-1-2 formation, position 1 on the outside wing of the 3-point line holding the ball, position 3 on the outside wing of the other 3-point line, position 5 near the free throw line, position 2 and position 4 on either side of the bottom corner. Position 5 picks up to position 1, position 1 dribbles the ball near the top of the arc, then passes to position5, position 1 picks up to the wing of the 3-point line; At this point, position 4 moves to position 3 as a back screen, and position 3 moves to the bottom corner to catch position 5's pass and complete the shot.

Tactical features: the ball side uses the combination of inside and outside pick-and-roll, the movement of the player without the ball and the offensive threat of the 5 at the free throw line to attract the attention of the defense. At this time, the ball side uses the screen to create open space for the pitcher, then the 5 will distribute the ball, and the 3 will complete the shooting.

## 3.3.3. Analysis of Basic Cooperation of Attack Zone Defense in Spanish Men's Basketball Positions

Based on the analysis and mathematical statistics of the basic cooperation, times of use, times of creating opportunities and scores of the Spanish team's positional attack zone defense in the 2019 Basketball World Cup, Table 6 is obtained.

**Table 6**. Main cooperation forms of zone defense of position attack

Туре	Usage	Oppotunity	2PM	3PM	FTM	Total
PnR	18	4	1	2	0	8
Screen	17	3	1	1	0	5
Breakthough	10	5	1	2	2	10
Coordination	7	3	2	1	0	7
Cut	2	0	0	0	0	0

According to the analysis of Table 6, When attacking zone defense, Spain used pick-and-roll 18 times and scored 8 points. Used screens 17 times and scored five points; Using the sudden distribution combination 10 times, got 10 points; Using the strategy for 7 times, 7 points were obtained. Only 2 passes were used and no points were scored.

To sum up, when attacking the zone defense, Spain used more pick-and-roll cooperation, the purpose of which was to use dribble to mobilize the defense and freeze the position of the defense players, forming local two-one or more chances to play less. After the pick and roll, the ball holder drives to attract the players on the off-ball side to assist, and uses the drive to distribute the ball to get outside shots. When using screens, they can move the ball widely to move the defense, or they can pull the defense by repeatedly passing the ball to create more

space for the defense to create scoring opportunities. When he catches the ball near the free throw line or in the low post, the defenders will pay more attention to him. At this time, he will pass the ball to the weak defensive position, and there will be an offensive opportunity. Because of the particularity of its joint defense, the use of cross cutting coordination is less.

#### 4. Conclusion

Spain has a composed combination of inside and outside, which can stabilize the situation at the critical moment; There are also forward line players who dare to fight, so that the team has a certain impact; He also has a good outside shooter. On the whole, Spain is a very mature team, with a well-rounded squad, the right mix of ages and a focus on team integrity.

When attacking man-to-man defense in position, Spain uses the most falling formation is the 1-2-2 formation and relies on this formation to score the most points, followed by the 1-1-3 formation and the 1-3-1 formation. In tactical plays, pick-and-rolls and screen plays are their most common form of basic play and create a lot of scoring opportunities.

The Spanish team used less zone defense in attacking positions, more 2-1-2 formation and less 1-3-1 formation. In the tactical cooperation, pick-and-roll and screen cooperation as well as breakthrough-ball cooperation are the most important forms of cooperation. Breakthrough-ball often occurs after pick-and-roll, when the ball holder attracts the assist defense on the side without the ball and passes the ball to the outside to get a shot.

The Spanish team focuses on teamwork, and its attacking tactics system is rich and changeable, with the players always moving in the positional attack. They use a lot of pick-and-roll and screen cooperation in tactics, the purpose is to form a dislocation or poor position in the attack, relying on the combination of inside and outside to create scoring opportunities; They are also good at creating outside scoring opportunities by drawing in the defense and passing the ball.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the people who helped me in my writing. It is with your support and help that I can successfully complete this article.

#### References

- [1] Editorial Board of Basketball Dictionary. Basketball Dictionary [M]. Beijing: People's Sports Publishing House, 1993.
- [2] Xu Xiao. Analysis on man-to-man Tactics of Australian Men's Basketball position attack in the 31st Olympic Games [D]. Beijing: Beijing Sport University.2017.
- [3] Gong Yuxi. Research on attacking Tactics of position in the top eight of 2014 Men's Basketball World Cup [D]. Jilin: Jilin Institute of Physical Education.2017.
- [4] Wang Zhongke. Research on the characteristics of positional attack tactics between China and the Top four Teams in 2019 Men's Basketball World Cup [D]. Hubei: Wuhan Institute of Physical Education. 2020.
- [5] Han Yiqin. Comparative analysis of the Characteristics of offensive tactics between China and the Top four Teams in 2018 Women's Basketball World Cup [D]. Shanghai: Shanghai Institute of Physical Education.2020.
- [6] Guo Yongbo. Research on the Characteristics of Position Attack of Current World Top Men's Basketball Teams [J]. Beijing: Journal of Beijing Sport University, 2008, 05:45-50.