

## **Basketball Playbook – Software Review**

**By Andrew Haysom, Level 1 NCAS, Greenvale, Victoria**

Basketball Playbook is a very useful, and free, computer program that I recently found on the Internet. It is a coaching tool that allows a coach to design and store diagrams and text describing their plays and drills in a database.

Drills and plays can be entered using a sequence of court diagrams showing the various steps of the drill or play. A textual description can be entered with each sequence diagram.

When creating a play you can choose to use full-court or half-court (top and bottom) diagrams (in both U.S. and international formats). You then drag-and-drop player elements onto the court in the required positions. You can then use the provided buttons for drawing the passing, movement, dribbling and screening arrows.

When adding a new sequence diagram to an existing play, the player elements are automatically copied to the new diagram. That way you just need to move the ones that require it to their new positions.

Adding the text for the diagram is just a matter of typing it in. Note, however it is simple text (no underlining, bolding etc.).

Plays can be entered into various categories that you can create (e.g. Man Defense, Motion Offense etc.).

A printing function is provided that will print a single drill/play or the entire playbook.

Copy and paste functionality allows you to copy / paste text and to copy the diagrams you create to other programs. This is useful if you wish to create diagrams and import them to a word processor for example.

An import / export feature also allows you to trade plays with other users of the program.

As I said earlier the program is free. As with most "freeware" programs, this means there is no manual, help or technical support supplied by the author (but nor should you expect any for this price!).

The full install program for the latest version (.002) of Basketball Playbook can be downloaded from the Win95 Sports section of the Simtel website at

<http://www.simtel.net/simtel.net/win95/sports.html>

Erik Smit, the author of Basketball Playbook also has his own website at

<http://www.doge.nl/~jsmit/index.html>

This website contains a link to the SimTel site as well as "upgrade versions" of the program (use these if you are upgrading from a previous version rather than installing for the first time). You'll also find an email link for Erik. He requests users of his program to email him their plays so he can make them available via his website.

To run Basketball Playbook you'll need;

- IBM compatible computer with a Pentium processor
- 16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended)
- Windows 95
- 5 MB disk space
- 16 bit color or higher
- Lots of temporary disk space for printing

The program is distributed in compressed (zipped) format so you'll need a tool like WinZip to install it.

In the program directory you'll find a file called LOGO.BMP. This is a Windows bitmap image that is printed in the top left corner of printed output. If you wish you can replace this with your own logo.

If you are a coach who uses a PC, I'd highly recommend you try this useful tool. For those of us that can't afford the US\$300+ price tag of other commercially available programs, this "freeware" product fits the bill nicely.

With the current version (.002) being the third version released in the last year, it would appear to me that we could continue to see future enhancements to the program.

Erik Smit needs to be congratulated on his generous nature in making his program available to all basketball coaches around the world. It is perhaps just one more example of the giving and sharing nature of the world-wide basketball coaches community.

### **About The Author**

Erik Smit is 31 years of age and lives in Leidschendam in the Netherlands. He has played basketball since he was 12 and has been coaching for 5 years. Erik is currently coaching the first senior team of local club Gymnova who play in one of the minor basketball leagues in the Netherlands.

He became an accredited coach 3 years ago after completing the accreditation courses of the NBB (Nederlands Basketball Bond).

Erik wrote the playbook program earlier this year to help remind himself about plays and drills he picks up and might want to use now or sometime in the future.