

# Study the action deck closely

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The new basketball game has had a year to sink in and, while the enthusiasm may have died down for many, for those members of leagues (like myself) that fire is just starting to burn. If you are a member of a league or are contemplating starting or joining one, then this information is for you.

The first thing I can tell anyone who wants information about the game's workings is to study the split deck. While the action cards may appear to be threateningly complex at first (similar to the hockey game's action deck), one can acquire a great deal of knowledge about every factor of the game after about an hour's work of tallying and analyzing.

For example: a great myth among gamers is that it is essential to have a good control passer at right (point) guard. After all, he sets up your whole offense, right? Wrong. You are a goner if you don't have that passer at the point during the fastbreak, but during the normal (control) offense, everyone participates equally in the setting each other up.

While most starting right guards are excellent control passers, you don't live with anyone at right guard if there is enough passing in the rest of your lineup (perhaps a Larry Bird or Alvan Adams) to offset your Quinn Buckner or Dennis Johnson.

## TWO ACTION DECKS BETTER THAN ONE

For all of this computing and tallying, however, keep one thing in mind; by no means am I suggesting that you become a card-counter. Just because you know what the cards contain does not mean you should shift Larry Bird from right to left forward because all the right-forward passing results already came up.

I noticed myself doing this during solitaire exhibition games and promptly ordered another split deck. I now mix all 120 cards and draw out 60 for each quarter and it works fine.

## LATEH ROUNDS OF DRAFT IMPURTANT

More important than the action cards, however, are the cards of the players themselves. Everyone has heard the axiom that "anyone can pick the stars, but it's the later rounds of the draft that separate the men from the boys." In basketball, this is no exception.

In our league we have a long season (76 games) and depth is important. We have 12-man rosters (ample depth) plus a two-man taxi squad, so everyone is looking for those players with potential, no matter how bad the card looks now.

Editor's note: David De La Fuente is a member of the World's Best Basketball League, which was featured in the November issue of the Review (page 4).

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