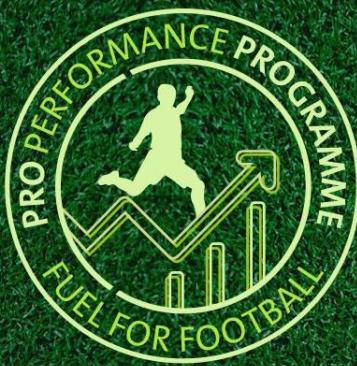




KYLE DEGELMAN





FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

Change The Game

Electric City 0 – 0 Hamilton United

(10/06/23)

HAMILTON
UNITED

OVERVIEW

Throughout this season, you have shown significant improvements in various aspects of your game. Your pressing has become more proactive and aggressive, leading to mistakes from opponents and regains of possession. There is still room for improvement in the timing of your challenges to maximise their effectiveness and prevent opponents from bypassing you. You have demonstrated better defensive skills when engaging opponents in 1v1 situations. By getting tight to the attacker, impeding their progress, and timing your tackles effectively, you disrupt their rhythm and regain possession. Additionally, you have shown adaptability in handling opponents who make multiple changes of direction, using your positioning and timing to block their path. Your ability to handle long balls has also improved, as you have developed better body shape and positioning. That said, there is still room to anticipate and adjust your body shape earlier and prioritising your compact defensive shape and closing the gap to your inside is something to be more disciplined with. Being aware of your surroundings and making a final scan before receiving the ball is essential to make informed decisions and avoid getting caught out. It is true that you committed a risky challenge following one such loss opening into trouble. Beside that, your ability to evade pressure through quick cuts on the ball has been impressive. Your passing range and ability to open up play with long and accurate passes are strengths that continue to impress.

STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- *Aerial duels*
- *Passing accuracy*
- *Offensive positioning*
- *Pressing out onto your marker*
- *Off-ball movements*
- *1v1 defending*
- *Timing challenges*
- *Opening into danger*
- *Risky challenges*





► GAME ANALYSIS

PRESSING OUT

You have made significant progress in your ability to apply pressure this season, demonstrating a more proactive and aggressive approach towards opponents. This adjustment has yielded positive results, as it has led to numerous mistakes from the opposition, such as loose touches and poor passes.



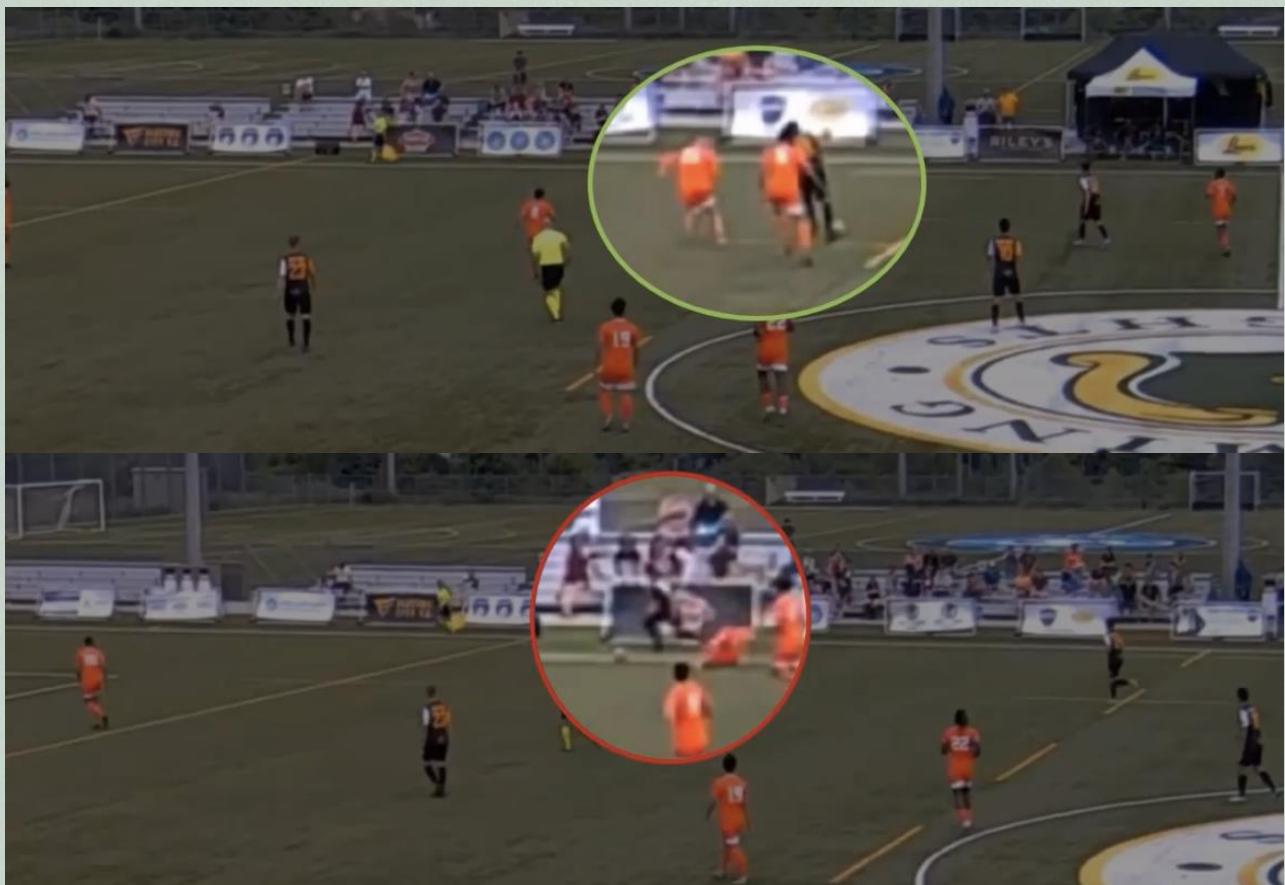
We can examine a specific instance to illustrate this improvement. You swiftly stepped forward and applied pressure to your marker, forcing him into a hurried decision. This immediate action led to a subsequent regain of possession for your team only moments later. This highlights the effectiveness of your pressing and how implementing these principles consistently asserts your control over the game.



► GAME ANALYSIS

TIMING CHALLENGES

While your pressing game has shown improvement, there are still areas where you can enhance your defensive skills. One crucial aspect to focus on is the decision-making and timing of challenges after closing in on the opponent. Mastering these moments will elevate your defensive capabilities to another level. In a specific instance, although you closed the distance and had the support of a teammate, the timing of your challenge was off, allowing the opponent to get past you. It is essential to identify the right moment to tackle when a clear lane to the ball opens up.



Alternatively, in situations where a direct challenge may not be feasible, it is important to stay with the opponent and obstruct their path, preventing them from advancing down the line. Blocking their progress can effectively slow them down and limit options.

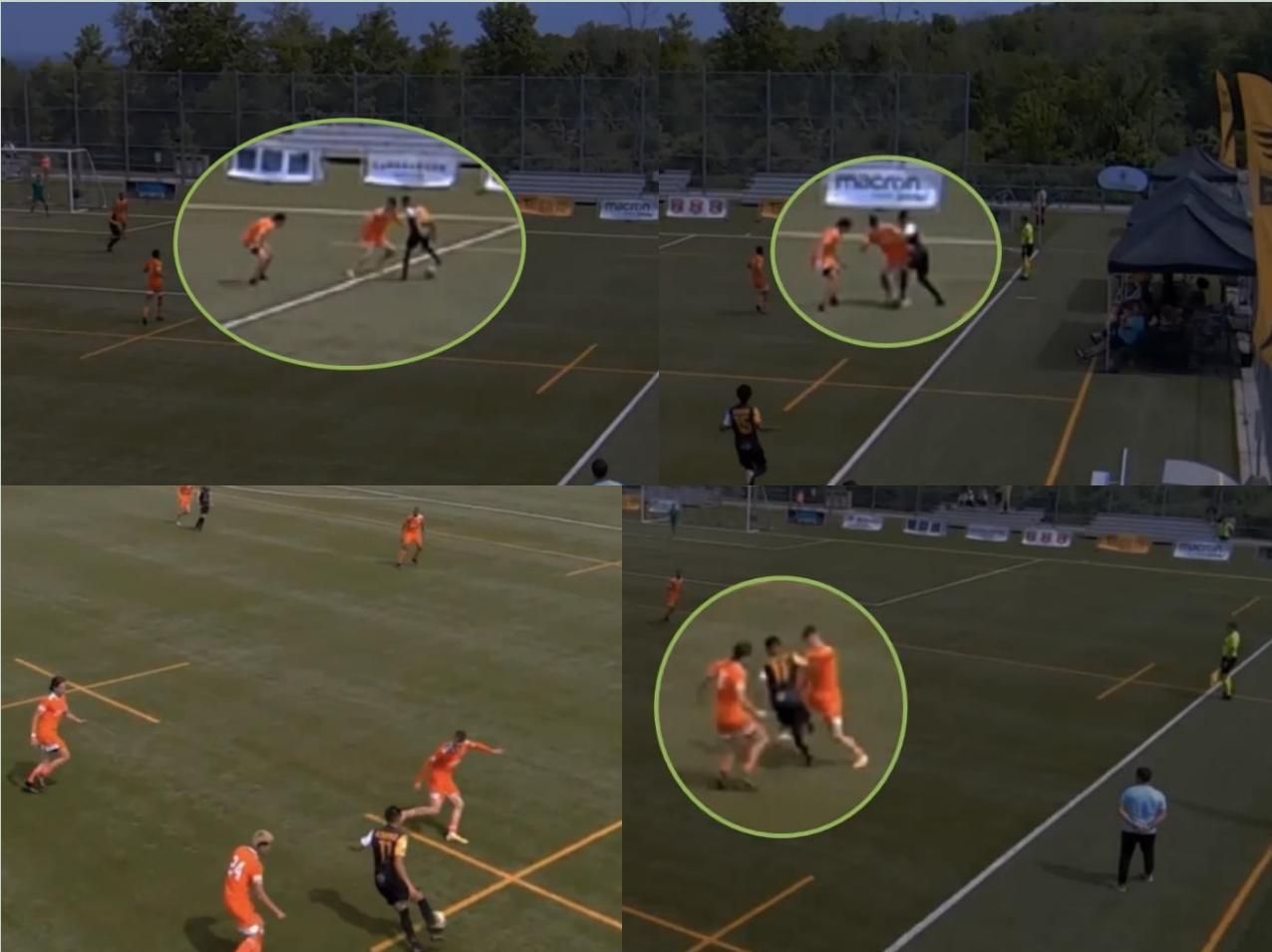
Hone your decision-making when engaging opponents up close. Assess the situation carefully, identifying the optimal time to make a challenge or impede the opponent's progress, with relevance to the position of the ball. By mastering these aspects, you will become a more formidable defender, capable of shutting down opposing attacks effectively.



► GAME ANALYSIS

IV1 DEFENDING

In other instances, your defensive performance showed great improvement as you effectively closed down opponents, slowed them down and/or timed your tackles with precision.



In the examples we see here, you demonstrated the effectiveness of using good positioning to slow down your opponents before making well-timed tackles. By getting tight to the attacker and impeding their forward movement, you disrupted their rhythm and limited their options. This strategic approach allowed you to maintain control of the situation and set yourself up for successful challenges. Furthermore, when faced with opponents making multiple changes of direction, you displayed adaptability and composure. Instead of committing too early or being reactive, you recognised the right moments to increase your surface area, getting big and effectively blocking their path. Overall, the combination of slowing down opponents through strong positioning and then making well-timed tackles allows you to regain possession effectively.



► GAME ANALYSIS

DEFENDING LONGER BALLS

Your overall improvement in body shape and positioning to handle long balls has been commendable, leading to a higher success rate in clearing or preventing them from being played effectively.



Taking this moment, there was an opportunity to adjust your body shape a moment earlier by reading the situation and anticipating the long ball. You could have positioned your body shape earlier to reach the ball faster and potentially intercept or clear it. Despite this slight delay, you demonstrated good awareness to react to your opponent's loose first touch after the long ball, capitalising on the opportunity to regain possession. Thereafter, we can appreciate in transition that diagonal passes can often lack power or accuracy, leading to dangerous turnovers. Remember to play with pace, aiming at least a step ahead of your teammate for him to move onto.



► GAME ANALYSIS

PROTECTING THE GAP INSIDE

As you already expected, there was an instance with a pass played through the gap to your inside, which could have been prevented with tighter positioning. It is essential to maintain a compact defensive shape and close the gap to your inside as much as possible, forcing the opposition to play wide rather than exploiting the central area. By narrowing the gap and making it more difficult for the opponent to play through, you can then focus solely on intercepting the ball or applying immediate pressure in a 1v1 situation. It is crucial not to stray too early and remain disciplined in your positioning.



Work on your awareness of the gaps in the defensive line and focus on maintaining a tight and organised shape. Stay tight inside and then time your sprint out to fit perfectly with the pass going wider. Lastly, we did appreciate your headed clearance in the moments proceeding the pass inside.



► GAME ANALYSIS

GETTING CAUGHT ON THE BALL

It is important to maintain awareness of your surroundings and make a final scan before receiving the ball. This will give you crucial awareness about the distance and speed of the nearest defender, allowing you to make informed decisions about your next move, especially with your first touch.



Considering how you got caught out on the ball, failing to correctly scan resulted in being unaware of the defender's proximity and led to the loss of possession. To avoid such situations, it is essential to prioritise gaining awareness of your surroundings. This will help you assess the best course of action, whether it is to control the ball quickly, make a pass, or adopt a different position. Additionally, it is important to note that reacting with a risky challenge after losing possession can have severe consequences, such as a potential red card in this instance. Instead of resorting to desperate challenges, focus on recovering and repositioning yourself defensively to the inside. By quickly regaining a defensive position, you can slow play and cover yourself without risking being sent off.



► GAME ANALYSIS

EVADING PRESSURE

In a few other situations, you were faced with significant pressure when receiving the ball. Your ability to execute fast cuts with excellent technique enabled you to successfully evade the pressure in these. This level of skill and composure in tight situations is exactly what we expect from you consistently. By employing quick cuts on the ball, you were able to change direction rapidly, leaving the opposing players unable to close you down effectively. This skill is vital for maintaining possession even when under pressure. It allows you to escape tight situations, create space for yourself, and retain control of the ball.



Through similar scenarios to this one, it is crucial to remain calm and rely on your technical abilities. Focus on using your body feints, quick footwork, and changes of direction to deceive and outmanoeuvre the opposition. In doing so, you can keep possession, buy time for your teammates to provide support, or even create new opportunities to drive by yourself.



► GAME ANALYSIS

PATIENCE ON THE BALL

Patience and smart decision-making also play a crucial role in moments when you are under pressure and need to maintain possession. It is essential to recognise when recycling the ball and moving again to receive in a better position can be a more effective option than forcing a risky play.



Here, you demonstrated patience and excellent decision-making. Initially, the space to go forward or find a teammate down the line was limited due to the presence of opponents. Instead of trying to force a pass or take unnecessary risks, you wisely chose to recycle the ball and wait for a better opportunity. By patiently moving the ball to a teammate, you could receive again moments later. Although space did not open up, your first touch created this as you were not followed closely thereafter. Opening quickly while recognising this, was what allowed you to progress play and find a teammate in a favourable position down the line. It is important to assess every situation, recognise when to recycle the ball, and wait for the right moment to take aggressive actions.



► GAME ANALYSIS

SUCCESSFUL PASSING

Your passing range and ability to open up play with long, accurate passes are key strengths in your game. It is evident that you possess the vision and technique to make decisive forward passes that can outplay multiple opponents and create opportunities for your team.



Through this moment, you showcased your passing skills by delivering a well-executed deep ball into a forward. This pass not only covered a significant distance but also bypassed several opponents, effectively breaking their defensive lines. It is important to continue exploiting your passing abilities and developing your understanding of the game to identify when and where to make these incisive passes.



► GAME ANALYSIS

SUCCESSFUL PASSING

Creating space and utilising effective movement off the ball are crucial elements to maximising your impact on the game. Your ability to create space for yourself and your teammates through cuts on the ball and positioning yourself high and wide demonstrates your understanding of the game is increasingly improving.



Above, your winger's movement inside created space out wide for you to receive the ball after recycling the first passing option. Maintaining this position meant that space was made for you to become available for the next pass without the need for any special movement. Your immediate decision to spin the ball down the line with a well-executed pass also showcased your awareness and ability to exploit the available space. This quick and accurate pass allowed your teammate to continue the attack and maintain the momentum of play.



► GAME ANALYSIS

MOVEMENT OFF PASSES

That said, when you cut inside on the ball then feed it through to your winger, it is crucial to follow this up with more aggressive movement into space. Your movement off the ball plays a significant role in creating additional passing options and disrupting the opposition's defensive structure.



It is important to note that stopping your run early here limited your effectiveness in creating opportunities for the team. By continuing your run into more dangerous spaces, you can not only pull defenders away from the ball carrier but also open up passing lanes for your teammates. This third-man running approach can be highly effective in breaking down defences and creating scoring chances. Rather than stopping and potentially congesting the area, focus on making purposeful runs into areas where you can receive the ball or create space for others. Trust in your winger's ability to escape pressure while giving him room to do so, and instead focus on offering support and creating overloads in even more advanced areas.