



KYLE DEGELMAN





FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

Change The Game



Hamilton United 1 – 2 Darby

(21/04/23)



OVERVIEW

This will be a disappointing performance for you due to the inability to involve yourself in play as much as you would have liked. A massive impact can be made in positioning higher up the pitch while your side builds out and calling on your winger to offer in the half-space. More favourable passing patterns can then be created as a result of your advanced runs. You may still drop to offer short out wide, but only having pushed on and first created the opportunity to break lines. Furthermore, it is important not to settle for passes to feet when you have space ahead that you could move into. On the ball itself, you generally make good decisions and break lines, but of course these are generally from in front of the midfield. Your aim should be to reach positions where you can break the defensive line with your on-ball decisions instead. One more idea is simply to protect the ball greater when in close quarters with a defender. Remember that you should always remain composed and stay on the ball if you have few options, but that your use of body is vital to protecting it. On the defensive end, you did a good job of shifting to drop to deeper balls in behind. That said, ensure that you cover your central defender also, including double-teaming whenever a forward receives to your inside as this player is too dangerous to not prioritise. There is a need to press aggressively, but you should also recognise when it is not possible to make the regain, slowing on your approach and generally recovering inside if you are beaten.

STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- *Comfort on the ball*
- *Passing accuracy*
- *Body shape to deal with long balls*
- *Use of body to protect the ball*
- *Being nastier in tight spaces*
- *Supporting your centre-back against deeper passes*
- *Recovering to the inside when beaten*
- *Receiving behind the midfield*





► GAME ANALYSIS

DEFENDING LONG BALLS

Despite maybe feeling a little awkward at times, you did make excellent runs to recover long balls into your area. This came with thanks to smart body shape and reading of the trajectory of the ball. It is great that you are beginning to react and proact more consistently in these moments to make recoveries.



This was one of the best examples as you could not only intercept the long ball, but immediately find your teammate ahead too. As the ball carrier opened up to pass, you could shift quickly to face towards your main matchup, then stepping over to intercept the pass.



► GAME ANALYSIS

SUPPORTING CENTRAL AREAS

The one idea to keep in mind is the reason that you face inside the pitch. Although you maintained the correct body shape with a more dangerous opponent inside, it is true you left this player one against one with your centre-back. In future, you should drop off to attack long balls in towards this player too, including leaving your own matchup so that you can double-team.



Notice the danger that can be created from a long ball alike the one above. While your teammate did have this player marked, remember that your priority is in supporting to the inside rather than solely sticking with your own marker. In future, drop off in situations like the one above, using the correct body shape to get there quicker.



► GAME ANALYSIS

PRESSING OUT

Although there is a general need to be more aggressive in your pressing, you should also recognise times when it is not possible to get touch-tight. For the following example, it was correct to step out and apply pressure, but given you could not get close enough, slowing on your approach was necessary to avoid being beaten into space so easily.



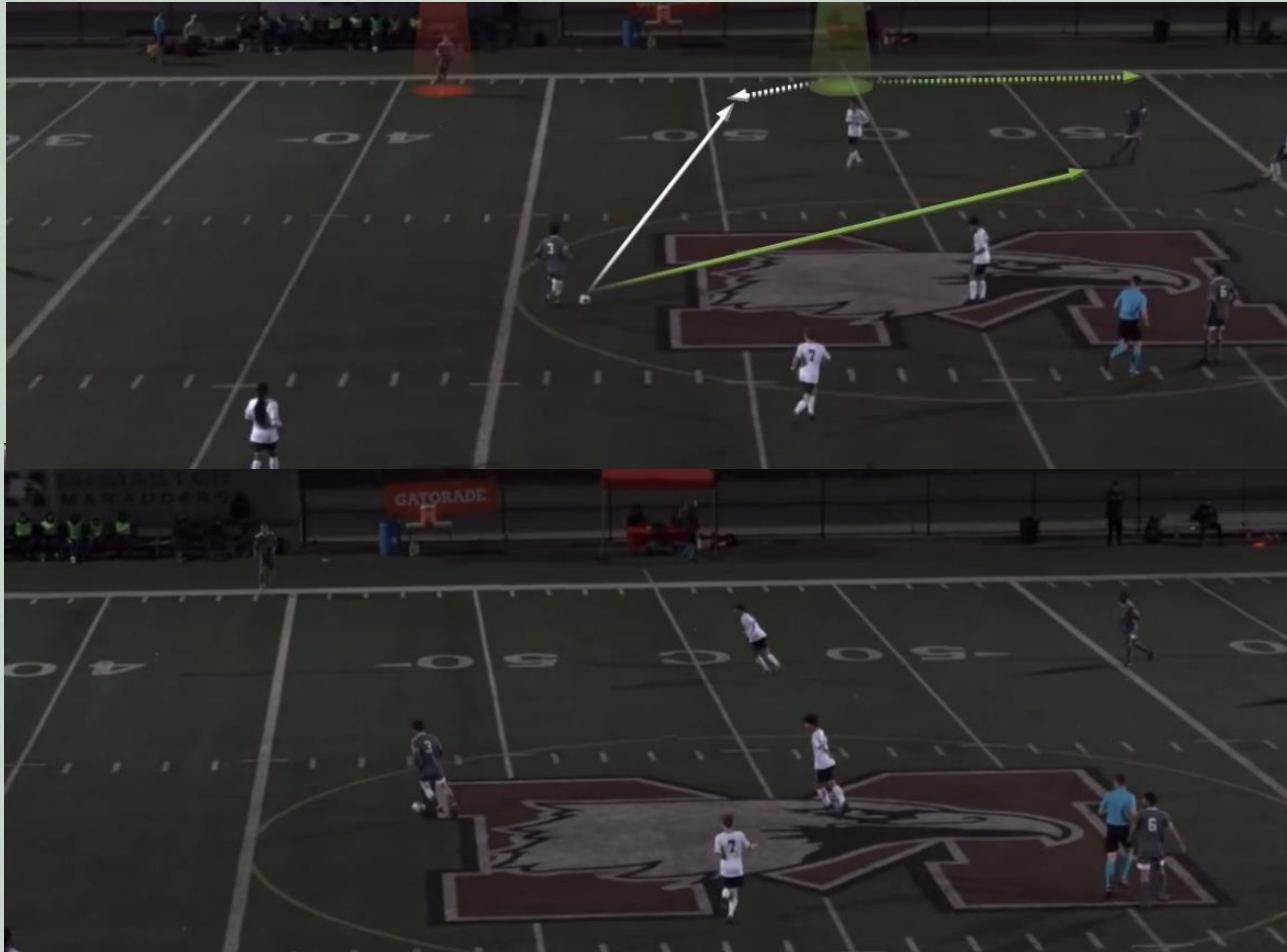
Remember also that if you are ever beaten in situations like this one, or when 1v1, you should drop off more directly into space to recover your position. In moving towards the ball when you have lost ground, you take up an inferior position where you might be left trailing and any tackle will be hard to make successfully.



► GAME ANALYSIS

OFFENSIVE POSITIONING

Offensively, the big improvement which will lead to success in future games is offering in more advanced positions rather than always settling for receiving in front of the opposition lines. Start high and wide, on the opposition midfield line. From there, aim to offer either for a deep pass down the side of the opposition defence, or as the next option on for your winger when he drops into the half-space.



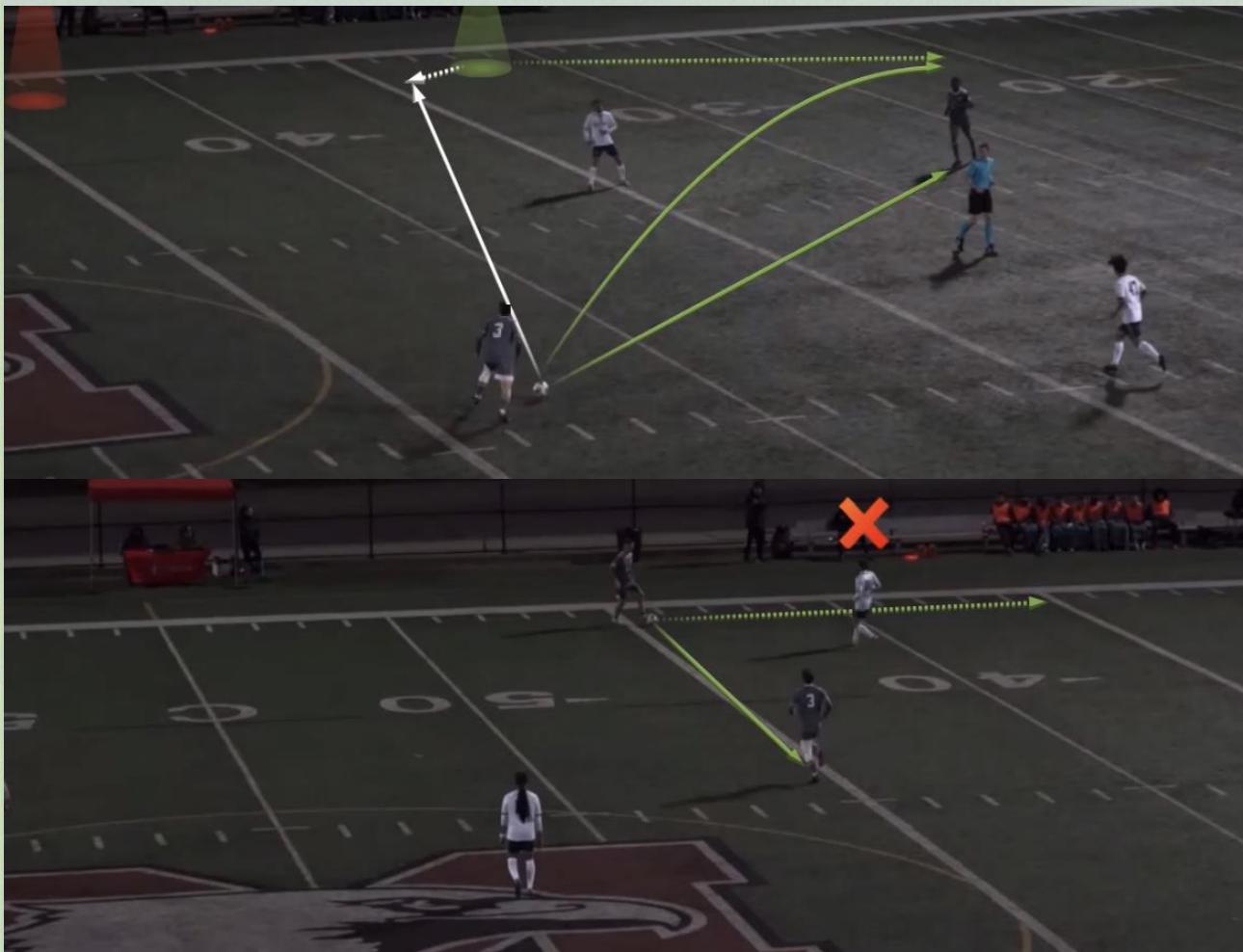
Consider from this early moment in the game how staying deep offered very little in support of your teammate. It seems that hiding behind the opposition midfielder, as suggested above, would make you hard to find. While this is true, you would make a decision on where to offer as your teammate opens up to play, generally based on the actions of the nearest opponent. If he protects the passing line into the half-space, dropping slightly to offer to feet works best. Otherwise, pushing higher and calling on the ball carrier to play into your winger will be ideal. Thereafter, you would attempt to receive with your subsequent decisions breaking the last line of defence instead.



► GAME ANALYSIS

OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT

This is also only a base position to work from. You can offer for the ball carrier yourself with a direct ball over the top. Equally, when your winger stays wide, you may be the player to drift inside and offer in the half-space yourself.



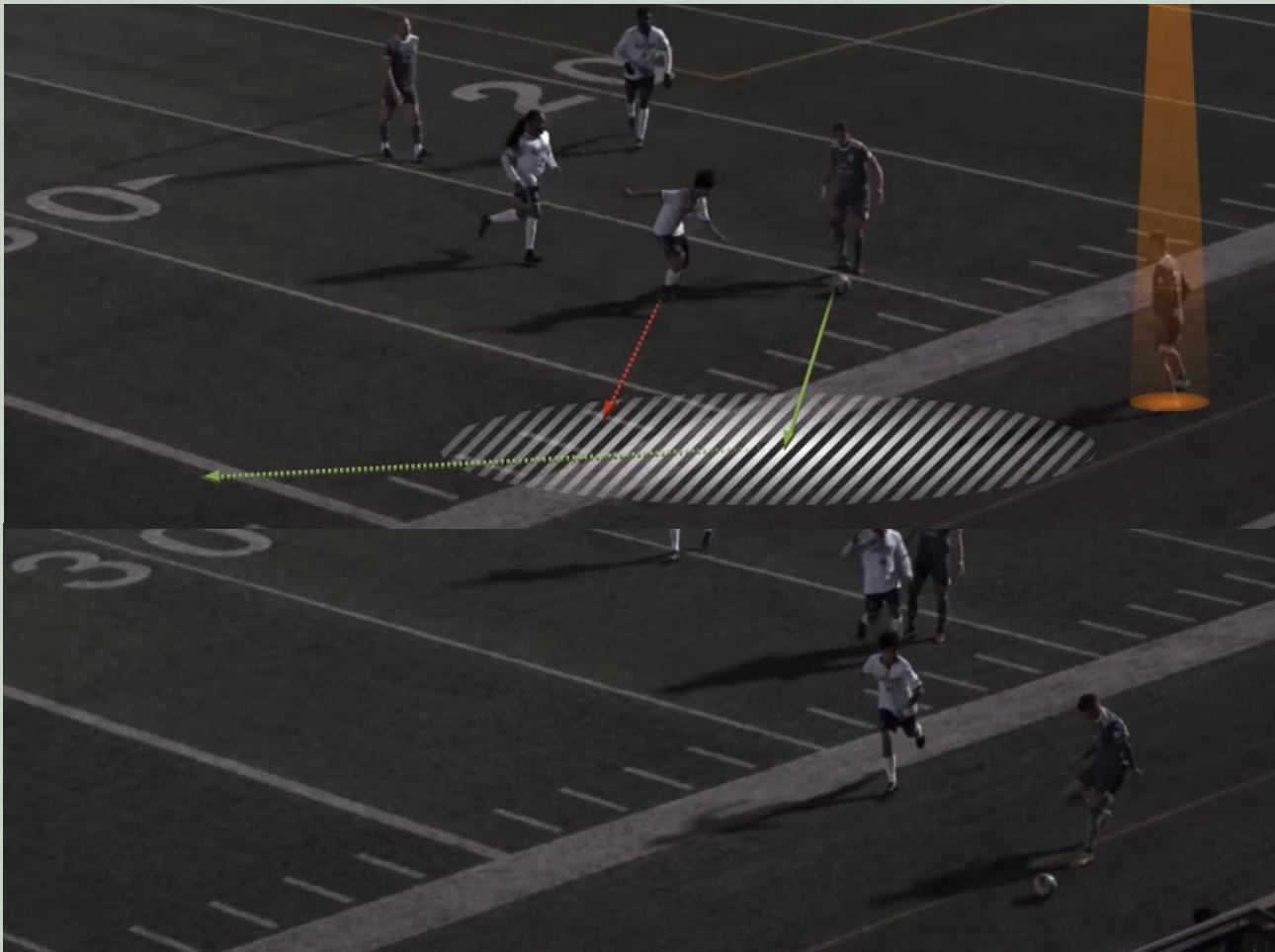
We can appreciate the deeper option here, which could be found both through your winger and directly yourself. Either way, making the forward movement would have been ideal. Consider how few options you had upon receiving in the deeper position. That said, a quick pass directly back inside followed by the offensive run down the line could have worked. In this instance, we expect that would lead to a switch as play had began to congest already, hence why it is important to make these offensive movements much earlier and more aggressively. Especially with these examples in mind, your side had the necessary defensive security and with a player on the ball in acres of space, the more offensive positioning was not only possible but necessary.



► GAME ANALYSIS

OFFERING INTO SPACE

Following the previous idea, when you have space to offer into, you should take advantage of it rather than offering to feet. The reason for this should become apparent with reference to the following example:



Firstly, your teammate was looking to play you into this space and possession would have been retained if you recognised and moved towards it. The major reason for offering into space however, is that from there you can drive inside to cut out the opposition players and leave them trailing play. In receiving laterally, you would only have the option to cut while still in front of them, limiting subsequent options. While you are comfortable in such positions, you can be much more progressive if you do take up space while it is there. In the event a defender is in front of you down the line, that is where dropping shorter may be preferable with the aim of pulling opponents out of shape in order to press you. This is for specific situations though and certainly not all offensive scenarios.



► GAME ANALYSIS

PROTECTING THE BALL

One more idea for the offensive end is using your body more appropriately to protect the ball. There are few situations you should not remain composed and simply turn away from opponents to stay on the ball and create greater opportunities for yourself. That said, in order to do so, you must keep your body between the defender and the ball.



Here, it was a smart idea to drag the ball into space down the line to run onto, but turning towards the defender put you into an unnecessary grappling battle. Had you rolled to the outside and thrown your weight back into the defender, you would have been in a great position to then continue driving thereafter. Keep this in mind as there are still one or two occasions per match where you are offering lines to the ball that should be eliminated from your game.