



KYLE DEGELMAN





FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

Change The Game



Hamilton United 0 – 0 Vaughan

(27/04/23)



OVERVIEW

In what was overall a strong defensive performance, a couple of key ideas on the offensive end remained true and important to work on. You must recognise triggers to push forwards earlier so that you are arriving or offering into space for your teammates as they look to switch play out towards you. Besides this, it is generally true that forward runs are required when the ball transitions out to your near side. This is a fundamental principle to your position and one which builds attacks more easily. Get into positions where you can really start to affect play, such as between the lines, rather than settling for lateral passes into feet along shallower lines. These are used as a tactic for drawing opponents out of shape, but should otherwise be avoided with forward runs more favourable. On the defensive end, it is the lack of aggression in key moments which is still crucial to focus in on. That said, there were improvements in a couple of situations whereby you stepped out to your matchup quickly before putting in tackles early. This is what we expect from you on a more consistent basis. There were improvements to your body shape and positioning in dealing with the constant bombardment of long balls into your area. In any case, you still have more to do to ensure that you make the regain after. Your aerial clearances did well to eliminate danger, but could also be directed towards teammates beyond the pressing line. Most importantly, you need to recognise the trigger of a player turning their back to goal.

STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- *Protecting teammates centrally*
- *Successful clearances*
- *Body shape to deal with long balls*
- *Tackling early*
- *Being nastier in tight spaces*
- *Pressing tight when a player turns his back to goal*
- *Sprinting forward earlier*
- *Receiving behind the midfield*





▶ GAME ANALYSIS

DEFENDING LONG BALLS

To start, we can appreciate that you did a slightly greater job of recognising your responsibility to cover advanced runners to your inside as the priority in this game. That said, you could still do slightly more to affect these players when the ball is launched towards them.



With each of these moments, we can suggest that facing to the inside was the key to influencing play. Furthermore, as a player opened up to look for the deeper ball in behind each time, this was your cue to start to drop and get even tighter to your central defender. In applying each of these factors, you will be able to make big clearances on any such opportunity.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

AERIAL CLEARANCES

For a few balls out towards the winger, you positioned well to read the trajectory of the pass and could intercept these with ease. We did also appreciate your clearing of the ball out towards the sideline and away from pressure. This prevented any risk of being caught out in transition as your teammates could recover into shape.



It is important to also make big clearances over the initial pressing line to where your teammates can compete for second balls, but at this time, we are pleased with the success rate in simply stopping your matchup from receiving. Furthermore, we did appreciate the superb tackle in the second of the situations above, whereby you perfectly timed it.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

PREVENTING THE OVERLAP

When we speak about aggression while defending, the general idea that applying pressure early is what increases your chances of success is important to retain in your mind. There were a couple of situations in this game in which Vaughan created the overload against you with thanks to an overlapping runner. In order to prevent these however, providing the full-back has not arrived yet, you should step in early and apply intense pressure on the ball carrier while he still has fewer options available.



As soon as the ball goes into your matchup, you should not only be stepping in tight to where they cannot dribble, but equally into a position which limits their passing options. From there, you also have the ability to dive into challenges at the right time for early regains. What you will notice from the situations above is a willingness to stand and wait for the attacker to make a decision, which must be removed from your game. Instead, close that distance extra tight and put a tackle in before the overlapping runner has had time to arrive in position.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

PREVENTING PASSES INSIDE

Although across the majority of this performance, you did well to close the gap between yourself and the nearest central defender, there was one moment to note in which greater awareness would have prevented the through ball.



Your initial positioning here was superb and directly contributed to the prevention of the pass into your matchup's feet. That said, in glancing across at his run, you would know to start closing that gap between yourself and the nearest defender with the aim of preventing any pass inside. This is the cardinal sin of defending in these scenarios as we would always prefer to allow the ball into feet over a pass through the gap inside. In future, keep glancing back and forth to adjust your position as necessary and ensure that you can either intercept or apply pressure on any pass in.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

EARLY TACKLES

Notably, when you did force play wide and quickly closed the space down after with more aggressive pressure, everything came together nicely to lead to successful actions. This is because you did not give time for the receiver to think and quickly stepped in to win the ball.



Notice in each of these examples exactly how your defensive approach should look. Having channeled play wide, you could then close the distance before putting in a challenge to make the regain. Keep making recoveries while applying the above more consistently.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

MISSED TRIGGERS

Despite the above, there were other situations in which you missed out on triggers to close the distance or be aggressive while putting in challenges. For future reference, any time that an opponent receives or turns back on themselves to face away from your goal, this should act as a trigger to up the ante in terms of pressure and use of body.



Note how easy it was to make the forward pass here because of the lack of tight pressure. Remember also that if not applying it, you should be dropping into your defensive line as this is the other way to prevent forward play. In the above, you definitely had the opportunity to press out though, which is the more favourable choice whenever it is available. From there, you would put in a tackle as your opponent opened up to face forwards and search for options.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

DEFENSIVE POSITION

In general, you occupy the right position for each defensive situation. That said, you tend to recognise the need to move a second or so after the time which you should already have started to re-position. It would be wise to sharpen your reading of the game to adjust more quickly.



You did a good job of engaging the defender at first here and should continue to be aggressive closing the space whenever a loose touch is taken due to your pressure. Once the ball went backwards, we could suggest the need to recover inside that bit sharper however, reading the greater danger of opponents positioned to your inside.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

SHIFTING EARLY

On another occasion we expected a quicker shift of your body in order to face out towards the sideline or your matchup, subsequently pressing out to him at speed. Had you done this earlier with a recognition of the situation, it would have been possible to make an important interception and lead the subsequent breakaway.



There was no need to face inside with multiple teammates already guarding the centre-forward. This freed you up to angle to the outside. While scanning for the intentions of the player on the ball, you could then stay on the front foot ready to spring out to the pass and intercept prior to arrival. Considering how close you came to making this, the correct body shape would have certainly led to the interception.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

PROTECTING THE CORRIDOR

As you may remember from the offensive side of play, the second best passing decision you can make after a ball in behind the defence, is one spun down the side. Defensively, it is important to keep in mind the need for preventing this same pass beyond you to avoid dangerous situations being created. With this in mind, ensure you get tight enough to any marker that they cannot open up and find a teammate down the line.



Here, through the lack of proximity, it was too easy for your opponent to send the ball. Ensure that you are much tighter in future, including with an aggressive approach that forces errors from your matchup. Most importantly, do not allow any forward passes which leave you trailing play.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

DRIVING OUT FROM THE BACK

Offensively, you should look for opportunities to offer in more offensive positions regularly, even when it means bypassing the reception of the initial pass. Thereafter, use your dribbling ability to take up space and open dangerous passing angles. Remember also that you never have to force a pass and can continue to weave through defenders for as long as necessary until a good opportunity presents itself to you.



Here, you received slightly higher and this helped for gaining the march on the initial presser. In leaving him trailing behind, you could continue the attack more freely. We did appreciate the attempt to play wide thereafter, but your teammate was not on the same wavelength this time around. Consider cutting towards another defender in these moments too, just prior to attempting a pass. This can work to isolate and pull players out of position for greater success following the release of the ball.



▶ GAME ANALYSIS

GETTING FORWARDS IN TIME

A big issue which is resulting in a lack of receptions, but more importantly less dangerous receptions, is that you are simply too deep in the moments where the ball could find you. Read triggers early, such as a teammate with space, or the ball travelling towards your side of the pitch, then respond by sprinting down the line. You must be in position or offering into space as your teammate then opens up to look for options on the weak side.



As we can see here, you were not even in the picture at the time a dangerous overload could have been created along your wing. Gamble in these moments as the rewards massively outweigh the risks. Furthermore, note that in the event of a loss of possession, you can gegenpress as a response too. In a situation like the one above, this would have been ideal for locking the opposition into their own half and making a quick regain yourself. Keep this in mind and really utilise the space ahead of you greater in these moments through future games.