



# KYLE DEGELMAN







## FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

*Change The Game*



*Hamilton United 1 – 1 FC London*

*(21/05/23)*



## OVERVIEW

Overall, your performance in the match showcased several key areas of improvement as well as strong aspects of your game. Defensively, you demonstrated the ability to engage in 1v1 situations effectively, cutting down distances and forcing opponents to turn back. There were moments when pressing out to opponents where tighter marking to prevent forward play was crucial. Do not allow them to turn. In terms of clearances, your decision-making to deliver deep balls down the line after regaining possession from opposition long balls was commendable. That said, it is important to consider alternative options too, such as changing direction on the ball to create time and space, or recycling play to central defenders to maintain possession and initiate controlled build-ups. Your ability to cut inside on the ball proved to be highly effective, allowing you to execute switches of play and create scoring opportunities. It is important to consider both short options and more aggressive plays when making these decisions. Additionally, your first touch and ball control when receiving switch balls were exceptional. Your powerful runs to create space can be utilised more frequently, especially against opponents where you feel comfortable doing so. By positioning yourself across the front of defenders and releasing the ball at the right moment, you can draw fouls or create dangerous attacking positions. Seeking the ball in behind the opposition defence would also be a good idea to target more often.

## STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- *First touch*
- *Cutting inside*
- *1v1 defending*
- *Switching play*
- *Pass decision-making*
- *Making powerful forward runs*
- *Passing in behind*
- *Crossing accuracy*
- *Retaining possession after a regain*







## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *1V1 DEFENDING*

Your ability to cut down distances and slow play before forcing opponents backwards was commendable in this game. While getting wide early for switches, you could engage 1v1, making it hard to drive, then forcing opponents to turn back on themselves.



This is a nice example, whereby you caused the opponent to lose confidence with thanks to your smart positioning. Having done this, you could then recover inside after the backward pass.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *LATE PRESSING*

A key aspect of improving your defensive performance is to be more consistent in pressing out to opposing players. As you already know, it is crucial to either apply aggressive pressure or drop off to maintain the defensive line. While there were instances where you pressed out effectively, there were also times when you did not get tight enough to prevent forward play.



An example that illustrates this point is when you arrived slightly late above, allowing the opponent to take a touch inside and initiate a dribble. Although it was a wise decision to commit a foul rather than allowing forward progress, this situation could have been prevented by staying tighter to your opponent from the beginning. In recognising the need to close the distance earlier, you can effectively disrupt the opponent's play and limit their options while staying touch-tight on any reception.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *PRESSING MORE TIGHTLY*

In certain other situations, we witnessed your ability to stay tight to your opponent, effectively preventing their forward progress through well-timed interceptions and tackles. This was particularly evident in the example below, where you managed to make a crucial touch on the ball before the opponent could advance play.



What made it even more impressive was your composure after winning possession, as you took a moment to assess the situation on the ball before initiating forward play with the simple pass. This decision led to a swift and dangerous counterattack. Continue to time your pressing well and look to start more of these counters afterwards.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *LOCKING BEHIND PLAY*

Throughout the game, you consistently demonstrated good decision-making on the offensive end, similar to the previous matches. It is important to remember that off-ball movements should also be considered from a defensive perspective though. This means that even if you are not directly involved in over or underlapping runs, there are instances where stepping up behind the play becomes crucial to be in a position for gegenpressing when necessary.



A notable example occurred during the above. Unfortunately, in this situation, you failed to step up and provide defensive cover from behind. As a result, you were not in the optimal position to win back the ball after it came loose. It serves as a reminder that being proactive and anticipating defensive situations can greatly contribute to your effectiveness in regaining possession and disrupting the opponent's play. By recognising the importance of these off-ball defensive movements and actively engaging in them, you can enhance your overall defensive contribution to the team as well as reach greater positions to then make off-ball movements if possession is retained but not progressed.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *DEFENDING PASSES IN BEHIND*

Returning to the defensive end, your performance in defending balls played in behind was commendable. It is crucial to recognise when the opponent has space to play early and adjust your body shape accordingly to effectively deal with these passes as they travel.



The provided example illustrates your ability to react quickly and get out to these passes. By applying immediate pressure on the opponent, you successfully forced the turnover and ended the attack. It is crucial to maintain this level of anticipation and quick reaction in similar situations to prevent the opponent from exploiting spaces in behind the defense. Remember also that you can switch your body shape in moments like this one given the lack of runner to your inside. This will lead to greater success overall.

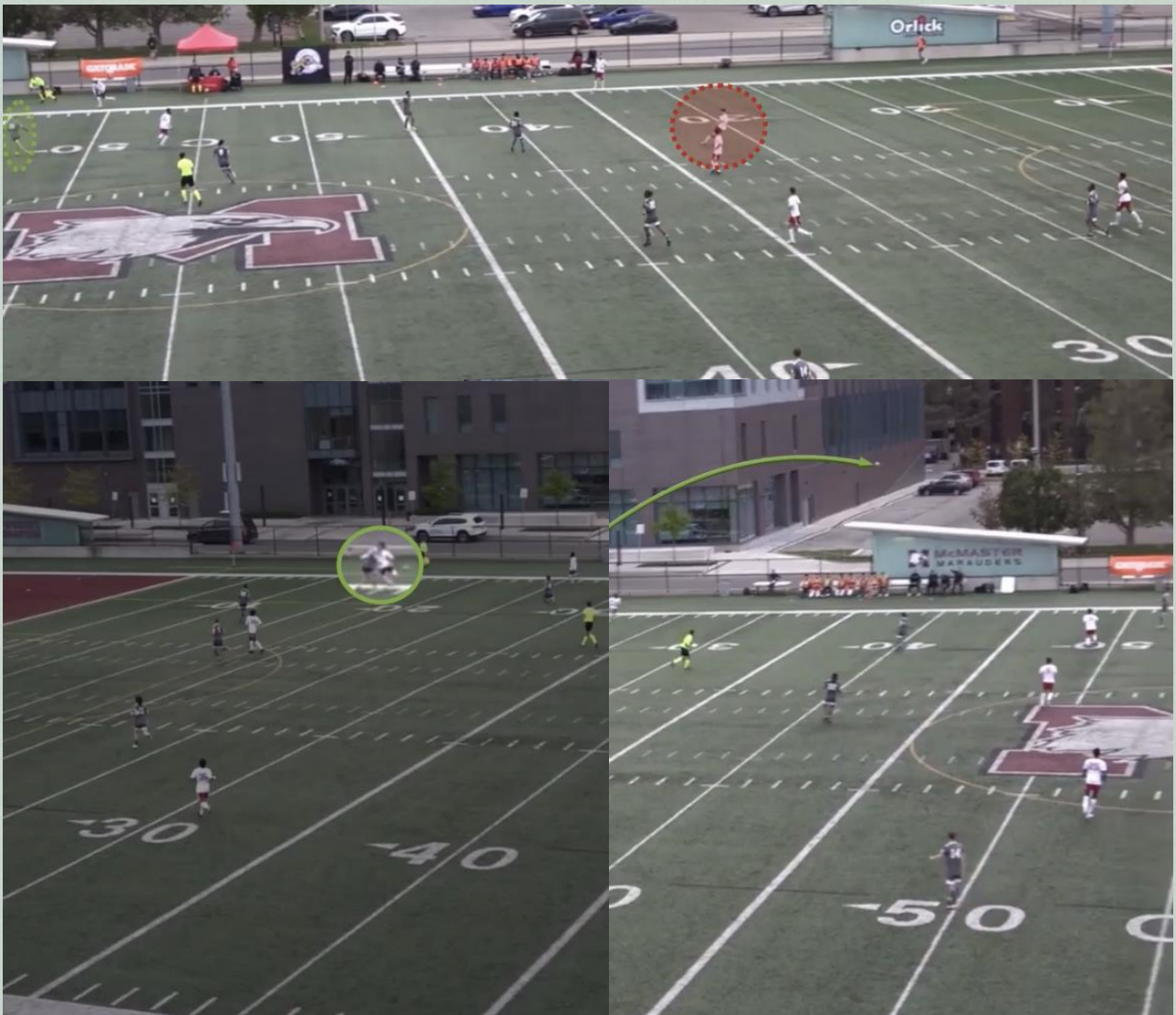




## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *CLEARANCES*

In other instances, you demonstrated a similar pattern of play. The beauty of another example we can now look at was how you effectively cleared the danger with a well-executed deep ball down the line after regaining possession from an opposition long ball.



It is commendable how you quickly assessed the situation, recognised the threat posed by the opposition's long ball, and made a decisive clearance. Your ability to calmly and accurately deliver the ball down the line not only relieved immediate pressure but also created potential opportunities for a counterattack had your teammates moved to attack the ball.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *LACK OF COMPOSURE*

Clearing the ball down the line is not always the most strategic option. There are situations where it is necessary to change direction on the ball first in order to create space for a successful clearance. Additionally, recycling play by passing back to central defenders or the goalkeeper can be a preferable choice over forcing it forward.



In the specific example we see here, you had an opportunity to turn inside and find a teammate in a more advantageous position instead of attempting to pass the ball down the line, potentially leading to a turnover. By recognising the presence of an opponent in that direction and opting for a central or backward pass, you could have maintained possession and initiated a more controlled build-up instead. It is important to weigh the options carefully, considering both the immediate situation and our desire to retain possession.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *CUTTING INSIDE*

Cutting inside on the ball proved to be a highly effective strategy throughout the game, especially when defenders pressed too aggressively to the outside. We were particularly pleased with your decision-making after executing these cuts.



After cutting inside on the ball here, you successfully executed a switch of play to a teammate out wide. Although the teammate could have controlled the ball better, your pass itself was accurate and well-executed. It showcased your ability to recognise the open space on the weak side and to make a decisive pass.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *CUTTING INSIDE*

In certain situations, it can be advantageous to play the short option after cutting inside before making another run to offer support, thereby disrupting the opposition's defensive shape. We also appreciated your willingness to be more aggressive in playing threatening balls though.



Here, we observed that the short option was available after your cut inside. It was fair to opt for the deeper ball too however, as it was another viable option. Overall, we would suggest aiming these types of passes slightly further towards the goal to create greater danger in the attacking third. Similarly, when delivering crosses, it would be beneficial to direct them more towards the goal to increase the likelihood of scoring opportunities.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *FIRST TOUCH*

You showed outstanding ball control when receiving switch balls yourself, displaying impressive technique to bring the ball under control and maintain possession.



In the specific example, your quick reflexes and skilful touch allowed you to control the switch ball seamlessly. Additionally, your ability to draw a foul from the opponent after playing forwards was excellent. Continue to show these qualities on a consistent basis.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *DRIVING OUT FROM THE BACK*

Throughout the game, your ability to drive out of defence was exceptional. Your powerful and bursting runs to create space proved to be highly effective and should be utilised more frequently, particularly against opponents at a level where you feel confident doing so regularly.



One specific instance showcased your prowess in this aspect. You made an impressive run all the way into the opposition half, demonstrating your determination and skill in carrying the ball forward. To maximise the effectiveness of these runs, remember to position yourself across the front of defenders, making it difficult for them to tackle you. Release the ball just before they attempt to challenge you too, either drawing fouls from the opposition or continuing your run off the ball to create an even more dangerous position to receive it back.





## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

### *PASSING IN BEHIND*

One aspect to consider in your game is the increased seeking of the ball in behind the opposition defense. By communicating with your forwards and encouraging them to make runs into space, you can create opportunities to play through balls and exploit the gaps. After cutting inside, take advantage of the space you have created and use your right foot to deliver these penetrating passes.



In the specific situation, the execution was commendable, although it was slightly overplayed. By reducing the power on the pass, it would have arrived in a more advantageous position for creating a goal-scoring opportunity. The most important aspect to note however, is to continue seeking and attempting this type of pass. Keep looking for these opportunities to play balls in behind the defence, as they can be a valuable weapon in breaking down the opposition defensive structure.