



# KYLE DEGELMAN





## FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

*Change The Game*

ESC Geestemünde 7 – 0 Brinkumer SV

(08/10/23)

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## OVERVIEW

One of the standout features of your performance was the impeccable timing of your sliding tackles, a skill that prevented potential chances being conceded. Your body positioning and the ability to close the distance were commendable, as demonstrated in specific instances where you effectively dictated play and halted opposition attacks. While there were moments of indecision regarding pressing or dropping, your quick recoveries to the right positions were great to see. Committing early and fully to the better of those two decisions is crucial, as seen in the instances where you intercepted passes and executed clearances effectively. Your defensive positioning was a critical area for improvement. Ensure cohesion within your defensive line and then between units by first positioning greater yourself and simultaneously communicating for teammates to find the right positions too. More specifically, your positioning could have been refined by shifting closer to the more dangerous opponent in a few situations rather than attempting to split the distance between forwards. Greater protection against deeper balls is also important. Recognise triggers to switch to man-marking and get tighter goalside of the nearest forward. Your positioning against deep balls down the sides of the defence were stronger, so adopt the same mindset for passes in behind too. The set-pieces were in need of correction, however, we focused on less orthodox points, in this analysis. Ensure that free runs are picked up, using your voice where necessary.

## STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- *Slide tackles*
- *Passing accuracy*
- *Clearances*
- *Pressing versus dropping*
- *Defensive positioning*
- *Distances from opponents*





## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### TIMING TACKLES

The best aspect of this performance was how well you timed your sliding challenges across several moments in the match. Despite the tough result, it is true that more goals could have been conceded if it were not for some well-timed challenges in and around your box.



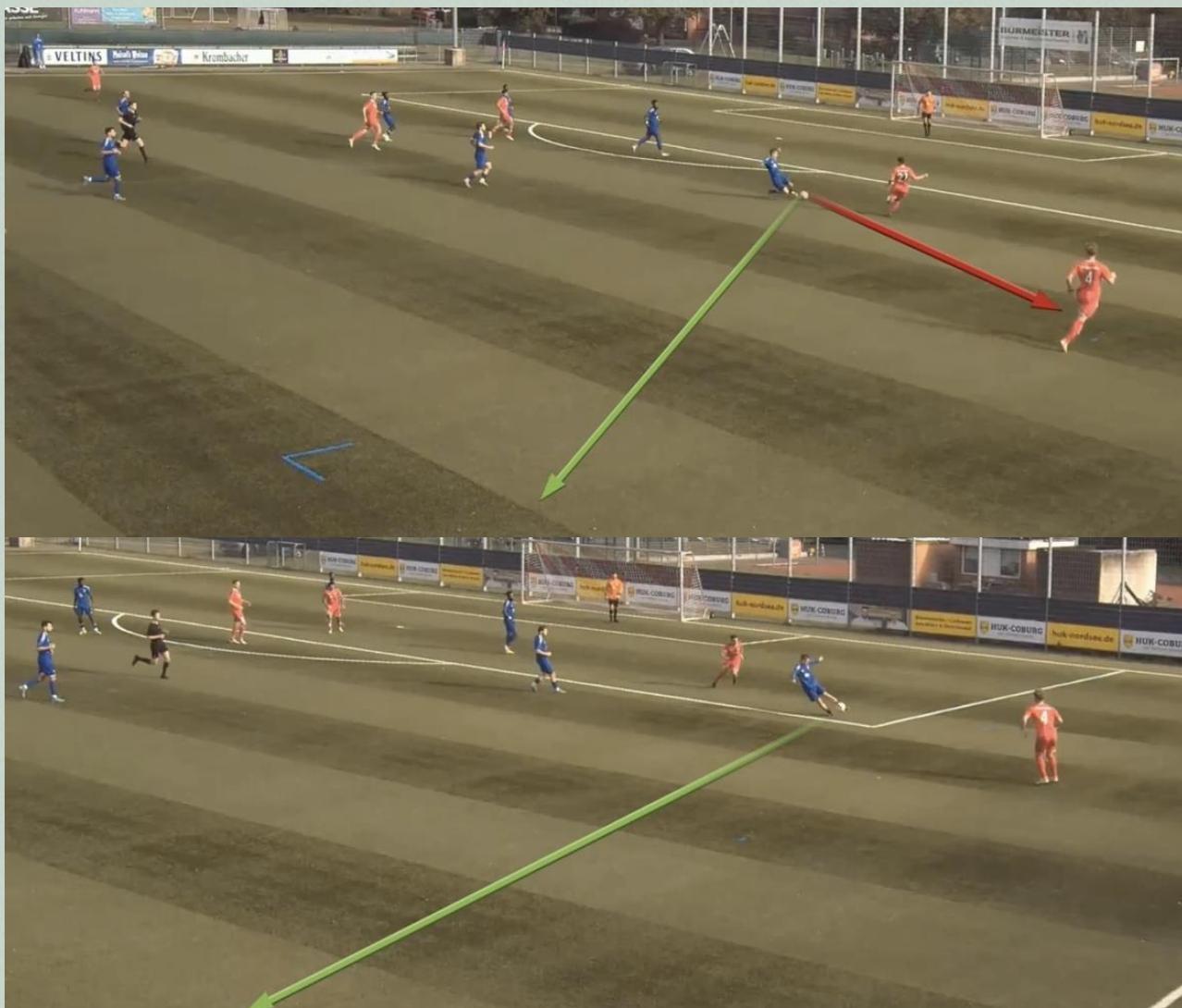
Taking this example, your body shape was excellent for dictating play in one direction. Furthermore, you dropped at the right time to get in front of the overlapping player having closed the distance down. From there, you could time the challenge well to end the attack.



## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### CLEARANCES

In another situation, we could see some indecision for whether to press or drop. As a general rule to remember and apply, make your mind early and commit fully to whichever decision you make. This will at minimum reveal the extent of a situation to teammates so that they can in turn adjust their own positions accordingly rather than expecting you to cover multiple players at the same time.



It was great to see you recover quickly here, dropping back towards the line and in turn intercepting the initial pass in. Of course, the clearance should have been sent down the line away from the other opponent in the overload. That said, you did a much greater job of this on the second attempt to find a teammate ahead who could launch the next attack.



## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

You should also ensure that you scan all your options even prior to a regain. It is important to have ideas in mind of who you can play to in the event that you intercept or win the ball back, as typically you have very little time to find your options afterwards. Taking the following moment, it started with a long clearance that while sometimes the best option available, could have been replaced by a simpler pass into the open man ahead of you.



A major reason for this heavy defeat was that the defensive positioning as a team was all over the place. Lacking cohesion within each unit at the very minimum, then between them after, will ultimately lead to being easy to play through. First, you should aim to correct your own positioning. Then, command the rest of your defensive line to maintain an effective shape, before calling on the midfield to adjust their own distances thereafter.



First of all, it was important to shift across closer to the opponent in front of you. Your start position was too far over for a situation in which the ball carrier was under relative pressure in a wider area. While making this movement, next it was important to shout for the next defender on to drop in goalside of his man. As that opponent was further from the ball, this would be preferable to splitting the distance as ultimately you could not deal with either option – we will always favour protecting the more dangerous or easily found. Alternatively, you could have called upon your teammate ahead to sink into the defence, allowing you to then pull wider, except this is harder to organise if not a commonly used tactic within the team.



## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### ***DEFENSIVE POSITIONING***

Elsewhere, you needed greater protection against deeper balls in behind the defence. This was an issue prior to one of the goals conceded. Remember that if you are left man-for-man at the back, it is wisest to take up man-marking while staying tighter to one opponent and following their runs closely from goalside.



Here, with an opponent opening up on the ball into space where he could play forwards, this should have acted as a trigger to get tighter to one attacker while dropping off goalside of them. One time you might not is if you are already the deepest player and can step up to play the offside trap. That was not possible on this occasion, so getting back to be first to or block the ball was crucial.



## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### PROTECTING THE CORRIDOR

Interestingly, for deep balls down the side of the defence, your positioning was much stronger to get in tight on these and win the ball back. Additionally, as your challenges were well-timed, you could be largely successful in clearing the danger presented.



Here, you got tight behind your man. Even better was that you showed your aggression to put in an early challenge for the ball. Continue to make these tackles off the first or second touch of your opponent and prior to them turning to face and race.



Despite this, your team did not retain possession thereafter and the ball quickly came back your way with a difficult 2v1 to deal with. Here, fast decision-making was needed to decide on whether to press or drop. Although applying pressure was better than nothing, hindsight would say the distance was too great and sitting instead would have been favourable. Simply slow play down and keep the ball down the wing to give time for teammates to recover inside and reduce the risk on a situation like this one.



## ► GAME ANALYSIS

### FORWARD PASSING

In general, your offensive play was strong in this game, or at least not nearly as important to correct as the defensive points here. There are several occasions in which you should look to offer into spaces where you can drive out from the back – taking advantage of your unique skillset playing at the back. No doubt you will also stand out more in an advanced position where you can get into the opposition final third. Nevertheless, your passes in this game were strong. Failures to connect fully generally came as a result of poor first touches or control from your teammates rather than any technical mistake on your end.



Here, for example, we can clearly see that the razor pass was well made to rapidly find a teammate up the pitch. This was also a display of great vision. Despite this, your teammate was unable to corral the ball and gave it away.