



Coach Seminar Series

Creating Offense

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Creating Offense

Purpose: To present to you some concepts and ideas that are important in creating offense and drills to help develop those concepts and ideas.

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1. Play with “Complete Awareness”

- How does your team play?
- What is the game plan?
- What is the current situation in the game?
- What skills do you have?
- Use your vision! Open up! See the whole rink!
Where is the puck, where are your teammates,
where are your opponents?

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- at this moment how can you have an impact on your team's chances of scoring? – drive net
- constantly see and take action rather than watching and reacting
- *“To excel, you need to act with a clear mind and be totally focused on what everyone on the floor is doing... be acutely aware of what's happening right now. The secret is not thinking.”*

Phil Jackson

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2. “Allow and encourage the players to use their skills”

- Remember that a lot of rules and limits don't allow for creativity – never pass up the middle
- Positive feedback when a player tries something but fails – cross and drop, drive/delay
- Point out to players the moments when they don't use their skills – ring no reason

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- use your skills anywhere on the ice but be safer and sure at bluelines and in the fort.
 - watch the Red Wings
 - 5 man attack
- Defensemen – use escape moves, partner passes, passes up middle, join the rush.
- Forwards- less dumpins
 - protect and move the puck

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Terry Orlick, the great sports psychologist said "The tendency for a child to behave in a certain way is a function of past reinforcement along with the expectation of future reinforcement for doing a similar thing"

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3. “Think a pass/play ahead”

- learn to think in the future. Where will the puck or a teammate or an opponent be three seconds from now
- before you receive the puck think of where it can go next – baseball infielder knows the play
- where can you go to get the next pass when you see the first pass isn't coming to you

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- multiple passes create chances!
 - make the second pass quickly (1 time)
- vision is critical – open up your range of vision and play with your head up

“Develop your ability to read game situations. Through good awareness (good head position) you can anticipate the options available to you.”

Claire Drake

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4. "Quick puck movement creates team speed"

- Mike Keenan "If he's ahead of you, on side and unchecked give him the f...ing puck."
 - Don't carry unnecessarily!
 - Puck movement is a specific skill that can be improved
 - over speed training
 - one touch and receive it pass it
 - receiving angles, open up, use width
 - Determined support – get to the lane!
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5. "Immediate transition pressures your opponent"

- Immediate transition from anywhere on the ice
- Look for penetration passes before control passes
- Use surprise shooting – intercept then shoot
- Look for the player who has most speed at the moment
- *"The most vital critereon for transition is speed. Speed to gain penetration, time, space, numerical advantage and the chance to score"*

George Kingston

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6. “Skate to open ice with the puck”

- Skate away from pressure to the safety of space
- DON'T create 1 on 1s (OHL)
- Limit long shots and dump ins
 - use offensive attack options!
- Skate into areas that are unguarded or cause confusion “who’s got him”?
 - across top of circle
 - side to side behind net
 - down the middle on rush
- Gretzky “greatest” example

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7. “Do something unexpected”

- Use deception to create time and space
- Drive delay, stop and start
- Miss direct with body position and stick angle
- Look away from receiver
- Fake shots and passes
- Surprise shooting

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8. “5 player support for the puck carrier”

- close quick support NOW!
- width, depth, stretch away from puck
- fill the middle lane – courage to skate across the
rink to receive the puck
- biggest weakness in minor hockey is players who
are spectators on the ice. They react but don't take
action enough.

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• *“We worked for each other and did the
little things well”*

Ken Morrow – New York Islanders

- 4th man in attack

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9. “Play with a net focus”

- think shooting first – be the shooter (2 on 1)
- first step to net!
- wide drive to net – Glen Anderson
- middle lane drive without puck
 - drag defense with you
 - 2 to net better than 0
- Tavares – get open, stick open
- cycle to get shots not just possession
- bring the puck in not always out of the scoring area
- ‘D’ jump in to openings

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10. “Power cycle to create chances”

- cycle with confidence and speed, don’t be unsure
- be the shooter off first cycle
- Look for offensive options
 - high man to net
 - near point
 - weak side ‘D’

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11. “Use dump ins to create momentum and make offense safer”

- Crosby chip to corner rather than 1 on 1
- soft dump behind to linemate
- dump to keep speed of rush
 - diagonal
 - ring
- dump in off redline turnover – get it back in deep!

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12. “Protection and Possession wear down your opponent”

- do everything possible to win the one on one battles by fighting for possession with second and third effort
- never give the puck up easily – use stick strength and body position
- jump on loose pucks quickly and stop if there is a battle for possession – Datsyuk, Zetterberg

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- use quick feet and quick stick
- no blind passes/ hope passes
- overload to gain possession then spread out again

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13. “Breakout Now!”

- breakout as quickly as possible
- don't take your time because you have time
- Quick up! Quick carry!
- Partner pass and up
- hard out!

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14. “D” to “D” creates neutral zone speed

- C/W interchange
- C/W swing
- D to D to stretch man between their ‘D’

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15. “Good skills create offense”

- pass receiving (backhand)
- one time shooting
- one touch passing
- passing at top speed in stride
- skating agility with puck

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