

Tactical Tips

I. Playing an opponent with superior skills

1. Slow the Pace of the Contest

Avoid an offensive frenzy; take time in establishing the offense. Make the extra pass.

2. Play Half Field Defense

- a. Concede the space in the offense half of field
- b. Rides should be deep, passive rides which deny the fast break
- c. Demand sustained defensive concentration by keeping players communicating with each other
- d. Stress defense patience; don't over-commit
- e. Force opponent's offense into pre-established areas of the field. Try to negate their strength by forcing them to your strength. Usually this is done by clogging the middle
- f. Reinforce your slides.

3. Identify the Opponent's key players

- a. Try to lock off key opponent, denying him the ball
- b. Double the key player whenever possible
- c. Let the opponents lesser players handle the ball more often.

II. Keeping your bench involved in the game

1. Have a bench player isolate a key opponent

- a. Identify his strengths and weaknesses
- b. Identify his tendencies
- c. Identify his stamina

Report to coach at half-time with assessment and follow up for scouting report.

2. Have a bench player isolate position responsibility of ride/clear or EMO/MDD

- a. Identify the MDD slides
- b. Identify the attack/midfield positioning on rides/clears
- c. Identify the opponents EMO play and positioning.

3. Have a bench player keep track of timeouts of team and opponent

4. Have a bench player keep track of ball placement (where is it and whose ball)

III. Keys to Transition Game

1. Employ a Pressure Defense

2. Long Poles must be able to scoop balls and have great stick skills

3. Look for Up-and-Over type passes

4. Offense must communicate ("one more")

5. Have extra balls in each cage for clear on each possession