

***2008 INTERNATIONAL
COACHES CONFERENCE***



POWER PLAY

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Introduction

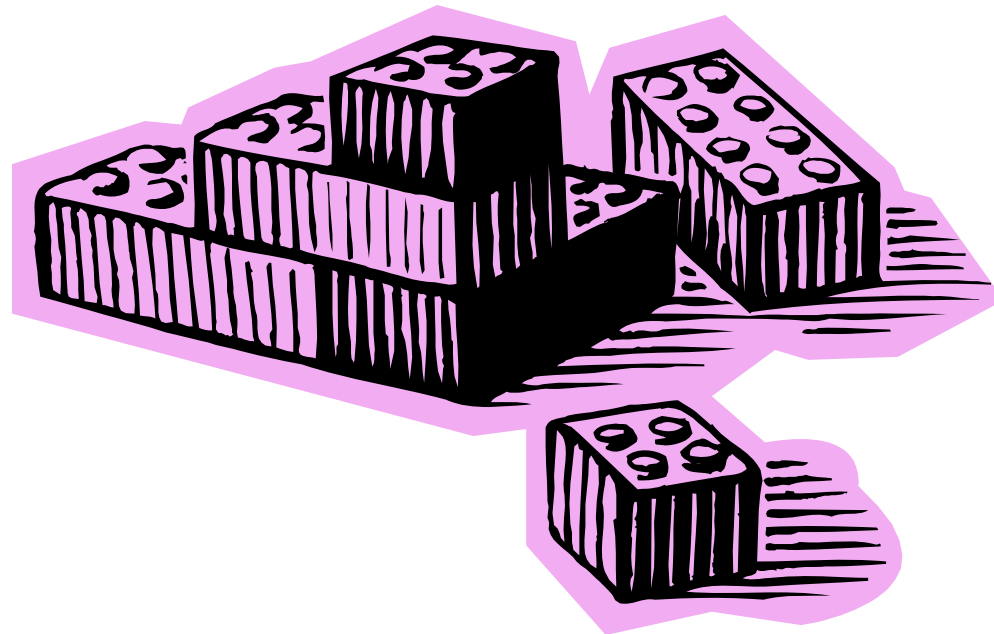
- Philosophy
- Evolution
- Fundamental Principles and Concepts
- Teaching Principles and Concepts to Players
- Understanding and Executing Principles and Concepts



Power Play Concepts



BUILDING BLOCKS



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Power Play Concepts

- Importance of Out Supporting the Penalty Killers
 - Numerical superiority
 - Short passing options / high percentage plays / quick puck movement
 - Possession then position





Power Play Concepts

- **Move the Puck Away From Pressure**
 - Force defensive adjustment
 - Create time and space to make better decisions – better plays



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Power Play Concepts

- **Puck Movement – Player Movement**

- Active pass concept

- Create a constantly changing, dynamic situation to force penalty killers to adjust

- Interchangeability of players

- Width and depth – long pass

- Force penalty killers to make decisions



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Power Play Concepts

- **Net Presence – Every Shot Requires Screen**
 - Good power plays have an opportunity to create a screen on every shot
 - Personnel decisions – someone to fill this role





Power Play Concepts

- **Attack the Seams of the Defence**

- Goal of the power play is to get the puck to the 'prime' scoring area

- In NHL Scouting identifies which seams are more vulnerable

- When seam is open – threaten by taking open ice





Power Play Concepts

- **Patience and Poise are Essential**

- Avoid forcing plays – feel comfortable controlling the puck

- Attack off good passes or pass receptions but if unavailable, then reboot – keep control – manage puck



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Power Play Concepts

- **Mental Toughness and Discipline are Keys to Power Play Success**
 - Match the work ethic and intensity of the penalty killers
 - Commit fully to tactics, concepts and structure the team employs – creativity vs freelancing
 - Cultivate a common understanding





Power Play Concepts

- **Instil in Players the Importance of Power Play**
 - The game is changed when opposition is fearful of taking penalties
 - Controls cheap shot artist or dumb penalties



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Personnel Selection

- Skilled players (offensive) should be best candidates, however –
 - Remember grit, work ethic and winning battles are power play essentials
 - Your style of play may affect personnel decisions – shooting p.p.
 - Intelligence – reading and reacting and decision making in attacking the defence – understands concepts and coordinated team play





Personnel Selection

- **Identify Required Physical Skills – Helps Make Personnel Decisions**

- Passing and receiving skills – ‘high priority’

- One time shooting skills – ability to get shots through, and quickness of release – all important

- Speed and quickness of attack are elements which can intimidate

- Hand-eye coordination – valuable for deflecting pucks





Personnel Selection

- **The importance of Having Two Strong Power Play Units – Enhances Offence**

- Allows for tempo and intensity necessary against hard working penalty kill

- Countering pressure penalty killing requires the power play to outwork the penalty killers

- Sets up healthy competition – two units

- Teach 100% of the material to 100% of the players





Personnel Selection

▪ Importance of Mental Skills

- Understanding the importance of ‘special teams’ – focus
- Understanding to read defence and react to what is given
- Active Communication is a valuable mental skill vs pressure
- Discipline – sticking to a plan – executing – shift length
- Sharing – “The Special Teams”
- **NB Bottomline** - Through co-ordinated team play, the power play has to out work the defence



Teaching Points

1. Create speed on the entry and attack the net in outnumbered situations
2. Get the puck below the hashmarks on entry
3. When Shooting from the point, shoot for the middle of the net with a screen
4. Establish a net presence (screening) when the puck gets inside dots
5. When the puck is retrieved low after a shot, go low to high quickly to catch the defence collapsed



Teaching Points

6. On walk outs from corner, look to get the far post as most goalies have their paddle down

7. Know face-off responsibilities for puck possession

8. Use verbal and non verbal communication

9. Players away from the puck think two passes ahead

10. Move the puck or move yourself





The Power Play – Three Facets To Focus On

- **The Breakout – Defensive Zone and Neutral Zone Play**
 - Establish breakout routes
 - Establish the importance of timing in running routes
 - Breakout together and with speed
 - Teach reads to help with decision making – 5 options vs. a 1 – 3 PK forecheck
 - Understand and use adjustments



The Power Play – Three Facets To Focus On

- **The Entry – Neutral Zone and Offensive Zone**
 - The options in penetrating the opponents blueline connect the breakout to the offensive zone setup
 - Penalty kill teams often attack the power play at this stage
 - ‘Support’ concept is vital at entry and is the key to gaining puck control
 - ‘Support’ is creating a numerical advantage at the puck
 - Basic entry options – carry in, chip in and hard rim



The Power Play – Three Facets To Focus On

- **Offensive Zone Set Up**

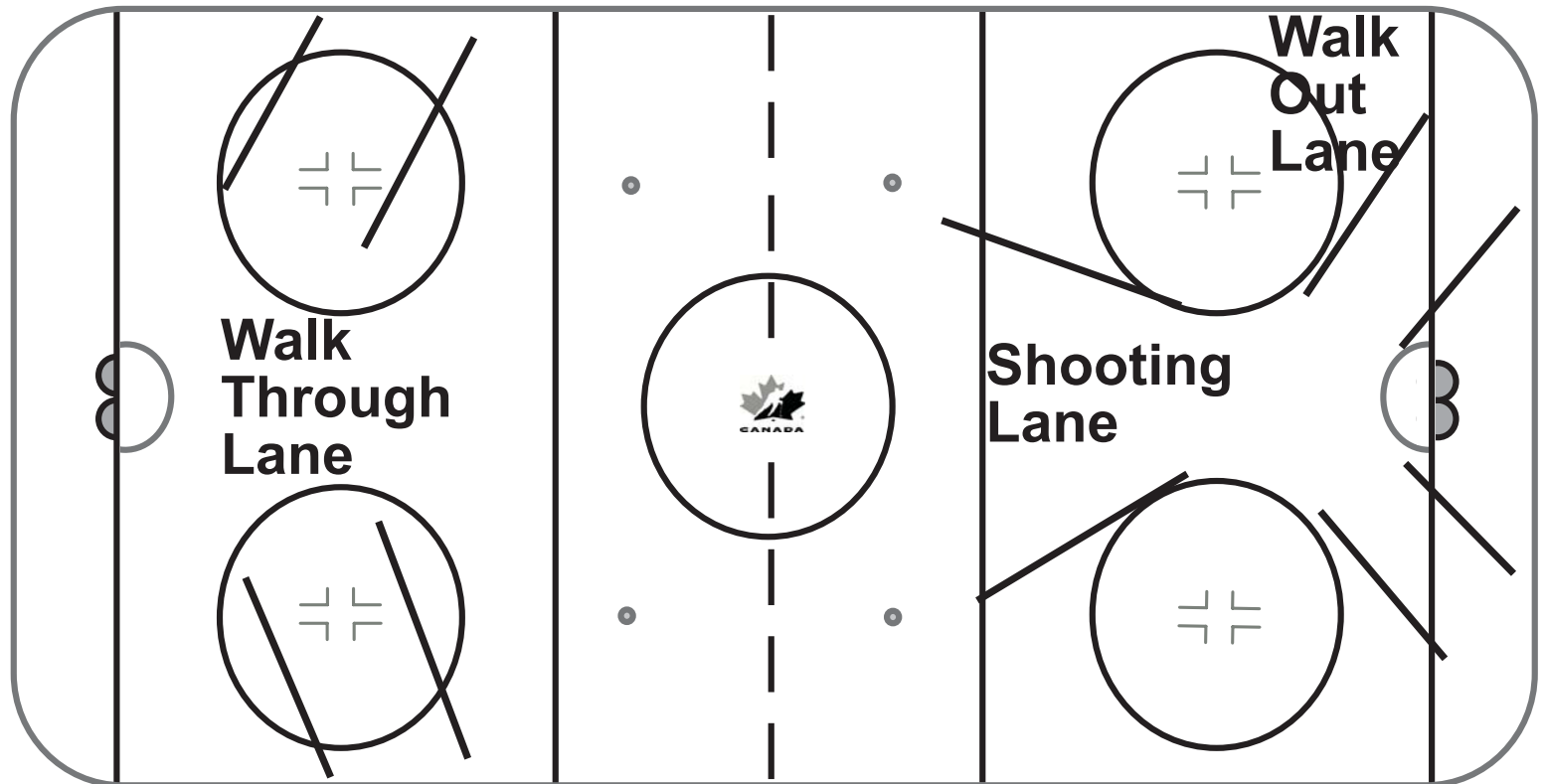
- ‘Plan of Attack’ – once puck possession is assured in zone attack seams through player and puck movement
- Concepts are magnified in this zone – pressure penalty killing
- Establishing the ability to create point shots is critical and ‘stretches’ the zone for penalty killers
- Net presence or traffic makes the point shots much more threatening



Attacking Lanes



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Video Presentation

- Breakouts vs Down Ice Pressure
- Breakouts and Entries
- Regroups and Entries
- Offensive Zone Face-offs and Attacks
- Offensive Zone Set Ups