Offensive Tactics
Crossing Attacks
By Terry Bangen

- Diagonal vs linear attack
- Utilize through NZ and during OZ entry
- Makes defending difficult
- Rush is more complicated, requires earlier decisions by defenders
- Forces reactions and choices
- Creates isolation vs one defender
- Makes backchecking more difficult
- Crosses must be flat
- No “tail” on drop passes – stop puck on backhand and leave it stationary

A. Cross
B. Cross and Lateral Feed
C. Cross and Drop
D. Pass and Cross
Step 1 – Identify Key Teaching Points

Flat Skating while crossing (control skate); no “tail” on drop passes – stop puck on backhand and leave stationary. Communicate. Timing

Drill to Reinforce Technical Skills Used to Execute Tactic

- O1 and O2 skate wide route and cross in front of stationary defenders – coaches
- O1 and O2 exchange puck twice using crosses, then attack net with a shot on goal
- Use cross, cross and drop, cross and lateral feed, pass and cross options

Tactical Drill which Practices Tactic Repetitively

- O1 and O2 attack 2 on 0, 2 repetitions on rush
- Options
- Cross
- Cross and drop
- Cross and lateral feed
- Pass and cross
- Stay on side
- 2nd repetition should be executed just inside OZ blueline

Efficient Drill which Practices Tactic Under Game Conditions

- O1 and O2 skate circles and attack D1 and D2 - 2 on 2
- Option to exchange puck on first cross
- D1 and D2 skate forward to blueline, pivot and retreat to defend 2 on 2.
- Crossing attack options can be utilized at any point