

Extended fast break with pivot play

“the Scandinavian way”

by

Zoltán Marczinka

As the preliminary round comes to an end certain trends can be identified. Denmark and Sweden stood out not only for their impressive and convincing winning streaks (5 win / 5 matches) but also for the way they utilised their pivot players during an extended fast break. Similarly, both teams relied heavily on counter attacks as their team tactic, regularly scoring 6-7 fast break goals per game (Den: 36/5 matches, Swe: 32/5 matches), and using their pivots in a very similar way - perhaps “the Scandinavian way”). Being the backbone of the defence, regular pivots Danish # 14 J. HALD and Swedish # 10 BERGENDAHL are not just physically strong but also start off rapidly when there is a chance for fast break. This can be seen in the following game footage (1-4).

Video clip 1.

After gaining possession of the ball, Den # 14 runs parallel in front and by receiving a jump pass from his # 2 team-mate, is able to score from close range.



Video clip 2.

Following a goalkeeper's save, DEN # 2 brings up the ball, passes to the LW team-mate who then sets up a clear scoring chance for DEN # 14 pivot.



Video clip 3.

Following a goalkeeper's save, the Swedish right back brings up the ball, passes to the RW team-mate who then sets up a clear scoring chance for SWE # 2 pivot.



Video clip 4.

When Sweden gains possession of the ball, the Swedish # 10 pivot runs to the goal-area line and after receiving a diagonal pass from his # 11 team-mate, he is able to score from close range.

