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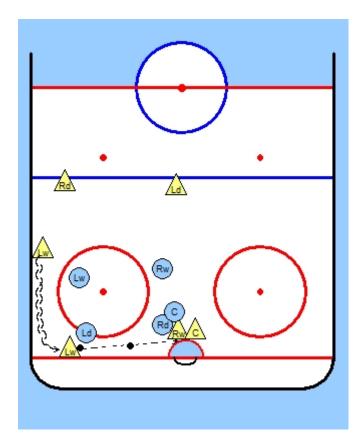
"Creating a 50-50 puck battle net front can lead to a goal"

OFFENSIVE ZONE – NET FRONT AREA PASS

Sometimes our forward with the puck is coming into their corner or is at the side of their net, or behind their net and he can't find an open forward or D to pass to as there is no passing lane to any player, or the opposition player's position or stick won't let us make the pass we want. And we are running out of time and space as their D closes on us.

Seeing this situation develop, if one or 2 of our forwards go hard to their net and stop, they will be covered by 2 of their players. We will see some open ice in front of their goalie and between their goalie and their D and our 2 forwards net front.

Pass the puck softly end over end up and into the area between their goalie and their D expecting our players to go to the puck and get to it for a one time shot on net before their D or at least create a 50-50 net front battle for the puck. Their goalie probably will be back in his net coming out as the puck is flipped into this area.



When the puck comes out net front their goalie will have to react to the battle in front usually in a butterfly already down so if we can get a shot released quickly and high or even low sometimes



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right on the corner, their goalie is stuck too far in his net even if he begins to slide out. Even if their goalie makes the first save there should be a juicy rebound for all 3 of our players now crashing the net for the rebound. Our shot doesn't have to be that hard, just quick release to a corner.

Some coaches say don't make an area pass like this, carry the puck to try to make a better play but most times this leads to a turnover. Don't always wait for a clear nice tape to tape pass around their net or a clear hard shot on net. Better to toss the puck in front to a tight area and give ourselves a scoring chance.

Now, I'm not talking about making a blind "hope" pass into the middle or deep slot that usually gets picked off by them and ends up in good offensive transition for them. If you are going to pass deep in the slot there must be a player open, and hopefully a passing lane.

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