



## GK - 2-3-1 vs. 3-1-2 Defensive Press Tactics (Game Model 7v7) - J. Sells

**Category:** Tactical: Defensive principles

**Difficulty:** Difficult

Am-Club: New Mexico Rapids Soccer Club  
Technical / Coaching Directors, Albuquerque, United States  
of America

### GK + 2-3-1 v 3-1-2 Defensive Press Tactics (7v7) (60 mins)

#### Organization:

GK + 2-3-1 defend 3-1-2 formation to big goal w/counter goals. Working in 3/4 of the field. Coach always starts a new ball to offensive team attacking large goal.

#### Directions/Coaching Points:

**A.** GK + 2-3-1 starts off with line of confrontation just over top of attacking half midfield circle (just under build out line). Center forward should press (channel) opposition center back dictating which way they want to force the opposition. Coach should recognize which opposition outside back (or back) is weakest and force play (trigger pass) to that outside back (even in younger ages). Center Forward pressing angle should take away opposition 2 (right back).

**B.** Once opposition 4 (center back) plays "trigger" pass is to opposition 3 (left back), Defensive 7 (right wing) should know to try and jump the pass and 1st touch after cutting touchline off (not allowing pass down line to opposition 9 (Forward) intentionally forcing the opponent central either with pass or dribble.

**C.** Central Midfielder (10) on the defensive team at this point should be marking tightly the oppositions 6 (central midfielder) and looking to intercept or steal possession of any central pass played by opposition back three (3 and 2) into the central midfield area (blue confrontation zone). Wide side midfielder 11 should be tucked in ready to provide defensive assistance to the 10 with cover and balance. At the same time two central defenders (5 & 4) should be communicating and passing off the opposition center forwards (9 & 10) and providing cover to each other, so any long entry ball is difficult for either center forward to deal with and maintain.

#### Directions / Coaching Points

-All Midfield players need to understand importance of defensive responsibility, structure (defending in 3's) and that opposition play will be forced into our central midfield area in midfield and attacking thirds of play.

-Central forward must understand idea of "channeling" (cutting field off) and making opposition play predictable for his/her teammates. Outside midfielders need to understand roles both strong (pressure opposition outside back) and weak (tucking in to provide cover and balance) side.

-Two Central Defenders must understand field balance (in two's), passing players off, pressure and cover responsibilities in overall team group press. These players should be two athletic and aggressive players that talk.

#### **\*Important:**

-Defensive team must be patient and compact with opposition center back is in possession. Inviting opposition center back (4) to play wide to either outside back (3 or 2). WE DO NOT WANT OPPOSITION PASSES PLAYED BETWEEN OUR 7 & 10 AND 11 & 10.

-If opposition can rotate ball out of initial defensive press players must look to reorganize centrally, get compact and look to rotate press to other side of the field quickly and aggressively utilizing same defensive structure, rotations and idea. Wide midfielder tactical understanding is critical if press is broken and point of attack is switched.

-Our best players should be playing up the spine of our team in this system at the 5, 4, 10 and 9 positions.

