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Philosophies of Goaltender Play

Every goaltender has a unique physical and mental set of characteristics that will go towards dictating their style of play. Here are five philosophies that must be integrated into all styles of play.

SIMPLE: Goaltenders position themselves so they will be faced with the simple save. The first save is the most important in any attack sequence. A controlled first will lead to better puck control and a controlled recovery.

VERSATILE: Goalies want to be in a position that allows them to respond in any direction due to changing circumstances. It is important that goalies are well-rounded with no glaring weaknesses in any direction or while up or down.

COMPACT: Pucks are not allowed to go through or under the body.

PATIENT: The goalie must be prepared in a position that will force the attacker to commit first. In each attack there is an optimal position. Reaching optimal position limits net access which allows the goalie to have patience in their save response.

PUCKHANDLING: This can kick-start a team's transition game and be a deterrent for opponents dumping the puck into your team's zone. Being able to properly understand how to play and handle the puck makes a more complete goalie.

Building the appropriate tools, that when combined, make up the overall style of the goaltender. Goalie improvement can be guided by many resources. However, it is up to the goalie to incorporate the characteristics outlined above into their play.