

A2 Gaston Forward and Back Skating and Transition Turn

Key Points:

Be in a strong athletic position with the knees bent, seat down, shoulders no farther forward than the knees and the head up. The skating stride starts with a fall and about 3 forward pushes and then it is a sideways motion. When skating backwards stride sideways and don't turn the heel to the inside. Replace the Mohawk turn with the much more efficient Transition Turn.

Description:

Gaston Schaeffer leads a group of 12-14 year old girls and boys. They cover:

1. Forward long stride.
2. Forward medium stride.
3. Quick start.
4. Basic backward stride and starting.
5. Transition turn from front to back that is much more efficient than the Mohawk Turn.

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There are other videos of Gaston teaching turning, stopping and these strides. Gaston talks about the skating stride. <mediagallery/media.php?f=0&sort=0&s=2008072311322256> and demonstrates <mediagallery/media.php?f=0&sort=0&s=20080723113220687>

Picture is of Gaston and Gaston Jr. At a hockey camp in Winfield B.C.

 [Gaston and Gassy.jpg](#)

 [A2 Gaston Forward and Back Skating and Transition Turn.pdf](#)

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 By: [TomM](#) (offline) on Thursday, April 21 2011 @ 07:54 AM CDT

A2 Transition Turn Forward to Backward

Key Points:

Practice turning from front to back and don't lose any speed. This turn is smooth with a minimum of crossovers.

Description:

Gaston Schaeffer teaches an efficient transition turn from forward to backward. The benefit of this pivot is that the player keeps the skating momentum. If skating to the right the weight is on the right leg and the left skate goes behind at an angle to the turn, the player transfers the weight to the left leg and does a crossover.

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 [A3 Forward and Backward Striding.jpg](#)



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<p>  By: TomM (offline) on Saturday, April 23 2011 @ 08:44 AM CDT </p> <p>A2 Skating Warm up-Edges and Balance Position</p> <p>Key Points: Be in a good athletic position with the knees bent, back upright and lead with the chest and head up. Use all of the edges.</p> <p>Description: Gaston leads a skating warm up. Exercises use the inside and outside edges, proper body position both forward and backward as well as a one skate exercise that requires a good balance position and use of all of the edges.</p> <p>mediagallery/media.php?f=0&sort=0&s=20110423080435937</p> <p>  A2 Formation.jpg  A2 Skating Warm up.pdf </p>	<p>TomM</p> <p>  Active Member </p>  <p>Status: offline</p> <p>   </p> <p>Registered: 06/25/08 Posts: 742 Calgary, Canada</p>
<p> profile e-mail www </p>	<p> quote  </p>
<p>  By: TomM (offline) on Monday, April 25 2011 @ 07:23 AM CDT </p> <p>I have been focusing on skating technique. Most coaches, me included have many skating drills. I have posted the Minnesota drills and many from Finland and Sweden and they are great. The only problem is that if we do these with improper mechanics we only teach the kid's to get "really good at bad technique." So it is imperative that we have proper mechanics.</p> <p>I have put videos of Gaston talking about and teaching skating and I know it helps me and hope it helps other coaches.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>A2 Forward Stride Mechanics Taught by Dr. Gaston Schaeffer</p> <p>Key Points: Be in a balanced position with a good knee bend. Use as much blade as possible. To start fall forward and push back the first few strides and then skate with a sideways push. The arms move opposite the legs in a back and forth motion never causing the upper body to over rotate. Lead with the head up and chest forward.</p> <p>Description: I have put together various videos of Dr. Gaston Schaeffer teaching skating. Gaston has a Doctorate in Body Mechanics and taught at University in Switzerland where he was the Swiss figure skating Champion and followed that being feature skater for Ice Capades and Holiday on Ice where he toured the world. He met his wife while touring and they had a girl and a boy. Gaston was the Olympic figure skating coach for Switzerland as well as in charge of fitness for their speed skating team. He worked with Juhani Wahlsten in Davos</p>	<p>TomM</p>

when Juuso was coaching there.

Gaston Junior demonstrates the forward stride. He is one of the most powerful skaters I have seen. He suffered a major injury at 18 and stopped playing but his technique is perfect.

The video goes in this order.

1. Gaston talking about the mechanics of the forward stride while I film him on my deck.
2. Gaston and his son doing an on ice demonstration with Gaston describing the important points of the stride.
3. Gaston leads a group through a forward skating and balance warm up.
4. Gaston teaching that group the mechanics of the forward stride starting with the long stride first, then the start and the medium length stride.
5. Gaston leading a U17 skills group. Dany Heatley came and skated with them that day. He had just won the NHL Rookie of the Year. He came as a favour to me to say hi and skate about 15 minutes but because we did transition games all practice he stayed and played and did the skating as well (he has a black sweatsuit and hat on).

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