How to beat the Pusher?

This player has great consistency by running down a lot of balls forcing their opponents to miss. This player relies on the opponent's unforced errors to win the match. This style of play lures opponents into over-playing shots due to impatience for long rallies. This player is usually physically fit and possesses good court speed and is accustomed to long, drawn-out matches.

Some tactics to implement:

1. Stay in the point longer. Set up patterns to hit a winner after at least four shots.
2. Look for opportunities to get to net and finish the point. Use a serve and volley or the return & come-in pattern of play.
3. These players usually have an effective lob, so volley short and to the angles. This player usually likes to run laterally and retreats deep volleys with consistent lobs.
4. Change pace, spins, height and depths to break the pusher's rhythm. Experiment what type of shots they like and try not to give them those shots.
5. Blend in various short balls (underspin, slice, drop shots, short angle shots) to draw the player towards the net. These players usually do not like to come in a valley or hit overheads. * Note: If opponent retreats while being drawn in, consider using short angle and drop shots to mis-foot them while they are going back to the base line.

General Mindset:

1. Don't think that you are going to hit winners to win this type of match. BE PATIENT!!! Set up your points strategically and then make use of your winners.
2. Plan to their weakness (draw them in and force them to hit volleys and use forward footwork.
3. Set up patterns of play that you have practiced and feel comfortable with. Don't panic and try offensive shots that you have not thoroughly practiced.