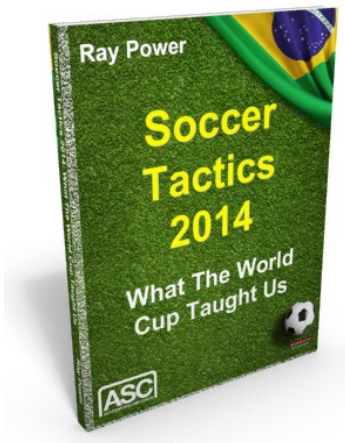
Soccer Tactics 2014: What The World Cup Taught Us



By Ray Power

[IMAGES]

BENNION KEARNY

Introduction

Argentina – 4-4-2 Diamond / 4-3-3 / 4-1-2-1-2?



Kuyt's Average Positions v. Argentina (after 80 minutes)

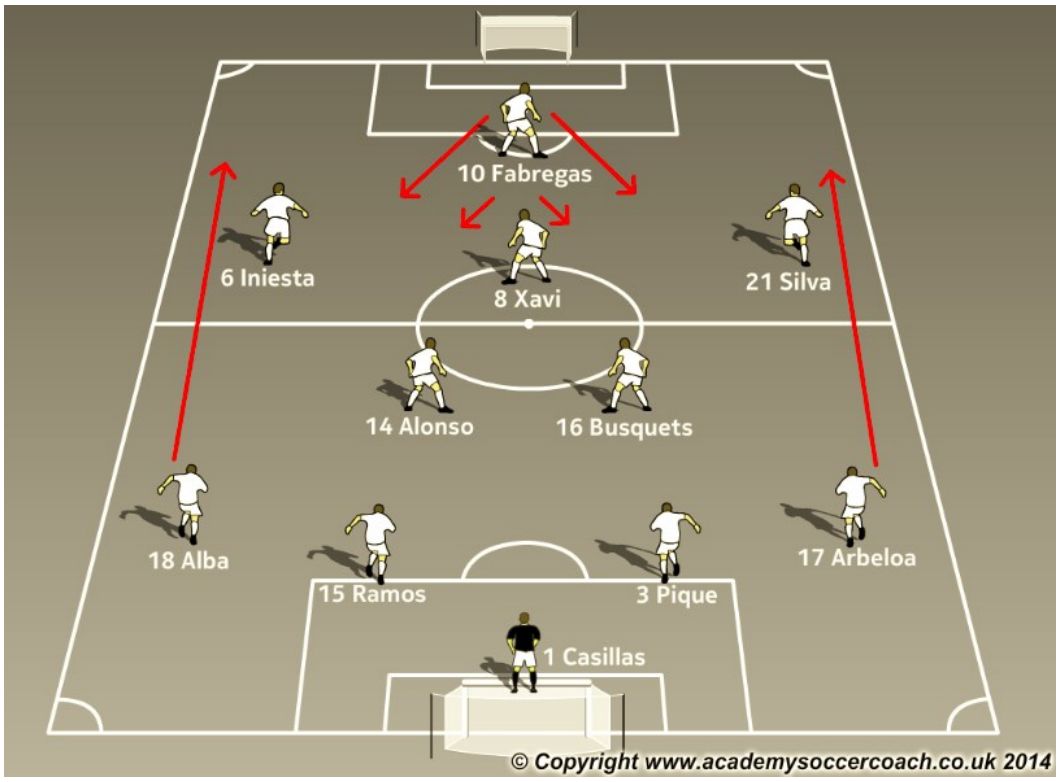


Kuyt's Actual Possessions v. Argentina (after 80 minutes)

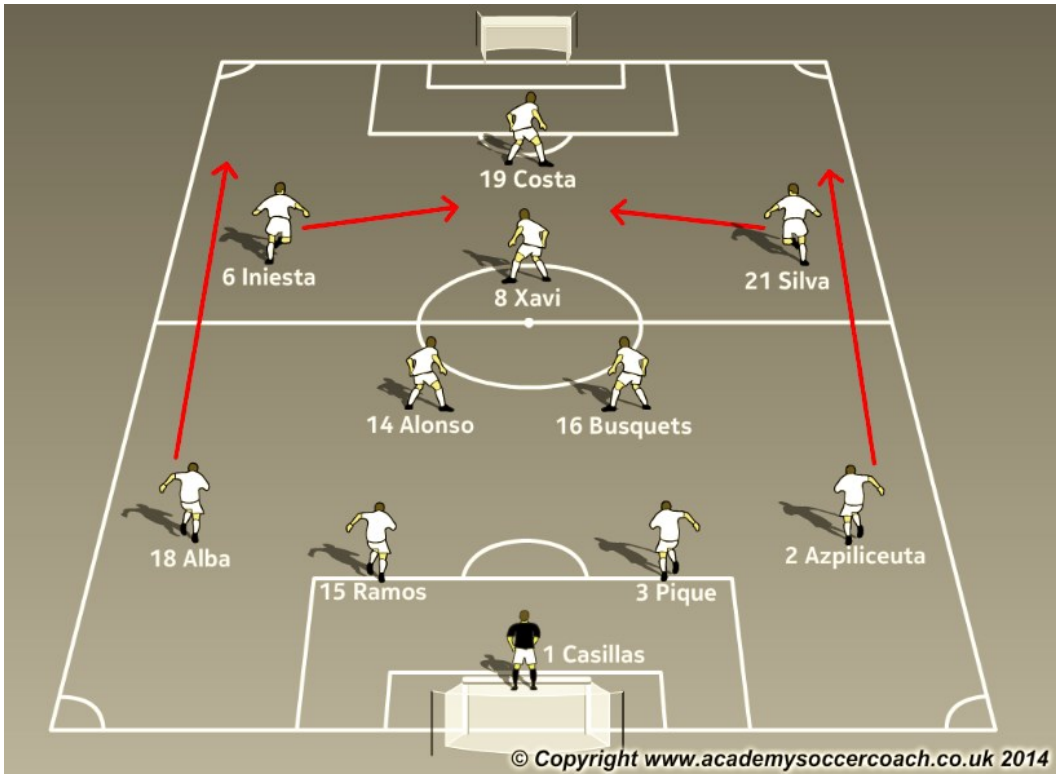


Chapter 1

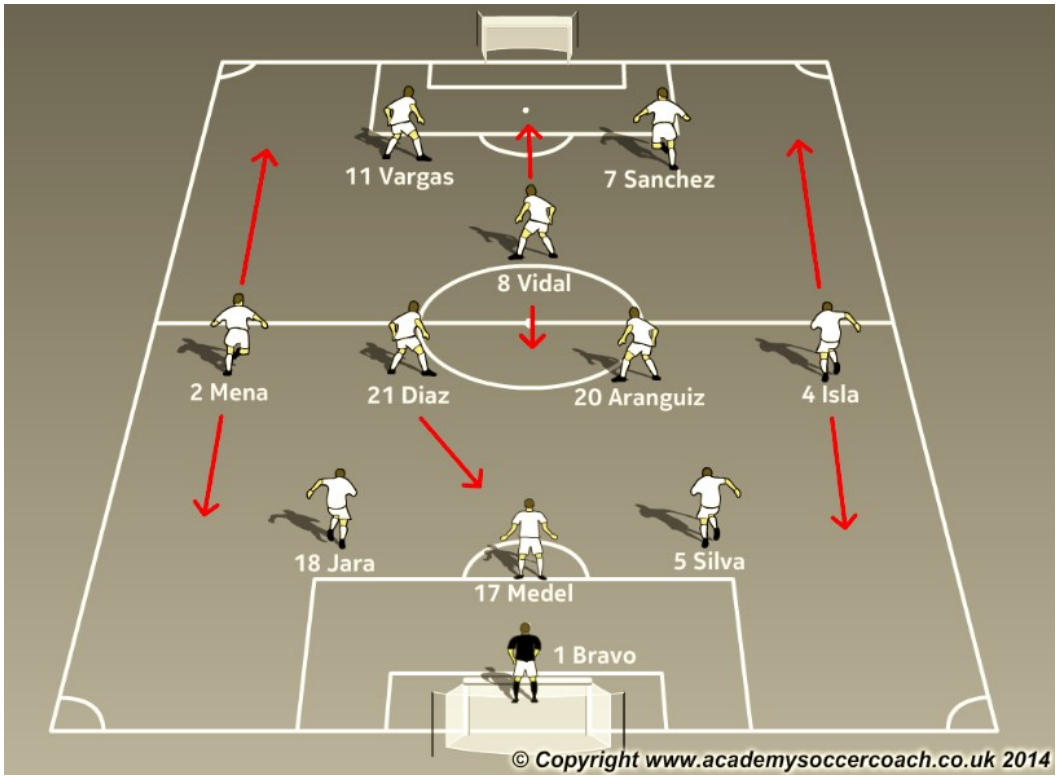
Spain's 'False 9' System, European Champions Final, 2012



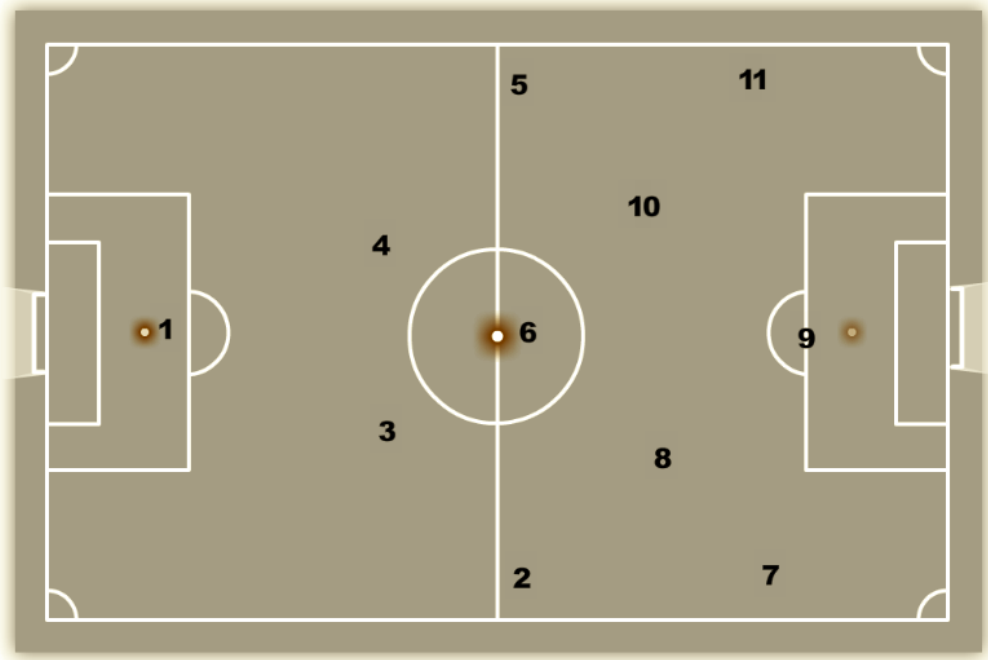
Spain's 4-2-3-1 v. The Netherlands, 2014



Chile's 3-4-3 v. Brazil



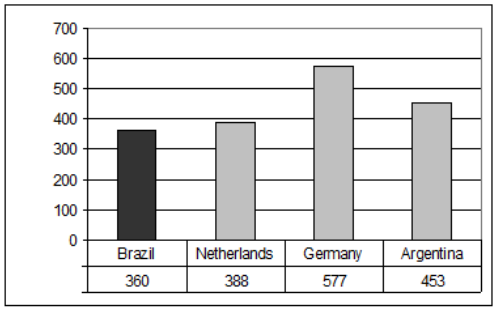
Louis van Gaal's Favoured Attacking 4-3-3 (2-3-2-3)



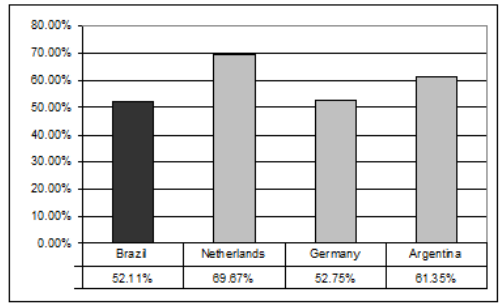
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Pass, Take-on and Discipline Stats – Comparison of Final Four

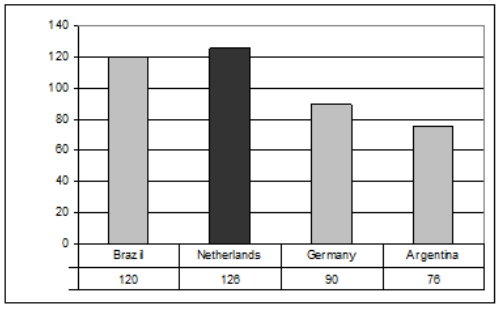
Number of Short Passes per game



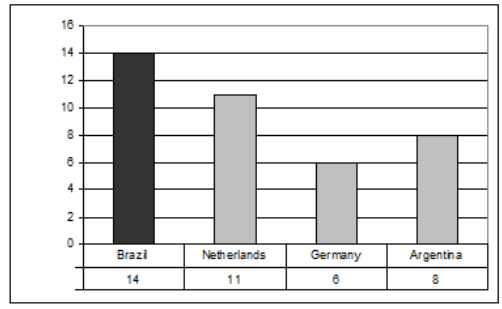
Percentage of Successful Take-ons



Number of Fouls Committed



Number of Yellow Cards



Midfielder Ki Sung-Yueng Possession Statistics

Type of Pass	Successful / Attempted	Percentage Success
Group Game 1 v. Russia		
All Passes	65 / 69	94%
Forward	26 /30	87%
Square	18 / 18	100%
Backwards	21 / 21	100%
Group Game 2 v. Algeria		
All Passes	53 / 55	96%
Forward	23 / 25	92%
Square	14 / 14	100%
Backwards	16 / 16	100%
Group Game 3 v. Belgium		
All Passes	55 / 61	90%
Forward	37 / 43	86%
Square	10 / 10	100%
Backwards	8 / 8	100%

England's 4-2-3-1 v. Italy 2014



England's Traditional 4-4-2 v Germany 2010 World Cup

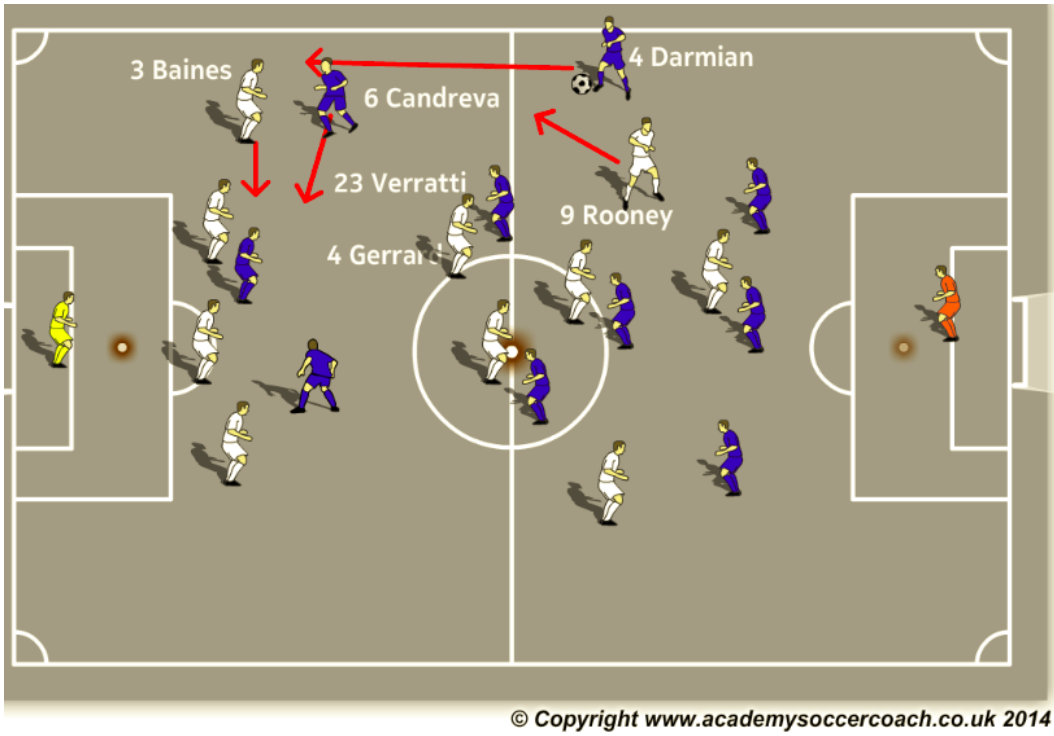


Chapter 2

Game Time (Minutes) of Belgium's Attacking Players

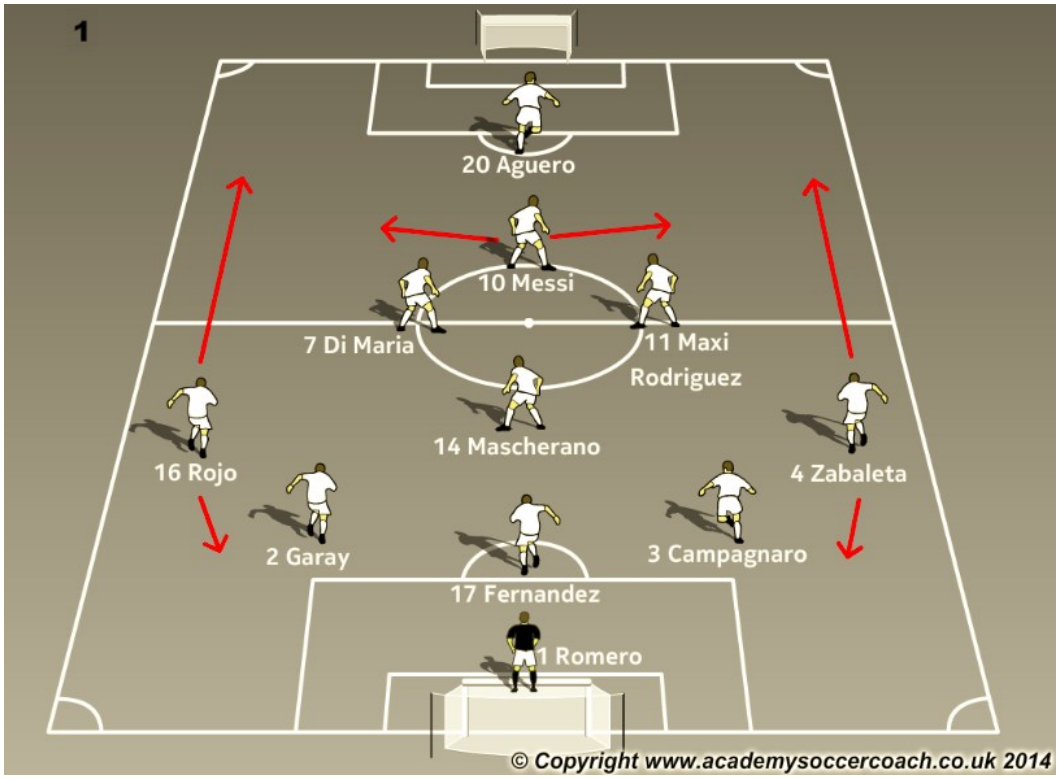


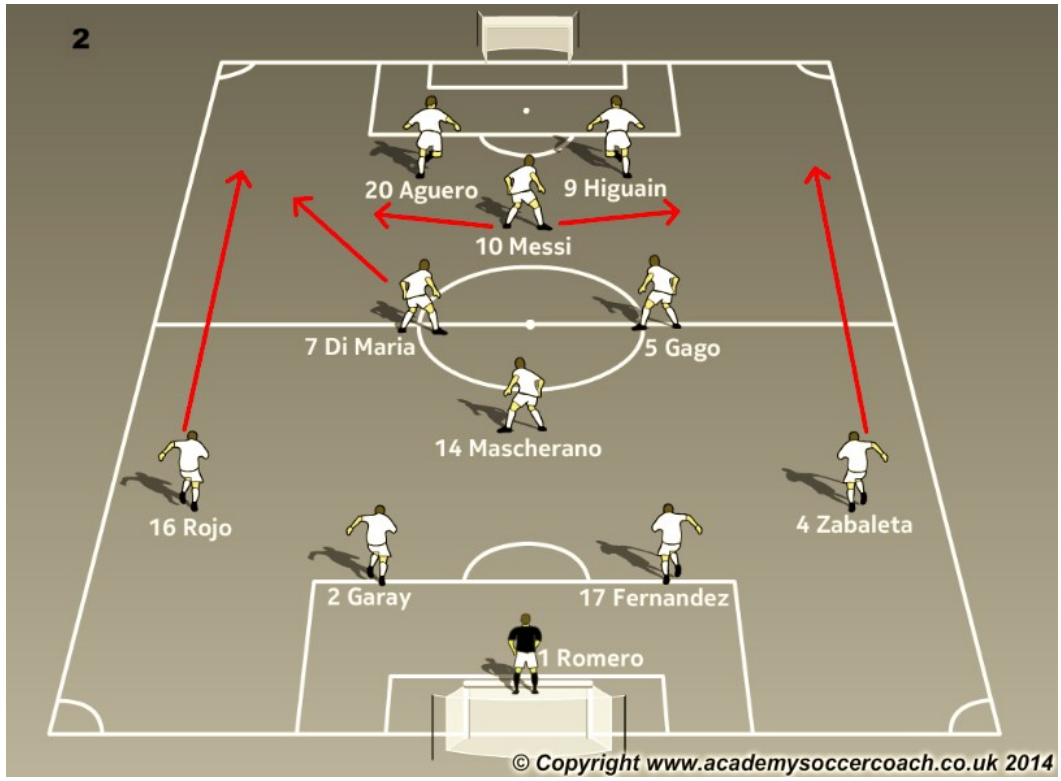
The Rooney – Darmian Duel



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Argentina's Changeable Tactics




2
20 Aguero
9 Higuain
10 Messi
7 Di Maria
5 Gago
14 Mascherano
16 Rojo
4 Zabaleta
2 Garay
17 Fernandez
1 Romero
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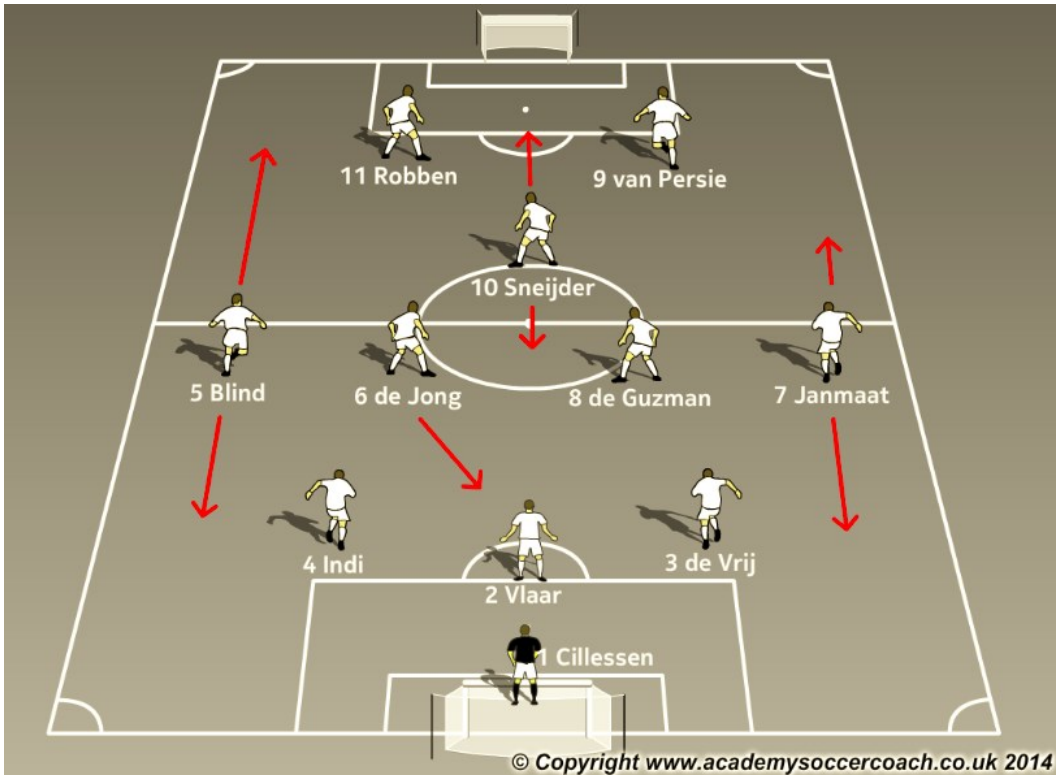

3
9 Higuain
7 Di Maria
10 Messi
22 Lavezzi
14 Mascherano
5 Gago
16 Rojo
4 Zabaleta
2 Garay
17 Fernandez
1 Romero
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4
9 Higuain
10 Messi
8 Perez
22 Lavezzi
14 Mascherano
6 Biglia
16 Rojo
4 Zabaleta
2 Garay
15 Demichelis
1 Romero
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www.whoscored.com World Cup Best XI



Netherlands 3-4-3 Line-Up v. Spain



Arsenal Philosophy

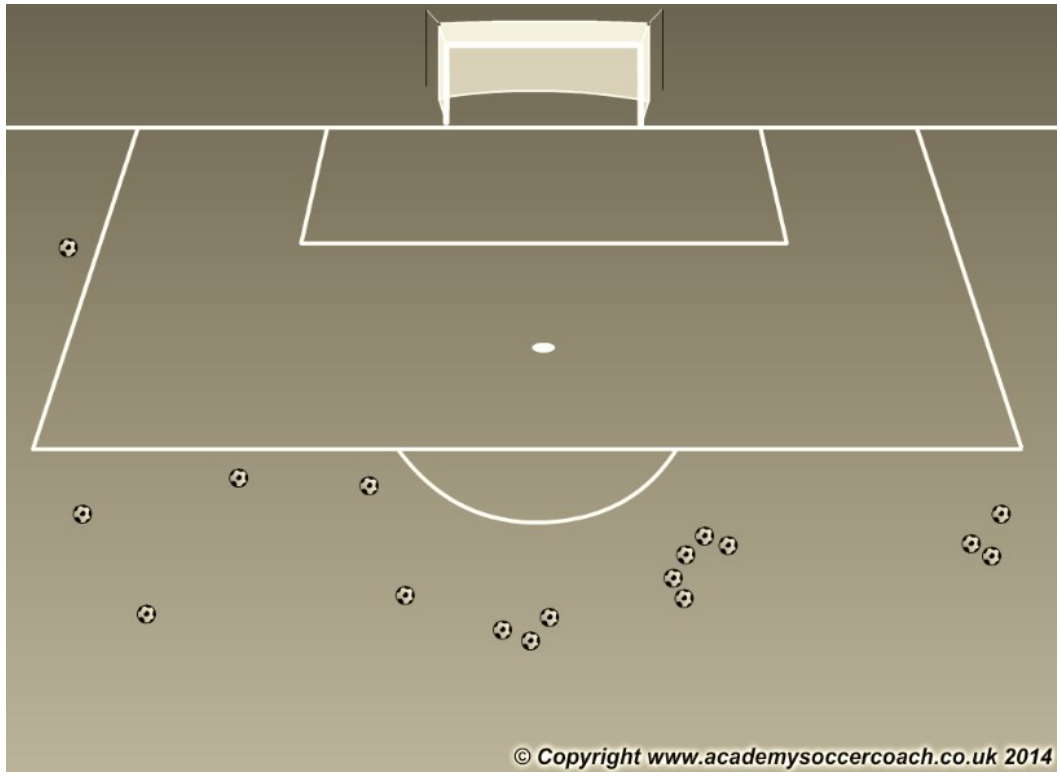
Our team becomes stronger by:

- Display a positive attitude on and off the pitch
- Everyone making the right decisions for the team
- Have an unshakeable belief that we can achieve our target
- Believe in the strength of the team
- Always want more – always give more
- Focus on our communication
- Be demanding with yourself
- Be fresh and well prepared to win
- Focus on being mentally stronger and always keep going until the end
- When we play away from home, believe in *our identity* and play the football we love to play at home
- Stick together
- Stay grounded and humble as a player and person
- Show the desire to win in all that you do
- Enjoy and contribute to all that is special about being in a team – don't take it for granted

Belgium Average Positions v. Russia

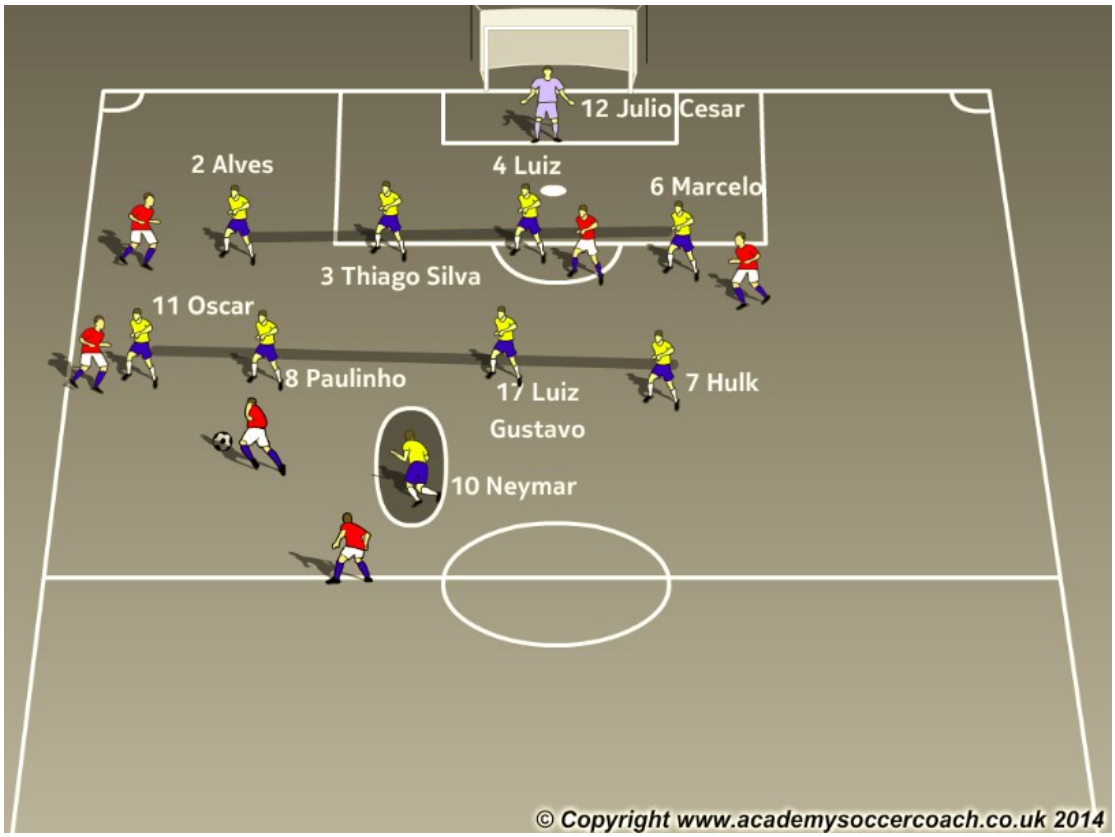


Manuel Neuer Touches Outside the Box v. Algeria

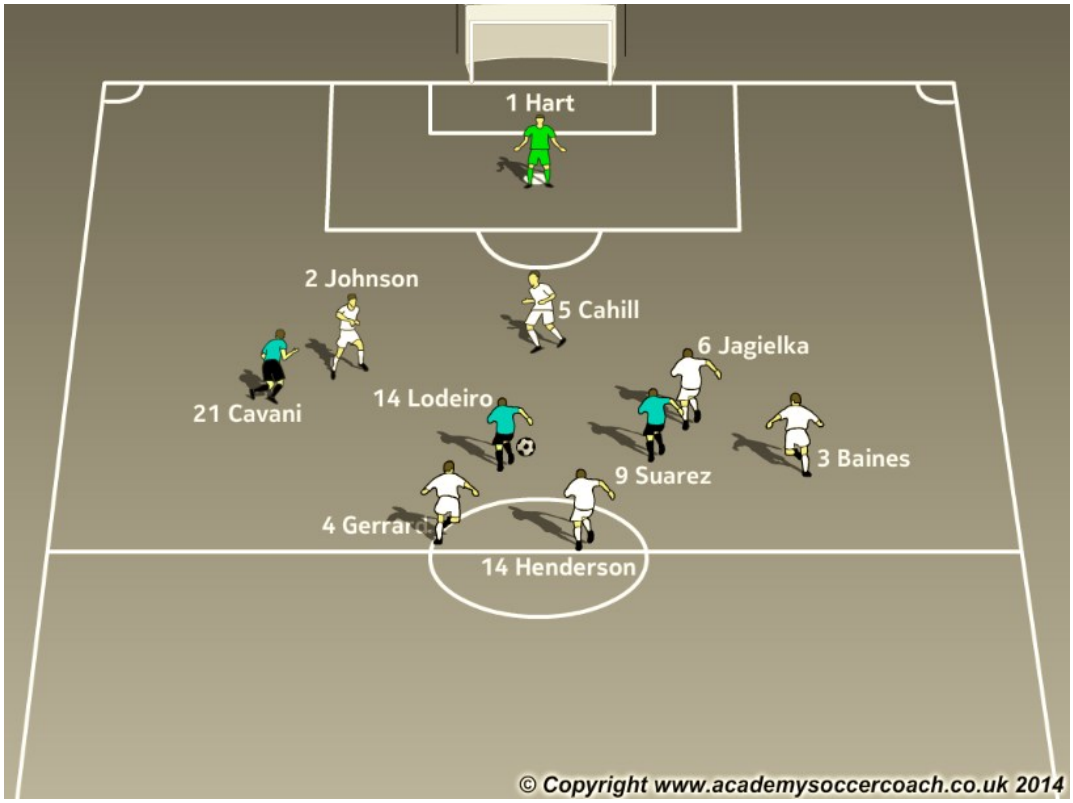


Chapter 3

Brazil Out of Possession Shape v. Croatia



Uruguay's Opening Goal v. England's 4-2-3-1



Brazil's 4-2-3-1 v. Croatia 4-2-3-1

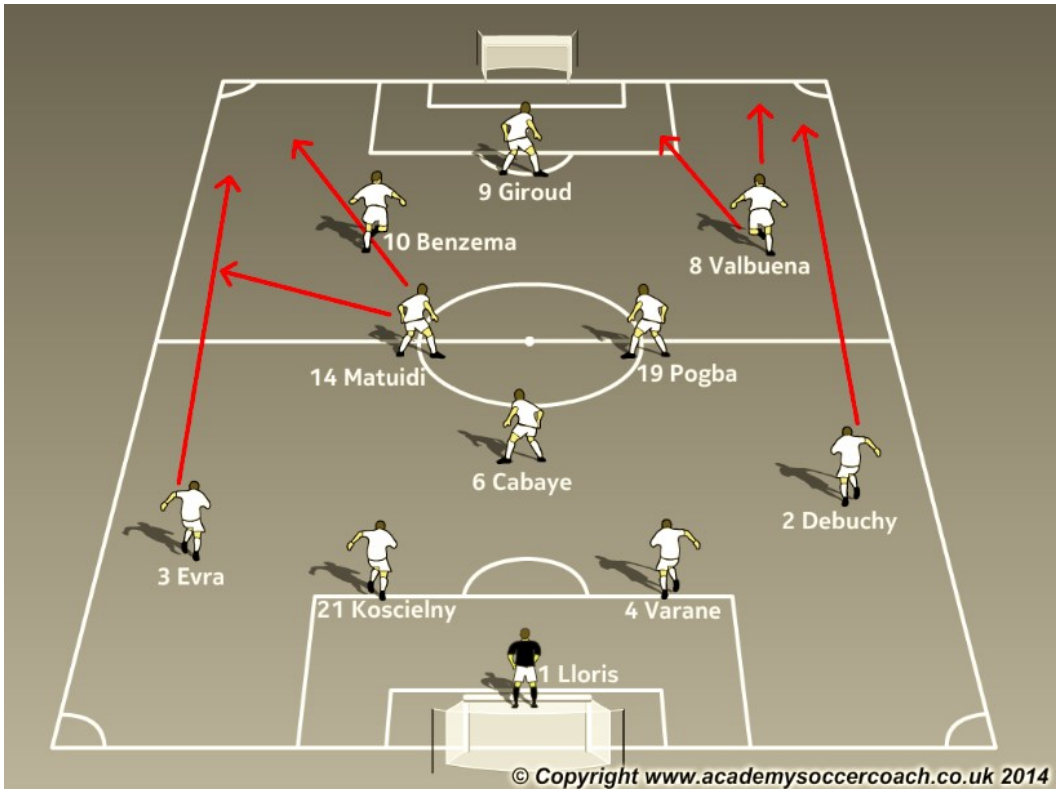


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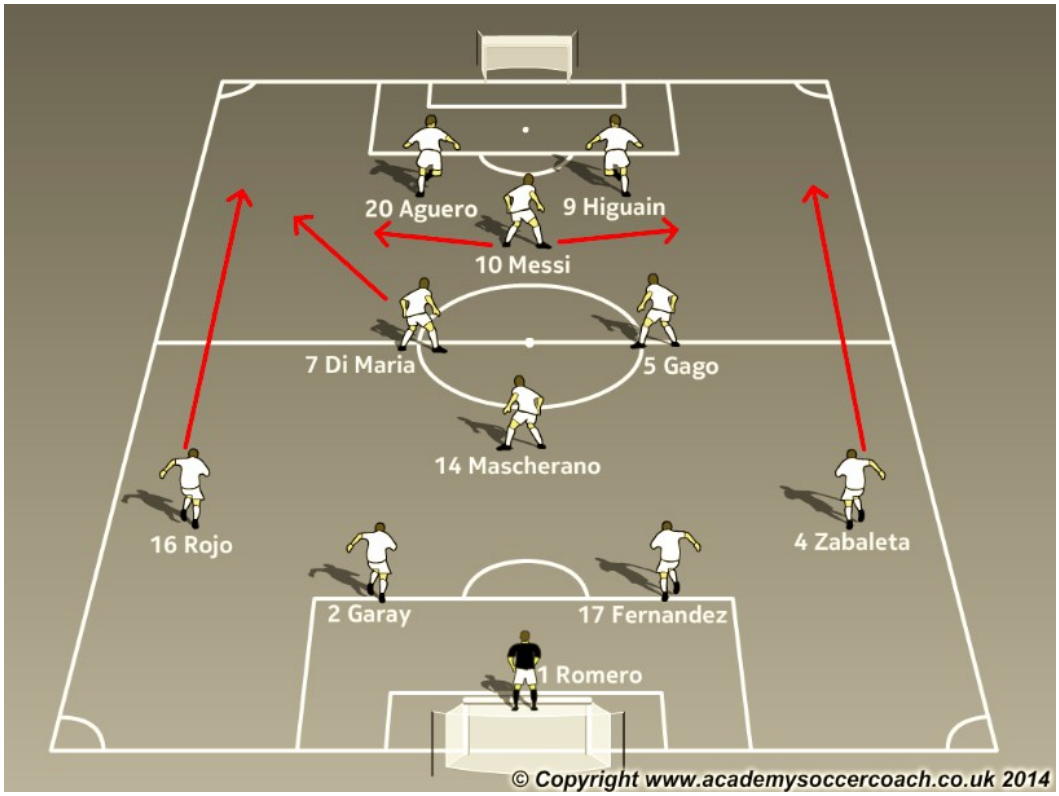
Russia's 4-3-3 v. South Korea



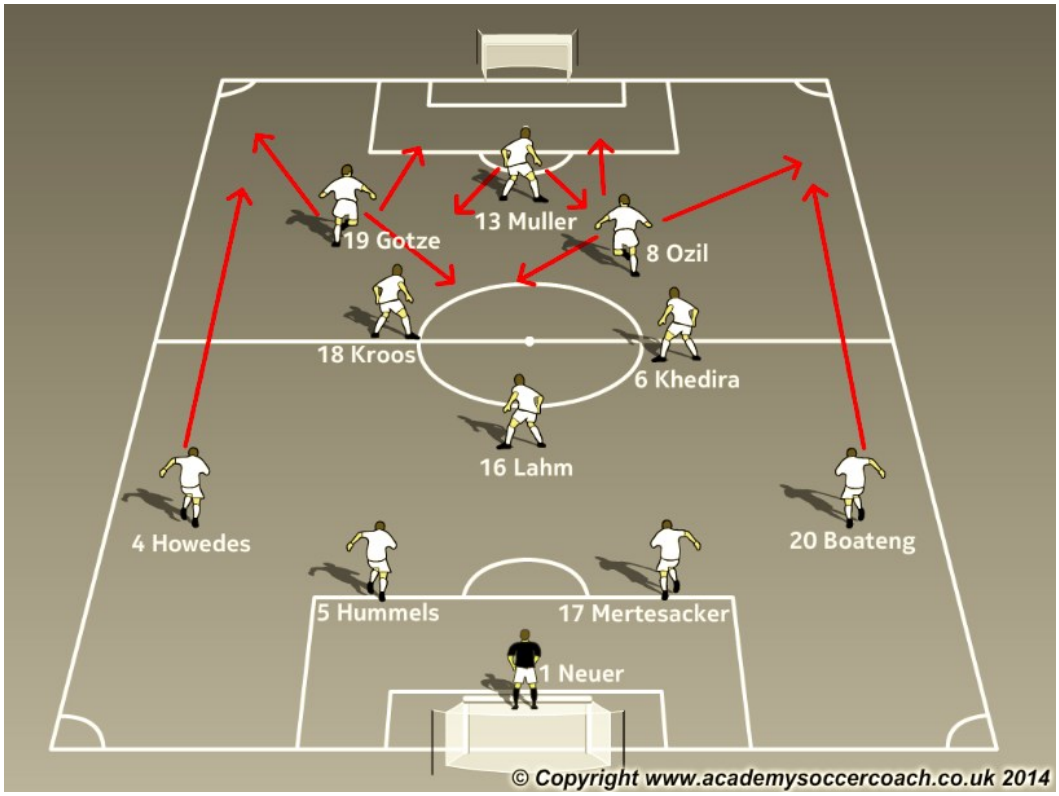
France 4-3-3 v. Switzerland



Argentina's Second-Half 4-3-3 v. Bosnia



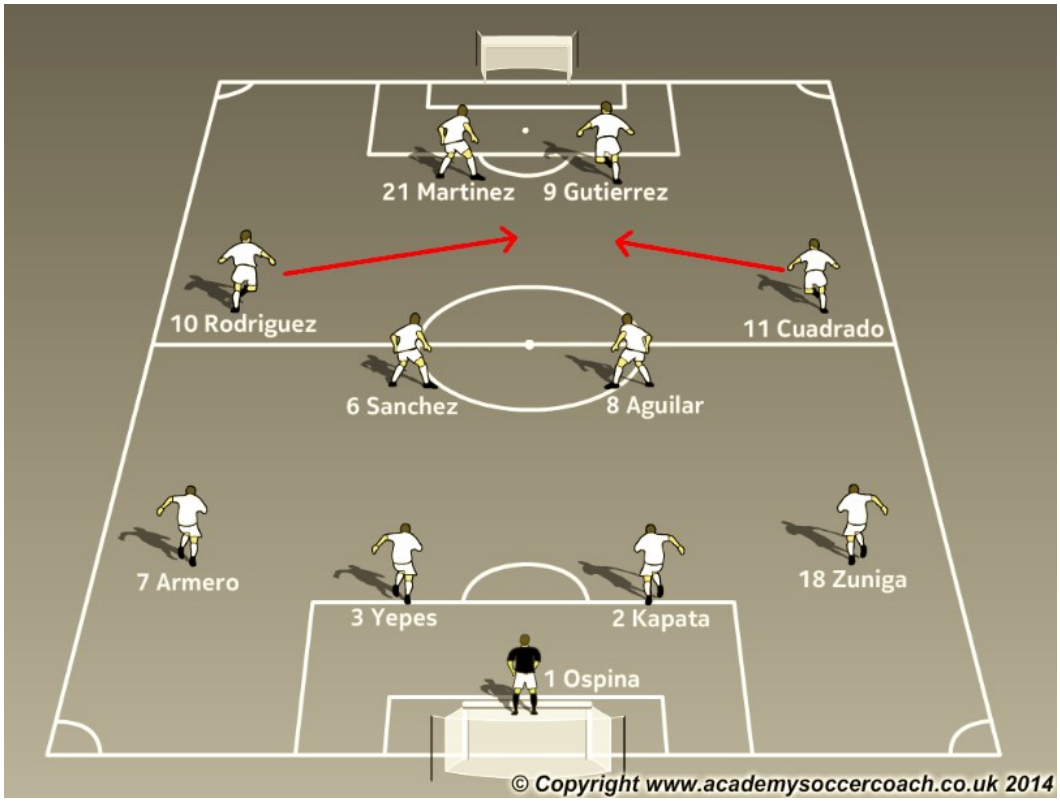
Germany's 4-3-3 v. Portugal



Greece 4-5-1 v. Japan



Colombia's 4-4-2 v. Uruguay



James Rodriguez's Possession v. Uruguay



Chapter 4

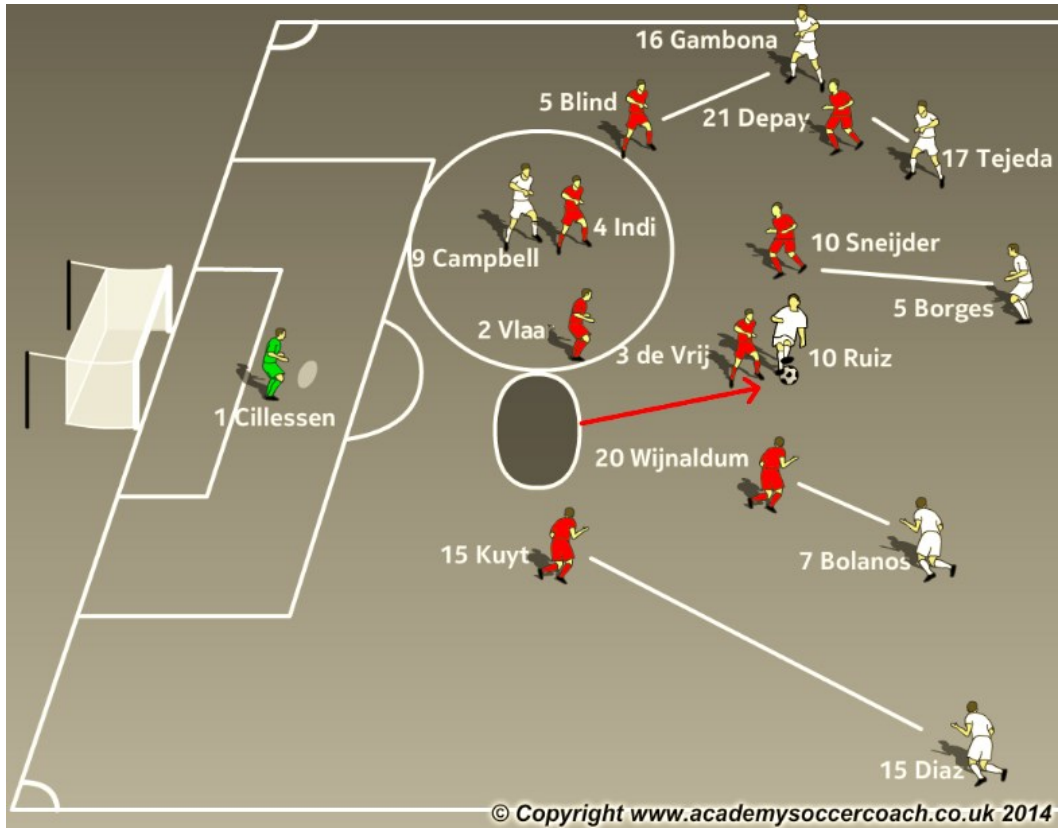
Italy's 3-5-2 v. Uruguay



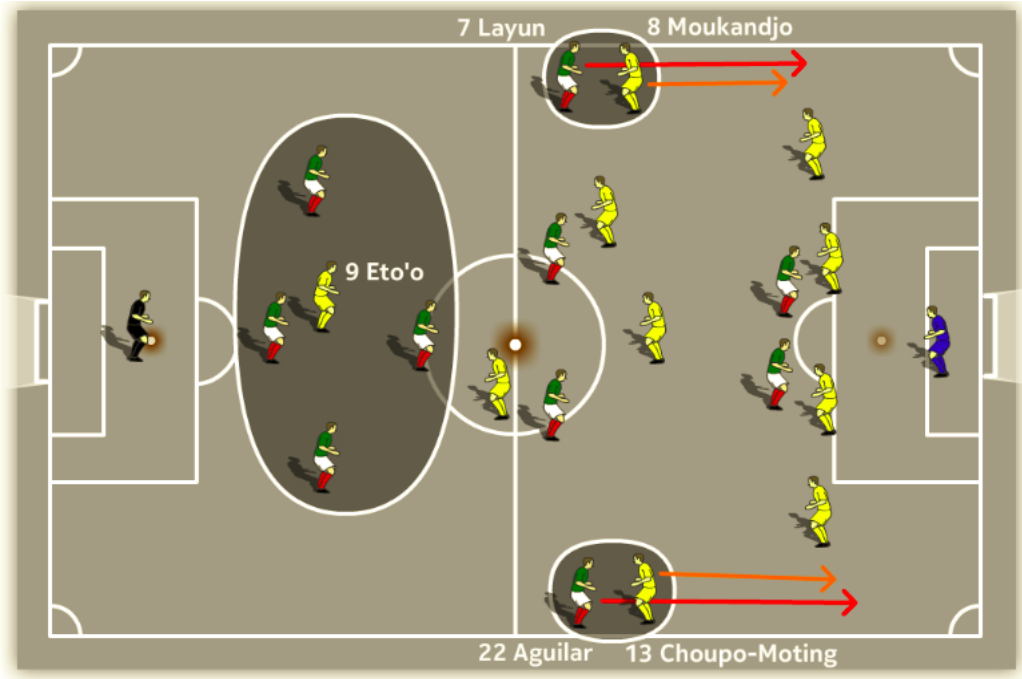
Uruguay's 5-3-2 v. Italy



Netherlands Changeable Defensive Line



Cameroon Struggling to Deal with Mexican Wing-Backs



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Argentina Central Midfield Three v. Bosnia

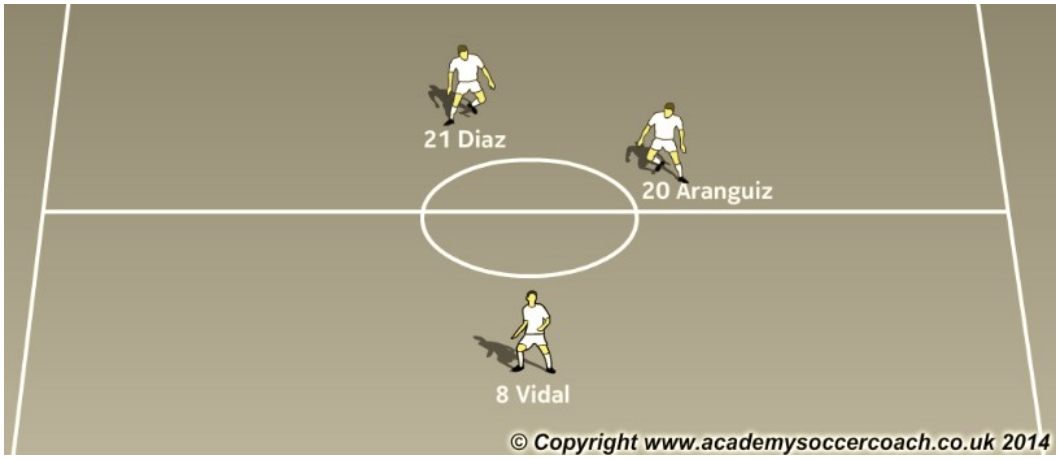


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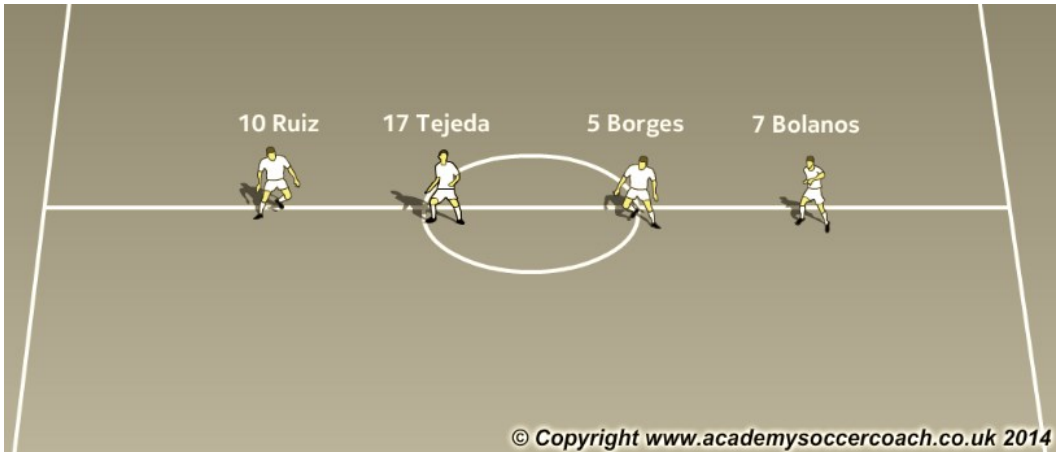
Italy Central Midfield Three in 3-5-2 v. Uruguay



Chile Central Midfield Three in 3-4-3 v. Spain



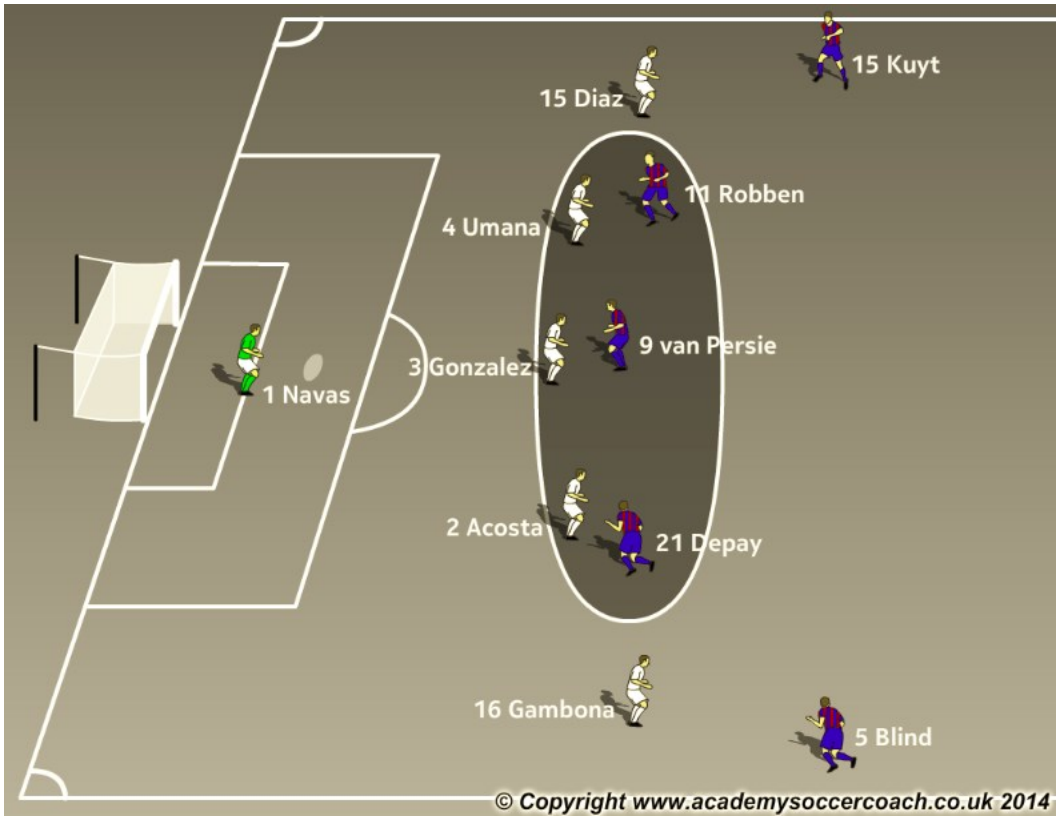
Costa Rica Central Midfield Four v. Netherlands



Costa Rica 5-4-1 v. the Netherlands 3-4-3



Netherlands Front Three Occupying Costa Rican Centre-Backs

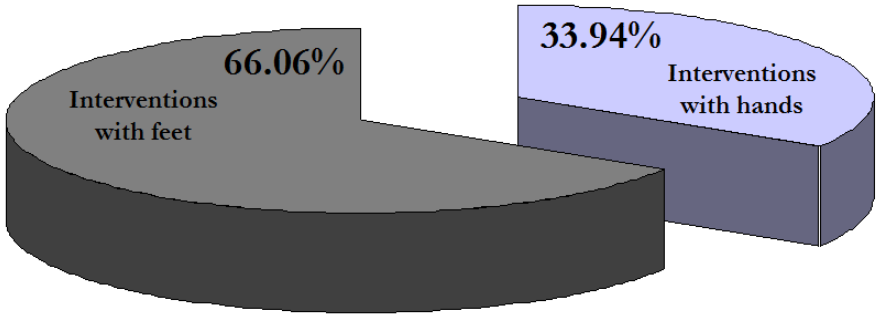


Netherlands 4-3-3 that Finished v. Mexico



Chapter 5

FIFA Study of Goalkeeper Interventions



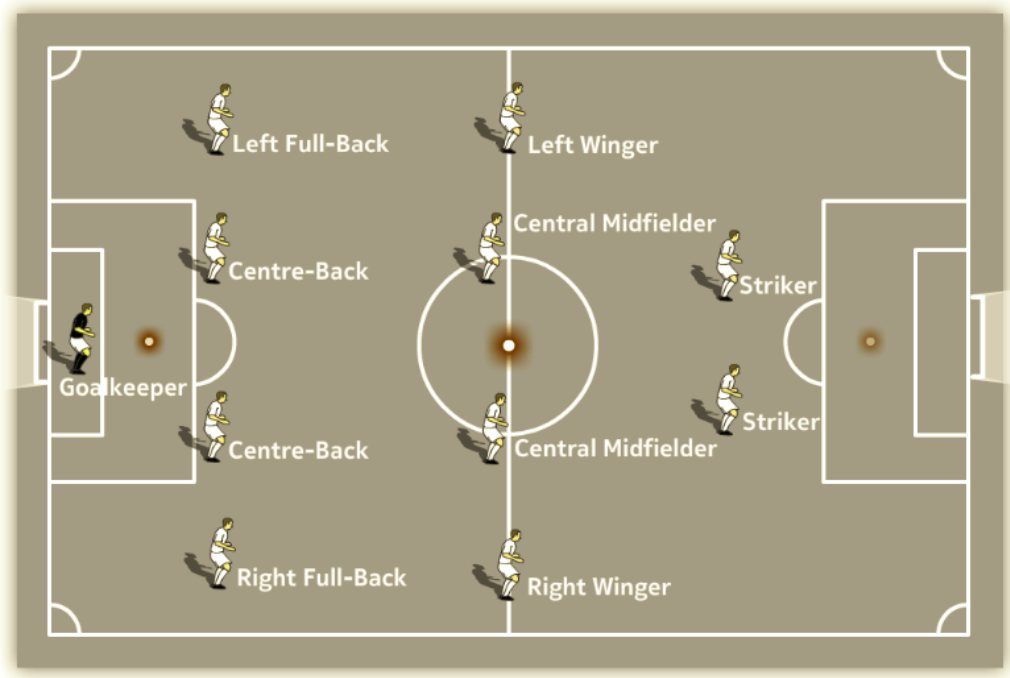
2014 World Cup Highest Pass Accuracy

Rank	Player	Nation	Position	Pass %
1	Garay	Argentina	Centre-Back	94%
2	Mertesacker	Germany	Centre-Back	93%
3	Indi	Netherlands	Centre-Back	91%
4	Luiz Gustavo	Brazil	Deep-Lying Midfielder	91%
5	Vlaar	Netherlands	Centre-Back	91%
6	Lahm	Germany	Midfielder / Full-Back	91%

Full-Back / Wing-Back Assists During World Cup

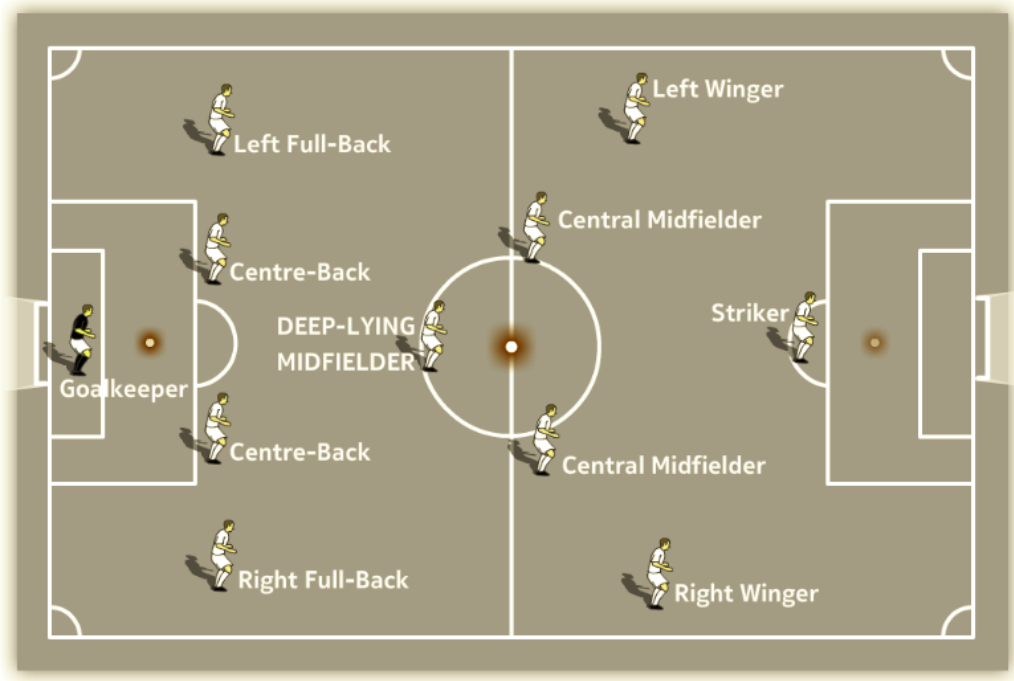
Overall Rank	Player	Team	Assists
=2	Daley Blind	The Netherlands	3
=3	Daryl Janmaat	The Netherlands	2
=3	Marcelo	Brazil	2
=3	Philipp Lahm	Germany	2
=3	Ricardo Rodriguez	Switzerland	2
=3	Serge Aurier	Ivory Coast	2

Positions Before Introduction of Specialist Deep-Lying Midfielder



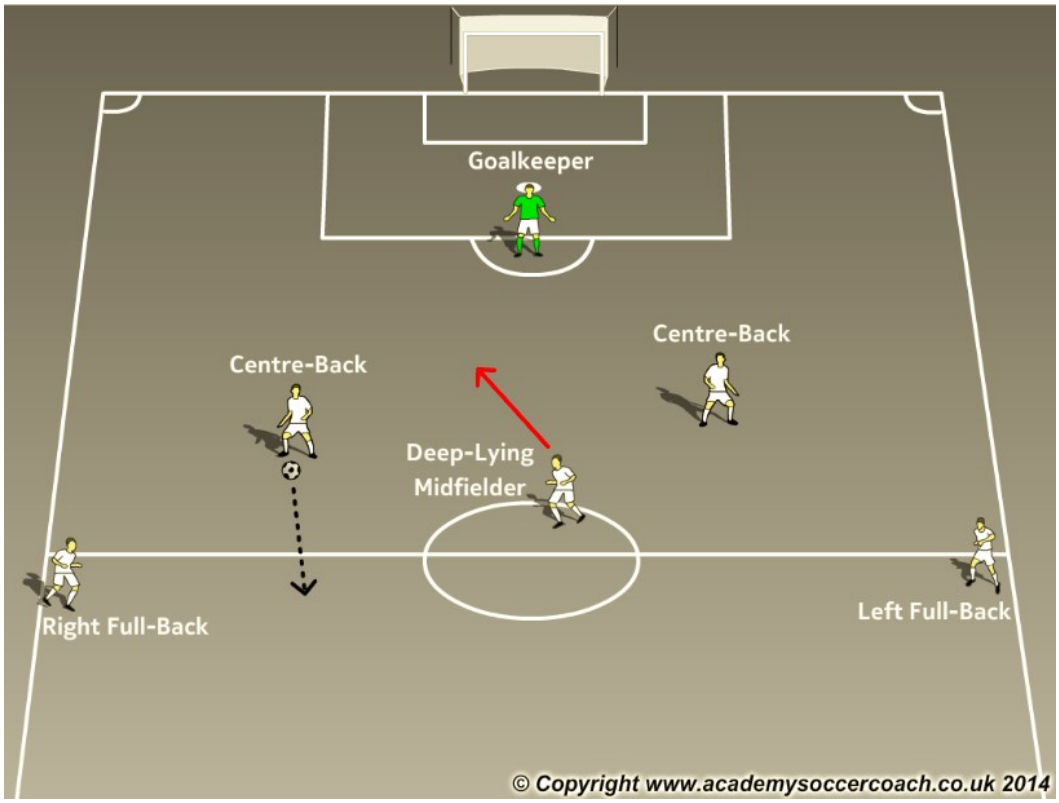
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Modern Formation Containing Deep-Lying Midfielder

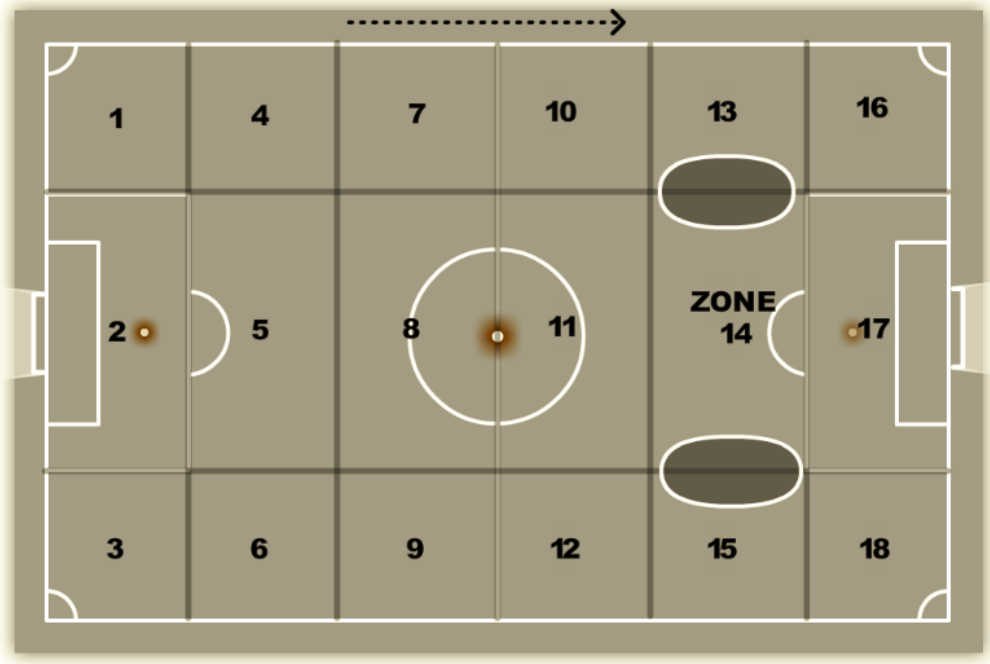


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Deep-Lying Midfielder Dropping Between Centre-Backs in Possession

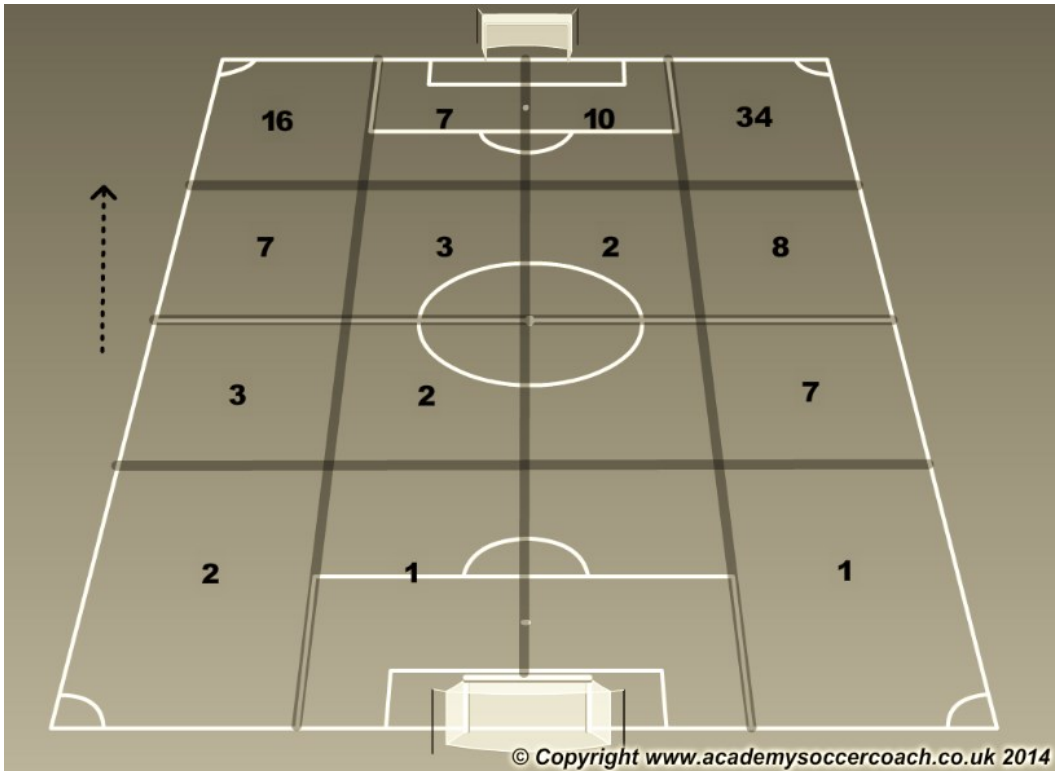


Zone 14



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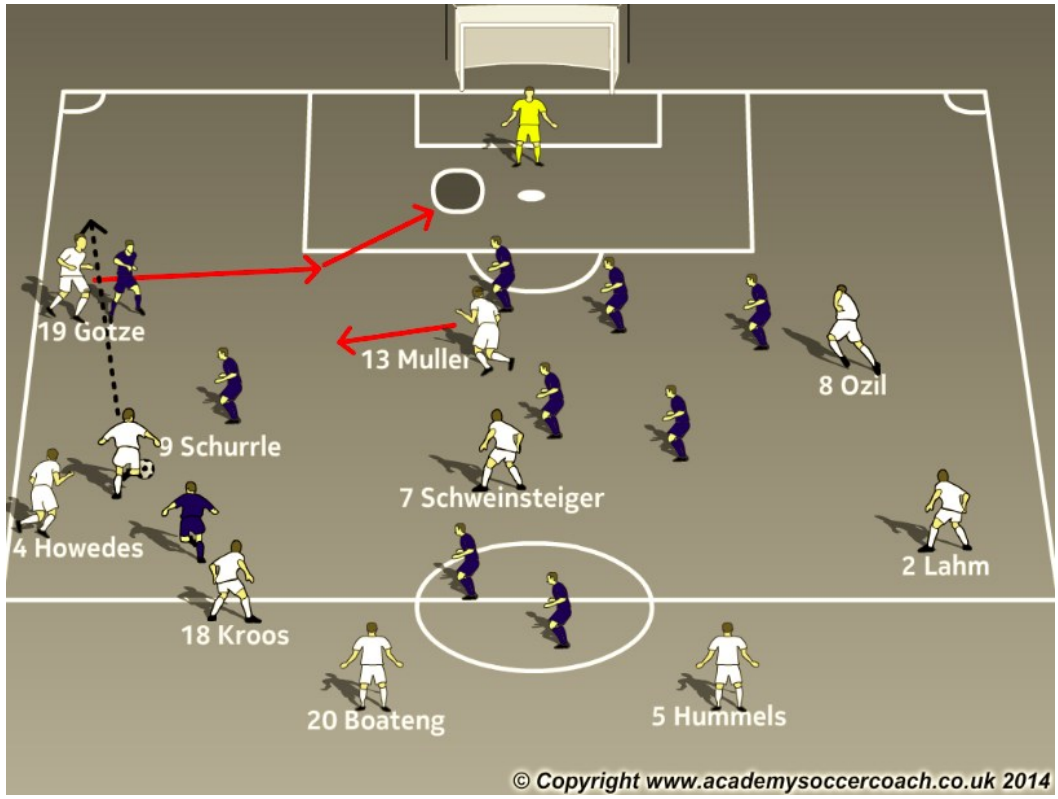
Ángel Di María Individual Possessions v. Switzerland



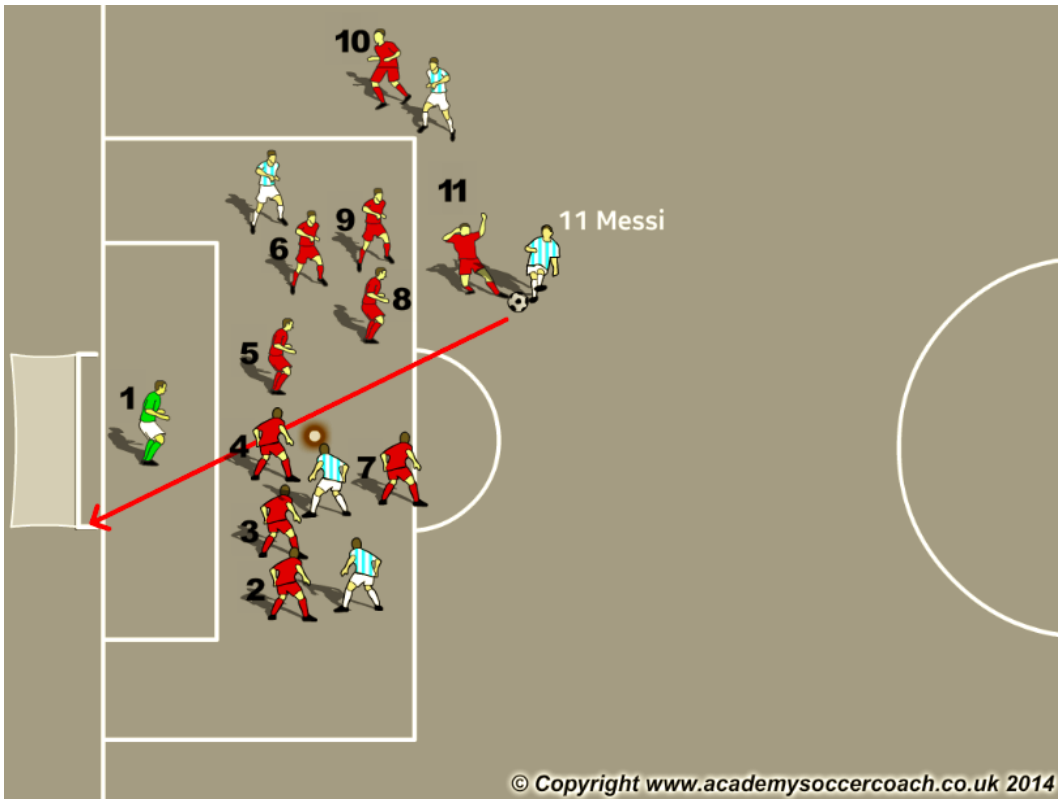
Top 10 Goal Scorers at the 2014 World Cup

Rank	Player	Country	Position	Goals
1	Rodríguez	Colombia	Attacking Midfield	6
2	Müller	Germany	Attacking Midfield	5
3	Messi	Argentina	Attacking Midfield	4
=3	Neymar	Brazil	Attacking Midfield	4
=3	van Persie	The Netherlands	Centre-Forward	4
4	Schürrle	Germany	Attacking Midfield	3
=4	Robben	The Netherlands	Attacking Midfield	3
=4	Valencia	Ecuador	Centre-Forward	3
=4	Benzema	France	Centre-Forward	3
=4	Shaqiri	Switzerland	Attacking Midfield	3

Germany's False 9 System and the World Cup Winning Goal



Messi's Last Minute Winning Goal v. Iran



Top Ranking Goalkeepers – Number of Saves World Cup 2014

Ranking	Goalkeeper	Country	Saves	Conceded
1	Howard	U.S.A.	27	6
2	Neuer	Germany	24	4
3	Enyeama	Nigeria	22	5
4	Navas	Costa Rica	21	2
5	M'Bolhi	Algeria	20	7
5	Benaglio	Switzerland	20	7
5	Romero	Argentina	20	4
8	Cillessen	The Netherlands	17	4
8	Dominguez	Ecuador	17	3
10 =	Bravo / Ospina	Chile / Colombia	16	4

Chapter 6

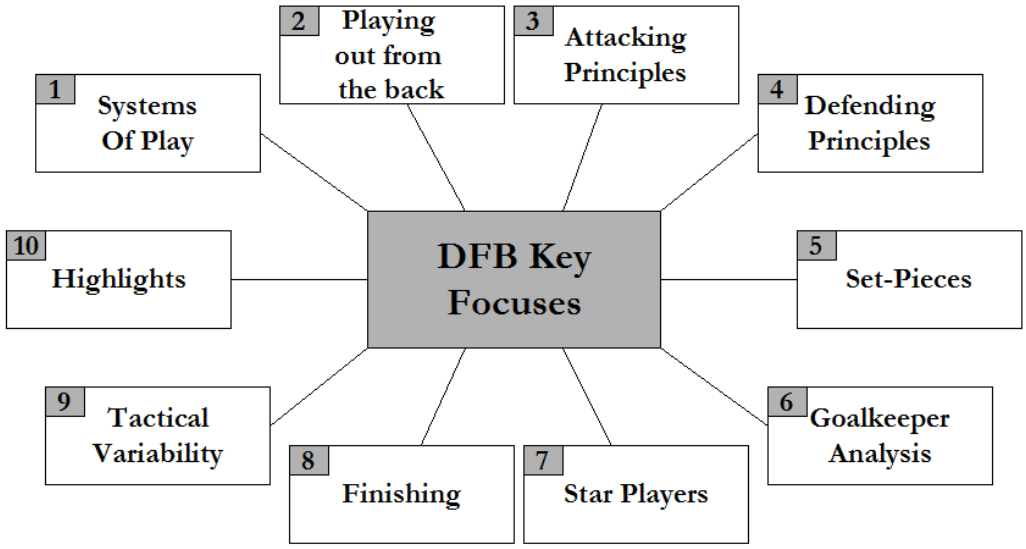
Percentage Possession & Round of Elimination – Top 20

Rank	Nation	% Poss	Round Elim.	Rank	Nation	% Poss	Round Elim.
1	Spain	61.4	Group	11	Brazil	53.3	Sem Fin
2	Germany	59.9	Winners	12	South Korea	52.5	Group
3	Japan*	59	Group	13	Belgium	52.3	Qtr Fin
4	Italy	57.6	Group	14	Russia	51.8	Group
5	France	56.5	Qtr Fin	15	Portugal	51.1	Group
6	Ivory Coast	55.8	Group	16	Croatia	50.6	Group
7	Bosnia	55.4	Group	17	Mexico	49.3	R.16
8	Chile	55.3	R.16	18	Switzerland	48.9	R.16
9	Argentina	55	Final	19	Nigeria	48.9	R.16
10	England	54.3	Group	20	Netherlands	48.5	Sem Fin

**Japan's game against Greece pushed them higher in the possession standings as they had almost 75% of the ball against a Greek team content to squeeze a positive result playing without the ball.*

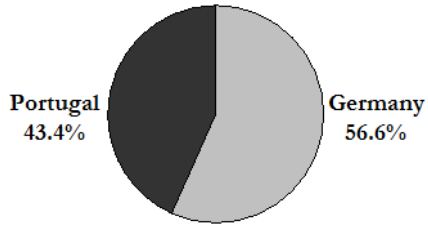
Spain v. The Netherlands Possession Statistics

	Spain	Netherlands
Goals	1	**5**
Attempts	10	**14**
% Possession	**64.5%**	35.5%
Successful Passes	**540 / 619**	276 / 339
Pass %	**87%**	81%
Attacking Third Passes	**86 / 124**	54 / 79


DFB Key Focuses
1 Systems Of Play
2 Playing out from the back
3 Attacking Principles
4 Defending Principles
5 Set-Pieces
6 Goalkeeper Analysis
7 Star Players
8 Finishing
9 Tactical Variability
10 Highlights

Germany Possession Statistics Per Game

Germany Possession Stats
Group Game 1



Successful Passes 479 / 539 (89%)

Germany Possession Stats
Group Game 2



Successful Passes 530 / 615 (86%)

Germany Possession Stats
Group Game 3



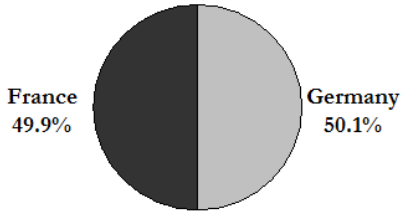
Successful Passes 686 / 748 (92%)

Germany Possession Stats
Round of 16



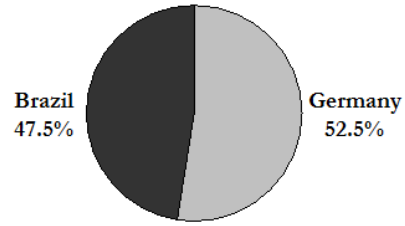
Successful Passes 682 / 793 (86%)

Germany Possession Stats
Quarter-Final



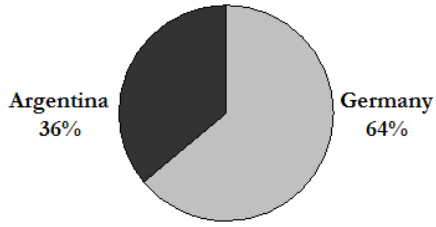
Successful Passes 307 / 400 (77%)

Germany Possession Stats
Semi-Final



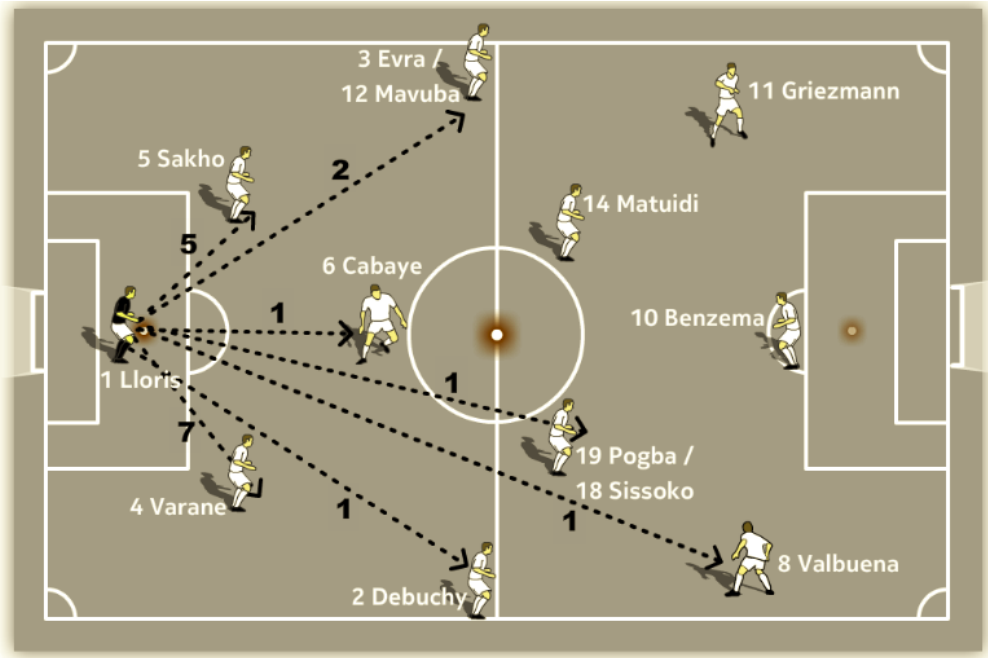
Successful Passes 428 / 528 (84%)

Germany Possession Stats
Final



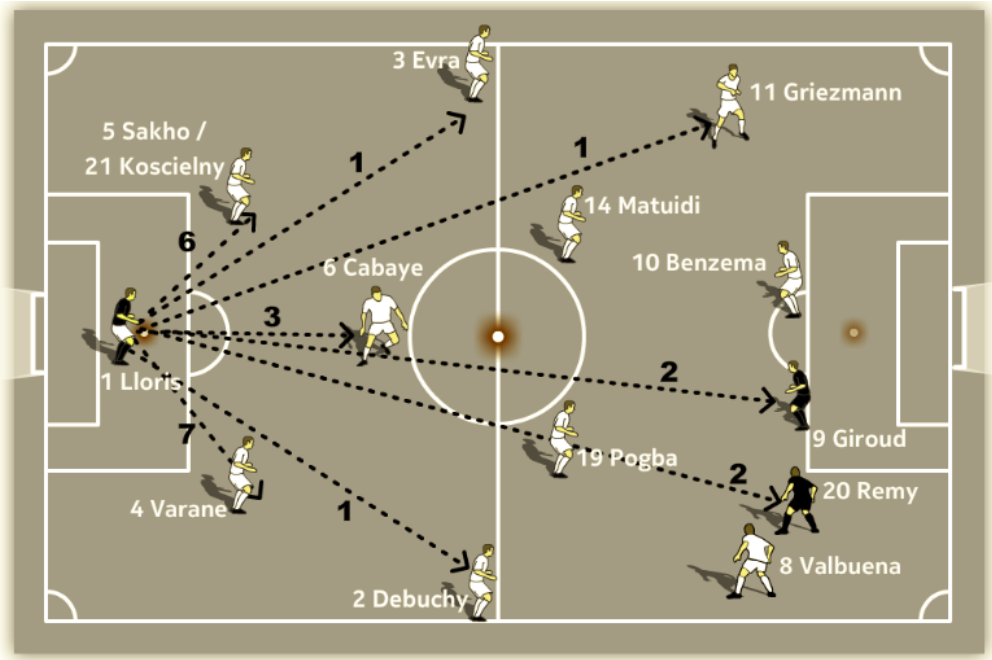
Successful Passes 643 / 749 (92%)

France Playing Out From Lloris (Honduras)



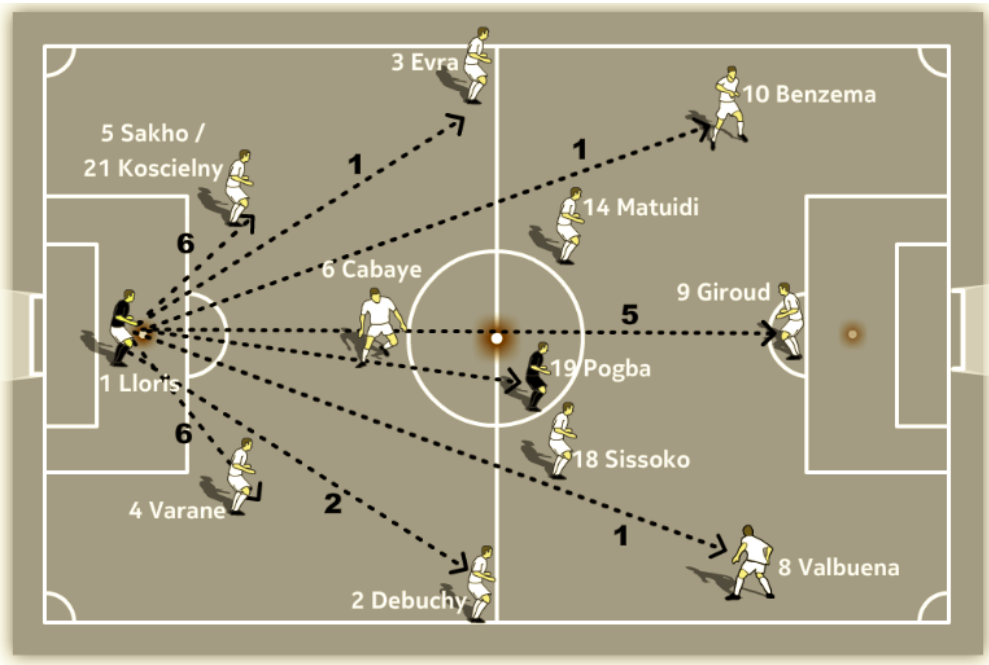
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France Playing Out From Lloris (Germany)



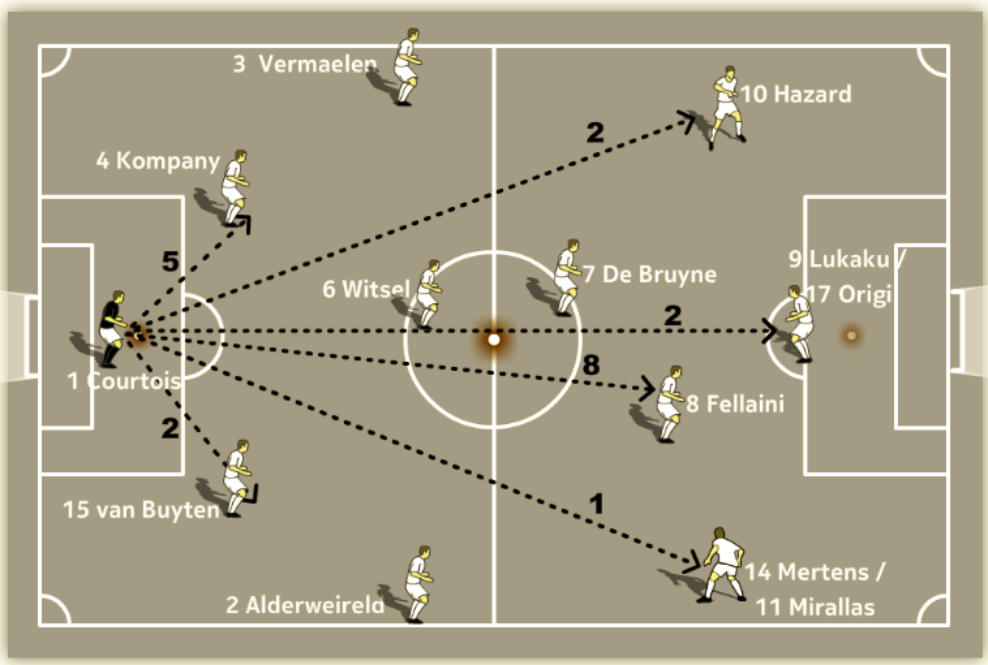
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France Playing Out From Lloris (Switzerland)



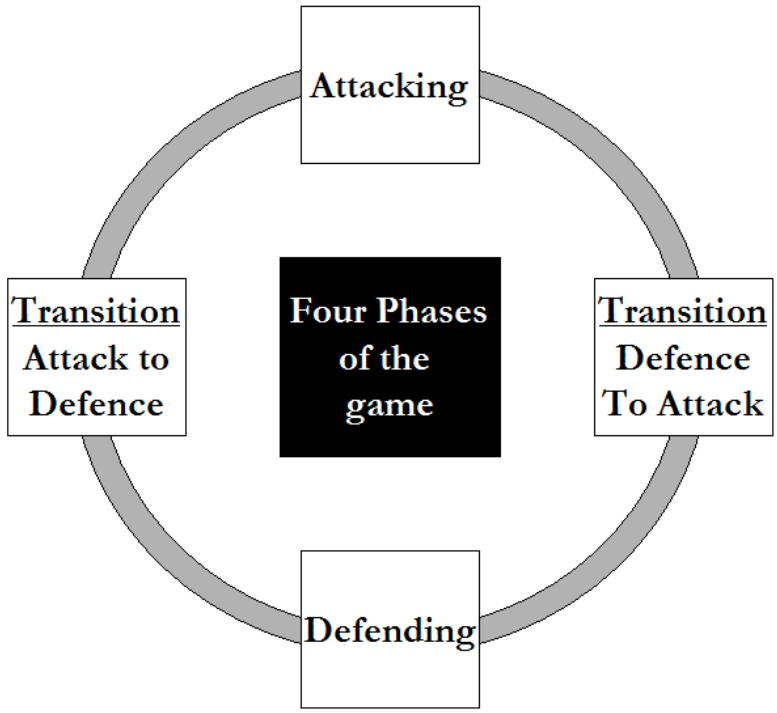
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Courtois Direct into Fellaini v. Russia



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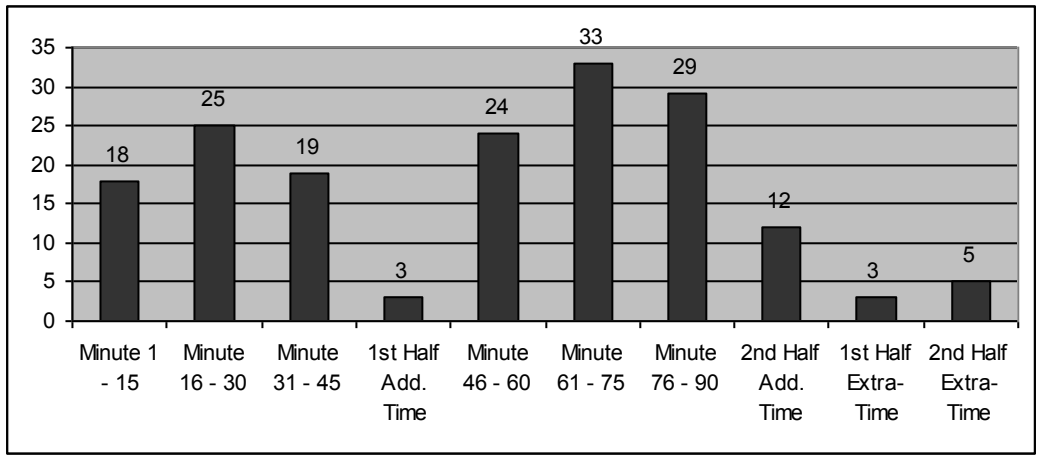
Chapter 7


Attacking
Transition
Attack to
Defence
Four Phases
of the
game
Transition
Defence
To Attack
Defending

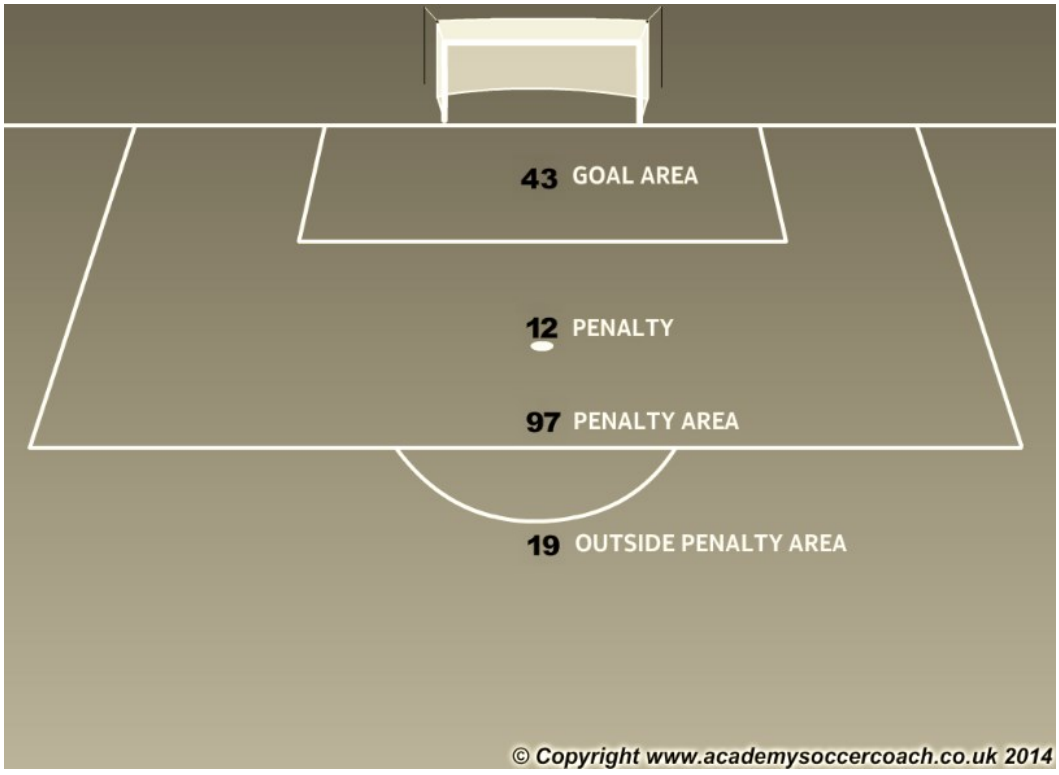
Comparing Brazil 2014 and South Africa 2010Attacking Statistics

	Brazil 2014	**South Africa 2010**
Number of goals scored (total)	**171**	145
Number of goals scored (group games)	**136**	101
Number of goals scored (knockout)	35	**44**
Average goals per game	**2.67**	2.27
Number of matches that ended scoreless	**5**	7
Number of matches with a single goal	**10**	17
Goals scored by substitutes	**32**	15

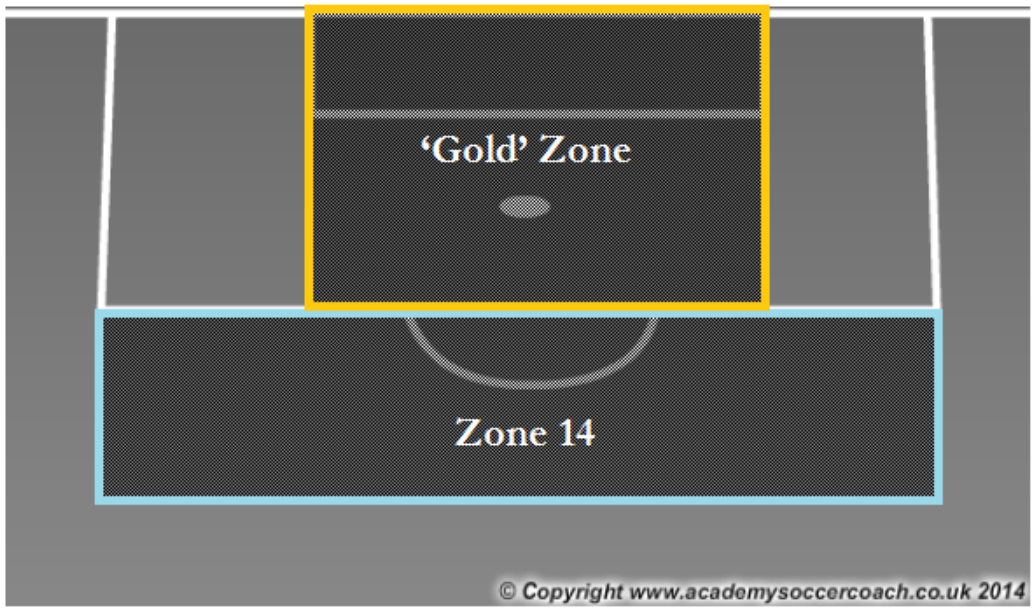
World Cup 2014 Time Breakdown of Goals Scored



Where The 2014 World Cup Goals Came From



Sports Path's 'Gold' Zone



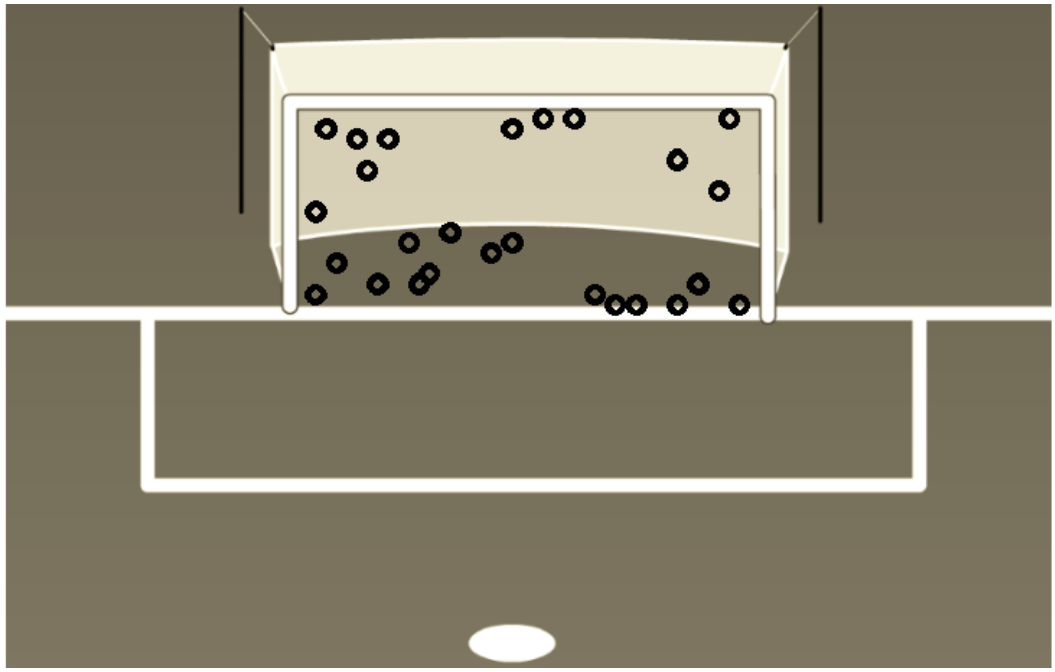
Assists Table at 2014 World Cup

Rank	Player	Team	Assists
=1	Cuadrado	Colombia	4
=1	Kroos	Germany	4
=2	Blind	The Netherlands	3
=2	Muller	Germany	3

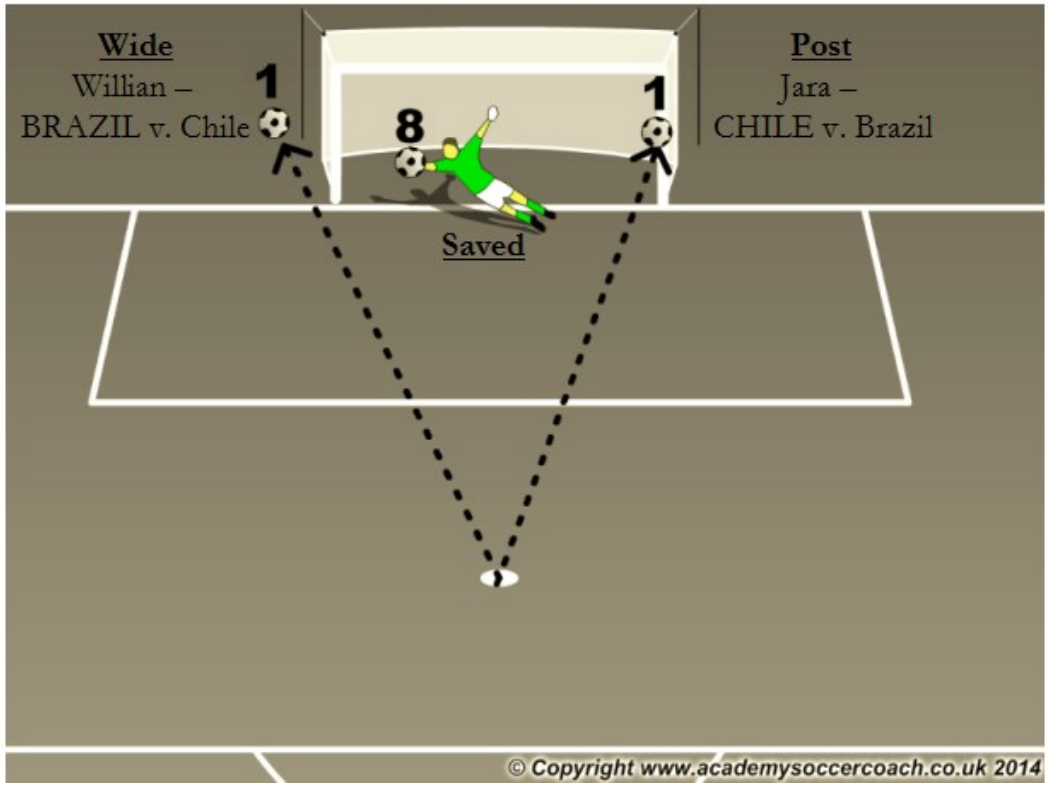
World Cup 2014 Goals Scored From Set-Pieces

Total	38
After a corner-kick (left) [right]	18 (11) [7]
Direct from free-kick	3
After a free-kick	5
From penalty (excl. penalty shoot-outs)	12
Penalties missed	1

Penalties Scored in 2014 World Cup Shoot-Outs

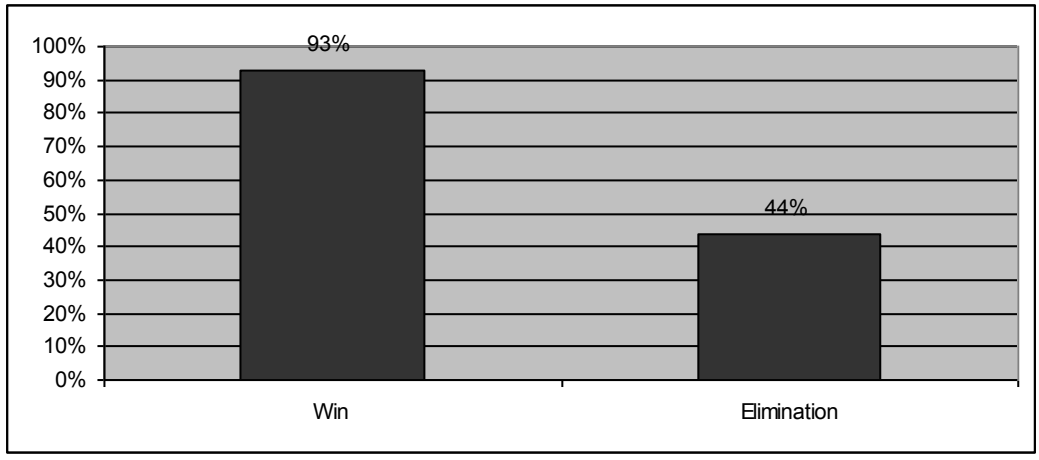


Penalties Missed in 2014 World Cup Shoot-Outs

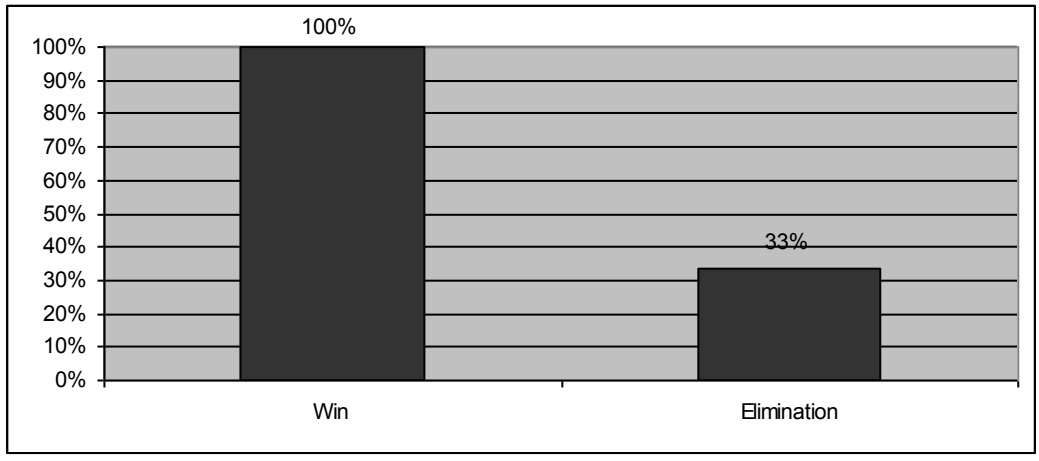


World Cup Shoot-Out Decisive Kicks 1982 – 2010

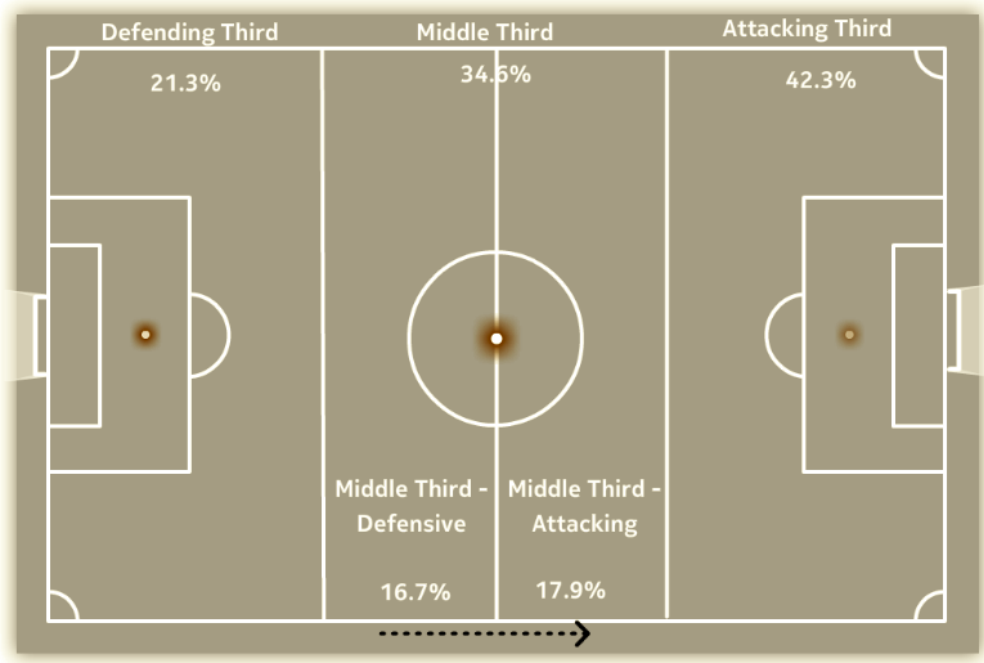
Scoring to Win / Missing Leads to Elimination



2014 World Cup Decisive Kicks



Areas of Pitch Where Ball is Regained Leading to a Goal at the 2014 World Cup



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Valbuena Counter-Attack Goal From Set-Piece v. Switzerland



Chapter 8

Defending Principles of Play[1]

1. Press or Delay	The first consideration, when defending, is whether the team can put pressure on the ball or whether they need to drop off, delay the attack, and reorganise.
2. Support	While the first defender makes the decision about whether to press or delay, his immediate team-mates will look at *what support he needs* and *where*. If the attacker evades the first defender, the second and third defenders can form a secondary barrier between the ball and goal.
3. Balance	'Balance' players are players that are positioned on the 'weak' side of the attack. So, if the attack is building on the left, the attacking players on the right hand side are less of a priority.
4. Compactness	While attacking, players 'disperse' in possession, defending teams attempt to remain 'compact'. By achieving compactness, defenders try to reduce attempts to penetrate the defence.
5. Discipline	There may be times when defending can be stressful and challenging. Any ill-discipline and rash decision-making, especially in and around the box, can lead to attackers exploiting gaps, or the concession of penalty-kicks, free-kicks, etc.

[1] Taken from *Making the Ball Roll – A Complete Guide to Youth Football For the Aspiring Soccer Coach*

In Possession Dispersal v. Out of Possession Compactness



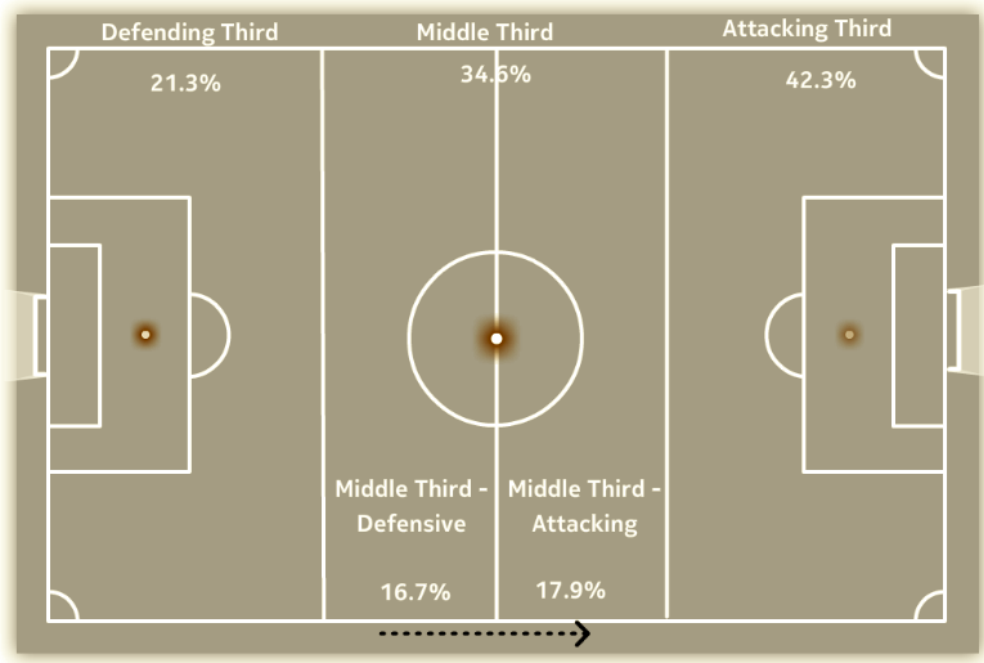
Germany's Fourth Goal v. Brazil



Javier Mascherano Defensive Total 2014 World Cup Statistics

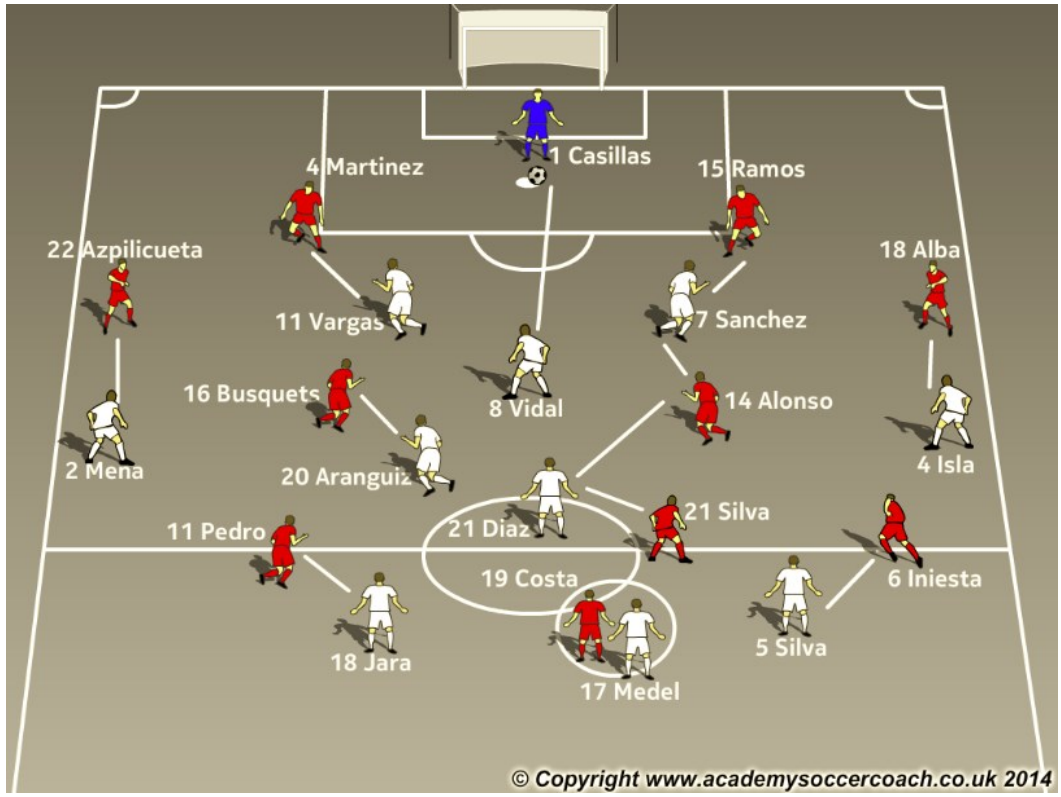
Tackles	30
Interceptions	18
Clearances	13
Fouls Committed	10 (one yellow card)

Areas of Pitch Where Ball is Regained Leading to a Goal at the 2014 World Cup



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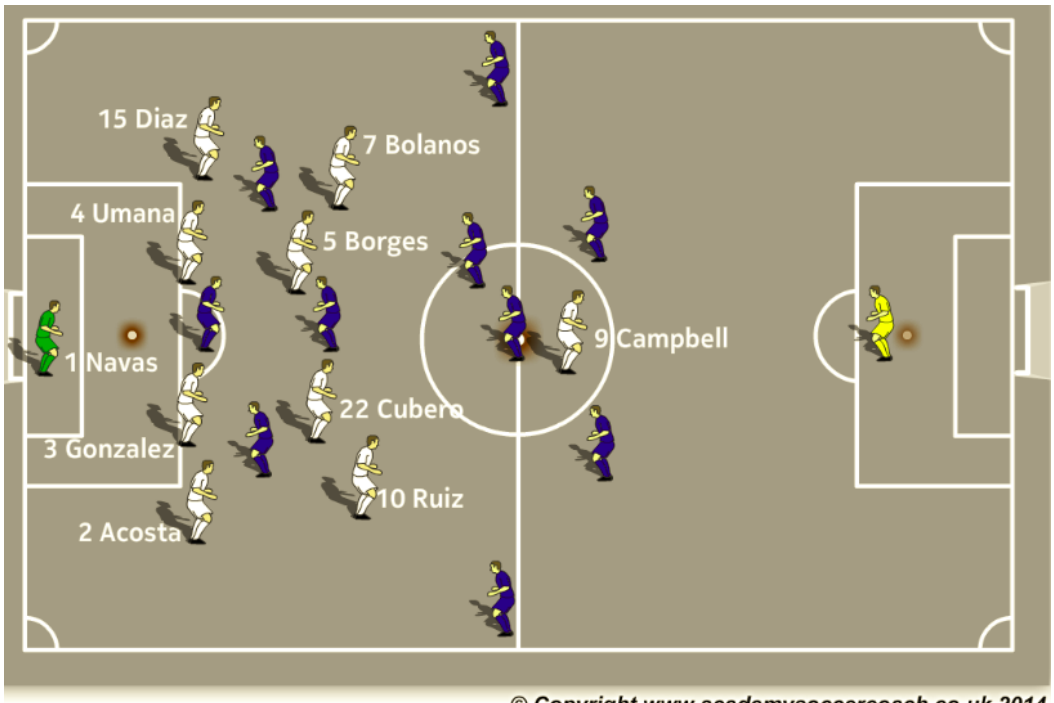
Chile's High Press Against Spain



Iran's Defensive 4-2-3-1 in 0 – 0 Draw v. Nigeria



Costa Rica Defending With Ten Men v. Greece



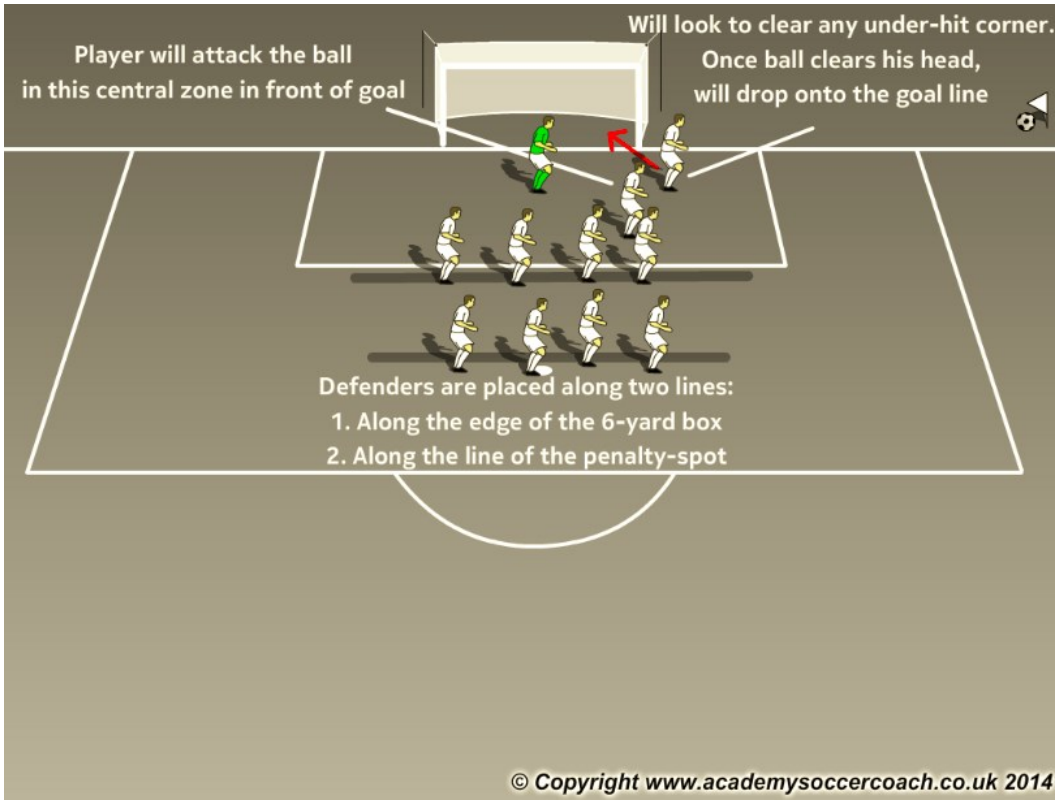
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Spain's Defending Solutions for van Persie Goal

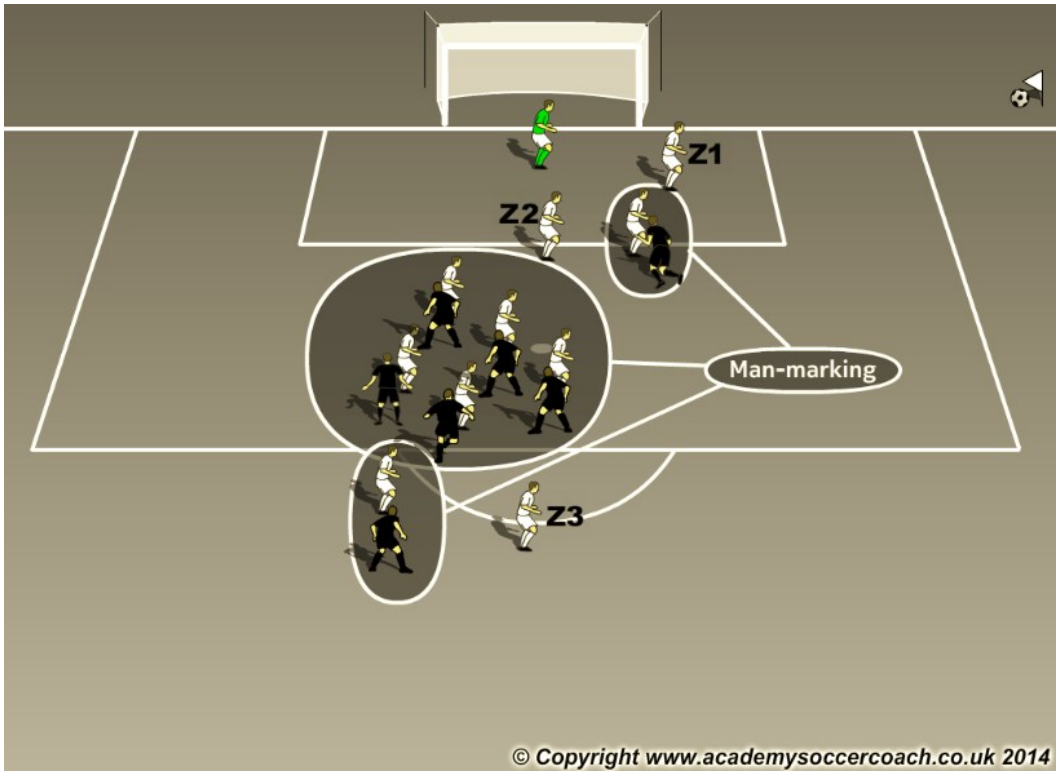


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Switzerland Zonal Marking From Corners



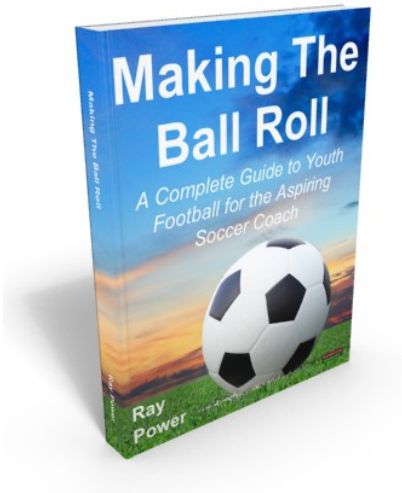
Russia Mixed-Marking v. South Korea



Argentina Defend Corner With Nine Players v. Bosnia



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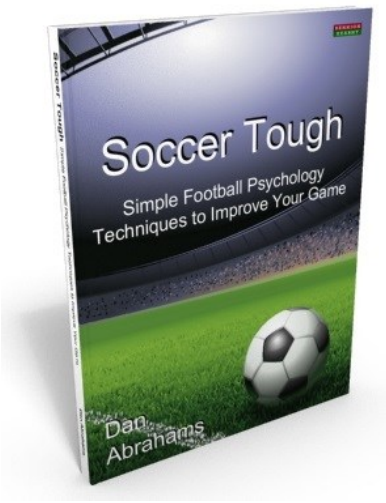
★★★★★ (19)

(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Making The Ball Roll: A Complete Guide to Youth Football for the Aspiring Soccer Coach by Ray Power

Making the Ball Roll is the ultimate complete guide to coaching youth soccer.

This focused and easy-to-understand book details training practices and tactics, and goes on to show you how to help young players achieve peak performance through tactical preparation, communication, psychology, and age-specific considerations. Each chapter covers, in detail, a separate aspect of coaching to give you, the football coach, a broad understanding of youth soccer development. Each topic is brought to life by the stories of real coaches working with real players. Never before has such a comprehensive guide to coaching soccer been found in the one place. If you are a new coach, or just trying to improve your work with players - and looking to invest in your future - this is a must-read book!



★★★★★ (57)

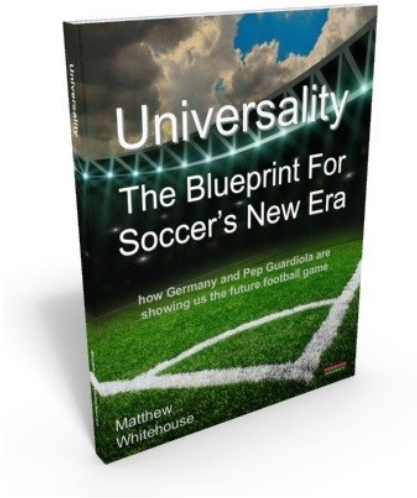
(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Soccer Tough by Dan Abrahams

"Take a minute to slip into the mind of one of the world's greatest soccer players and imagine a stadium around you. Picture a performance under the lights and mentally play the perfect game."

Technique, speed and tactical execution are crucial components of winning soccer, but it is mental toughness that marks out the very best players – the ability to play when pressure is highest, the opposition is strongest, and fear is greatest. Top players and coaches understand the importance of sport psychology in soccer but how do you actually train your mind to become the best player you can be?

Soccer Tough demystifies this crucial side of the game and offers practical techniques that will enable soccer players of all abilities to actively develop focus, energy, and confidence. Soccer Tough will help banish the fear, mistakes, and mental limits that holds players back.

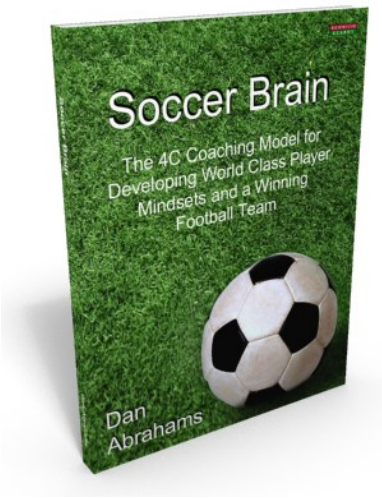


★★★★★ (1)

(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Universality | The Blueprint for Soccer's New Era: How Germany and Pep Guardiola are showing us the Future Football Game by Matthew Whitehouse

In this book, Matthew Whitehouse – acclaimed author of The Way Forward: Solutions to England's Football Failings - looks in-depth at the past decade of the game, taking the reader on a journey into football's evolution. Examining the key changes that have occurred since the turn of the century, right up to the present, the book looks at the evolution of tactics, coaching, and position-specific play. They have led us to this moment: to the rise of universality. Published September 2014.



★★★★★ (28)

(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Soccer Brain: The 4C Coaching Model for Developing World Class Player Mindsets and a Winning Football Team by Dan Abrahams

Coaching soccer is demanding. Impossible to perfect, it requires a broad knowledge of many performance areas including technique, tactics, psychology and the social aspects of human development. The first two components are covered in detail in many texts – but Soccer Brain uniquely offers a comprehensive guide to developing the latter two – player mindsets and winning teams.

Soccer Brain is for the no limits coach. It's for the coach who is passionate about developing players and building a winning team. This is not a traditional soccer coaching book filled with drills or tactics or playing patterns. This book is about getting the very best from you, the coach, and helping you develop a coaching culture of excellence and world class football mindsets.



★★★★★ (58)

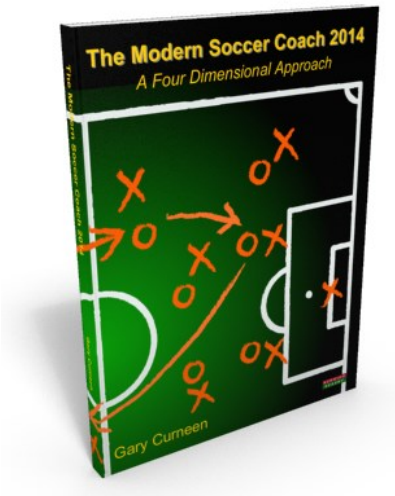
(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

The Way Forward: Solutions to England's Football Failings

by Matthew Whitehouse

English football is in a state of crisis. It has been almost 50 years since England made the final of a major championship and the national sides, at all levels, continue to disappoint and underperform. Yet no-one appears to know how to improve the situation.

In his acclaimed book, The Way Forward, football coach Matthew Whitehouse examines the causes of English football's decline and offers a number of areas where change and improvement need to be implemented immediately. With a keen focus and passion for youth development and improved coaching he explains that no single fix can overcome current difficulties and that a multi-pronged strategy is needed. If we wish to improve the standards of players in England then we must address the issues in schools, the grassroots, and academies, as well as looking at the constraints of the Premier League and English FA.

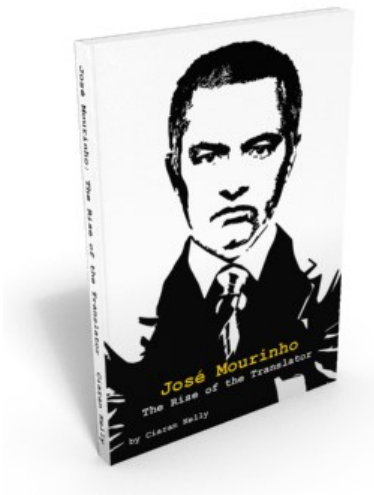


★★★★★ (32)

(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

The Modern Soccer Coach by Gary Curneen

Aimed at Soccer coaches of all levels and with players of all ages and abilities The Modern Soccer Coach 2014 identifies the areas that must be targeted by coaches who want to maximize a team's potential – the Technical, Tactical, Physical, and Mental sides to the game. See how the game has changed and what areas determine success in the game today. Learn what sets coaches like Mourinho, Klopp, Rodgers, and Guardiola apart from the rest. Philosophies and training methods from the most forward thinking coaches in the game today are presented, along with guidelines on creating a modern environment for readers' teams. This book is not about old school methodologies – it is about creating a culture of excellence that gets the very best from players. Contains more than 30 illustrated exercises that focus on tactical, technical, mental, and physical elements of the game.



★★★★½ (4)

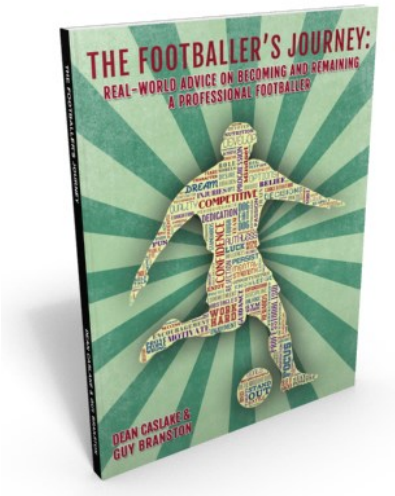
(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

José Mourinho: The Rise of the Translator by Ciaran Kelly

From Porto to Chelsea, and Inter to Real Madrid – the Mourinho story is as intriguing as the man himself. Now, a new challenge awaits at Stamford Bridge. Covering the Mourinho story to October 2013 and featuring numerous exclusive interviews with figures not synonymous with the traditional Mourinho narrative.

"Enlightening interviews with those who really know José Mourinho" – Simon Kuper, Financial Times.

"Superb read from a terrific writer" – Ger McCarthy, Irish Examiner



★★★★★ (5)

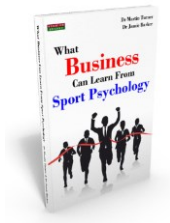
(Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

The Footballer's Journey: real-world advice on becoming and remaining a professional footballer by Dean Caslake and Guy Branston

Many youngsters dream of becoming a professional footballer. But football is a highly competitive world where only a handful will succeed. Many aspiring soccer players don't know exactly what to expect, or what is required, to make the transition from the amateur world to the 'bright lights' in front of thousands of fans.

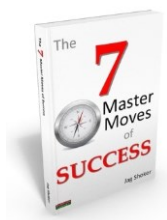
The Footballer's Journey maps out the footballer's path with candid insight and no-nonsense advice. It examines the reality of becoming a footballer including the odds of 'making it', how academies really work, the importance of attitude and mindset, and even the value of having a backup plan if things don't quite work out. Filled with real life stories from current, and former, professionals across different leagues.

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★★★★★ (6) (Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

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by Dr Martin Turner & Dr Jamie Barker



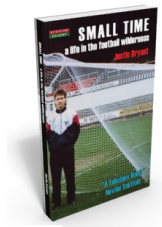
★★★★½ (7) (Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

The 7 Master Moves of Success
by Jag Shoker



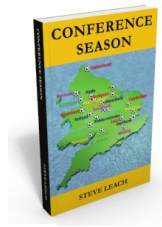
★★★★★ (9) (Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Saturday Afternoon Fever: A Year On The Road For Soccer Saturday
by Johnny Phillips



★★★★★ (2) (Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

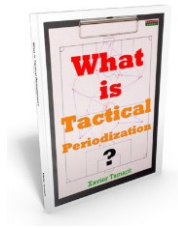
Small Time: A Life in the Football Wilderness
by Justin Bryant



★★★★★ (2) (Amazon.co.uk Sep 2014)

Conference Season [2012/2013 Season]
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What is Tactical Periodization?
by Xavier Tamarit