



Sport-Specific Analysis of the EURO 2008



Focal Points of the Analysis

This analysis focuses on...

... elements within the game of Europe's top nations.





Analysis Area 1: Systems of Play/Positions

Profiles of defensive midfield pairs

Primary qualities in defense (securing the center)



Examples in EURO 2008:

Senna (Spain)

Frings (Germany)

Kovac (Croatia)



Primary qualities in attack (connecting defense and attack)



Examples in EURO 2008:

Xavi (Spain)

Ballack (Germany)

Modric (Croatia)



Analysis Area 1: Systems of Play/Positions Summary



Not systems of play, but individual quality is the most important determinant of success in international football at the highest level!



**Technical
perfection**



**Tactical
flexibility**



**Quick
actions**

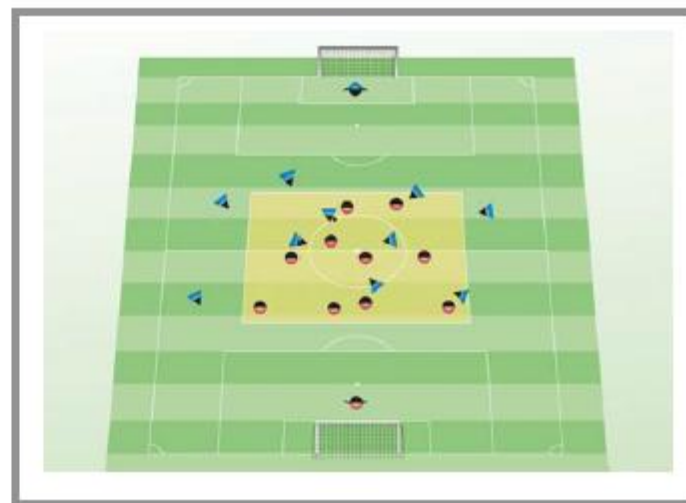


**Winning
mentality**



Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

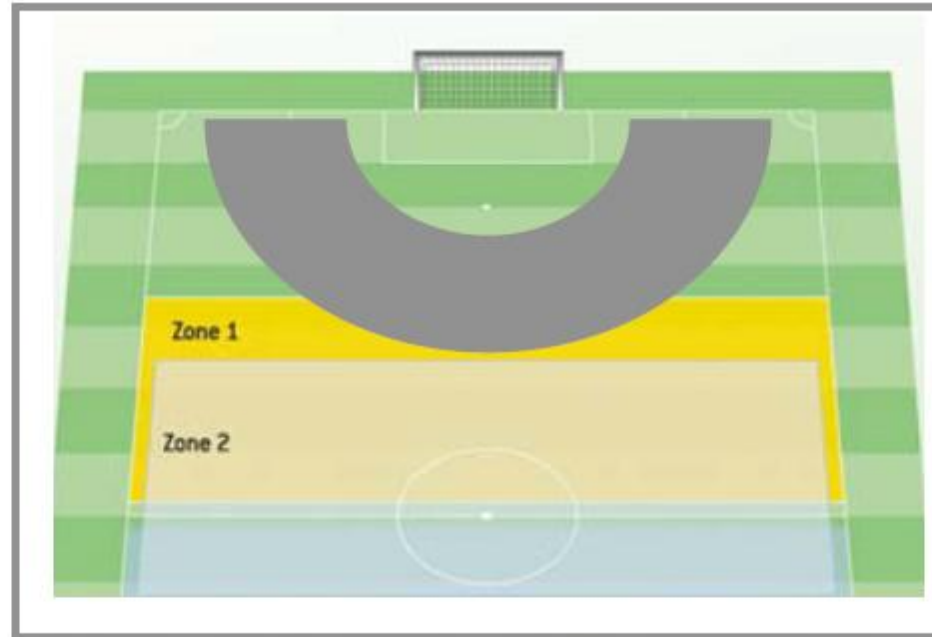
Observation 1: Ball-oriented play has become standard!





Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

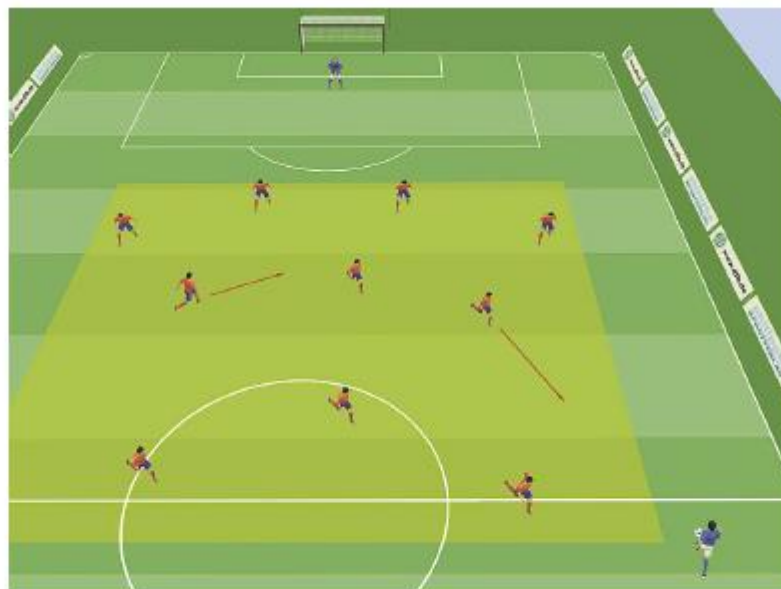
Observation 2: Ensuring safety through falling back and playing low pressure!





Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

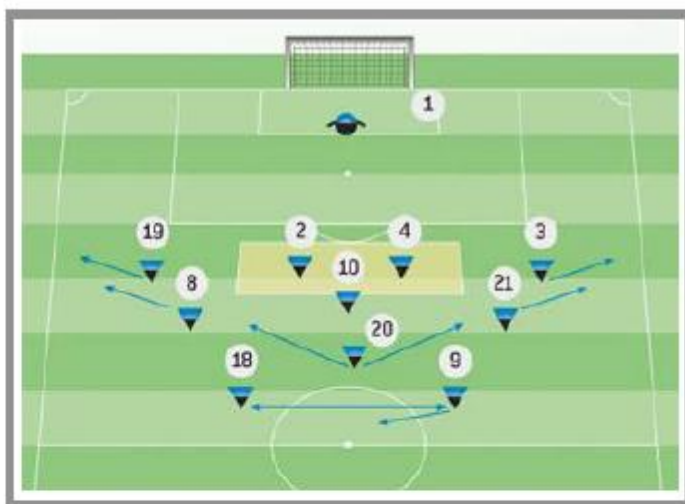
Observation 3: Hardly any team-based midfield pressure/high pressure over extended periods of time!





Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

Observation 4: The center of defense remains closed down!



Example: Italy / Panucci + Chillini



Method 1:

**Center backs
stay central!**



Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

Observation 5: The center of defense remains closed down!



Example: Czech Republic / Galasek



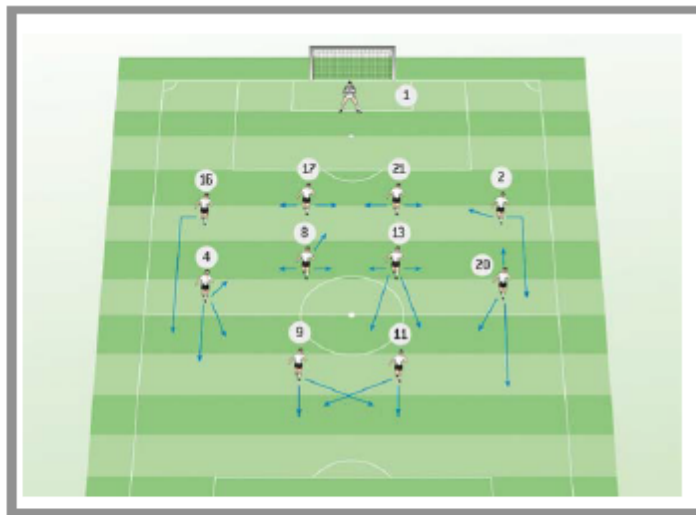
Method 2:

One purely defensive midfielder (No. 6-position)!



Analysis Area 2: Defensive Play

Observation 6: The center of defense remains closed down!



Example: Germany / Frings + Ballack

Example: Holland / DeJong + Engelaar



Method 3:

**Two defensive
midfielders in the
center with
different roles!**



Primary Quality Criteria in International Football at the Highest Level

The determinant of success is individual class, which always has to be embedded in a perfectly functioning team!



“The team-oriented and strong personality is the star”





Consequences for the DFB-Elite Development

Core principles of the DFB-Elite Development such as

-  individualized orientation of the development process
-  focus on applying basic techniques under pressure
-  attacking-mindedness as a basic attitude
-  fitness as the foundation for football-specific qualities
-  teams with personalities
-  winning mentality



are supported by our findings in the EURO 2008!!!

