



**DEVELOPING FORWARDS**

# **Introduction**

- Welcome
- Register and medical forms.
- Gary Phillips.
- Dave Jude.
- Equipment for weekend.
- Communal and Informal.
- Lilleshall.

# LILLESHALL REQUESTS

- Fire arrangements – room doors for information.
- Noise levels ( TV,around the centre.)
- Public facilities – midnight closure.
- Valuables.
- No alcohol.
- Driving speeds.
- Food – collection and return.
- Make own bed !
- Smoking – forbidden on premises - £300 alarms !

**ATTACKING 2010**

# 1990 – 2010 Premiership Game changes !

- More teams regularly keep possession more often. → 1,000 passes Per game !
- More teams keep possession with longer passing sequences.
- More passing and receiving situations are evident. ← 20% more than 2002
- More goals scored from prolonged, passing sequences.
- More successful passes in total – **48 % more than 2002 !**
- More passes are now played below head height.
- More runs with the ball are made.
- More goals are scored from central approaches ( **Big 4 !** )
- More teams are regaining possession deeper and Counter Attacking quicker.
- Offsides now occur deeper.
- Tempo changes more marked.

Prozone

CB's 85% + pass rates  
From 50 + possessions !

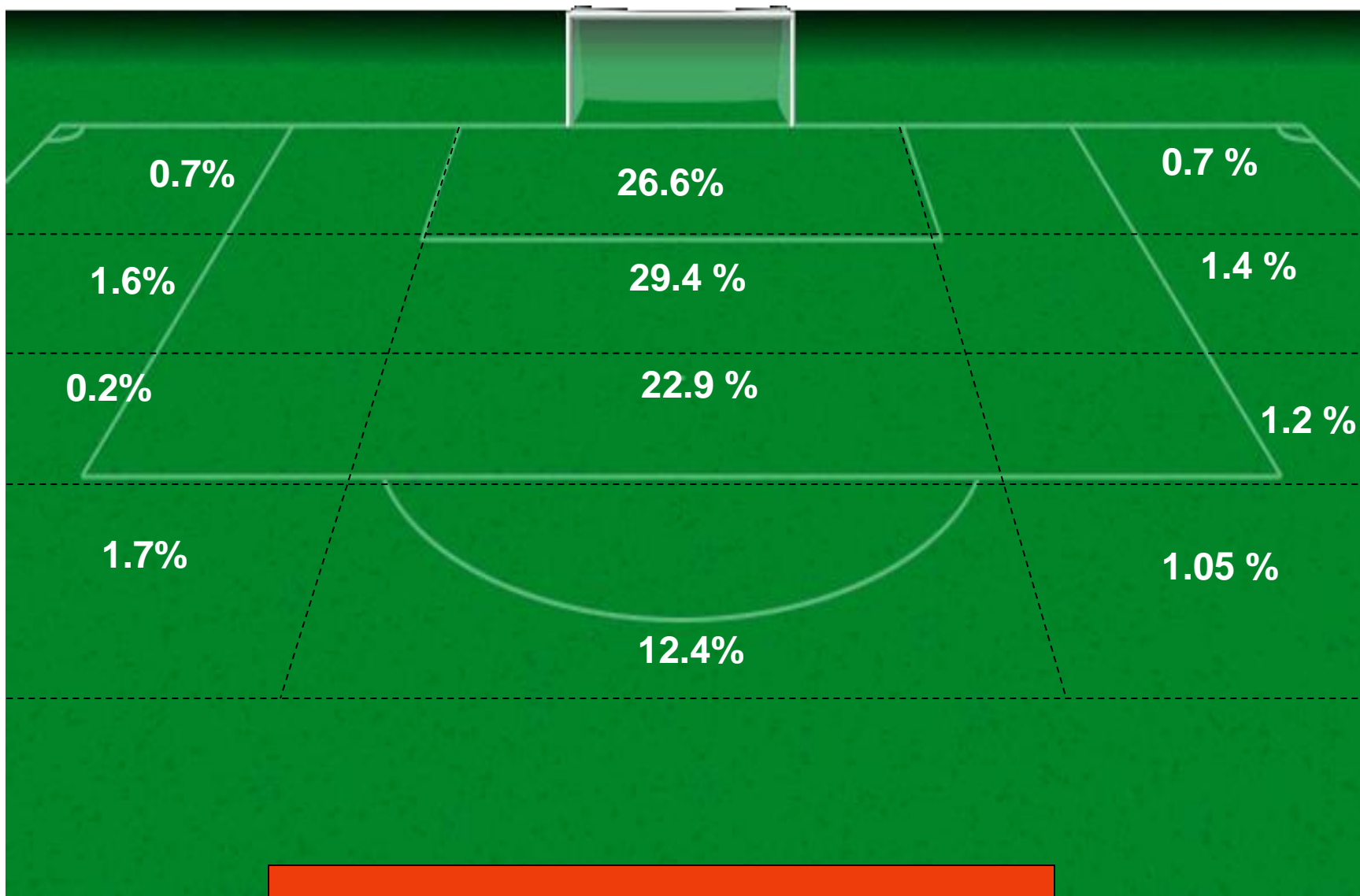
## OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

- a) Improved playing surfaces.
- b) Ball speed increase.
- c) Improved footwear.
- d) Time keeping efficiency.
- e) Larger squads and player rotation.

# Premiership Season 2009 - 2010

## GOAL-SCORING

- Considerable increase in Set Play goals scored – 36% of all goals. (34% FL)
- Lower teams score higher % goals from set plays than top 4 clubs. ( Only 10% difference in FL from top to bottom 4)
- Top 4 teams score 70% goals from open play.
- Top 4 score more goals with 1 touch - 70% goals from 1 touch finish. (66% in FL)
- 23.5% goals from crosses this season. (19% in FL)
- Top 4 deliver x2 more crosses than bottom 4 teams.
- 1 Goal for every 67 crosses delivered !
- 1.5% conversion rate. (1.6% conversion rate in FL)
- Top 4 teams score 33% more goals from 1 touch than others.
- Top 4 teams move ball quicker than others. (FL also )



**GOALS SCORED IN THE PREMIERSHIP  
SEASON 2009 - 2010**

# Average contact **TIME** on the ball.

## PREMIER LEAGUE

2.67 seconds

## SPANISH LEAGUE

2.75 seconds

## MAJOR LEAGUE

2.74 seconds

## INTERNATIONAL

2.94 seconds

## **AVERAGE** **NUMBER** OF CONTACTS

## TOUCHES

2.04

## TOUCHES

2.29

## TOUCHES

2.03

## TOUCHES

2.17

IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ?

# Average contact **TIME** on the ball

## PREMIER LEAGUE

2.67 seconds

## SPANISH LEAGUE

2.75 seconds

## MAJOR LEAGUE

2.51 seconds

**HOW TO MAXIMISE TWO SECONDS OF POSSESSION  
AND TWO TOUCHES ?**

**AVERAGE**

**CONTACTS**

## TOUCHES

2.29

## TOUCHES

2.03

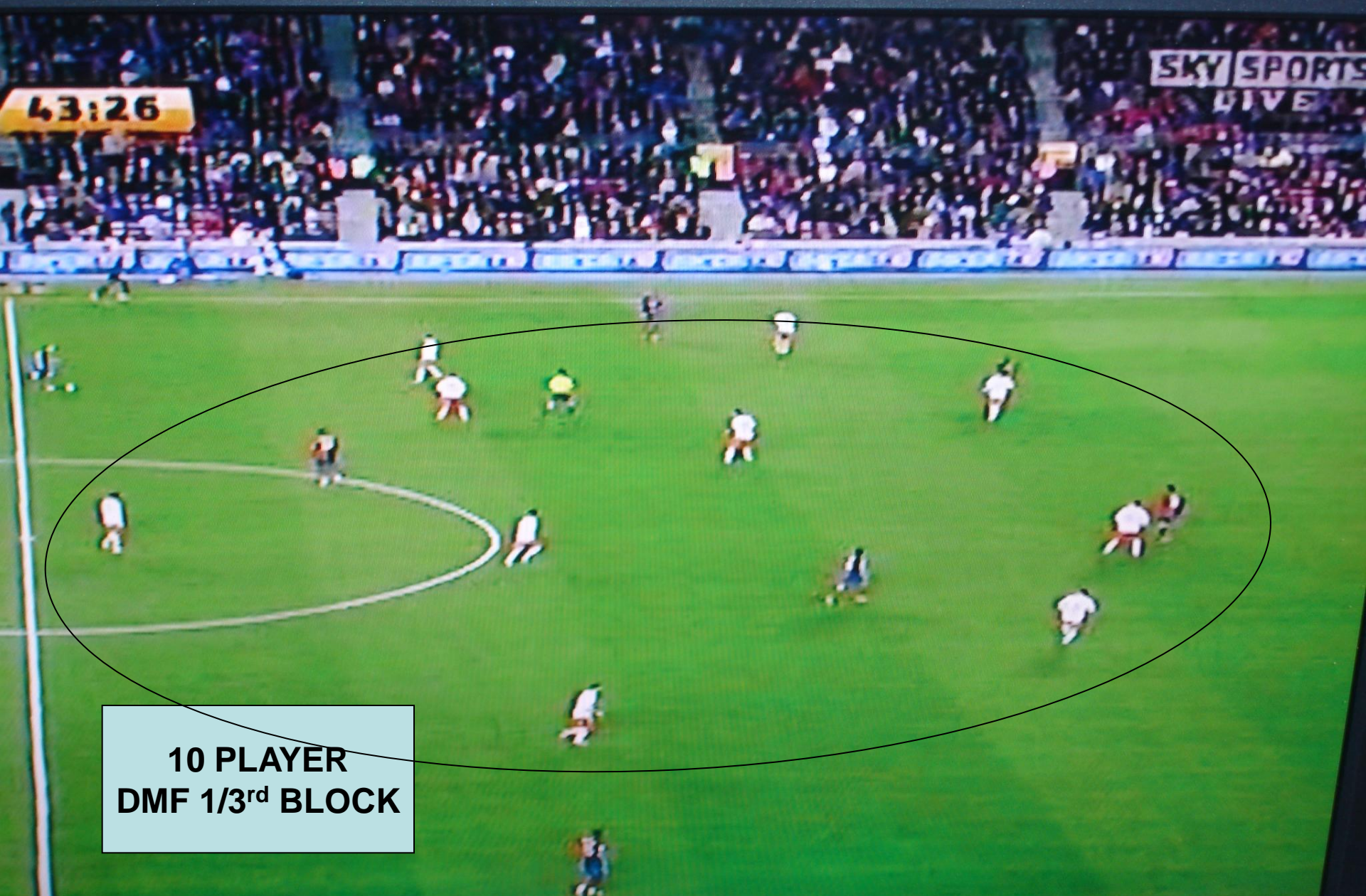
## TOUCHES

2.17

**IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ?**

TACTICALLY & TECHNICALLY

IN THE ATTACKING THIRD ?



**10 PLAYER  
DMF 1/3<sup>rd</sup> BLOCK**

**BEATING THE BLOCK**

**FACTORS INVOLVED ?**

# THROUGH THE BLOCK

## - penetrating the back line !

### TARGETS BEHIND !

Orientation of the back-line  
Position of the GK  
Pressure angles on the ball  
Pass quality of ball holder  
Movements by attackers  
Movements by MF and other players eg FB

@ right time !

### THE PASSER !

Fast } Intent & circumstance  
Slow }  
No or minimal backlift - instant  
Varied surface angle at contact  
No clues (mastery of disguise)  
Unexpected & unusual !  
Last second changes of mind and action  
Necessary **“additives.”**

### TARGETS IN FRONT

Back to OR facing goal ?  
Movement to receive – where, when how ?  
“ KNOW “

#### **Receive and manage the “fast pass”**

- **for self** (bodywork, turns etc)
- **for others** ( lay-offs behind )  
(lay offs in front)  
(lay-offs and spin).  
(AERIAL / GROUND)

Manage the soft pass.

3<sup>rd</sup> man play

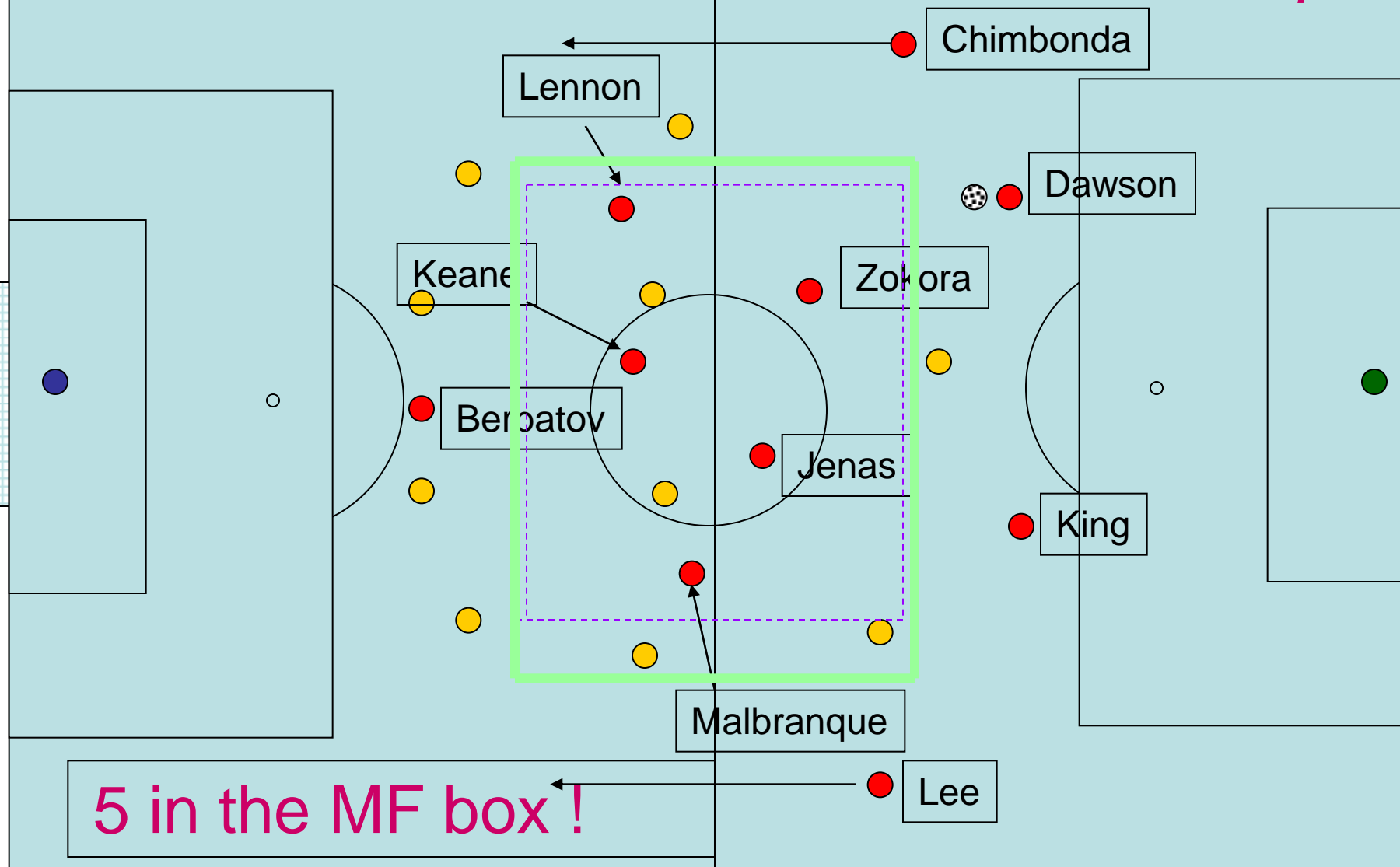
Turns off defenders & turns to **square up** !..

Combination play – ½, 1/2/3, 1/2/3/4.

→ **Distance  
& Circumstance !**

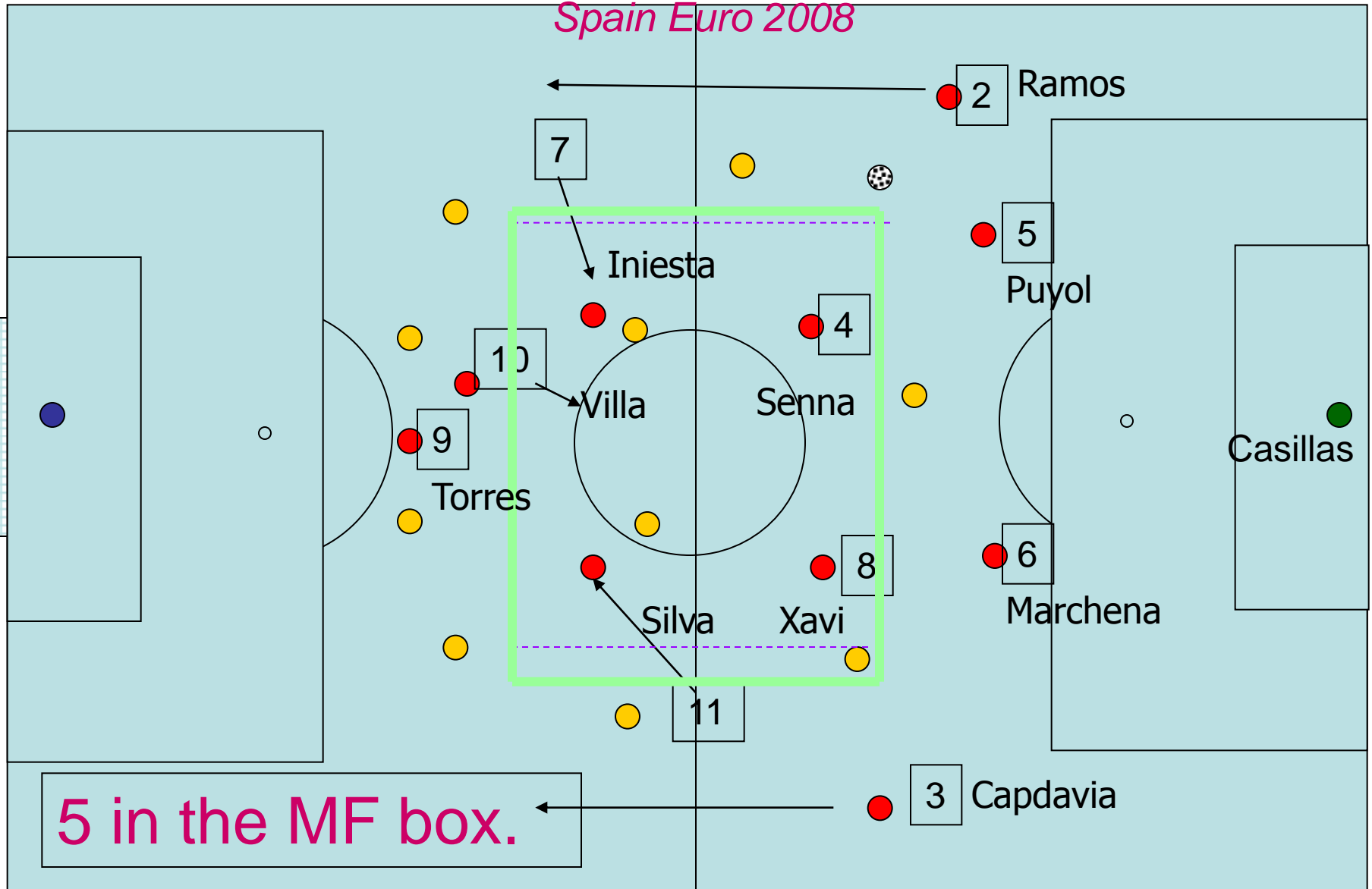
**ATTACKING CENTRALLY**

# OVERLOADING CENTRAL MIDFIELD AREAS - *Tottenham Hotspur*



# OVERLOADING CENTRAL MIDFIELD AREAS

*Spain Euro 2008*



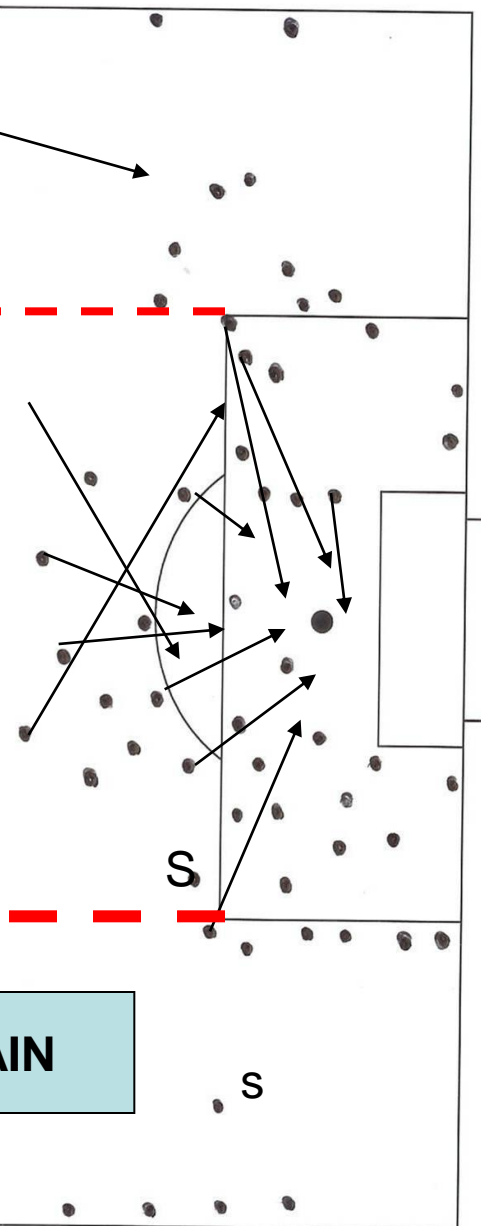
**Spain**

28

# EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

## LOCATION of the FINAL PASS

**FINAL PASS FOR THE GOAL - SPAIN**



# Methods Of Beating The Defensive Block?

## UCL 2007-2008

### That Beat The Block

**Getting Free In The Hole**

**Crosses**

**Solo Play**

**Central Through Passes**

**1 Touch Passes**

**1-2 Combination Play**

**Long Passes**

## Prevalence Goals

**39%**

**35%**

**34%**

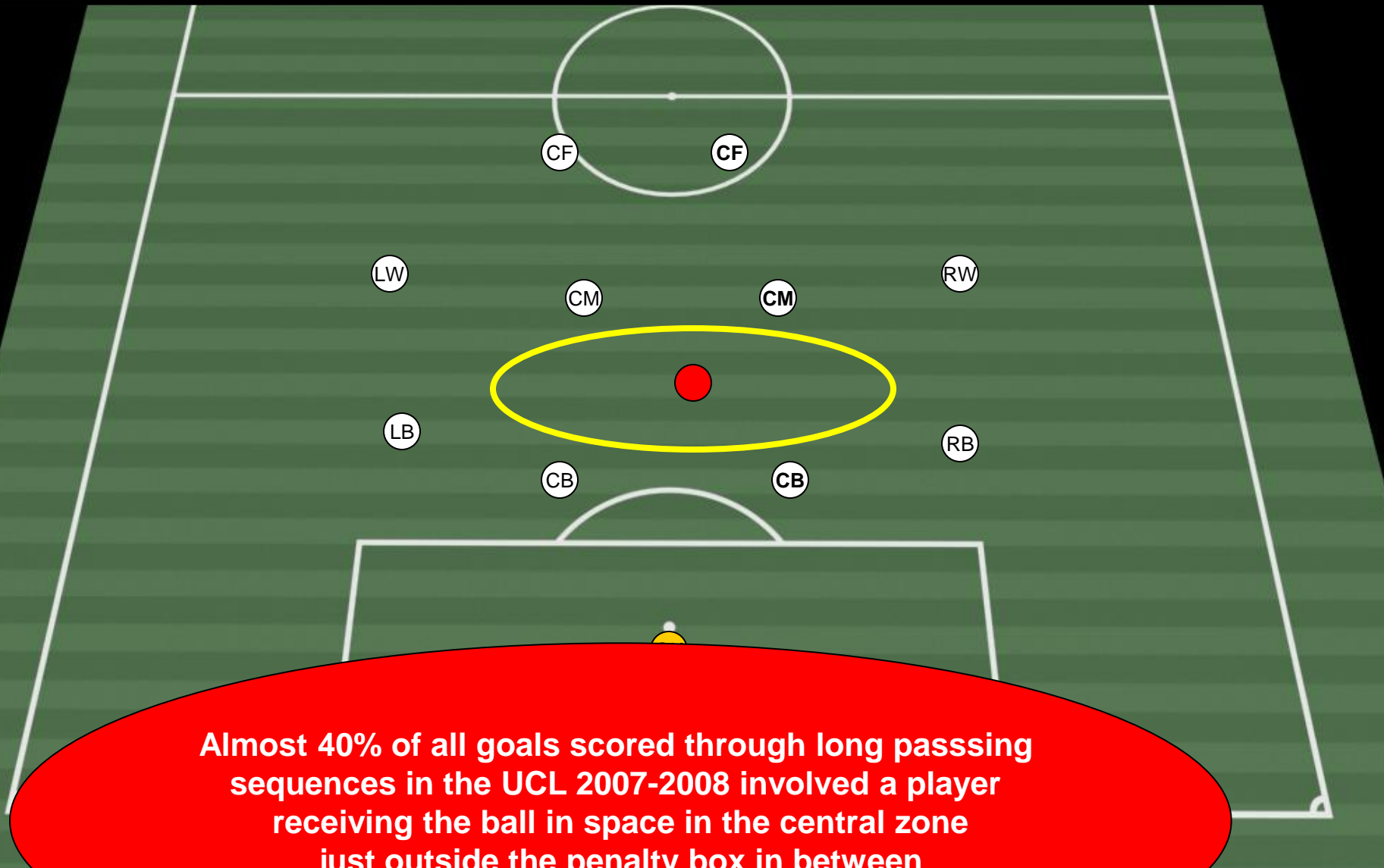
**27%**

**27%**

**25%**

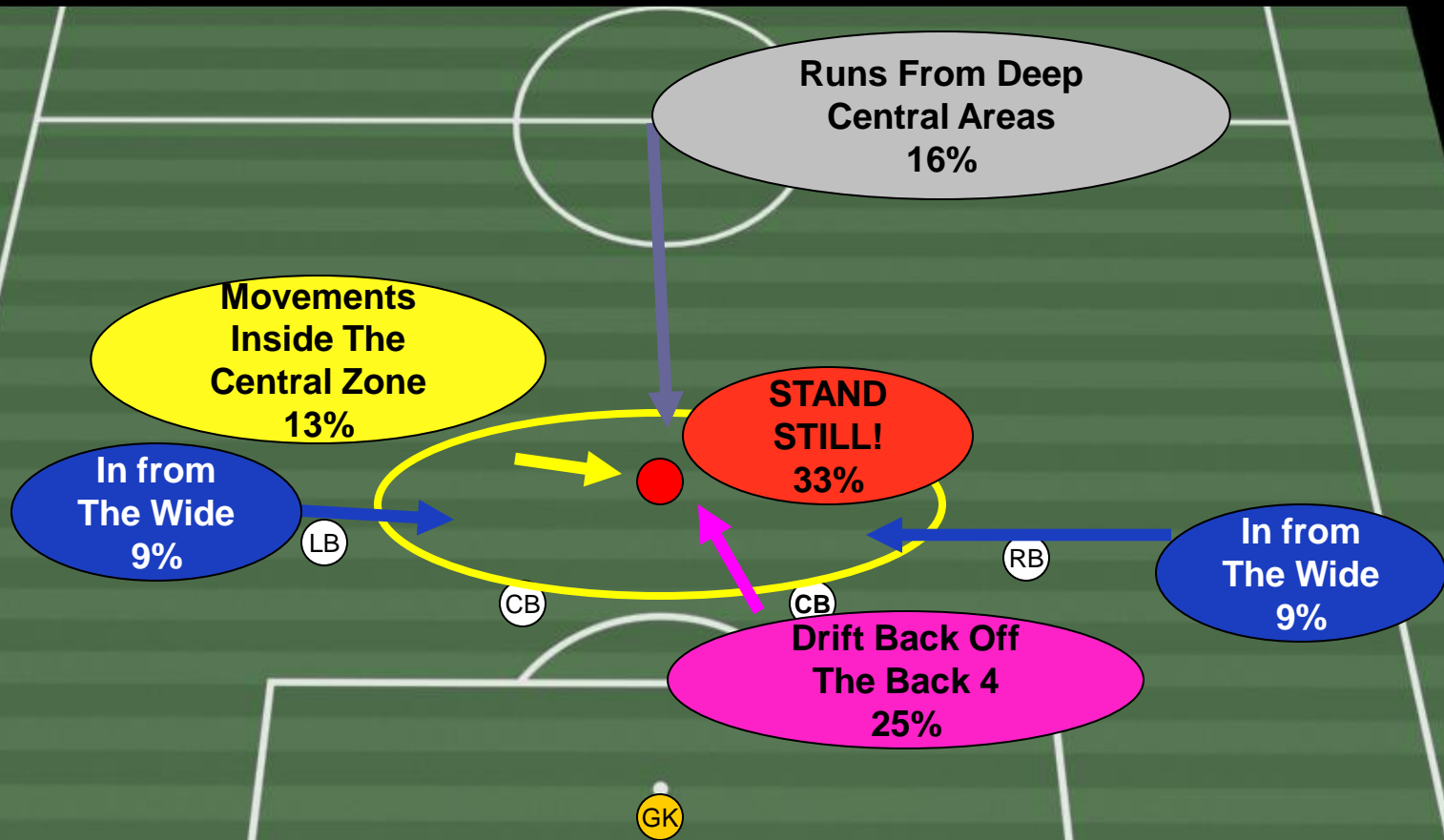
**25%**

# Getting Free In “The Hole”



Almost 40% of all goals scored through long passing sequences in the UCL 2007-2008 involved a player receiving the ball in space in the central zone just outside the penalty box in between the defensive and midfield units

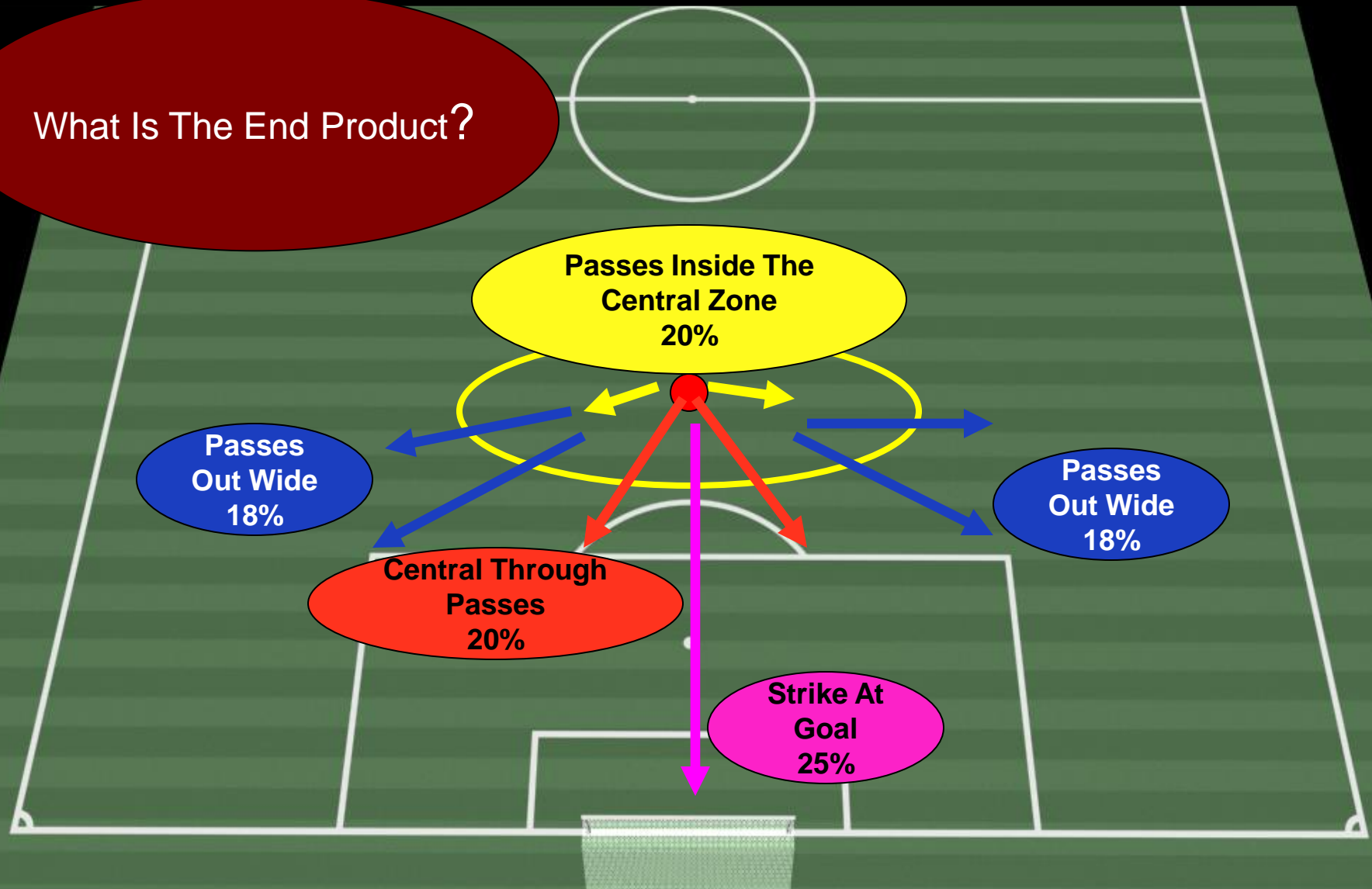
# Getting Free In The Hole



How Does He Get Into A Position To Receive?

# Getting Free In The Hole

What Is The End Product?



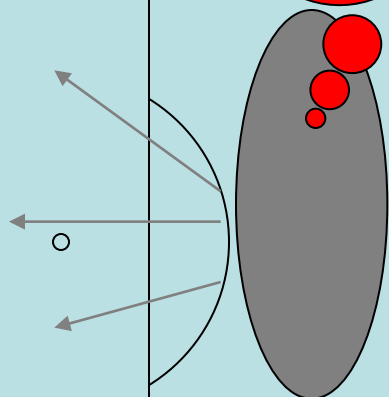
**ATTACKING CENTRALLY**

Central Approach Play.

( Entering the Penalty Box.)

# ZONE 14

How and  
when to  
best enter  
this area ?



WC 2002

-most important  
area for goal assists.

Euro 2004

49% entries into  
box from zone 14

1998 WC & Euro 2000

50% France goals

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2008 – 2009

“Approximately one third of open play goals came from central area penetration.”  
UEFA TECHNICAL REPORT

# **ZONE 14**

10 Premier League Games

Teams on average had 30 possessions per game in Z 14

26% possessions in Z14 resulted in a strike at goal.

73 % of all goals scored came via a possession in Z 14

30 % of all possessions in Z 14 produced a goal.

An attempt at goal occurred every 4 possessions in Z 14

A goal occurred for every 31 possessions in Z 14

Playing from Z 14 into the penalty area produced more attempts at goal and goals than passes played from elsewhere.

How and  
when to  
best enter  
this area ?

# Methods Of Beating The Defensive Block?

UCL 2007-2008 Goals That Beat “The Block”.

*Getting Free “In The Hole”* **39%**

Crosses	35%
Solo Play	34%
Central Through Passes	27%
1 Touch Passes	27%
1-2 Combination Play	25%
Long Passes	25%

Prozone

Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester Utd, Liverpool now make more final passes to the goal-scorer from central approaches than any other route.

Spain S

28

**SPAIN**

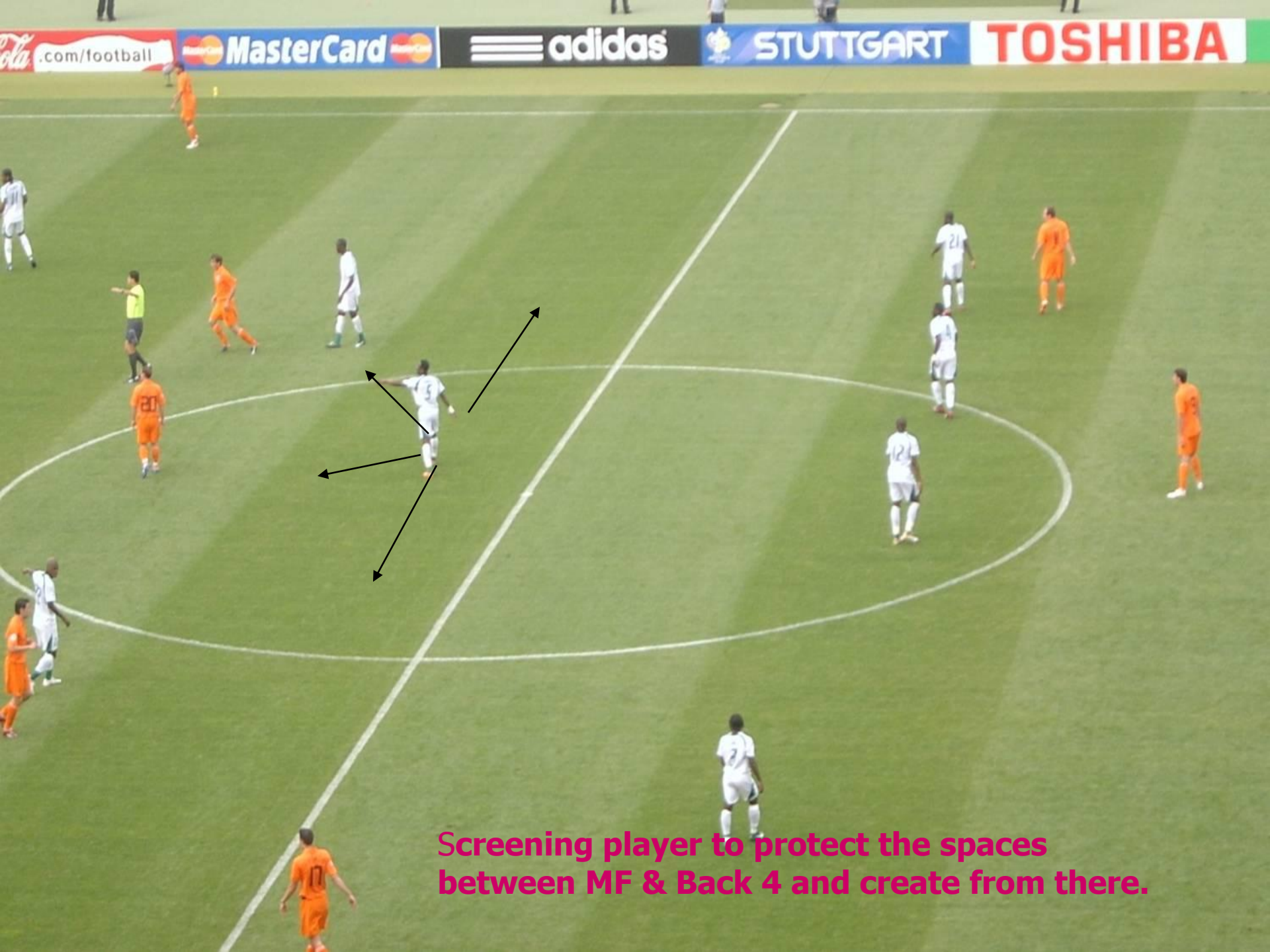
**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009**

**LOCATION of the FINAL PASS**

Liverpool, Chelsea ,Manchester Utd & Arsenal

**42 % of final passes to the goalscorer are supplied from central approach areas.**

Prozone

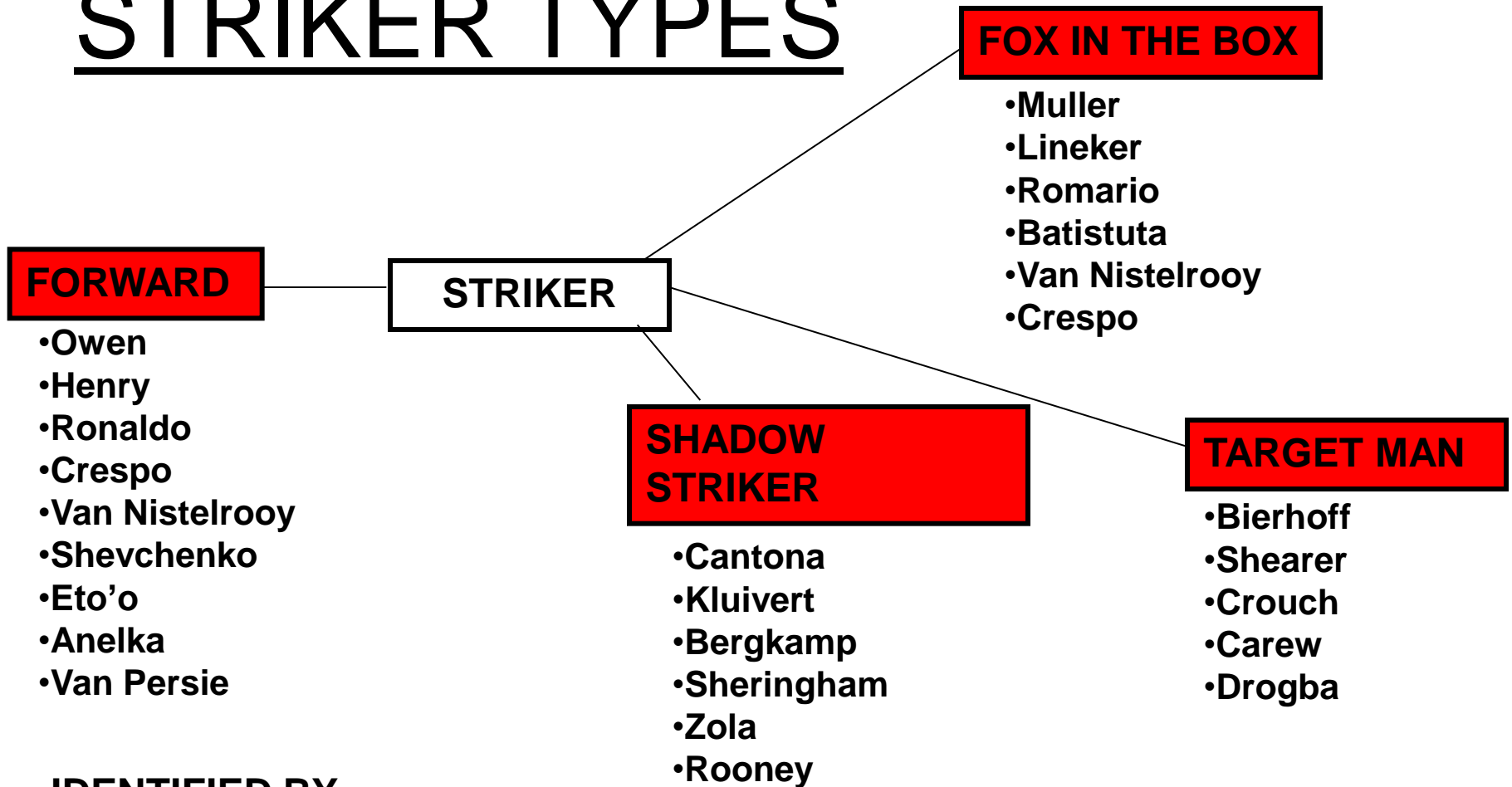


**Screening player to protect the spaces  
between MF & Back 4 and create from there.**

END

**STRIKER**

# STRIKER TYPES



## IDENTIFIED BY

a) Role

b) Attributes

- Physical
- Mental
- Technical
- Emotional
- Tactical

c) Area of Operation.

d) Positional Tactical Requirements.

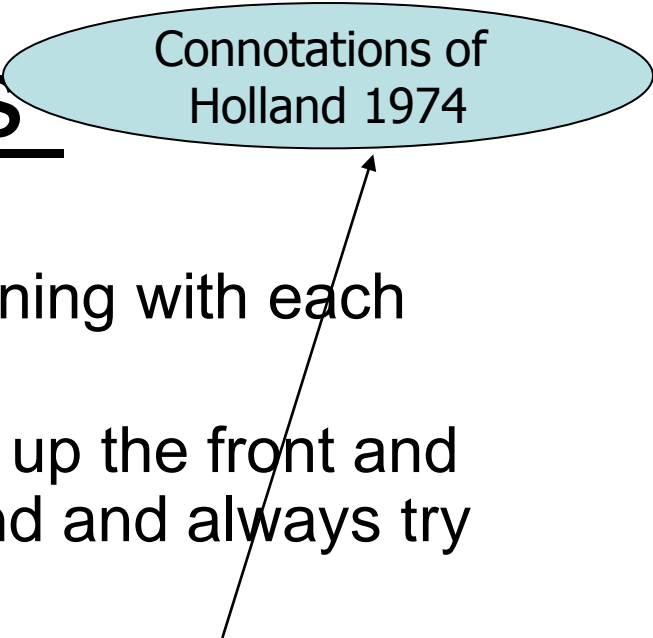
“ Teams are playing without traditional centre – forwards.

The counter-attacking style, waiting for the ball, then springing out fast emphasises that defenders and holding midfield players are there to win the ball and superstars like Rooney and Fabregas are there to win the games.”

Jamie Redknapp ( ex Liverpool )

# “Flexible Forwards

Connotations of  
Holland 1974



“ We work together in training on combining with each other and it has really paid off.

We don't have one player who just stays up the front and stands there. We all like to move around and always try to make it difficult for defenders.

I think we realise where the space is on the pitch, so when you see a team – mate running into one area, you just run a different way !

Part of it is instinct, you naturally run towards a space where you can be a threat to the defence.”

Wayne Rooney talking about himself, Ronaldo and Tevez

# MANCHESTER UNITED

Wayne Rooney.

“if I want to drop in I can, and if I want to play higher up I can switch.

What I try to do is to find the spaces and get there to try to get on the ball. I am always looking for a space to move into.”

## England's Fab option

Any player ,anywhere.  
Holland 1974 ?

FLEXIBLE FORWARDS

Rooney, Manchester United home to Aston Villa



# Manchester United FC

“ There’s always movement and three or four options every time they get the ball. Someone’s popping off, Berbatov’s coming short, Rooney’s pulling into a position, the wide man’s coming off the line into holes. It’s fantastic – that’s what the top teams do.”

Harry Redknapp September 12 th 2009

**Implications for coaching young players ?**

“ What Capello wants from his wide forward, Kuyt has been doing for years now with little credit. His work ethic, unselfishness and ability to operate in a netherworld between the touchline, forward line and midfield make him the epitome of the modern attacker.”

M Samuel. March 2009

# TACTICALLY

How would they know ?

## The final 30 yds !

- speed – skill accuracy a necessity.
- cunning play an asset.
- deceit and disguise needed.
- quick and clever ball movement at feet.
- speedy combination play needed.
- precision in all aspects a requirement.
- individual invention and surprise.
- quick, combined play sequences ( 2,3,4,5 player involvement.)
- minimal touch play is needed.
- instancy vital.
- unusual and unexpected accuracy are significant.
- turning with the ball whenever possible.
- individual and co-ordinated movement crucial.

# Wayne Rooney

“ His movement is fantastic. He always tests a defender and you never know where he is. If your concentration levels are lapsing as you fatigue, Wayne is there to stick it in.

he is one of the toughest strikers to play against. he has all the attributes; great feet, great awareness, pace, he is strong on the ball and scores with his head as well.

He is hard to mark because he goes deep and is a kind of floating striker. As a defender sometimes you want someone who goes right up against you. With players like Rooney, when he goes in the hole you can't pick him up and it can disturb where you are on the pitch. He takes you where you don't want to go.

Michael Brown (Fulham FC 2009)

STRIKER

INSIGHT ?

# Romario

“I was born with the knack of always  
**looking** in the right direction when I am  
on the pitch “.

( 905 goals in 1011 matches- March 2005 )

# Van Nistelrooy

“ He is one of the few I know, who separates himself from the game. His thinking is all about his position and his markers.

Van Nistelrooy's awareness of space is unbelievable. His whole mental attitude in the box is that if the ball comes into this space, I'll be there. He has unusual, fantastic concentration and I think he's becoming even more concentrated.”

Sir Alex Ferguson.

ROLE OF THE STRIKER

AND

LONE STRIKER.

# ROLE / FUNCTION

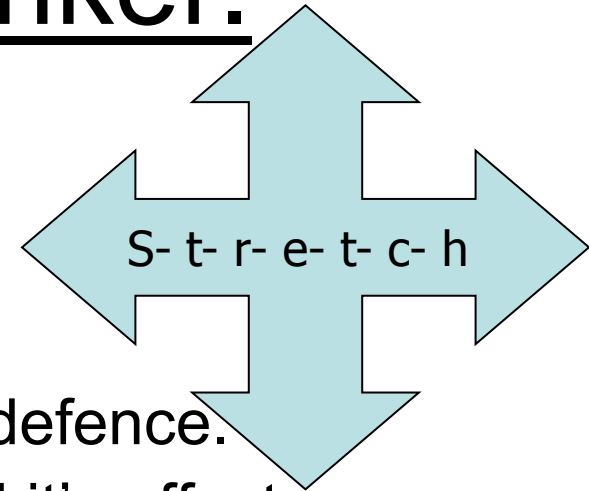
- **OPERATE AS THE MOST FORWARD OF ATTACKING PLAYERS BOTH IN FRONT AND BEHIND THE REAR DEFENSIVE LINES OF THE OPPOSITION**
- **ASSESS AND MOVE INTO GOAL-SCORING POSITIONS, USUALLY WITHIN THE PENALTY BOX WHENEVER THERE IS A CHANCE OF THE BALL BEING DELIVERED THERE**
- **SCORE GOALS**
- **CREATE GOAL-SCORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEAGUES THROUGH INTELLIGENT MOVEMENT, SUPPORT PLAY AND ACCURATE DISTRIBUTION SKILLS**
- **BE A PERSISTENT OUTLET FOR DEFENDING AND MIDFIELD PLAYERS IN POSSESSION**
- **CONTROL AND RETAIN POSSESSION OF THE BALL TO ENSURE THAT ATTACKING PLAY CONTINUES WITH MOMENTUM (IF POSSIBLE) THROUGH EFFICIENT PASSING SKILLS**
- **DELAY AND CONTAIN ATTACKING BUILD-UP PLAY AMONGST OPPOSITION DEFENDERS**

# RESPONSIBILITIES

- BE INSIDE OR CLOSE TO THE GOAL-SCORING AREAS WHEN THERE IS A CHANCE OF THE BALL ARRIVING
- SCORE AT THE RATE OF 1 GOALS PER 2 GAMES PLAYED AVERAGE E.G.,

PUSKAS	– HUNGARY – 84 GAMES – 83 GOALS =	99%
BATISTUTA	– ARGENTINA – 64 GAMES – 47 GOALS =	73%
SHEARER	– BLACKBURN – 170 GAMES – 130 GOALS =	77%
RONALDO	– BRAZIL – 43 GAMES – 29 GOALS =	67%
VIERI	-- INTER-MILAN-25 games-22 GOALS=	88%
- SHOW INTELLIGENTLY FOR PASSES FROM TEAM MATES
- BE FIRST TO THE BALL
- RECEIVE AND HOLD THE BALL EFFECTIVELY
- “LINK” THE PLAY WITH ACCURACY, VARIETY AND ‘VISION’
- ATTACK THE SPACES BEHIND AND TO THE SIDE OF DEFENCES AND DEFENDERS
- APPLY PRESSURE TO THE BALL HOLDER AND/OR FILL IMPORTANT SPACES ON DEFENDING AGAINST OPPOSING BACK PLAYERS

# Role of the Lone Striker.



- “Stretch” the Central Defenders.
- Refuse to be marked !
- Engage and distract attention of C.B’
- “*Show*” in front but especially BEHIND the defence.
- Understand “movement” ( own & team ) and it’s effects.
- A “link” player in attacking play.
- A “wall” in and around the penalty box.
- A “provider” for others in scoring range.
- Be in the prime scoring area –always ! ( **Van Nistelrooy \*\*** )
- Goal-scorer (Rate of 1 goal or .75 per game at least ! )

**Van Nistelrooy**  
**143 goals in 200 Premiership matches.**

**.72 per game**

# ROLE OF STRIKER

AVAILABLE

All the time  
In the right place  
At the right time.

RELIABLE

Everytime.  
Bodywork  
Secure & supply.

SCORE

**"He scores in bunches  
of sixes and sevens, then  
goes quiet for a few weeks  
Van Nistelrooy was like that.  
We just need that consistency  
of goals from him."  
Ferguson on Rooney**

CREATE

For others and self.  
Space, time & goals.

UN-MARKABLE

At the right time.  
In the right place  
Can't be tied down.  
UNLESS ?

# **STRIKER-SCORING RATES**

- PUSKAS----0.99
- PELE ----0.91 (98 goals in 104 Internationals.)
- CRUYFF----0.69
- EUSEBIO---0.64
- SEELER-----0.60
- Van NISTELROY----0.94 (43 goals-45 Euro games,MUFC))  
-----0.80 (54 goals-69 Euro games,RMFC)
- KEZMAN----0.93 (105 goals in 112 games for PSV)
  
- TORRES----0.95 ( 35 goals in 37 games at Anfield) – December 2009  
( 1 Goal per every 4 strikes at goal & 1.6 games per goal for Liverpool)
  
- GERD MULLER 1.1 per game. (68 in 62 games)
- SANDOR KOCSIS 1.1 per game. (75 in 68 games)

# Wayne Rooney

## February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

- Appearances 23
- Time played 1978 mins:
- Goals 20
- Mins: per goal 98
- Strikes at goal 96
- Shooting accuracy 46%
- Chance conversion 21%

# Cristiano Ronaldo

- Appearances 291
- Goals 118
- Season 2007 – 2008

48 games

42 goals

} .88 goals per game.

## Seven game Analysis 2007 – 2008

1 strike every 13 mins played

# Conversion Rates of Forwards

- Defoe            31%
- Torres           33%
- Bent             24%
- Drogba          15%
- Rooney          21%

**TACTICALLY**

# THE LONE STRIKER

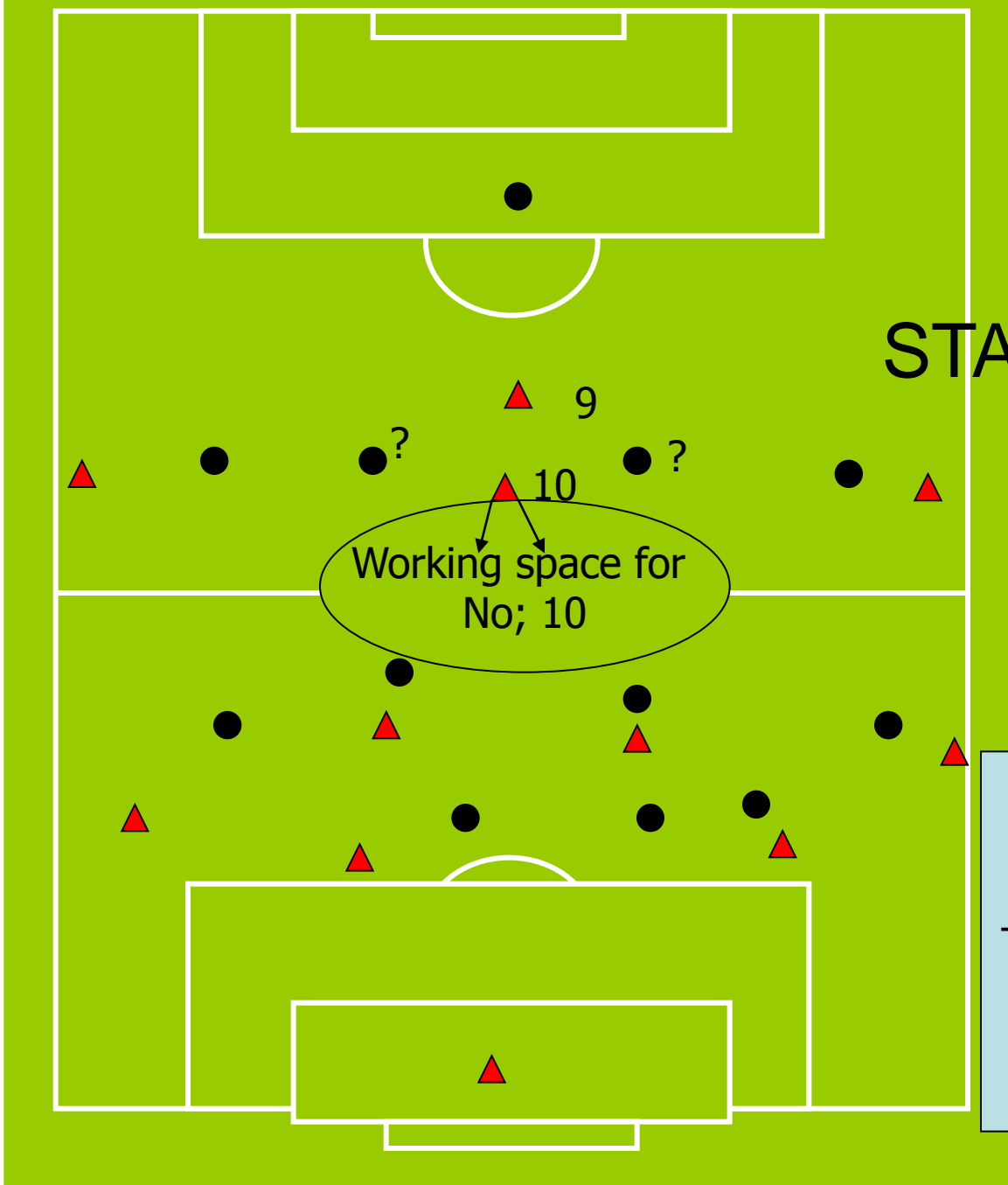
**STARTING POSITION**

No; 9

STARTING POSITION

?

Van Nistelrooy ?  
Henry ?



Working space for  
No; 10

OFFSIDE ?

Effect on defenders ?  
The response of the two CB's ?  
Effect on the DEFENCE ?

From the defending role ?

# Lone Striker

## TACTICALLY

### Starting Position ?

- offside ?
- central.
- between CB's.
- behind CB's. (out of sight –out of mind ?)
- from a defending role ?
- dis-appear to re-appear later.

CENTRALLY.

-44 yd width !

**WAIT, WATCH , POSITIONING brief !**

# LONE STRIKER

## Starting Position

### AWARENESS of:

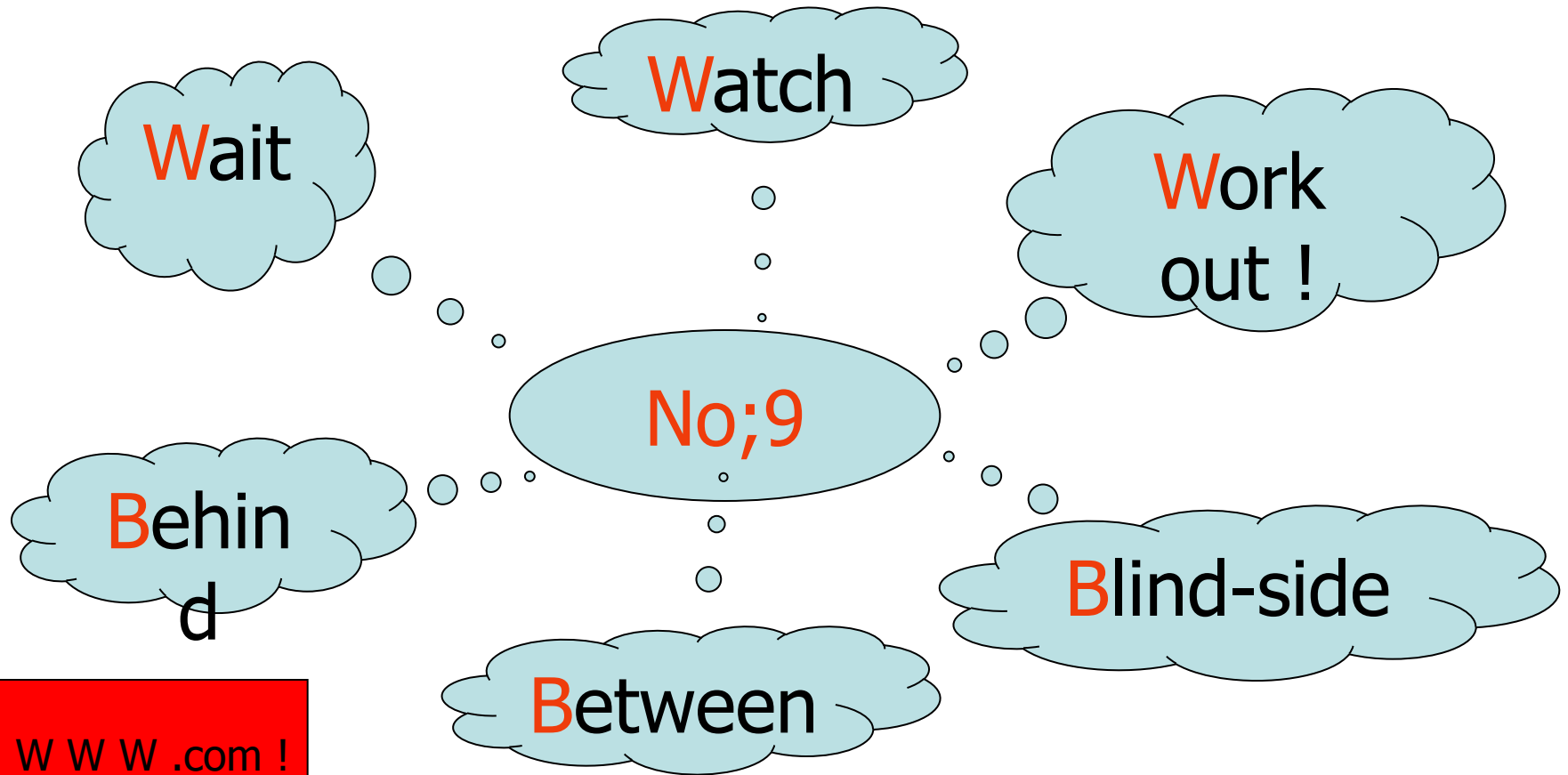
- a) Distances between, and actions of CB's
- b) Situation on the ball.
- c) Attributes of ball-holder.
- d) Space available to enter.
- e) Positioning & Movement of team-mates.
- f) Imminent delivery of ball.
- g) Likely action of defenders/defence.

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**WATCHING**

# No; 9-starting position.



SIDE-ON to SEE , STEP and GO !

# Coaches “aide de memoire” .

W W W. Com ?

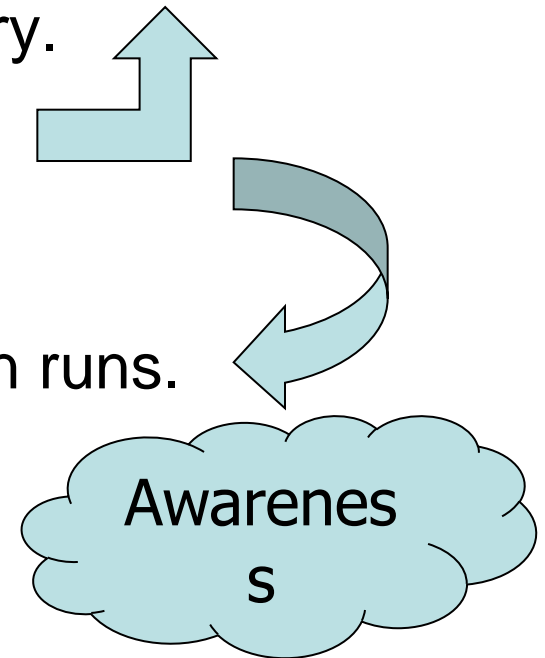
OR

Position, Patience, Perception, Plan,  
Perform.

# TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE LONE STRIKER ?

# TACTICAL ATTRIBUTES

- “Elusive” before and “on” the ball delivery.
- “Set-up” tight markers before escaping.
- “Blind-side” cunning to disappear.
- “Blind-side” cunning to reappear later.
- Knowledge of *momentum advantages* on runs.
- Timing of running.
- Choice of “run.”
- Speed / Direction change on the run
- Understand “movement” aligning with others e.g. No: 10
- Understand moving of defenders for others to exploit.
- Knowledge of the goal scoring areas and when ?



Continually reading and assessing the development of the game.

# MOVEMENT

# CONSIDERATIONS

- “IF ?”
- Awareness of :Defence configuration.
  - :Close defenders.
  - :Space-behind, around.
  - :Own capabilities.
- Pressure on the ball.
- Abilities of ball holder.
- In the passing range of the ball holder.
- Proximity, likely availability of support players.
- Movements of other “support” players.
- Timing of the “move”.
- Deception first ? (If so-WHAT,WHEN,HOW ?)
- Likely scenario on receiving the ball.
- The necessary scoring skill.

Read the  
defence.



AWARENESS !

Where ?  
Why ?  
When ?  
How ?

**The 5 senses.**

**Own attributes!**

**Perceive, Interpret, Prioritise, Decide, Act.**

# Hernan Crespo

“ My character and my game demand that I understand what my team – mates are thinking so that I can anticipate what they’re going to do. I need to understand whether Joe is going to drive the ball or take an extra touch.”

# INTELLIGENT AWARENESS !

## No; 9 Thinking Process.

- How defenders think & process information.
- How defenders act tactically.
- How the game continuously unfolds.
- When the ball can, but WILL be delivered.
- How defenders are acting NOW !
- The anticipated factors ! (Offside by defence .)
- The ball – holder's attributes and "habits".
- The movement of support players.

**Do coaches  
teach this ?**

**A CONTINUOUS PROCESS .**

# AWARENESS

## Significant Factors.

- Prior Knowledge – “Intelligence.”  
(played before, player analysis report. )
- Emotional state of player. (Anxiety—Composed.)
- Employment of ALL the **senses** in intelligence gathering. ( Dalglish.)
- Knowledge of what to look “at” and “for.”
- Discerning the significant environmental elements.
- Eliminating the superfluous elements.
- 80-20 % factors in personal performance. ( Batty.)

**Observe, Decipher, Interpret, Understand, Time, Execute.**

# AWARENESS.

## Teaching Awareness ?

**Does the coach  
KNOW the game ?**

- Coach support in reading the game.
- Identify & simplify the significant factors.
- Gradual increase in complexity of practice environment.
- Teaching No; 9 how defenders position, think and react.
- Teaching No; 9 the habits of “own” ball feeders.
- Teaching No; 9 what support players will / should do.
- Teaching No; 9 his own 80 – 20 % factors.
- Remember pictures and anticipate movements.
- “Feed – forward” prior to session and game.
- “Feed – back” after performance.

**The development of playing “intelligence.”**

**“How can you talk about ‘total football’ if your players don’t understand the game from every point of view? You have to be able to read each situation not only from your position but from that of your colleagues. Each pass of the ball by your team, or by the opposition, changes the situation.”**

**Johan Cruyff**

# *Forwards*

MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS ?

# Van Persie

“I think he’s a Van Basten type by which I mean he’s a technical centre forward. He has that classy first touch, sharp movement and a short back-lift. I always thought he was a first rather than second striker.”

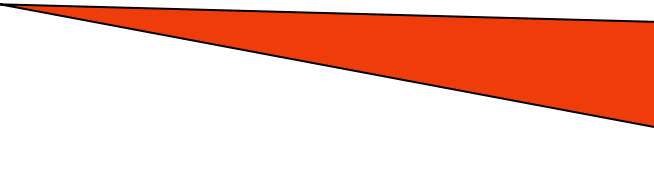
Arsene Wenger

# FORWARDS

- Have pace and agility.
- Score a variety of goals.
- Can play across the front.
- Can “hold”, look after the ball and link the play.
- Can and will turn with the ball.
- Are attack-minded ?
- Want to get behind defences.
- Have “cunning” about them.
- Have a degree of unpredictability in their play.
- Can play both sides of the defence.
- Are prepared and able to defend.

# *EFFECTIVE FORWARDS*

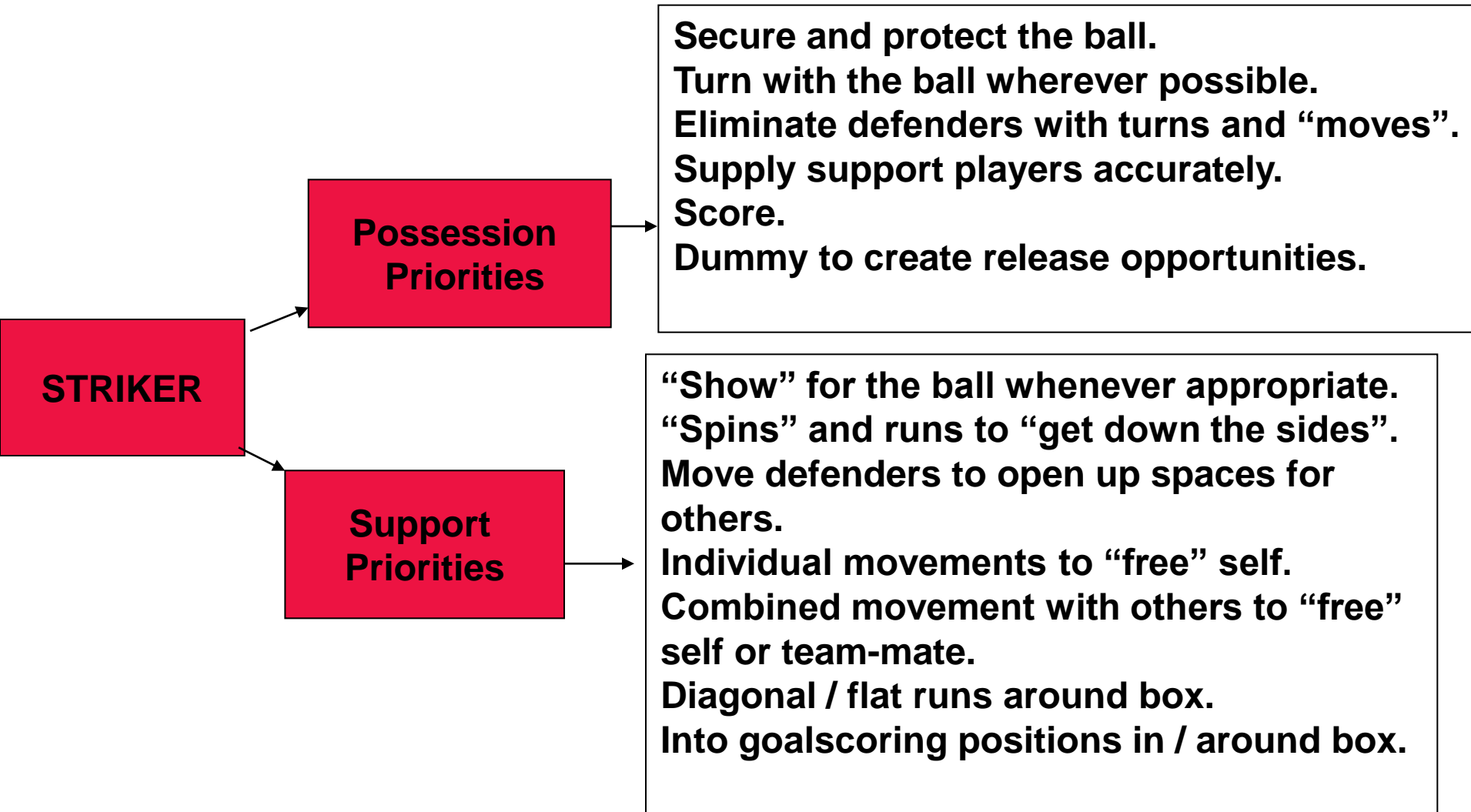
- Scores goals.
- Can play both sides of the defence.
- Make themselves “available” anywhere/anytime.
- Can receive and retain possession under pressure.
- Plays for others as well as self.(Off the ball work)
- Brings others into the game consistently.
- Can choose and employ the “appropriate” finishing skill.
- Expect and believe they will score.
- Defends for the team.
- **OTHERS ?**



**“ he has a brain,he can play others in and he can score.His movement is intelligent around the box and he can score in different ways.”**

**Wenger on Van Persie**

# STRIKER



# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS ?

- First touch “library / repertoire” **on the move at speed.**
- Hold and hide the ball.
- Protect the ball, escape from front & rear pressure.
- Bodywork.
- Capacity to master and apply varied movement and running patterns.
- 1 v 1 “efficiency.” (Running with and holding possession.)
- “Create” for others often on the move at speed.
- “Clever- feet” in the tight.
- Decisive and correct “finishing” skill **selection.**
- “Clever” finishing skills. (Feints , Spin- swerve, placement.)
- Scoring in 1 v 1 with the GK. (Under pressure **and** free.)
- Scoring from distance under pressure on the run.
- Scoring “instantly” in the box. (1 or 2 touch)

Thierry Henry

“ I do what the game asks of me.”

Goal v  
Charlton Athletic

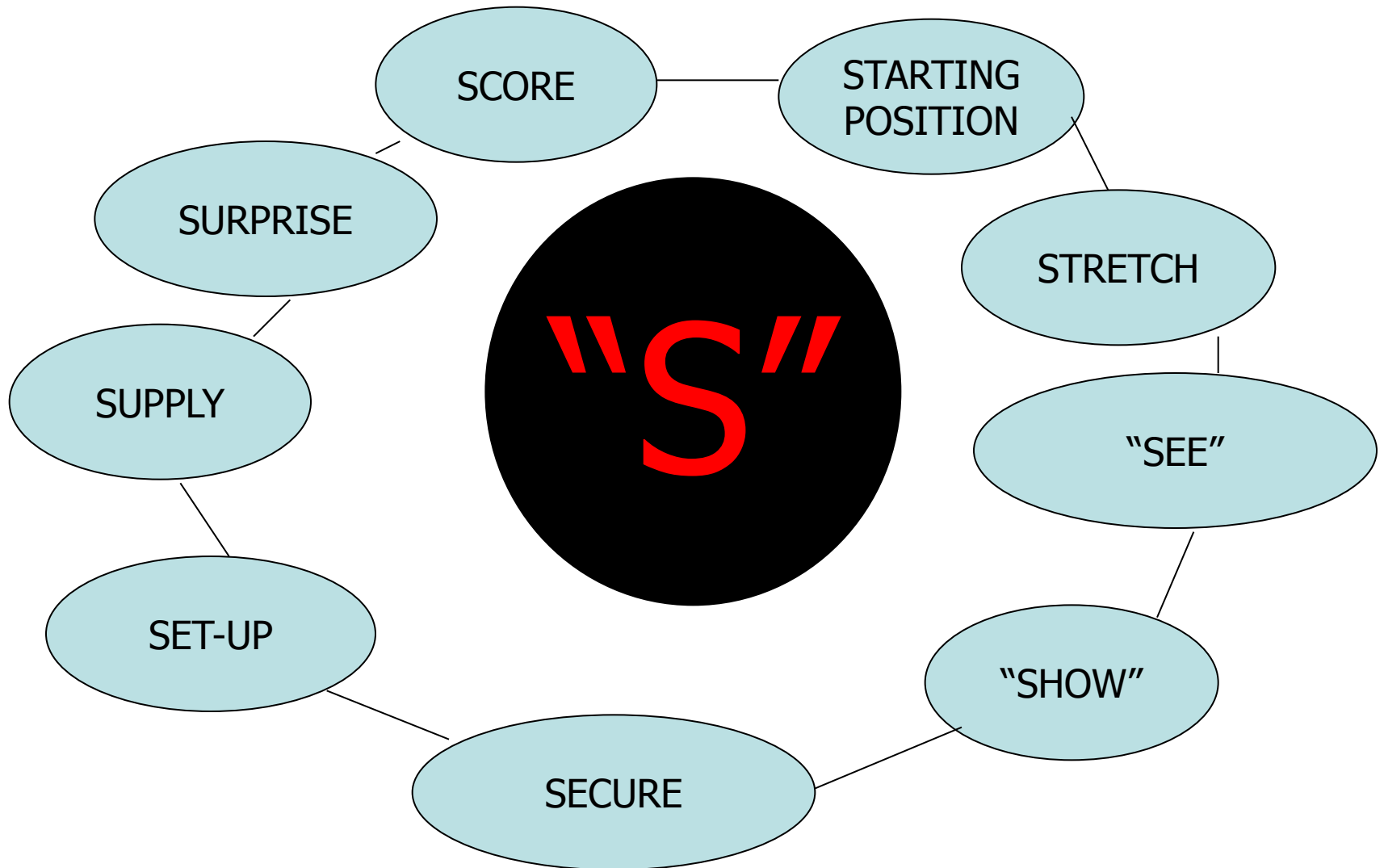
# **STRIKER- Technical Practice.**

- **“Bodywork” to retain the ball when under pressure.**
- **Turning with the ball (Turning repertoire.)**
- **Receiving the ball on runs towards goal at speed.**
- **Clever, calculated “movement – runs” to elude defenders.**
- **Passing under pressure from behind. (Varied distances and disguised.)**
- **“Laying off” passes with minimal touches – “clever” when needed.**
- **Deceiving opponents before turning or releasing the ball.**
- **“Combination plays” in approach situations.**
- **Short range passing in / around the penalty box.**
- **“Chest and headwork” when passing.**
- **Long range striking at goal-30 yds.**
- **Striking at goal with minimal touches off diagonal and “spin” type runs. (all runs made at speed.)**
- **Deceiving opponents before and on striking at goal.**
- **“Clever” scoring skills.**
- **ALL SCORING SKILLS in and around the penalty box.**
- **Evading marking players.**
- **“Showing and Containing” opponents in possession.**
- **Pressing opponents in possession.**

# ROLE and RESPONSIBILITY

## SUMMARY

# No; 9



# SUMMARY OF FORWARD PLAYER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

STRIKER

# ROLE / FUNCTION

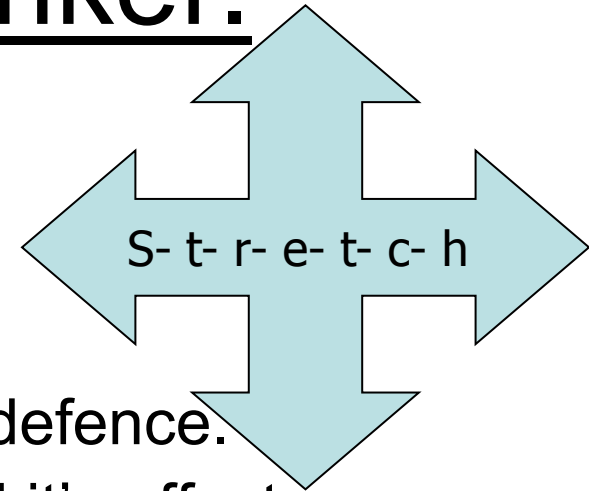
- **OPERATE AS THE MOST FORWARD OF ATTACKING PLAYERS BOTH IN FRONT AND BEHIND THE REAR DEFENSIVE LINES OF THE OPPOSITION**
- **ASSESS AND MOVE INTO GOAL-SCORING POSITIONS, USUALLY WITHIN THE PENALTY BOX WHENEVER THERE IS A CHANCE OF THE BALL BEING DELIVERED THERE**
- **SCORE GOALS**
- **CREATE GOAL-SCORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEAGUES THROUGH INTELLIGENT MOVEMENT, SUPPORT PLAY AND ACCURATE DISTRIBUTION SKILLS**
- **BE A PERSISTENT OUTLET FOR DEFENDING AND MIDFIELD PLAYERS IN POSSESSION**
- **CONTROL AND RETAIN POSSESSION OF THE BALL TO ENSURE THAT ATTACKING PLAY CONTINUES WITH MOMENTUM (IF POSSIBLE) THROUGH EFFICIENT PASSING SKILLS**
- **DELAY AND CONTAIN ATTACKING BUILD-UP PLAY AMONGST OPPOSITION DEFENDERS**

# RESPONSIBILITIES

- BE INSIDE OR CLOSE TO THE GOAL-SCORING AREAS WHEN THERE IS A CHANCE OF THE BALL ARRIVING
- SCORE AT THE RATE OF 1 GOALS PER 2 GAMES PLAYED AVERAGE E.G.,

PUSKAS	– HUNGARY – 84 GAMES – 83 GOALS =	99%
BATISTUTA	– ARGENTINA – 64 GAMES – 47 GOALS =	73%
SHEARER	– BLACKBURN – 170 GAMES – 130 GOALS =	77%
RONALDO	– BRAZIL – 43 GAMES – 29 GOALS =	67%
VIERI	-- INTER-MILAN-25 games-22 GOALS=	88%
- SHOW INTELLIGENTLY FOR PASSES FROM TEAM MATES
- BE FIRST TO THE BALL
- RECEIVE AND HOLD THE BALL EFFECTIVELY
- “LINK” THE PLAY WITH ACCURACY, VARIETY AND ‘VISION’
- ATTACK THE SPACES BEHIND AND TO THE SIDE OF DEFENCES AND DEFENDERS
- APPLY PRESSURE TO THE BALL HOLDER AND/OR FILL IMPORTANT SPACES ON DEFENDING AGAINST OPPOSING BACK PLAYERS

# Role of the Lone Striker.



- “Stretch” the Central Defenders.
- Refuse to be marked !
- Engage and distract attention of C.B’
- “*Show*” in front but especially BEHIND the defence.
- Understand “movement” ( own & team ) and it’s effects.
- A “link” player in attacking play.
- A “wall” in and around the penalty box.
- A “provider” for others in scoring range.
- Be in the prime scoring area –always ! ( Van Nistelrooy \*\*)
- Goal-scorer (Rate of 1 goal or .75 per game at least !)

**Van Nistelrooy**  
**143 goals in 200 Premiership matches.**

**.72 per game**

# ROLE OF STRIKER

AVAILABLE

All the time  
In the right place  
At the right time.

RELIABLE

Everytime.  
Bodywork  
Secure & supply.

SCORE

**"He scores in bunches  
of sixes and sevens, then  
goes quiet for a few weeks  
Van Nistelrooy was like that.  
We just need that consistency  
of goals from him."  
Ferguson on Rooney**

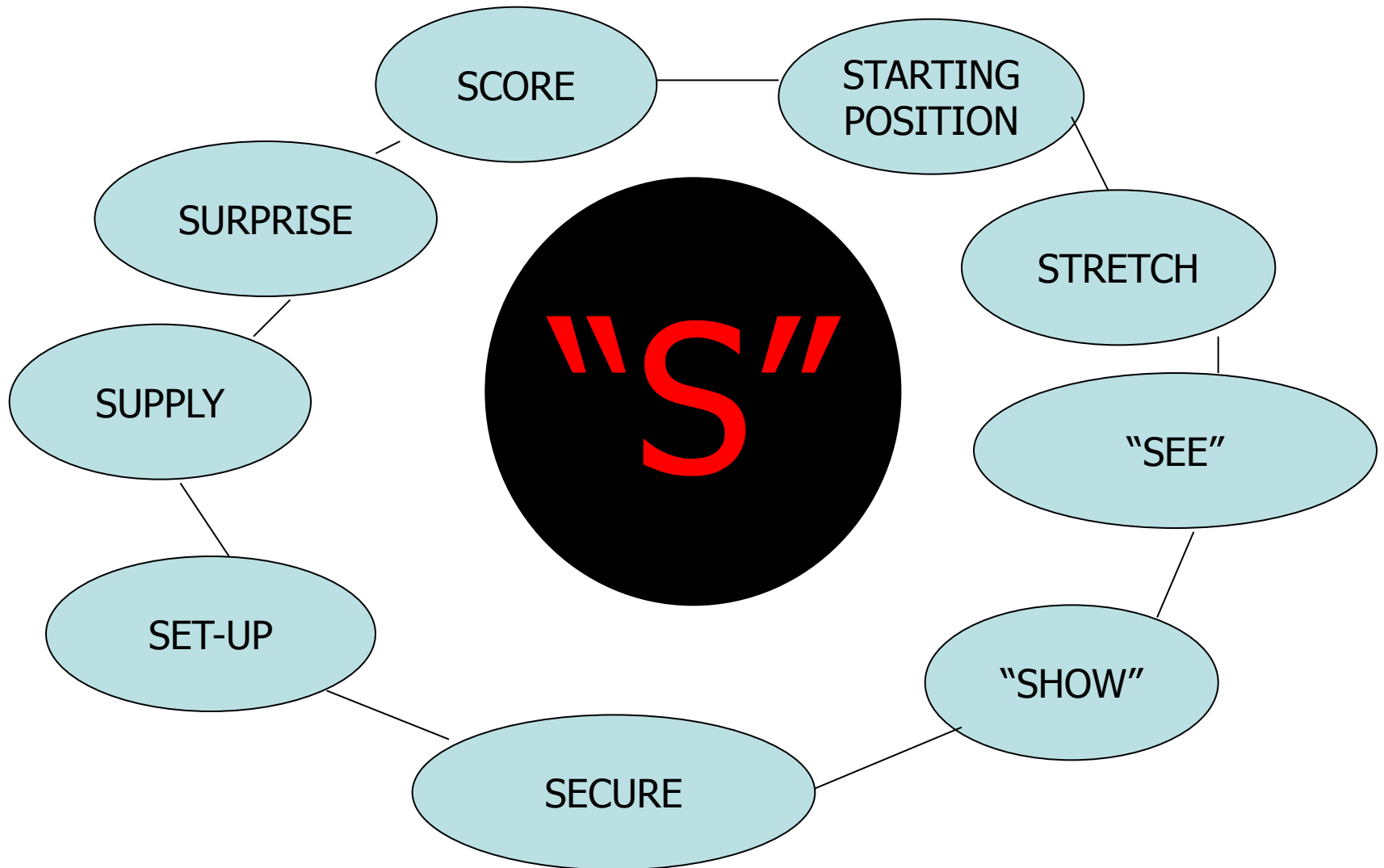
CREATE

For others and self.  
Space, time & goals.

UN-MARKABLE

At the right time.  
In the right place  
Can't be tied down.  
UNLESS ?

# No; 9



# IDEAL No; 9 ?

- **Rarely** receives with back to goal but can do so.
- Stretches opponents back line both ways.
- Always searching for the diagonal or through pass.
- Attacks the back of opposition defences.
- Knows when to drop away from the back line.
- Understands the effects of his “movement”.
- Scores at .75 goal per game or thereabouts.
- Can play with others, supply and create for others.
- Efficient in 1 v 1.
- Has pace, acceleration, agility and body strength.

Plays “HIGH”, on the “EDGE”, clever movement and always in the SCORING AREAS.

SHADOW STRIKER

# ROLE of the “SHADOW STRIKER”

- **Consistently available.**
- **Constantly aware of tactical circumstances. (Perception.)**
- **Playing “ahead” of now.**
- **Create space for self / others to receive. (Unselfish)**
- **Creator of “creating opportunities” and scoring opportunities for others.**
- **Support player for those ahead-(rear or forward.)**
- **A “link-player – a fulcrum” of attacking play.**
- **A “key” transition player.**
- **An advanced “quarter-back.”**
- **A forward runner.**
- **A goal scorer – inside / outside the box.**

# SHADOW STRIKER - TECHNICAL

- Positioning, movement & knowledge of the effects of movement.\*
- Defensive recovery position leading to possession ?(45 ° / 30 yds.? )
- Awareness on /off ball.(from body angle/memory.) \*
- Instant & tight controlling touch and clever receiving skills! \*
- Ability to turn & also protect the ball if marked.\*
- Passing ability often 1 touch .("hidden" / variety / range and "feel")
- Ability to disguise passes and deliver the unexpected pass\*
- Passes off the run / Running with the ball.
- Combination player.(through 360 degrees) \*
- Evasion skills / Ball manipulation skills.
- Attack the box.(scoring positions/scoring goals / inside-outside.)\*
- **Intelligence / cunning / awareness / subtlety.**

WIDE FORWARDS

# ROLE / FUNCTION

- **PROVIDE WIDE OUTLETS IN FLANK POSITIONS USUALLY IN THE MIDDLE AND ATTACKING THIRDS OF THE FIELD**
- **CREATE CROSSING POSITIONS ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLAYERS**
- **CONTRIBUTE TO ATTACKING PLAY IN POSITIONS “INFIELD” BOTH WITH AND WITHOUT THE BALL**
- **TO RETAIN POSSESSION MOMENTUM AND PENETRATE DEFENCES CENTRALLY OR IN FLANK POSITIONS WHEN DRIVEN IN FIELD**
- **OPERATE AS A FIRST DEFENSIVE SHIELD IN FLANK POSITIONS**
- **TO ASSIST OTHER DEFENDERS IN FLANK POSITIONS AS APPROPRIATE**
- **TO MOVE TO A MORE CENTRAL AND COVERING POSITION WHEN THE BALL IS ON THE OPPOSITE FLANK**

# RESPONSIBILITIES

- **RETAIN POSSESSION AND INITIATE OR MAINTAIN ATTACKING MOMENTUM IN FLANK POSITIONS.**
- **DELIVER ACCURATE AND TIMELY CROSSES FROM FLANK POSITIONS.**
- **VACATE FLANK POSITIONS AS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO ATTACKING PLAY.**
- **MOVE INTO GOAL-SCORING POSITIONS WHEN NOT INVOLVED IN APPROACH PLAY.**
- **SCORE GOALS.**
- **RECOVER AND ACT AS A FIRST DEFENSIVE BARRIER IN FLANK POSITIONS.**
- **COVER AND SUPPORT FULL-BACKS AND MIDFIELD PLAYERS IN DEFENDING SITUATIONS.**
- **ADJUST DEFENDING POSITIONS AND MAINTAIN DEFENSIVE COMPACTNESS OR STRUCTURE WHEN THE BALL MOVES AWAY FROM FLANK POSITIONS TO CENTRAL OR FAR SIDE AREAS.**

# SKILLS REQUIRED

- **EFFICIENT AND VARIED RECEIVING SKILLS (ground/aerial control)**
- **ONE TOUCH AND EFFECTIVE PASSING SKILLS**
- **DECEPTIVE BODY MOVEMENT SKILLS WITH AND WITHOUT THE BALL**
- **DRIBBLING AND BALL MANIPULATING SKILLS**
- **RUNNING WITH THE BALL AND COMBINED PLAYER SKILLS E.G., WALL-PASSES, OVERLAPS ETC**
- **CROSSING THE BALL SKILLS WITH BOTH FEET USING 1 TOUCH WHERE NECESSARY(usually on the run)**
- **UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR AND HOW TO CREATE WIDTH.**
- **SCORING SKILLS WITH BOTH FEET AND HEAD**
- **DEFENDING SKILLS OF MARKING, TRACKING, PRESSING AND COVERING**
- **SUPPORT AND BALANCING SKILLS**

# WIDE PLAYER -Technical.

- **Eliminating opponents – 0 touch.**
- Eliminating opponents -1 touch.
- **Losing / evading close marking opponents prior to moving to receive the ball.**
- **Receiving and turning to face opponents.**
- Receiving and deceiving opponents with or after 1<sup>st</sup> touch.
- “Setting up” opponents to eliminate them alone, or in combination play.
- **Combination play in flank and “moving centrally”.**
- Dribbling / Ball manipulation skills at pace if necessary.
- Attracting opponents before eliminating them-alone or in combination play.
- “Bodywork” on receiving and in possession.
- Playing off the “wrong” foot .
- **Driving across opponents and combining with players around the box.**
- **Crossing the ball-from a run at speed or after a dribble.**
- **Striking at goal with outside and inside foot from 30 yds.**
- **Scoring from crosses – feet and head.**
- **Pressing opponents to “show” both ways and “nothing !”**
- **Screening passes .**
- **“Doubling up “ on opponents.**

END