



KLOPP

COACHING SESSIONS

THEFOOTBALLCOACH.NET

Jurgen Klopp

DEVELOPING HEAVY METAL FOOTBALL



Jurgen Klopp

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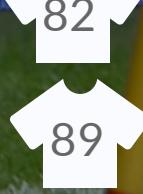
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WHO IS JURGEN KLOPP?

Jürgen Norbert Klopp was born in June 1967 in the bowl shaped city of Stuttgart, the capital of Baden-Württemberg about 115 miles to the north west of Munich within West Germany . The City is known for its forests and Klopp grew up within the famous Black Forest area in a small village names Glatten.

Jurgen was born one of three, to parents Norbert and Elisabeth , Jurgen's father paved the way for his sporting interests exposing him to multiple sports such as skiing, tennis and football, however football was always the main sporting focus of a young Jurgen Klopp's upbringing, and Klopp has often spoken around the ruthless nature of his father. Norbert would take a ruthless attitude towards Jurgen's sporting upbringing often beating him 6-0, 6-0 in tennis, and leaving him behind in the mountains for not being quick enough, even as a beginner.

Even if Jurgen has rarely spoken openly around his upbringing but has made it clear his upbringing was centered around one word 'loyalty' , this core belief within his upbringing has had a noticeable influence on his career both as a player and manager with Jurgen remaining with clubs for well over the average term of both a player and as a coach.

Klopp's exposure to football from a young age began lead towards his dream of playing professional football when he joined his local German team SV Glatten aged just 5,



JURGEN KLOPP

"He was not always a good technical player, but he always played with aggression" Thomas Ziemer (Team MatE)

As Jurgen began to step in to the seriously competitive German youth game it became apparent that Klopp had an understanding of who he was and what he stood for, "Attitude was always more important than Talent" he was said and this was evident during his youth playing career, as well as evident in his choice of icons 'Karlheniz Foster' a technically poor but lionhearted centre half.

After 11 Years with his youth side a 16 year old Jurgen Klopp left Glatten, and traveled to TuS Ergenzingen where he played 4 season before moving to 1. FC Pforzheim who were then relegated to the 5th tier of German football, Klopp was not there long before he was moved through three Stuttgart sides 'Eintracht Frankfurt II,' the 'Viktoria Sindlingen,' and the 'Rot-Weiss Frankfurt,' before heading to Mainz 05

in Juergen Klopp's career as a professional footballer never really took off until his move to Mainz 05, here he started as a striker before converting to a right back later in his career in 2005, his goal scoring record saw him score 52 league goals for Mainz. Jurgen's playing career consisted of him being a very honest, and very competitive footballer, who by his own admissions lacked the skill set to play at German's highest level, but could still make an extremely enjoyable career as a professional footballer at Mainz for over 15 years, and much to be celebrated achievement for the young man from Stuttgart who always dreamt of playing professional football.

Jurgen was said that he had "Fourth-division talent and a First-division head" which ultimately put him in the second division, and this mindset and thinking structure began to lay the foundations to what became. Whilst playing within that second division Klopp became not just any other player, but a legend within Mainz, he set the record for the most appearances within club history (352) and had a record setting moment on August 13th 1991, a moment he described as his greatest day as a player winning away at Erfurt 5-0 where the nicknamed Klopp managed to score four, a record that still stands for Mainz today (even if it has been equalled, some 20 years later).

This high point in Klopp's career spelt the beginning of a Bundesliga career, with manager Jung telling the media that Klopp would move on to bigger things at the end of the season, however this moment never arrived and Klopp completed the rest of his playing days in Mainz. However surprised manager Jung was of the lack of interest in Klopp, he utilized him greatly moving him from striker, midfield, and then eventually defender, exposing him to many different positions within the game and slowly developing the player into the manager



WHO IS JURGEN KLOPP?

As Klopp's playing career was quickly coming towards the end and only earning a modest salary of under £1000 a month, Klopp's intelligence was again proved to help him, whilst still playing Klopp opted to travel to Cologne a 250 mile round trip twice a week to attend a world famous coaching school by legendary coach Erich Mutemoller, where Klopp started to develop the ideas to become a manager

However this was not the only place Klopp's managerial career began to shape itself, and not the first time he'd coached, as he had previously done so in 1998 when playing for Eintracht Frankfurt. This dedicated interest in football continued and whilst at Mainz, Klopp learned from coach Wolfgang Frank a disciple of Arrigo Sacchi and Klopp began to play within one of the first zonal back 4 systems, one of the first to leave out the traditional 'sweeper'. Team mates have often spoke of how Klopp and Frank would share ideas and would speak in depth around tactics, "At this point, we already knew he was born to be trainer." said Ziemer an ex-team mate of Klopp's

After losing coach Frank, a knew man took the reigns Eckhard Krautzun but after four months of disappointment, Mainz found themselves manageress and the senior players and board decided to ask Jurgen Klopp to take over manager giving up his right back role, and as they say the rest is history, Klopp managed to secure a 1-0 victory within his first game, and then wen't on to win six of his first seven securing survival and moving the club up to 14th position and securing survival with a game to go.

Within his first full season as manager Klopp radicalized the playing philosophy returning Mainz to a system more similar to that of Wolfgang Frank, the counter-pressing and high intensity system in and out of possession



"HE WAS BORN TO BE A TRAINER"

was clear to see for all those who came to watch Mainz as they secured fourth position in his first season, just missing out on promotion, the next season Mainz again were a force within Germany's second division and pushed for promotion on a much smaller budget, but again fell short finishing in forth position. This time Klopp's team missed out on the final day, finishing on the same points as third, but missing out on goal difference.

Klopp's Mainz then made the push for the first time in their history in 2003/04 when they managed to do one better and secure third place, which put Mainz 05 in to the Bundesliga for the first time in the clubs history. Within their first season Klopp guided Mainz to 11th place with the smallest budget and the smallest stadium, he then performed the miracle again 12 months later securing another 11th place finish , and a UEFA Cup spot for 2005/06 the first In the clubs history.

The first European encounter for Mainz arrived in 2005 when they were beaten by Sevilla a power house at the time within the competition, however Klopp was then relegated with Mainz in 2006/07, and showed the loyalty installed in him as a child deciding to stay with the club through relegation, Klopp looked to bounce back with promotion the following season but failed to achieve this and walked away from the club at the end of the 2007/08 season with over 100 wins and nearly 280 games.

In May 2008 Klopp was heavily rumored to become the manager of German champions Bayern Munich, but despite the interest from the champions Klopp decided to become the new manager of German side Borussia Dortmund after the club had recently dropped as low as 13th within the Bundesliga.



However, after Dortmund had experienced a difficult previous season Klopp's high intensity philosophy and his counter-pressing beliefs began to show quite quickly within the playing style of his new club, again Klopp was able to start his new managerial appointment with a victory away at Rot-Weiss Esssen, and more impressively Klopp was able to start to dethrone the dominance of Bayern Munich in Germany quite quickly, beating the champions to the German Super Cup .

This Dortmund side was taking major redevelopment and now posed as one of the youngest starting 11's within German football, and had started to show development both in terms of their playing style and the consistency in their pressing behaviors as well as a more aggressive counter attacking style of football. Klopp then secured a sixth place finish before improving this to make a fifth place finish and securing European football for Dortmund.

As things started to improve for Klopp, his team experiences a 2-0 defeat to Bayern Leverkusen on the opening day of the 2010/11 season, quite a shock for the young group of players who were touted to do so well under Klopp. After this defeat Klopp's young players showed the fighting spirit of their manager and managed to 14 of their next 15, ensuring a lead at the top of the top division , a place they had not been permanently since 2002, and a competition they had only won 6 times since the end of World War II.

With this in mind Klopp still managed to complete the task and win the Bundesliga in 2011/12 before retaining it in 2011/12 , setting a points total along the way (81 Points) , and to add to this they broke the German record for unbeaten games (28 Games) and equalled Bayern Munich 's record of 25 wins in a Bundesliga Season

Klopp's league campaign began to struggle, finding it difficult to compete with the high spending Bayern Munich, who not only bought the best players within Germany, but also continued to buy players from Klopp's Dortmund signing Götze's a star for Borussia Dortmund, however Klopp was now a manager within the Champions League and had the group of death to deal with in 2012/13.

Dortmund, Real Madrid, Ajax and Manchester City found themselves together In one of the most studded group stages for many years, with high spending City and Madrid touted to make it through, but Klopp's tactical masterplan ensured his team would remain unbeaten in the group, before progressing through to the semi-final stage where Klopp beat Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid 4-1 and 4-3 overall.

After making It to the Champions League Final, Klopp's Dortmund were beaten by Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich 2-1 where they also finished second to Bayern in the Bundesliga and losing to Bayern In the Supercup

2012/13 CHAMPIONSLEAGUE GROUP D

DORTMUND	AJAX	1-0
MAN CITY	DORTMUND	1-1
DORTMUND	REAL MADRID	2-1
REAL MADRID	DORTMUND	2-2
AJAX	DORTMUND	1-4
DORTMUND	MAN CITY	1-0

During Klopp's final two years at Dortmund Klopp experienced a more frustrating period of his Dortmund career, with German dominance slowly being bought by Guardiola's Bayern Munich, with the continued signing of Germany's top footballing talents, this continued to effect Dortmund directly with Robert Leandowski signing a pre agreement to become a Bayern player, the second key Dortmund player within a year.

Dortmund remained consistent but could not get past their German rivals finishing second in 2-13/14, and winning the German Super Cup, but failed to go one step further in the Champions league after being beaten comfortably by eventual champions Real Madrid, who themselves created a level of dominance within the competition.

After disappointment in 2013/14, Klopp's Dortmund started final season with a win in the German Super Cup, but then fell away and ended up with a very disappointing start to the season, which brought Klopp to announce in April that he planned to step down at the end of the season as he believed he was no longer the right manager to take Dortmund forward, he then instantly saw he said create a change of fortune, turning results around and securing a second place finish, ensuring four straight years in the top two of German football, something no manager had ever achieved with Dortmund, however Klopp was posed with the opportunity of a fairy tail finish.

With the opportunity to win the German cup against Wolfsburg in his final game at the Olympic stadium, but in front of the bumper 75,000 fans, after knocking Bayern Munich out, Dortmund lost 3-1 after taking the lead within the first five minutes, with a disappointing result to finish, jubilant scenes created Klopp as he walked away from Dortmund as their most successful manager ever, and the man who put Borussia Dortmund on the European Footballing Map





QUOTES ON JURGEN KLOPP

PEPIJN LIJDERS

"Jurgen creates a family. We always say: 30 per cent tactic, 70 per cent teambuilding,"

EMRE CAN

"Jurgen Klopp is certainly a great coach. I think he has demonstrated at Dortmund that he can suit any team in the world."

PAUL SCHOLES

"When I watch Jurgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund side, I see a manager who is determined to play in his opponent's half, who is committed to attacking football, and, from the way he conducts himself on the touchline, is clearly an interesting, charismatic personality."

PEP GUARDIOLA

"Maybe Klopp is the best manager in the world at creating teams who attack the back four with so many players, from almost anywhere on the pitch. They have an intensity with the ball and without the ball, and it is not easy to do that."



THE LIVERPOOL ERA

After leaving Dortmund Klopp set his sites on maybe his greatest task yet, moving to England where he had once visited as an exchange student, to take charge of Liverpool, one of Englands top two most successful sides, and one of Europes most successful clubs. He took over from Brendan Rogers on October 8th 2015, after Liverpool's American owners used a mathematical method to predict the best fitting manager, something Mr Henry had already done with his other sports team the Boston Red Sox .

Even within his first interview as Liverpool manager, the Klopp characteristics seemingly shined through by suggesting he took the job because it is not a 'Normal Club' , this is also the same press conference club dubbed himself 'The Normal One'. Although the press conference was light hearted, Klopp seemingly set the expectations early, promising trophies within four years, not one season.

His first season saw him take over in October and steer Liverpool to a rather mediocre 8th place but did see Klopp begin to install his philosophy within the group, and also saw Liverpool reach the League Cup final where they were beaten by Manchester City, as well as the UEFA Europa League final, where they defeated Manchester United and Jurgen's old club Dortmund along the way before losing out in the final to Sevilla 3-1 in Basel, but this was only the start for Jurgen's Liverpool

The next two seasons provided Klopp with opportunity to really start to change the DNA of the football club and attempt to develop players to fit the philosophy, the high intensity and the methodology he required, Liverpool were initially plagued by non-contact injuries during his first full year, with questions asked if the players could live with Klopp's philosophy in the High impact English Premier League. However what people were not aware of was Klopp's training philosophy, pushing the players behind the scenes in weekly 'closed friendlies' to build miles in to the legs and prepare the players for a 'Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday' Champions league program.

With no surprise, after preparing for the Champions League, Liverpool qualified for it the following season securing fourth place, and a return to the champions league for the first time since 2014/15. With non-contact injuries in rapid decline during the 2016/17 season Liverpool's players were now showing the Klopp philosophy, and the traits that he possessed as a young person and a young footballer, hard working, intensity, highly effective counter pressers, and after securing another fourth place finish, Klopp secured Liverpool their first Champions League final since their defeat to AC Milan in 2007.

Liverpool played Real Madrid In Kiev, Liverpool posted an unbelievable goal scoring record through out the champions league, putting seven past Roma, five past Manchester City and five past porto during the knock out phase. Liverpool however fell 3-1 to Real Madrid who secured their third straight Champions League win under manager Zidane, and Klopp had now lost six straight finals as a manager. This did not seem to worry Klopp who secured the signing of Van Dijk, Becker, Keita, Fabinho and Shaqiri in the summer looking to improve Liverpool's defensive capabilities and help Liverpool become more flexible in possession when playing against a block.

Klopp's philosophy was now seemingly as effective as it had ever been, at Christmas Liverpool were undefeated in the Premier League, seven points clear of Manchester City, Liverpool fell at the final hurdle when looking to secure a first Premier League title, but did complete a monumental season where they secured 97 Points and scored 89 goals in what was likely the most incredible title race ever seen. However it was not the incredible title race that Klopp Will Remember.

Liverpool looked to go one better in the Champions League than the previous year, and after losing 3-0 in the semi-finals to Barcelona, it was seemingly over but after an incredible 4-0 win at Anfield, Liverpool secured a Champions League Final spot against league rivals Tottenham, and in Madrid Klopp went one further than the previous year securing his first European title.

This 2-0 Champions league win was Klopp's first European success after losing both his previous two finals with Dortmund and Liverpool in the previous season.





JURGEN KLOPP'S COACHING PHILOSOPHY



UNDERSTANDING THE PHILOSOPHY OF

Jurgen Klopp

OUT WORK THE OPPONENT

PRESSING

COUNTER
PRESSING

SECOND
BALLS

ULTRA
AGGRESSIVE

ADAPTABLE

COUNTER
ATTACKING

"HIS PHILOSOPHY IS 80% ABOUT THE PERSON AND
20% ABOUT THE TACTICS

80%





KLOPPS DORTMUND

Klopp's philosophy does stand heavily for flexibility and adaptability in tactical formations in and out of possession, and is more focused on the presentation of principles rather than specific system, he has shown through out his time as manager of Mainz and of Dortmund that he can adapt his philosophy to the players he has as well as Adapt to the players playing against him, devising tactical strategies to successfully deal with players such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale

One key strategy used by Jurgen Klopp through out his coaching history is the belief that his team should work hard, and this trend was obvious through out his time with Dortmund with Klopp's team often out working their opponent in distance covered and high intensity distance covered this sounds a simple non-tactical decision. however this belief in hard work and a desire to out work the opponent is as important if not more important than any of the tactical decisions that are made within his coaching philosophy.

Within Klopp's time at Dortmund his most common strategy was a very compact and narrow 4-2-3-1, this compact and narrow shape was what helped encourage the counter attacking football by encouraging the opponent to move away from their compact shape and begin to occupy much larger spaces and leave spaces open for Klopp's team to transition through with a quick counter-attacking strategy.

out of possession this would mean that the four wide players would become increasingly compact and leave the outside channels empty for the opponent. The two sitting midfield players sit in a compact shape, with one of the two midfield players more comfortable going forward, whilst the second midfield player is more comfortable sitting and protecting the two centre backs creating attacking fluidity and defensive stability. This compact shape out of possession also allows Dortmund to become very compact in central areas meaning they are more capable of counter pressing because of the small distances between the central players.

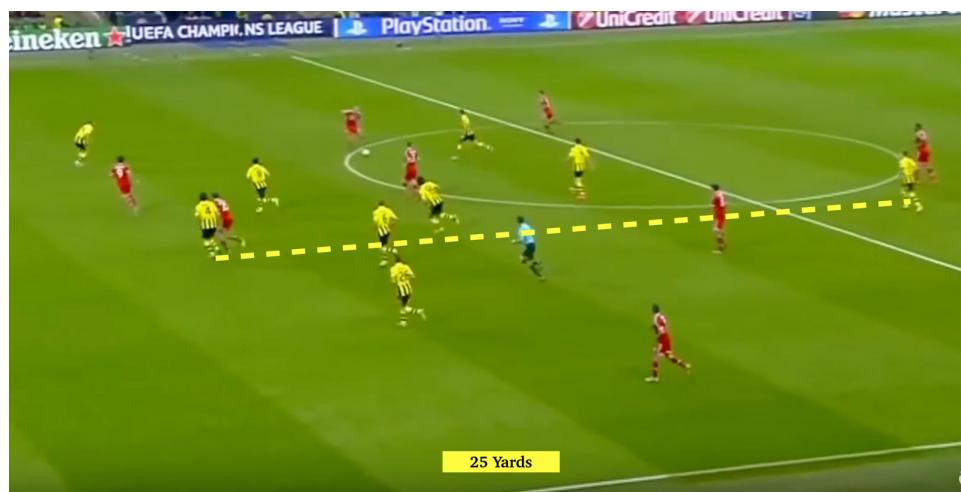


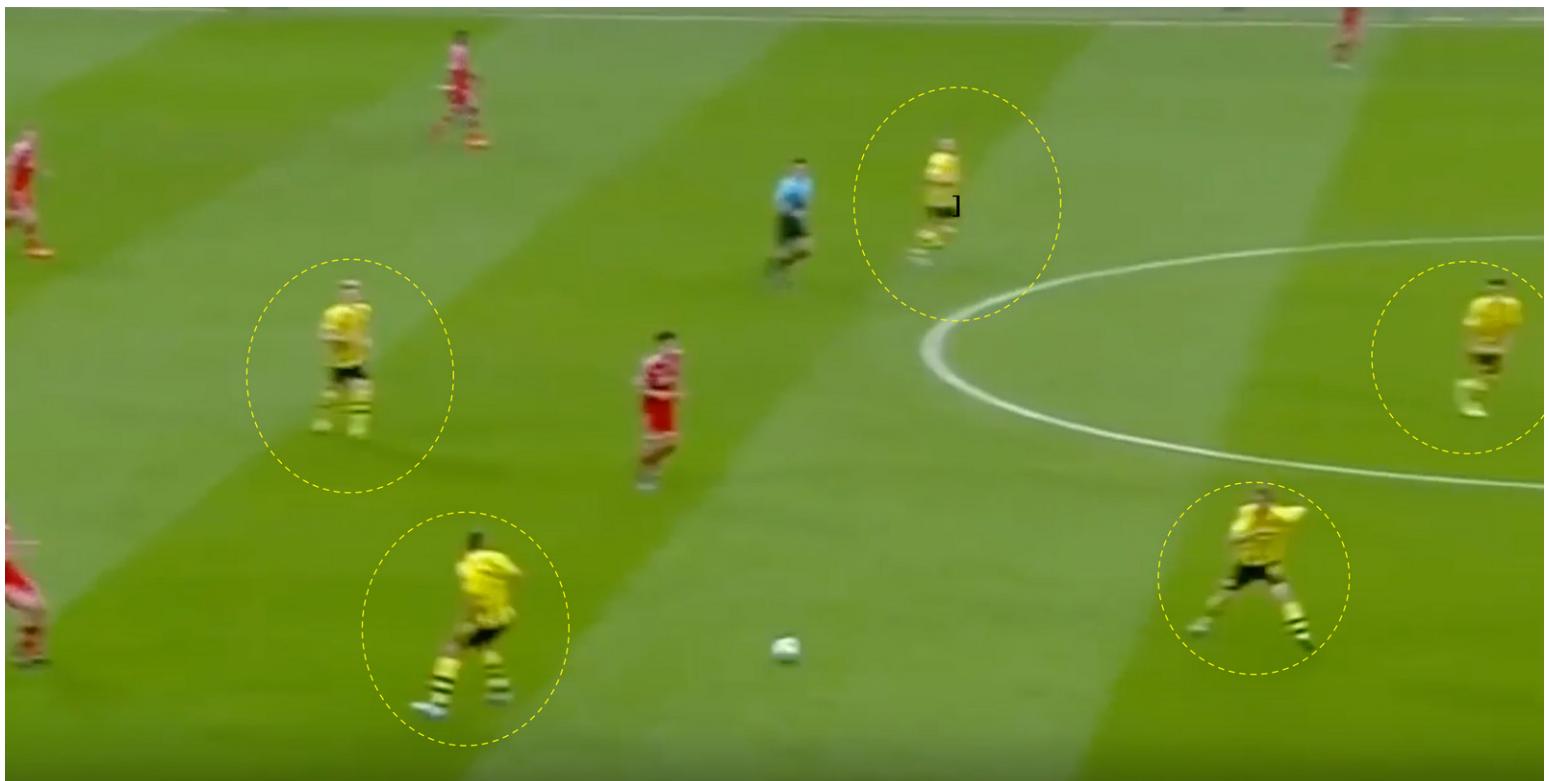
OUT OF POSSESSION

Out of possession as previously mentioned Klopp's Dortmund are very compact in shape and will look to press early against the opposition, Klopp looks to ensure that there are very short distances between the deepest and most attacking lines, this vertical compactness will make counter pressing easier, counter pressing is a linchpin of the Klopp philosophy, it's the intention of winning the ball back as early as possible when possession has been lost, Counter-pressing or gegenpressing as it is known as in Germany.

The gegenpressing Philosophy is simple, instead of dropping in to a block behind the ball when a transition occurs, Klopp's Dortmund will look to instantly regain the ball, the first player will apply pressure to the ball whilst the next players will look to step in front of the opponents support around the ball and make it impossible for the player in possession to play forward or move forward.

This can be used effectively for two reasons, one to look to win the ball from the opponent when they are in their most unorganized moments (The transitional moments) Klopp's ability to keep small distances between units is the reason his team were able to do this so successfully (As shown in the image below).





The second reason this is performed by Klopp's team is because his team are likely also unorganized and at their most vulnerable because of the transitional moment of the game. Counter-pressing is the strategy that ensures that Klopp is able too;

- 1- Protect his team during the transitional moments of the game, when they are most vulnerable because of the change in shape.
- 2- Take back possession of the ball because the opponent have not managed to secure passing options of the ball
- 3- Ensure that he can take advantage of the opponents lack of shape and capitalize by scoring or creating attacking opportunities.

The photo shows this philosophy as the compact central area allows for Dortmund to turn over possession and win the ball back instantly because the opponent have failed to find space between the compact lines. Instantly providing opportunity to break quickly with good attacking numbers because of that compact principles that exists through the out of possession moments.

Out Of Possession Summary

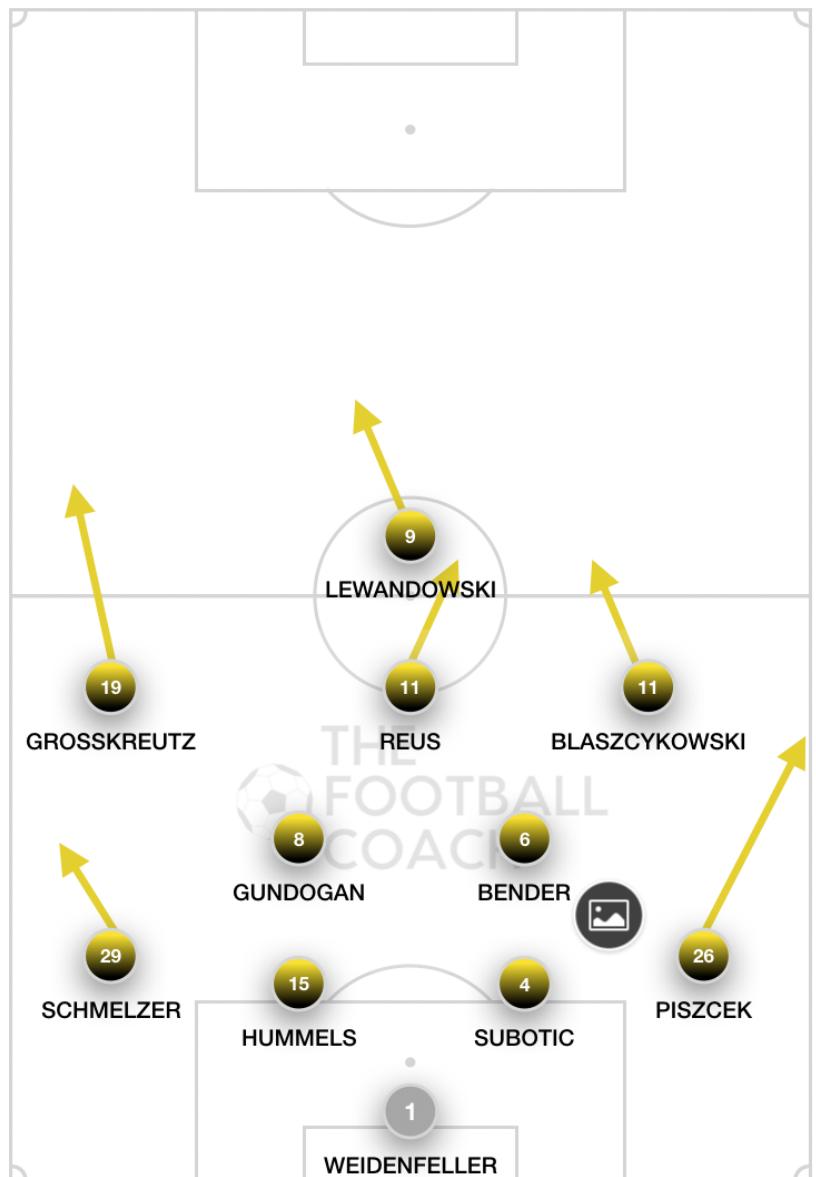
- 1- Counter Pressing a key element of their structure out of possession
- 2- Narrow and Compact at all times out of possession
- 3- Comfortable giving wide players space out of possession
- 4- Intense and relentless with out the ball

In Possession Klopp's personality still seemed evident with his playing philosophy, his teams still look to out work the opponent, still look to provide energetic and enthusiastic runs with and without the ball to create a chaotic and enthusiastic environment to play in. They are as tactical and precise in possession as they are out of possession and look to expose the opponent in specific moments of strength utilizing the type of players they have ensuring that the individuals are more valuable combined than they are as individuals.

IN POSSESSION

Klopp's Dortmund team look to play forward very quickly and look to build attacks quickly using the technically excellent centre backs that Klopp recruited in to his dortmund team, because his Dortmund team looks to play forward quickly and with directness when required, the role of centre back within Klopp's team is important as these players often play a more key role during the build up phase, as the direct nature will mean that Subotic and Hummels are often looking to find the wide player Grosskreutz missing out central lines and making it difficult for the opponent to press dortmund because of their willingness to play over the press and into the attacking third very quickly.

when Klopp's teams aren't able to play directly they will look to play through attacking full-backs, full-backs who love to drive forward, and as shown in the image above, Klopp will often play with one very wide attacking area, where the full-back will just support the attacking play, whilst on the other side (Often Blaszczykowski) plays inside creating an overload in central areas but leaving the outside channel for Piszeck to attack, the run of the wide player inside will often move the opponents full-back inside making more space for Klopp's full-back to Go and attack and go and create attacking opportunities.

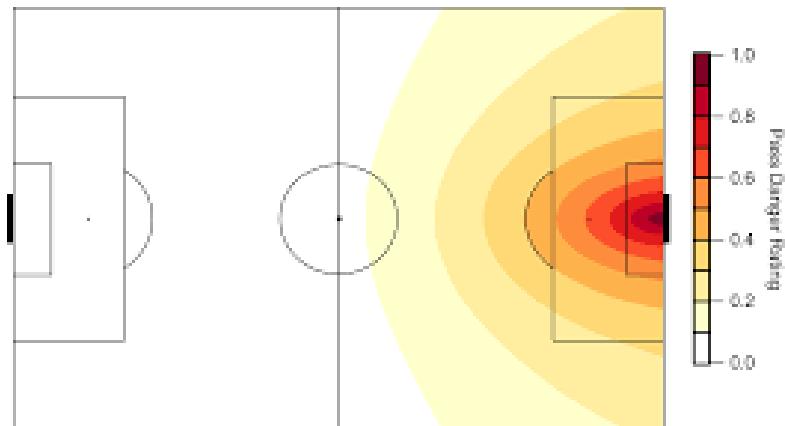


COUNTER ATTACKING

Because of Klopp's desire to play the game in the opponents half, a lot of the transitional moments in the attacking area. During Klopp's title winning season, his Dortmund team were able to win possession in the attacking third 9.4 times per game, this was the most in the German league and made Klopp's team extremely difficult to play against but it also mean that the majority of their attacking situations start closer to the goal than their opponents attacking opportunities making life more complicated for the opponent.

The below graph shows the evidence behind Klopp's philosophy, for what be an obvious rationale but adds reasoning to why it is so important in Klopp's eyes to win possession in the attacking third.

Klopp's counter-pressing ensures that there are lots of bodies around the ball when pressing, this means that when Klopp's side win possession back they are able to play forward quickly



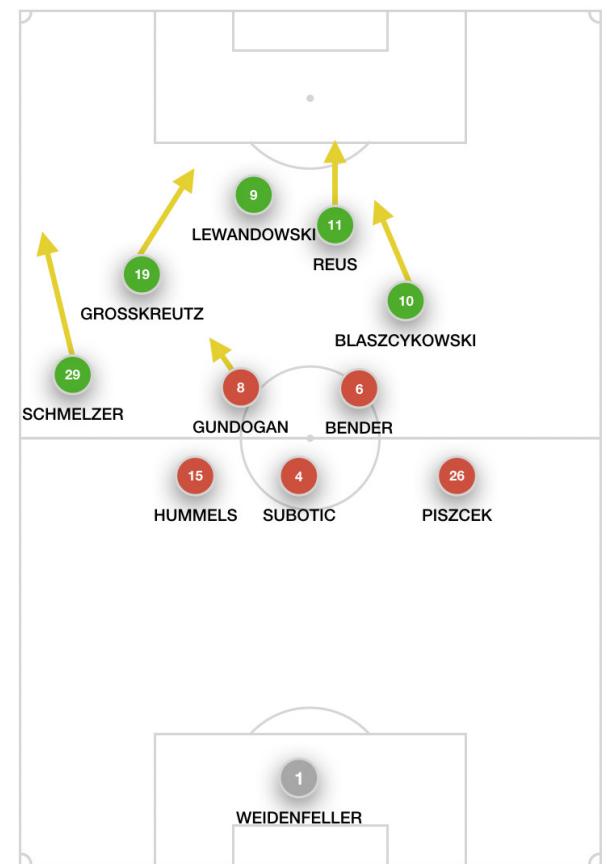
The quick forward pass is the most effective way to make sure that the opponent is not able to counter press back at Klopp's team. The counter-attacking moments tend to occur in two phases of the game, they either occur in the attacking third from the counter-pressing and as already mentioned this provides a high opportunity to score because of the danger of the opponent losing the ball so close to their own goal. However, Klopp's team are also comfortable counter-attacking from the defensive third when they win possession back **because** of their compact shape out of possession.

The below graph shows the evidence behind Klopp's philosophy, for what be an obvious rationale but adds reasoning to why it is so important in Klopp's eyes to win possession in the attacking third.

Klopp's counter-pressing ensures that there are lots of bodies around the ball when pressing, this means that when Klopp's side win possession back they are able to play forward quickly.

As shown in the diagram and previously explained, five players will look to attack with pace and intensity whilst the other five players provide defensive balance behind the ball and ensure that the team is not vulnerable to be hit on the counter attack when his team are trying to attack on the counter attack.

His counter attacks are very linked to his personality, there is a directness when the counter-attacks come from deep and the forward runners off the Ball attempt to unsettle the defensive players who have to adjust their body to ensure they are able to



COUNTER ATTACKING

go with the runners as they run in behind the opponent, whilst the defender also has to try and attempt to put pressure on the ball and prevent Klopp's team striving forward with the ball. As the image shows here, not only does the player in possession look to run in behind, but he receives support from the attacking five previously mentioned and this support helps overload the opponent in their final third, and even during the counter attacking moments the narrow and compact nature of the shape is still evident to ensure they are still effective in the transitional moments if they occur.



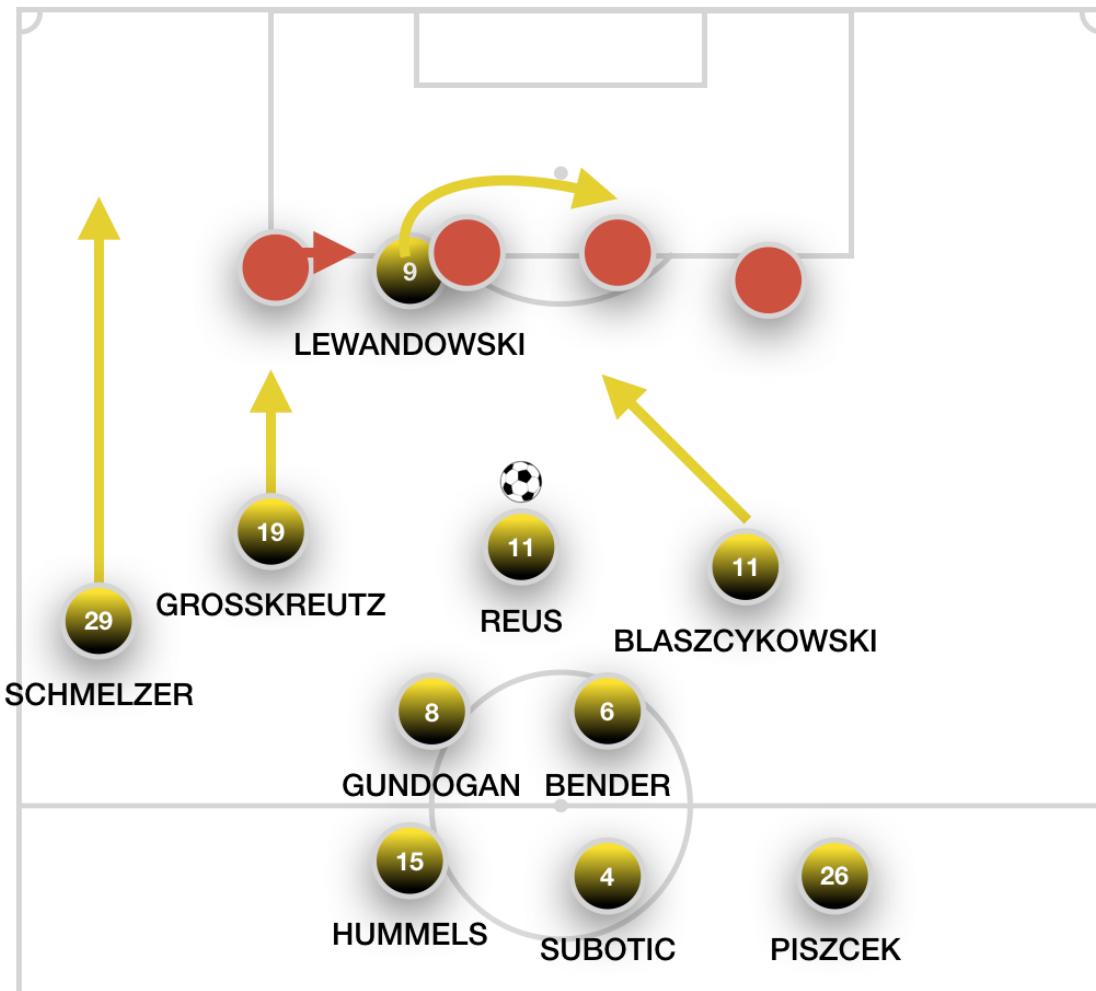
BUILD UP PLAY

During general build up play Klopp continued to attack with the same five attacking players providing good balance in and out of possession. Klopp would look to try and find space for the number 10 to receive between the defensive lines to create opportunities for the 10 to receive off the shoulder of the midfield screen and isolate the opponents defensive unit. Once they were able to do this, Klopp's attacking five would look to make direct runs in behind to attempt to stretch the opponent.

One of the most common rotations would see the number nine play on the outside shoulder of the opposite centre back and make his run across the centre backs whilst bringing the back four more compact and leaving two attacking options options for the playmaker to find, for large periods Reus would become this playmaker who was capable of finding passes behind the opponent as well as the technical ability to run with the ball and dominate the opponent in 1v1 situations.

BUILD UP PLAY

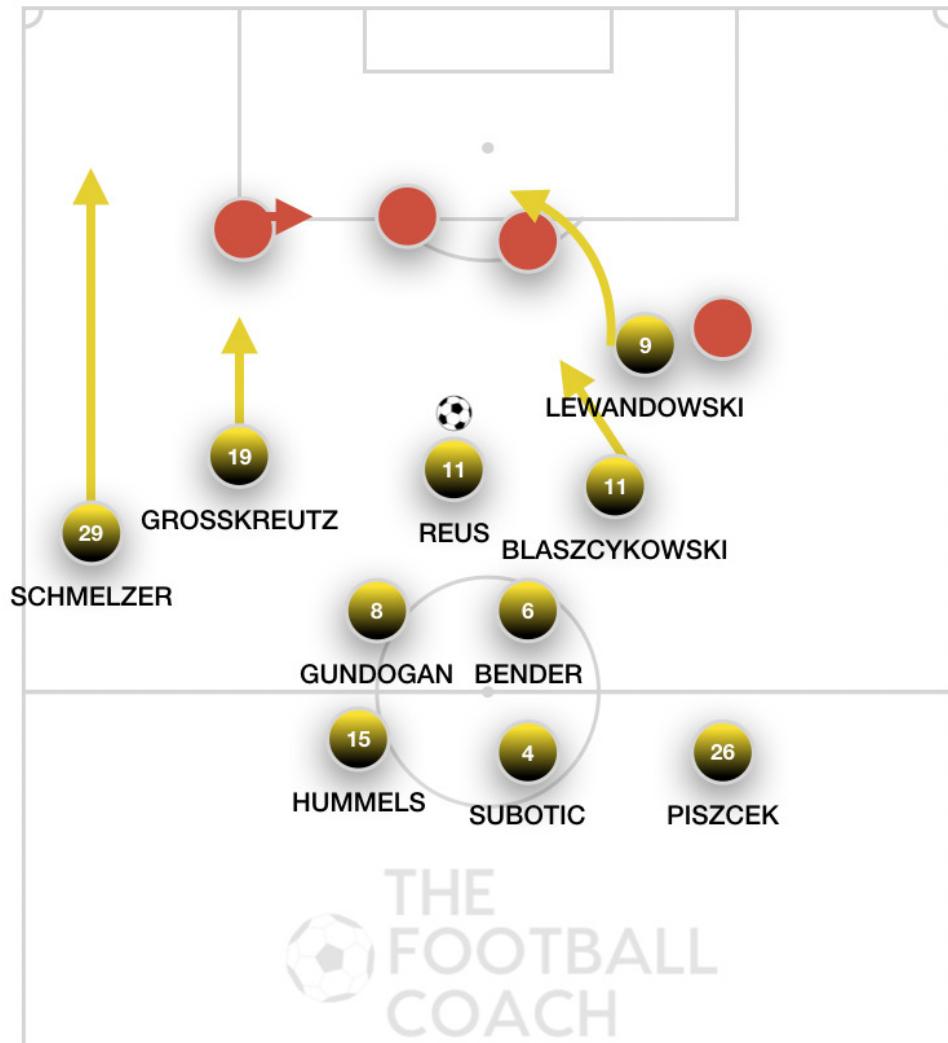
Option one, can be seen in the image here with Lewandowski running across the back four looking to pull the full back inside to allow the full-back to receive possession in behind the back four, this run from Lewandowski, can also create a passing option in behind (Although, Difficult!), what commonly this situations created was movement across the back four to defend against Lewandowski, and leave space for Reus to run in to and look to create a goal scoring opportunity by being direct and exposing the isolated centre-back and then beating him with pace and technical excellence that Reus Holds.



The second scenario sees Lewandowski make a run inside the opponents full-back and then across the back four from the opposite side, this is the more difficult rotation that has seen Klopp's team at time lose possession to sides such as Bayern Munich, but can provide deadly threats, the full-back still looks to run in behind using the outside channel, whilst the left sided wide player looks to use the half space to pin the opponents full-back and fix the full-back leaving the wide player to the space himself.

However the main desire of Klopp's attacking rotation in this situations is to force one of the opponents defensive unit to follow the run of Lewandowski and leave either a space for Reus to run in to or leave

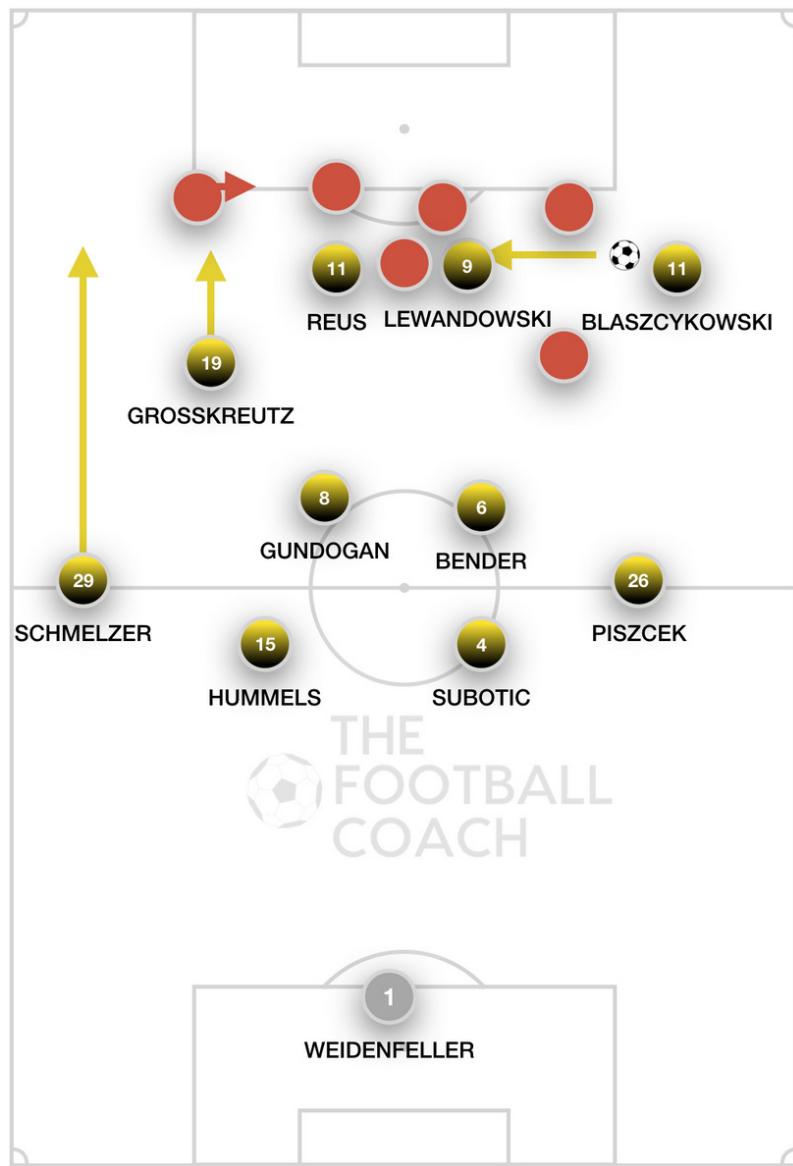
BUILD UP PLAY



an opponent isolated for Reus to expose in a 1v1 situation, the run of the right sided wide player can also provide more attacking opportunities for the play maker but this is a more risky and less favored move by Klopp's team because of the space it would leave between the attacking lines, if possession is lost when Klopp's team look to thread the wide player in, it would leave both wide players ahead of the ball in wide lanes, that means a lack of stability in central areas, and a transition could be deadly because of the inability to counter press against the opponent.

If the ball is put wide Klopp's teams are comfortable and tactically aware of how to attack from crosses and how to defend from attacking crosses if required .

BUILD UP PLAY



Klopp also displayed one other key attacking movement to create goal scoring opportunities during his time with Borussia Dortmund, his team would often play with a withdrawn striker or false nine as it's been commonly touted to ensure that the space between the lines in and out of possession was ever too great, this did however mean that at times his teams would struggle to create a threat in behind and fail to break down defenses when a back were compact behind the ball.

This rotation was simple, the wide player (Playing in the half space) would make a run towards the full back compacting the back four, before looking to cut the ball with pace across the front of the box, cutting the screen out of the game, for the number nine to run on to and try and take away from the defender because of the pace of the ball

Or intentionally step over the ball and allow the ball to run to the 10 who could then run with the ball, and then the nine would continue to make the run hoping to pull a defender with him, which could leave space or an exposed defender for the 10 to run at when they receive possession behind the screen on the edge of the box



KLOPPS LIVERPOOL

When Klopp arrived at Liverpool it almost seemed an alining of the stars was occurring, the larger than life personality, seemingly fitted the larger than life club. However the club did have a larger fan base, and a larger bank balance that could support Klopp more than he had ever experienced before, allowing him to not recruit world class players to play the system and philosophy he wanted, rather than needing to constantly adapt the system to fit the players he has.

Although the financial backing has supported Klopp's development at Liverpool his coaching has still seemingly supported the development and improvement of players at the club during his time with seemingly unknown players such as Alexander-Arnold and Robertson playing key roles within his philosophy, whilst players like Jordan Henderson, James Milner and Oxlade-Chamberlain have clearly improved under his stewardship .

But more importantly tactically, Liverpool and Dortmund do carry very similar tactical trends, in short they both play with a high defensive line to make the space in front compact and make life difficult for teams to play in front, they both use attacking full-backs in the wide areas, and can both be seen to play with a withdrawn centre forward whose preference is coming short for the ball, whilst the midfield is work man like, who would take more joy from destroying an attack than creating their own.

In attack Klopp's team still attack with limited attacking numbers, comfortable attacking with a maximum of around five players (Not as consistent as Dortmund) but very fluid in their attacking structure, willing to let their attacking front three (As they commonly play 4-3-3) attack the opponent whilst the rest of the shape remains compact and consolidated for counter-pressing opportunities.



EVOLUTION

Tactically Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool have evolved like any other club, his high intensity Gegenpress style did not appear within his first season and a half at Liverpool, but did initially start with a 4-2-3-1, although this system created great attacking success, Liverpool struggled to keep the ball out of their own net. Klopp's messages in press conferences consistently involved defending "Defence First" "I Could write a book on defending", this really showed Klopp's awareness and confidence that although the system and players showed defensive frailty, he had a plan to turn these moments around.

We also must mention one of the biggest tactical revolutions to occur within Klopp's Liverpool era and that is the sale of Coutinho, who many believed Liverpool could not replace but actually this moment became a huge positive for Klopp, it was always Coutinho that played within the 10 role and created the attacking opportunities, however think back to Klopp's Dortmund, a work-man like midfield who enjoy destroying attacks over creating them, and Coutinho didn't fit this mould, neither did Coutinho work-rate out of possession suit the Gegenpress style Klopp so desires.

This perceived loss gave Klopp not only the financial power to go and recruit players for his system, but created the gaps within his squad where he could finally now shape Liverpool in to the system he desired.



OUT OF POSSESSION

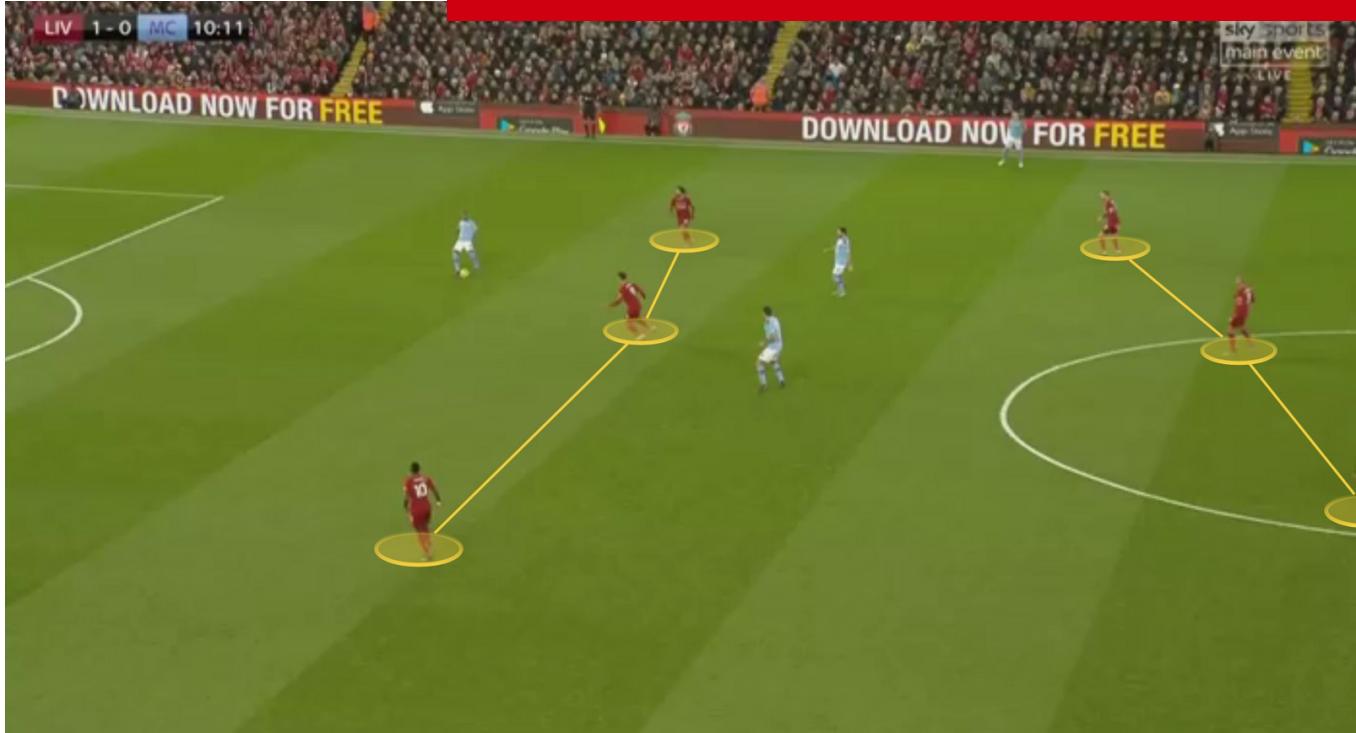


In summary Liverpool tend to play with a 4-3-3 with and without the ball, this can be adaptable at time, and Liverpool are prepared to drop in to a 4-5-1 if required, but for the majority of time are comfortable within a 4-3-3. The philosophy has some components that are very similar to that of his Dortmund team, this includes the Gegenpressing component that was so famous with Dortmund. This means that the intensity and work rate is extremely high and the attention to detail out of possession is even higher.

Klopp's Liverpool still value second balls extremely highly and have specific plans to ensure they can win possession back or secure possession by dominating those second balls. The philosophy without the ball is still very adaptive and Liverpool can manipulate their strategy to ensure that they are able to exploit the opponent or nullify the opponent if required . The buy in and clear objectives out of possession are the core strength of the system, as players are willing to sacrifice themselves for the better of the group.

Liverpool, similar to Dortmund still look to counter the counter and prevent the opponent ever counter attacking against them, with this is mind Speed and defensive stability and balance play in Klopp creating his philosophy at Liverpool

LIVERPOOLS SHAPE



With Liverpool in a 4-3-3 shape they create a system that is very adaptable and extremely organized, Liverpool's midfield and attacking three, are as organized if not more organized out of possession than most teams defensive units.

The front three consistently work hard to dictate the opponents play by pressing the ball high and hard and look to force the opponent backward and look to stop passes between the lines. The Liverpool front three focus heavily on pressing the opponent back and locking play in to the opponents half. The Liverpool front three focus heavily on winning the ball and preventing the opponent playing forward, and do not look to be distracted by what the opponents midfield is doing to create passing options.

As you can see in the image above, when the front three are pressing and working hard the midfield three behind stay consistently connected and look to support the front three as much as possible, making life difficult for the opponent by creating two bank's of three . When Liverpool press with two banks of three they cover the wide area 's two ways, if the opponent drops deep to receive possession then the midfield three are comfortable sliding across and applying pressure and locking in to the opponent from here, if the ball is played to a wide player behind the midfield players, then the high attacking full backs who sit half and half are comfortable dealing with the wide threat.

When Liverpool press in this shape with the opponent in possession in front of the press, the opposite full-back is always ready to deal with the switch of play. This is due to the physical dominance Liverpool's full-backs have, the confidence they have in Van Dijk means they are comfortable with dealing with the opponent if they decide to play long in to the centre forward.

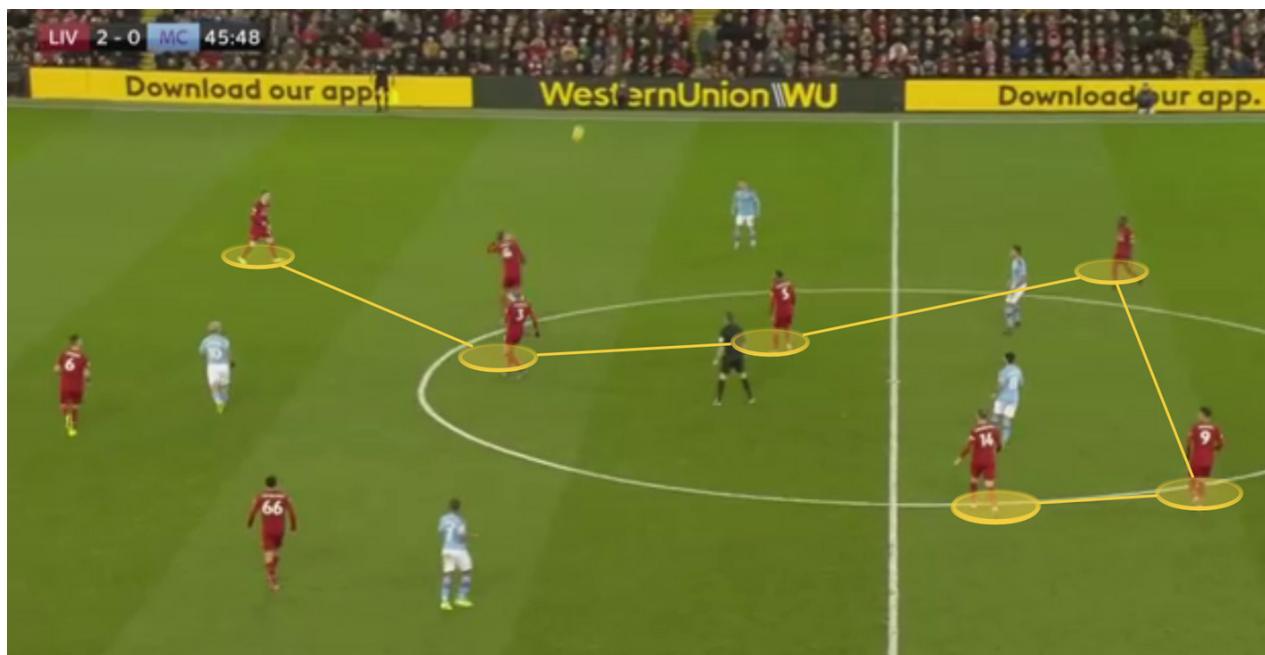
LIVERPOOLS PRESS



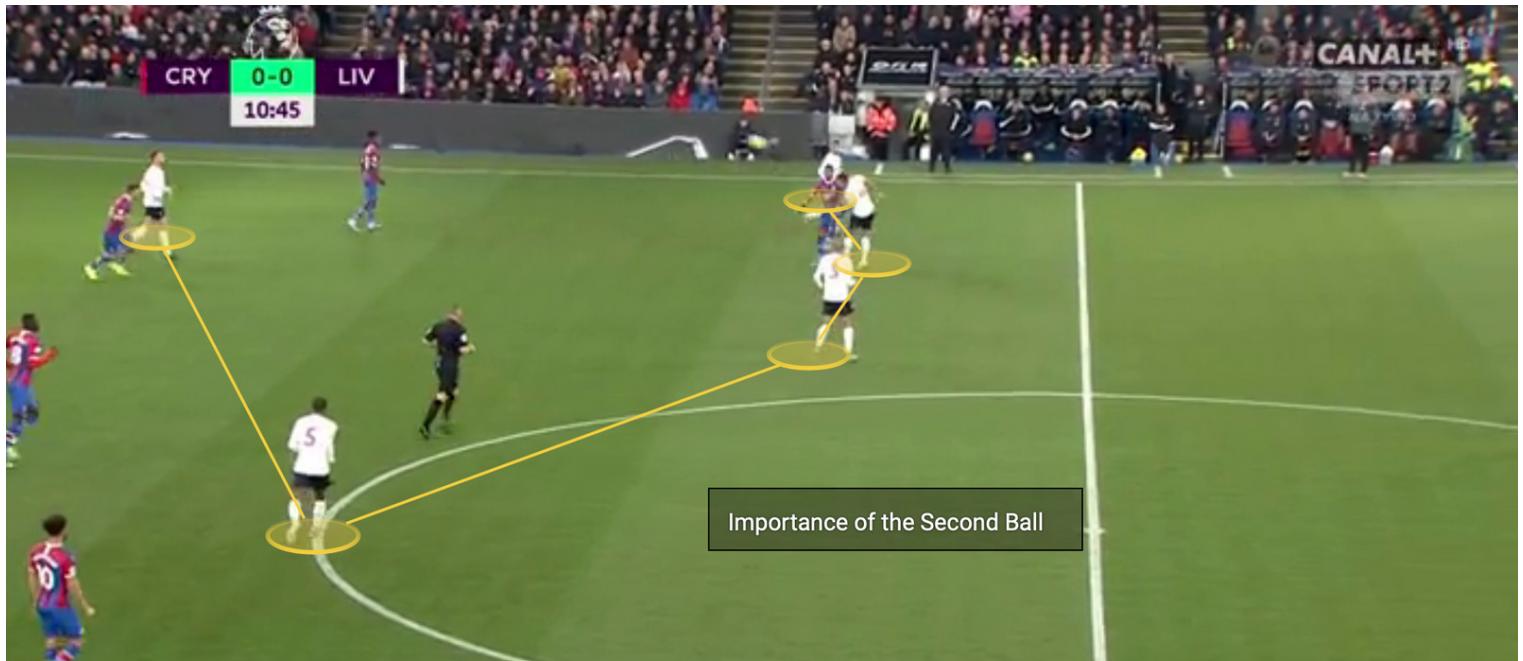
Once Liverpool are in this shape, there are a few situations that can occur, the most common is the opponent decides to play back to the goa keeper, and then the goalkeeper looks to play long in to the opponents attacking line. Liverpool will look to apply pressure to the Goalkeeper and force the opponent to make a decision. whilst the other two sit either side to challenge the goalkeeper to play long and not to try and play out.

Once the ball goes back to the goalkeeper Liverpool's midfield makes a decision based upon the opponents midfield, if the opponents midfield does not squeeze up and stays close to the ball, then Liverpools midfield will stay high and prepare for the Goalkeeper looking to find a pass. If the opponents midfield squeezes high and looks to prepare for the opponent to play long. This is where Liverpool's midfield prepare to deal with Second Balls, Second Balls are a key component within Jurgen Klopp's Philosophy.

Once play has been forced long Liverpool are very comfortable dealing with second balls, as you can see here Van Dijk is extremely dominant and will sit zonally and look to make first contact with any ball hit directly, whilst this happens Liverpool's back four will be a back three behind him. As Van Dijk goes forward to make contact you can see the compactness in the Liverpool shape, with the midfield

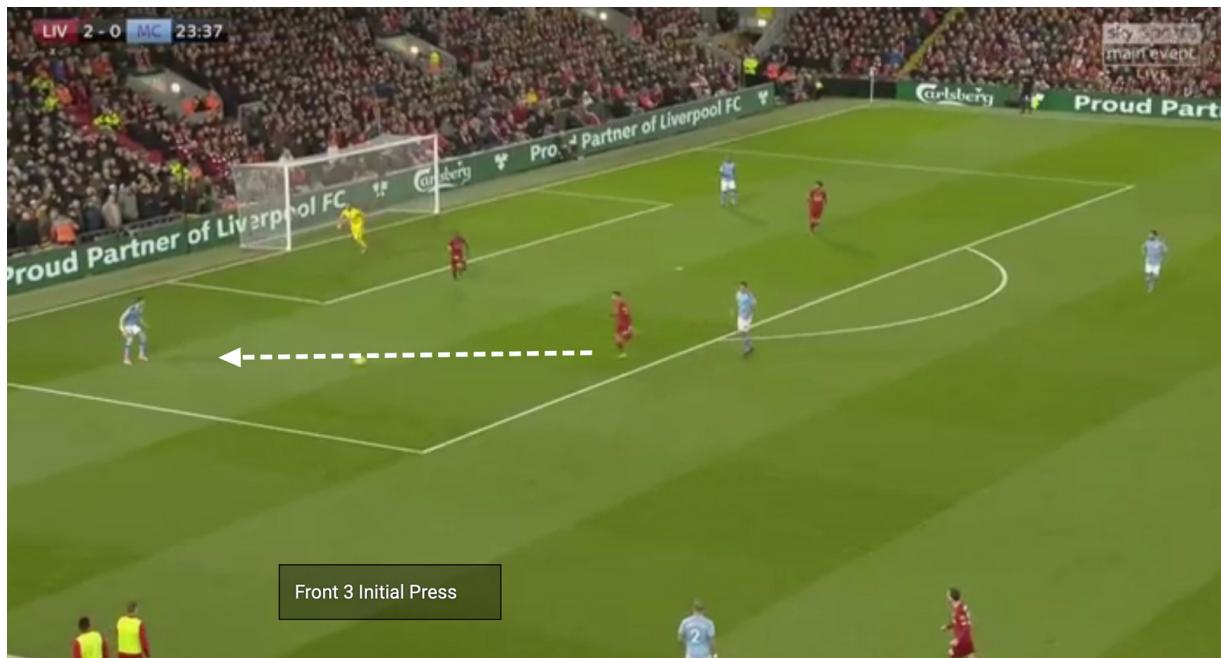


LIVERPOOLS PRESS

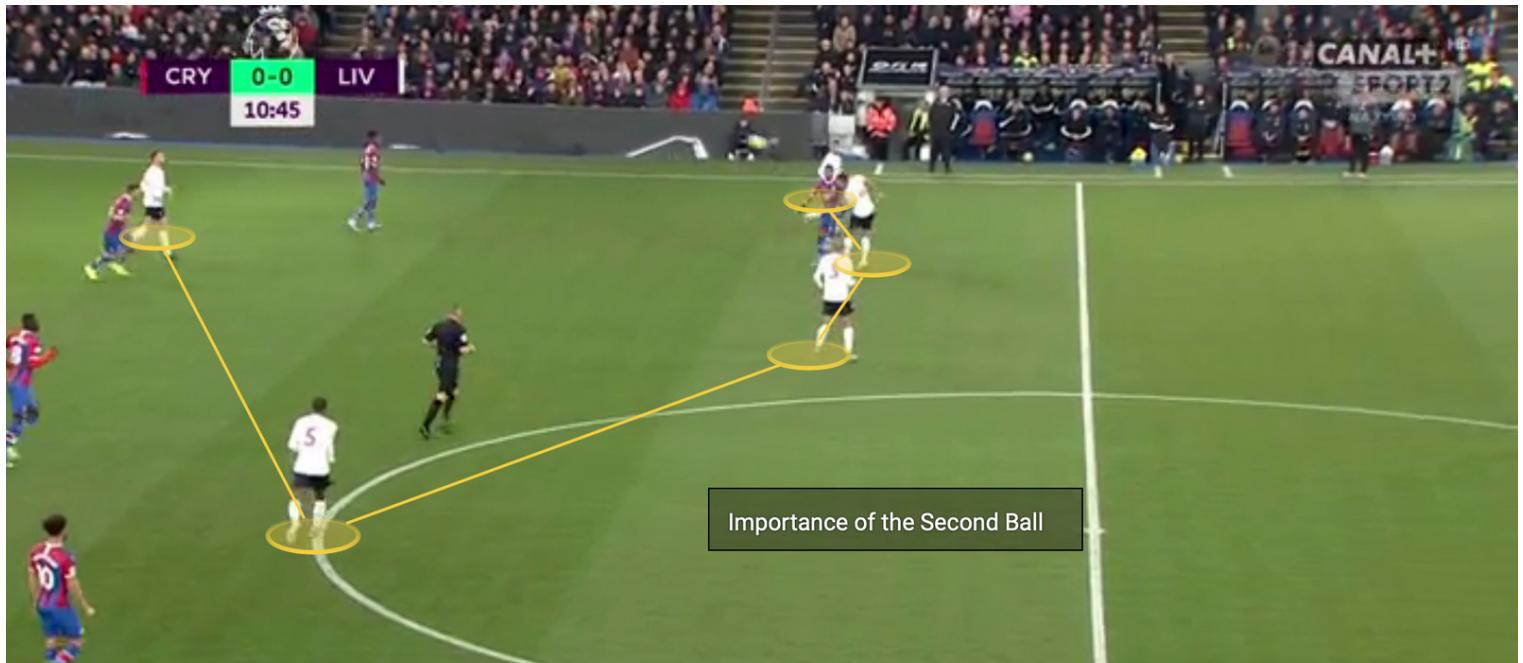


screen will come ball side to ensure the the opponents midfield is not able to receive possession from Van Dijk's contact, whilst the attacking three will drop deep to ensure than if Van Dijk's contact goes over the midfield unit the attacking unit can compete and win possession. Liverpool clearly value second balls and from the images and their consistent success in these moments, can you see how these moments are trained and are valued within Klopp's coaching process, winning second balls will be a key element in their training process.

However as previously mentioned Liverpool are extremely flexible, if the opponents GK decides not to go long and looks to play out from the back, Liverpool are comfortable pressing higher and can instantly provided a structured response using Liverpool's unbelievably organized front three. As the goalkeeper decides to play to the dropped centre back Liverpool's front three apply pressure to the ball carrier, whilst the nine looks to cut the goalkeeper out of the picture and try to dictate the way the opponent can attack, by cutting the goalkeeper, the opponent is now locked in one half of the pitch, and this becomes more simple to defend against.

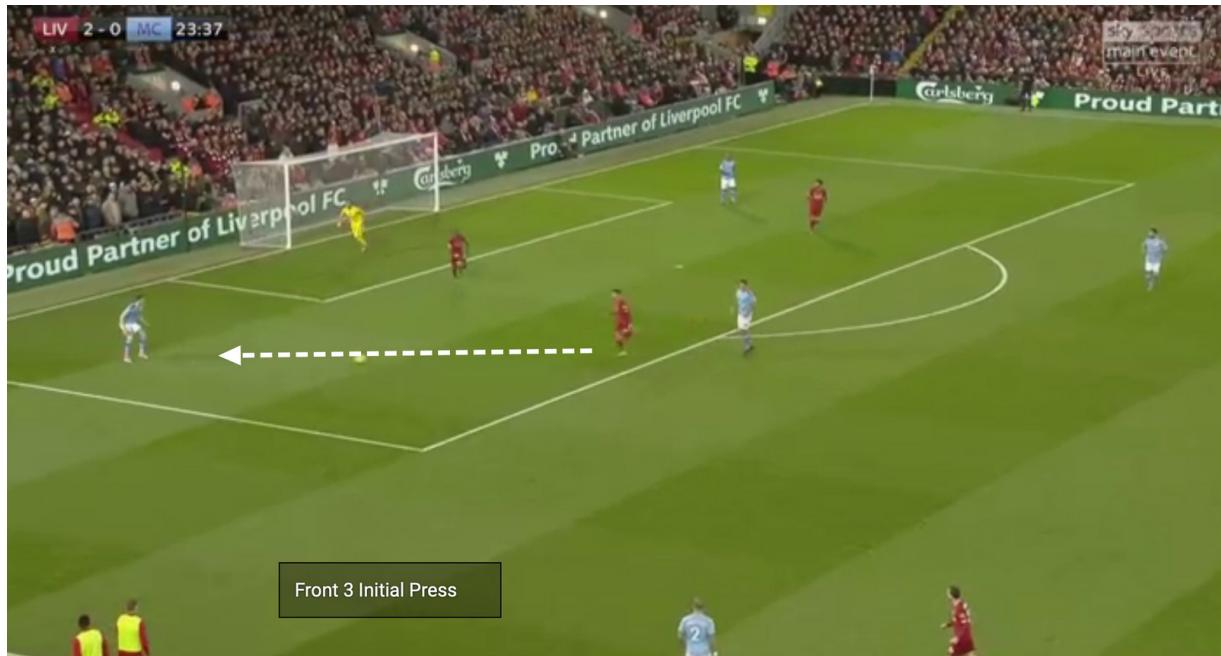


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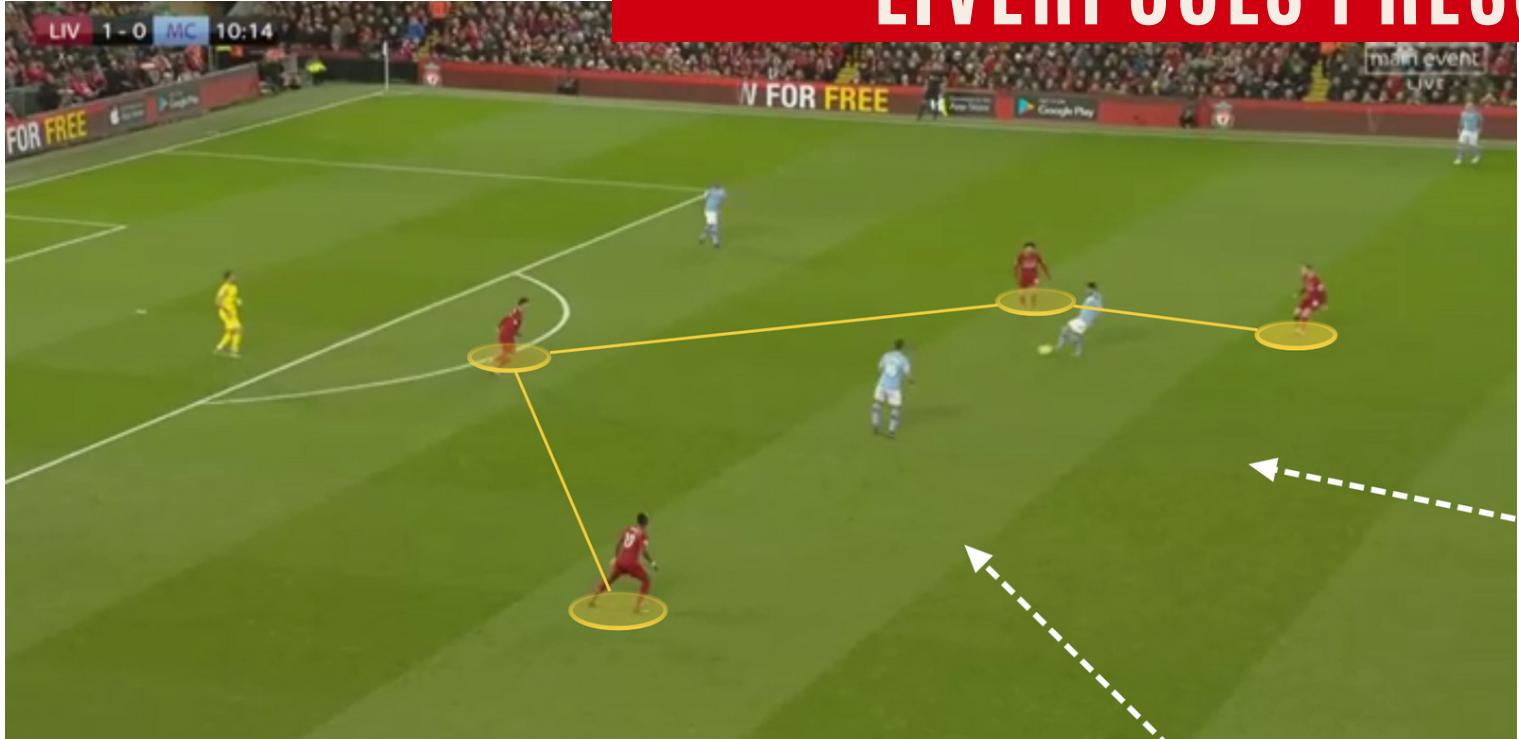


once this pressure has been applied. The ball will become the focus for the pressing player who here is Firmino, as he applies pressure the FB (Robinson) will come and work to cover the opponents full back, whilst the other full back will stay half and half so he is able to influence the attack if there is a transition, but can also defend if the opponent breaks out. Liverpools midfield is very adaptable dependent on the midfield challenge for the game.

If the opponent does not look to drop a midfield player deep to support, Liverpool are comfortable leaving the midfield deep to protect against a long pass, however if the opponent does look to come deep and overload Liverpool to try and get out Liverpool are comfortable with the Midfield three breaking in to a one and a two (So one player is more attacking) or a two and a one (Two players in higher positions) if required, but they will keep the intensity and not allow the opponent to turn. Once The opponent play in to a midfield player behind the initial press, Liverpool will press from the front and the back with the front three working backwards to support



LIVERPOOLS PRESS



As the above image shows, if the opponent are successful in breaking through the initial pressing three, a midfield player who applies pressure so quickly that the opponent is not able to play forward on the second phase, and because they can not go forward this gives time to the front three to recover and start to press from the front, this almost creates a ring of fire around the player in possession whose decision making has now become blurred because of the pressure, this player is now likely to lose possession and give possession to Liverpool in an extremely dangerous area, or they may have to play backwards if they can find a pass.

Even if pressure is broken and the opponent plays out of this compact area, Liverpool are still structurally secure and are able to defend with six players behind the ball giving them defensive stability. Overall Liverpool's midfield player a huge role in Liverpool's pressing structure out of possession, they are tactically aware as previously mentioned, and capable to dropping or pressing dependent on the structure, personal and intention of the opponent. Liverpool's midfield is also capable of dealing with sides who take a third option when playing out from the back, teams who look to try and play through them and into the forward areas quickly (Grounded passes) also find it difficult due to the unique compactness of Liverpool's midfield and the high defensive line played by Liverpool, this means that the space between the lines is minimal and passes are difficult to play through.



GEGENPRESSING



Counter-pressing or Gegenpressing (as it's known in Germany) is Klopp's most known tactical belief, this belief that possession should be one back quickly, when possession lost. It sounds very simple, but more impressively, Liverpool make it look very simple.

Liverpool look to play (by intent) in the opponents half, by playing in the opponents half they are able to play a space orientated game instead of a possession orientated game, this means even without possession of the ball they are looking to control the space. They control the space so that they are able to counter the opponent as soon as possible. Liverpool's narrow front three and narrow midfield three perfectly set the trap to counter-press by keeping high numbers around the ball, as the above image shows when Mané gives away possession of the ball in the attacking half, Liverpool do not look to fall in to a block and protect the ball, they look to apply pressure to the opponent instantly, First Mané the closest player applies pressure to the ball forcing the opponent to play backwards, as this happens the supporting players around him apply pressure to the ball also, Klopp at Liverpool does tend not to block passing lanes but to apply pressure around the ball and let the midfield deal with the situations where the press is broken.

The Gegenpressing behaviors do effect everyone on the pitch, as you can see in the image here the midfield players behind the press focus on the blocking of key passing lanes, so players here such as wijnaldum move up to block the more dangerous passing lane, this movement is as important as the high pressing behaviors, as if the player in possession is able to find a quick passing lane through the centre of the pitch then the press is broken, the opponent can create a central attack and the overload becomes in favor of the opponent.

Liverpool's structure behind the ball also sets itself behind the Gegenpress, so if Liverpool are counter-pressing, they know the opponent may resort to going long and direct, so the players not involved in the press. This maybe the midfield player and back three or four, become compact to make sure they can not be broken in their shape, and can react to the second ball if needed.

WIDE TRANSITIONS

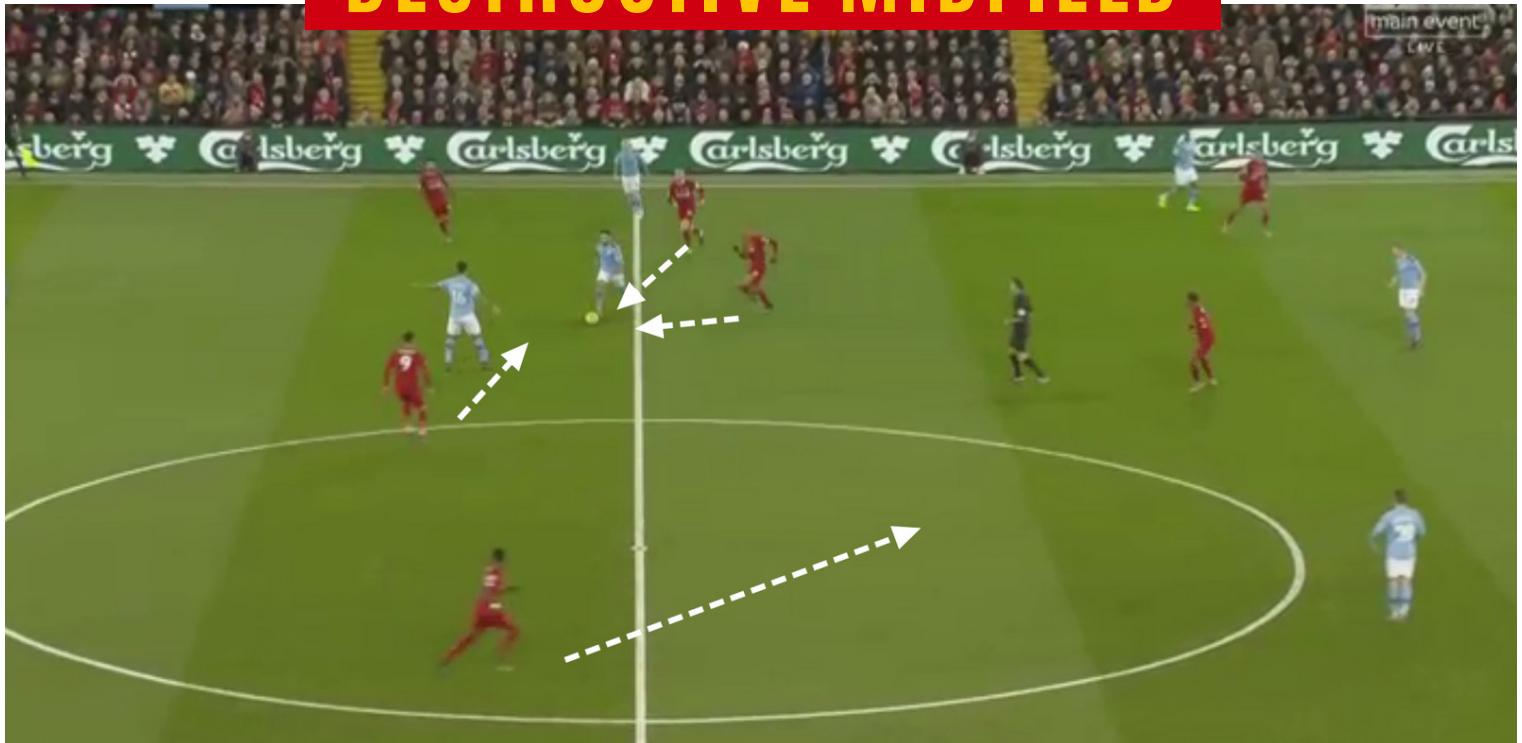


Because of Liverpool's willingness to play high full-backs and their desire to attack through these spaces, it is key for them to have a defensive structure to ensure they can defend if they lose possession in these wide area. Liverpool's full-backs Trent' and Robertson consistently look to play forward early down the channel for the attacking three, but commonly this can be an area where Liverpool lose possession because the pass can become cut out or the opponent can win a dual.

Once the transition occurs Liverpool instantly look to apply pressure to the ball carrier in possession to force them in to the widest area and keep them wide, the full back doesn't sell himself and go completely wide but narrows the passing option whilst the other centre back slides across, at this point the back four still stays high to make sure that there is no space in-front, this unwillingness to drop is a trait and a consistent message within the Liverpool philosophy and more specifically Klopp philosophy.

The midfield stay narrow even in possession, this allows both full backs to play within space, but also means that when there is a transition in the wider area all three midfield players are able to slide over and create an overload in the wide area. This narrow tendency in midfield actually supports play both in and out of possession allowing Klopp's team to counter-press in the wide areas.

DESTRUCTIVE MIDFIELD



Liverpool's midfield is not only able to support the attacking unit or the defensive unit in their work, but is also responsible for being disruptive to the opponents midfield, destroying attacking moments is more valuable than creating in this midfield. Here shows the tenacious behaviors of the midfield unit when sat in their common shape of 4-3-3, one midfield player (wijnaldum) looks to give defensive balance, whilst the other two midfield players get close to their opponent and look to hassle the opponent and destroy the attack.

This hard working midfield can get a mixed tactical support from the front three when in a defensive shape. At times Klopp is happy to allow the front three players to offer limited support within the defensive shape 'Cheating' with the front three, so that Liverpool are capable of breaking quickly through a direct pass in a transitional moment. However this does also mean at times that teams will leave four players back to deal with Liverpool's front three, creating an overload further forward.

However other times (As shown in the image) Liverpool's front three will work backward to apply pressure pressure from behind the opponent to ensure there are greater opportunities to win possession back, this is more common in games where teams have highly creative midfields such as (Barcelona at Home, Man City at Home).



IN POSSESSION



IN POSSESSION

Liverpool have become increasingly dynamic as a group in possession, with the ability to adapt to the opponent week in, week out. They have the ability to dominate possession and look to play through an overloaded midfield with a withdraw striker, they can counter-attack through a front three that look to stay advanced to ensure that they have imputes in the transitional moments and they are also confident using their narrow front three at their positional interchange to compact the opponent and exploit the wide areas with their full backs.

When playing against Liverpool sides are naturally wary of their front three and the attacking process that they carry. However random and creative Liverpool's front three may seem in specific times of possession, there is a trend to their behaviors dependent on the situation. This will be broke down through the next few sections dependent on the position and tactic of the opponent, when the opponent sits deep what is the behavior? When the team looks to press on to Liverpool, What is the behavior? When they counter attack what are the behaviors?



BUILD-UP PLAY

Liverpool have become very flexible and dynamic within their build up play. They are generally comfortable building up through a 4-3-3 that can quite quickly become a 3-4-1-2, this is created by the deepest player within the midfield dropping between the centre backs to receive possession, creating a solid three behind the ball. The four ahead is created by the two midfield players who will interchange to try and create space to receive, but will try to stay within the half spaces to ensure that they give the outside channels to the full-backs.

Within the build up phase Liverpool can play multiple ways, one common way is for the goalkeeper to look to play in to Fabinho between the opponents press (This can be the CB) and then drive out with possession and look to create an overload in the middle third. Liverpool midfield will then look to rotate to create space to receive, whilst the Full-backs look to push higher, as the Full-backs push higher, Firmino the 9 looks to drop between the two midfield players and try and pull a centre back out of the defensive unit, if a centre back doesn't come out, then Firmino will look to receive between the lines and turn, if a centre back does come out and follow him, the back four will become a three and become narrow, leaving more space in the wide areas for the full-backs and at this point they will push higher looking to find space behind the opponent. The Midfield player now has multiple options to play and can start to use the space behind the opponent. Liverpool are not always this patient within their build up play.

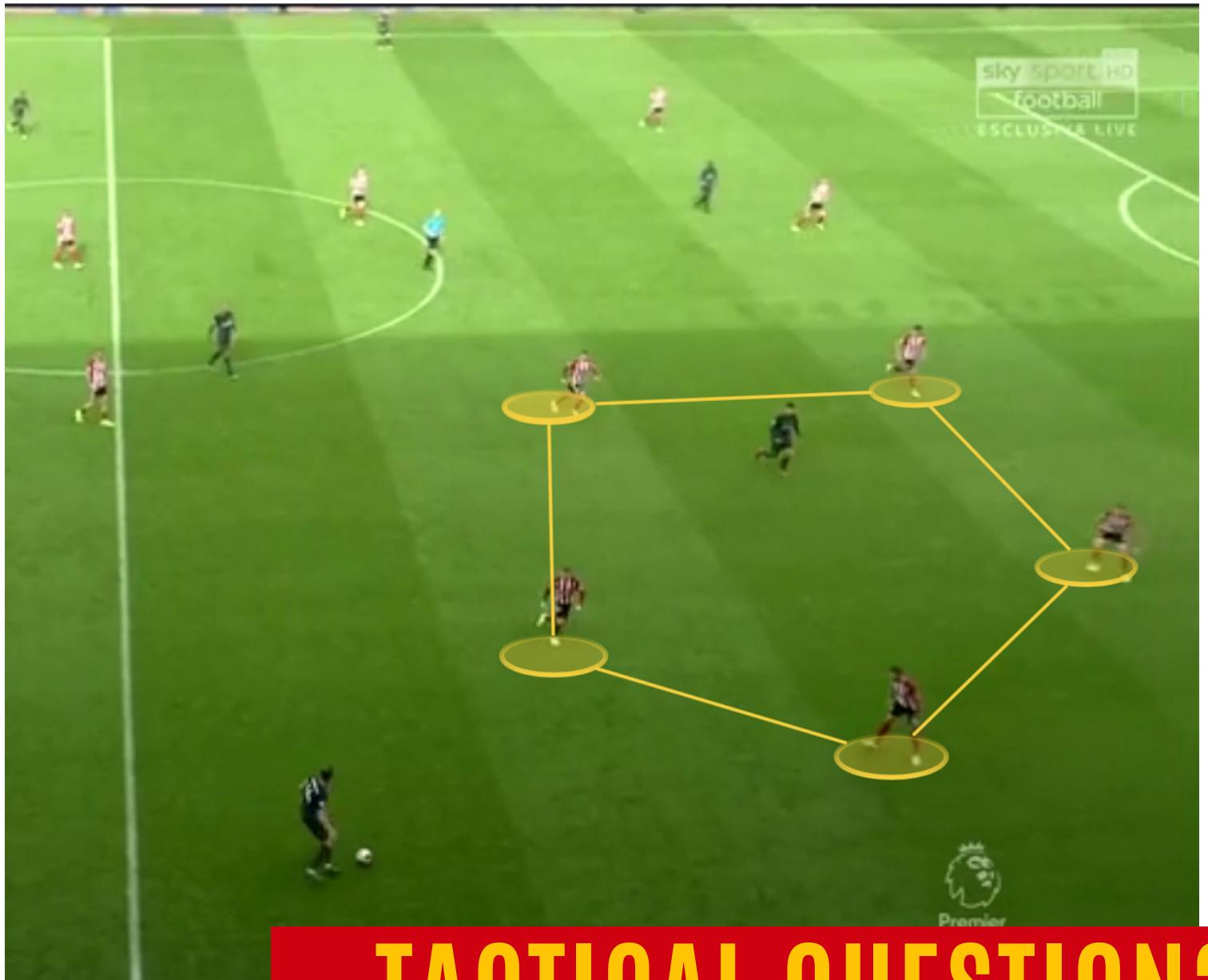


This shows a perfect example of what Liverpool can do once the full-back receives possession in the outside channel, the team have found what is almost that 3-4-1-2 shape and the midfield three have stayed compact,

with the wide players pinning the full backs inside, making it difficult for a back four to defend against Liverpool. What happens from here to enter the final third is key. Firmino will look to drop between the lines. If the centre back follows him out, he will have created space for Salah to run in behind and the wide player will either go 1v1 against the full back or slip the pass inside to Salah.

If the centre back becomes stuck and decides not to press Firmino, or moves late, Firmino will look to take advantage of his poor positioning and body position and put a first time ball in behind for Salah, this will then leave Mané as the furthest wide player, who will look to cut across the full-back and attack the box to try and score a cut back from a quick change in tempo from Liverpool. This is a very common theme within Liverpool's philosophy, the challenge for teams is try and pick up Firmino between the lines and still deal with the Full-backs in the wide area.





TACTICAL QUESTION?

One team who had **relative** success against Liverpool in the wide areas were Sheffield United playing a 5-3-2. Sheffield United were able to overload the central area and use the back five as a way of dealing with Liverpool's full backs.

When the ball moved to the right side, the full-back within the five stepped out leaving a back four behind him and then applied pressure to Liverpool's deeper full-back, the two man screen infant then worked tirelessly to make sure that Firmino could not receive possession between the lines. This made life very difficult For Liverpool who then looked switch play, but found that difficult with the widest forward dropping in to make sure Sheffield United could cut the switch (The back four also ensuring width within the back four)

How would you find a way to play through this?



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PLAYING DIRECT



Klopp has often spoken around not being possession orientated, Klopp system can be more defined as Space orientated, wanting to dominate space, and playing in too overloads to dominate the opponent.

Liverpool like to be direct when they can and have two weapons behind the ball to support this. The Goalkeeper Allison has a deadly passing range and will look forward to try and find the front three exposing the space left behind the opponents full-backs. For example when the opponent transitions quickly and the Goalkeeper regains possession, Allison will look quickly to find one of the front three in spaces left (e.g behind the opponents full-backs)

This is commonly the time where Liverpool will look to use with without the presence of the full-backs, mane and Salah will look to move in to the wide areas and stretch what is left of the opponents defensive line. However as the image shows, Liverpool commonly leave one attack forward, this will not deter Allison from playing forward quickly with quick attackers such as Salah who are able to use the space left behind the opponent. Even if they're not able to score or gain possession, this still suits Liverpool's desire to want to play the game in the opponents half, as the ball travels forward, the other players will look to push up high and close the space between the break away players and the rest of the group.

Liverpool are also able to play directly, through the centre back Van Dijk, this will involve a diagonal pass, this will usually exist within a more developed animation of play where Liverpool's full-backs are in to the attacking third and beginning to sit in to that 3-4-1-2 shape. This pass will generally be a more diagonal switch of play.

USE OF FULL-BACKS



As you can see in the above image, Liverpool intentionally create a very narrow midfield to leave the wide area open. The front three also play key role in occupying the back four, this means that Liverpool are occupying four player with three players meaning they can create overloads in other areas of the pitch.

In this example the opponent has tried to play a midfield four to match up against the wide player, but Liverpool just attempt to stretch the opponents midfield and then drop an attacker in to the midfield unit to create the space for a 3v2 in the wide areas.

This is how Liverpool use their full-backs when they receive the ball with out space, they look to create a 3v2 in the wide area to release the full-back in behind the opponents shape. This is not Liverpools preferred way of using the full-backs but is the way they can manipulate the opponent to release the full-back. However when they do release the full-backs in these situation it allow for more dangerous attacking situations because of the amount of players who can hit the box when the cross arrives.

If Liverpool are unable to release the full-back in to the wide area behind the opponent (Like the Sheffield United clip) Liverpool will look to switch quickly to the opposite full-back who will look to stay half-and-half (A position on the far side that means you can get forward but also drop and defend if needed) and if this is done quickly they can exploit the opponent on the opposite side as they are not prepared for the switch and can not overload the far side, so the full-back can dominate the 1v1 situation and crate a cross

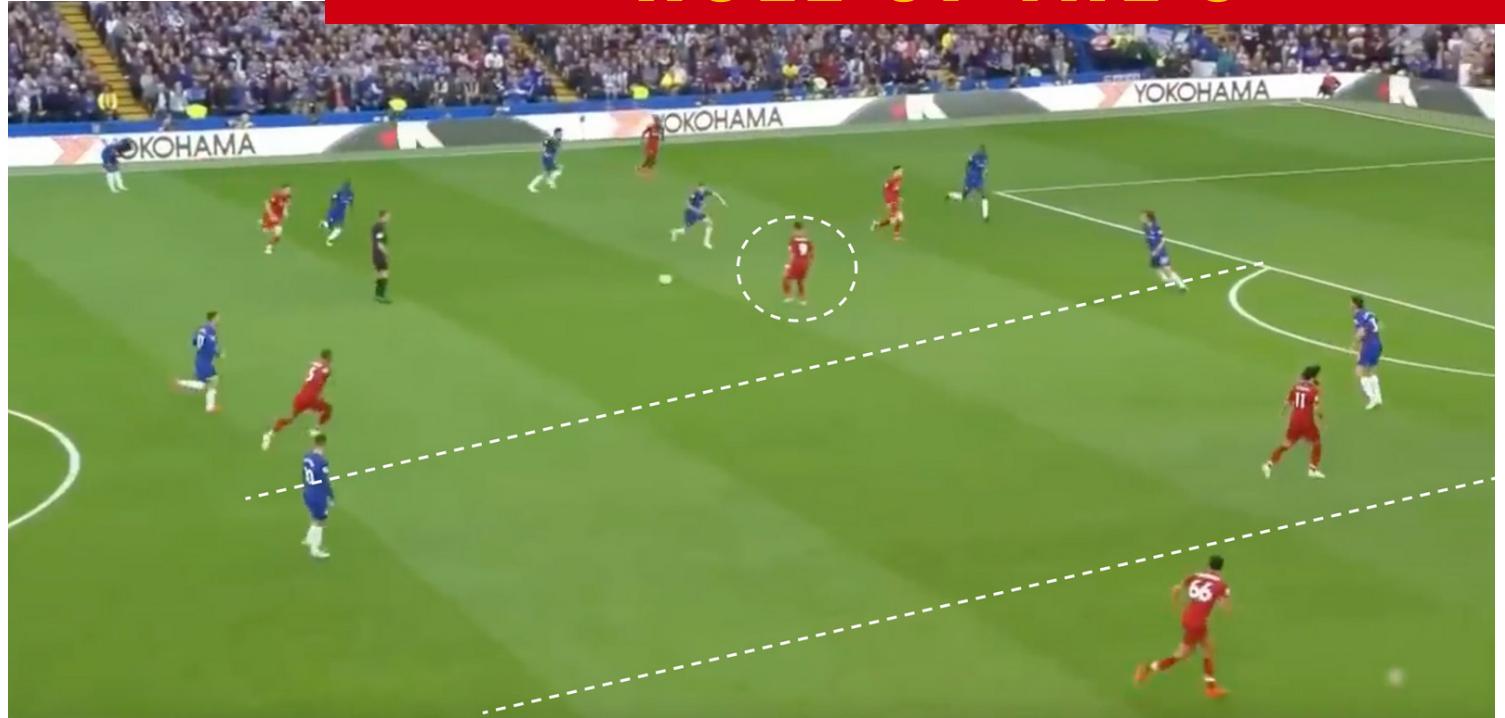
USE OF FULL-BACKS



Liverpool also use the full-backs within the attack when Liverpool are attacking a team who are fixed in their own half. Liverpool look to use all five lanes too attack, so within this image you can clearly see Trent in the outside lane, Mané within the half space and Salah and Firmino in the central zone. This allows Mané to pin the full backs in to a narrow shape and then allow Liverpool's full-backs to take control of the situation.

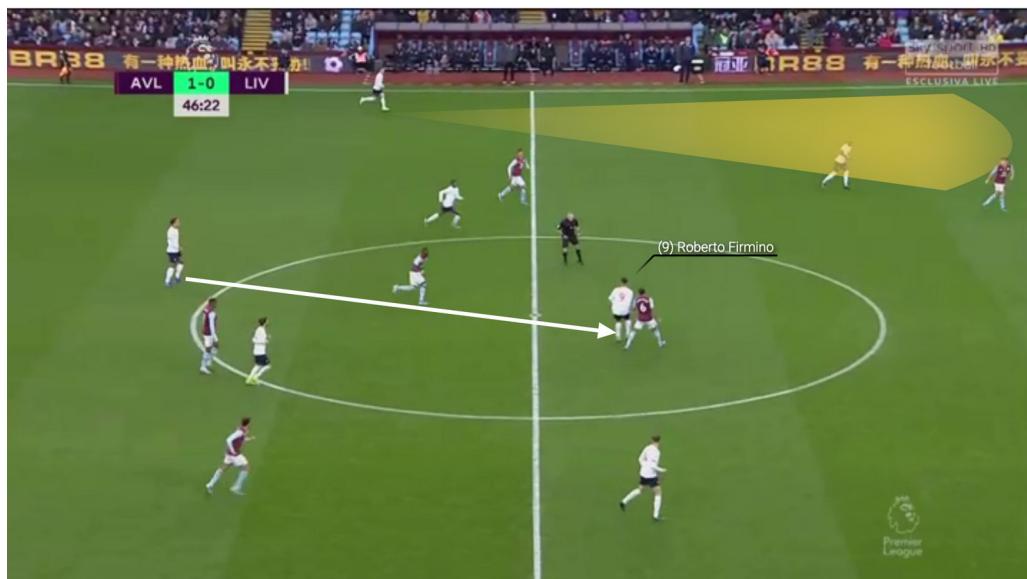
Once the ball has gone wide, Liverpool are extremely effective at scoring from crossing situations, they have a variety of types of crosses they will look to use, early crosses when the opponent vacate the box and leave space for a deep cross. However when the opponent is defending the box in the image above the full-back will either look to cut in and try and cause carnage by pulling defenders out to till with the invasion of the box. Secondly look to drive a cross across the six yard box and really make life difficult for the back four to defend. The third option and something Liverpool have done 11 times from these situations is to hang a cross out to the back post, but this again depends on the opponent and the personal playing within the Liverpool front three as Liverpool tend to do this when they have their centre forward Origi playing who is a more athletic and larger frame who is able to dominate the crossing positions.

ROLE OF THE 9

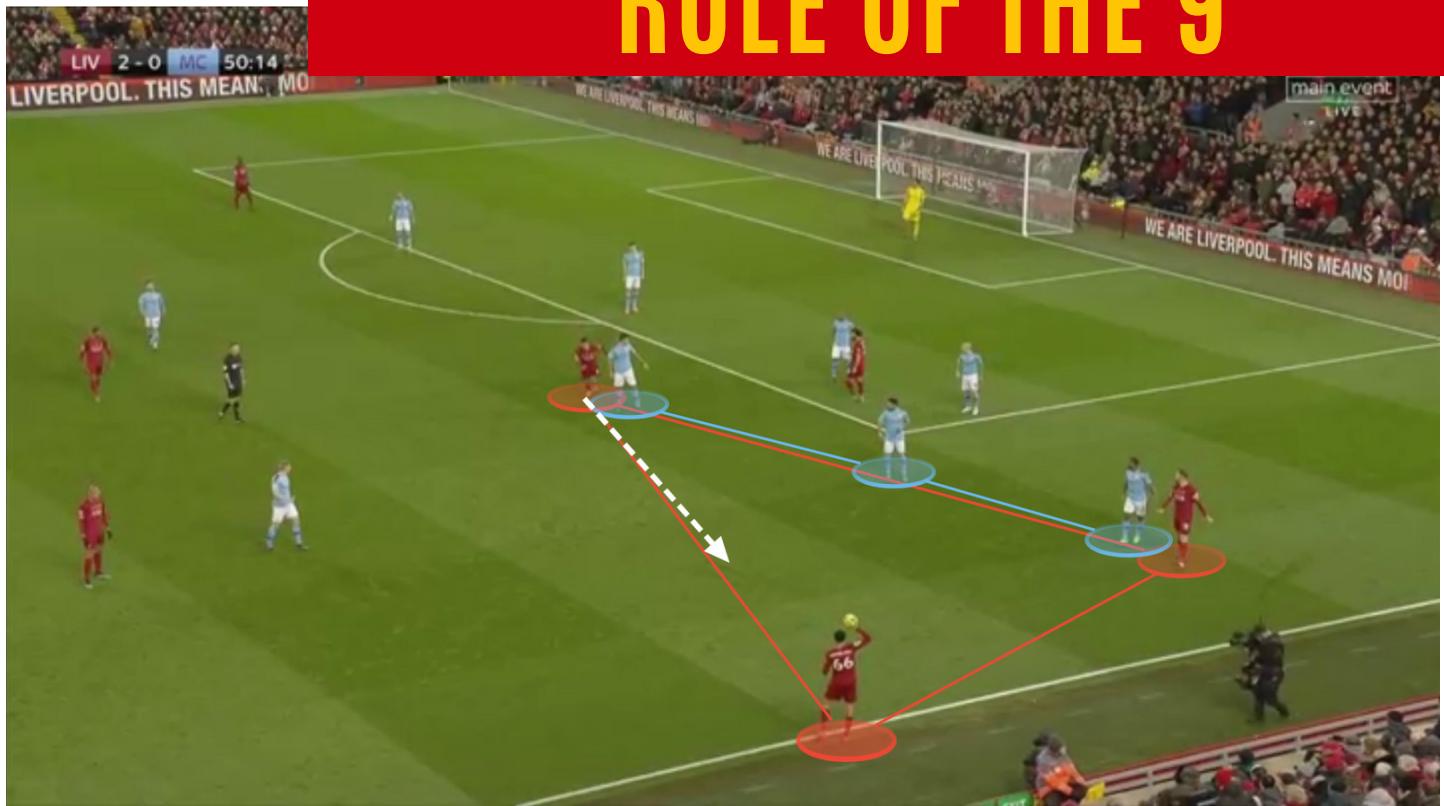


The number 9 within Liverpool's philosophy plays a key role both in and out of possession, the out of possession element has already been explained in the previous chapter, and some of the movements of the nine have already been explained. However, the role of Roberto Firmino's role has not been justified so far. He is a key role within Liverpool's build up play, as the above image shows Firmino peeling away from the centre back to try and create a midfield overload, this movement off the line causes constant danger to the opponents by leaving defensive players without an attacker to defend against, meaning an overload occurs within the central area.

Firmino's role goes further than just creating overloads, as you can see he occupies the central zones that compact the opponent and leave the wider zones for the full-backs to occupy, this allows Liverpool to be so dynamic in attacking areas. As the below image supports, his movement within Liverpool's compact structure is only possible because of his incredible technical ability.



ROLE OF THE 9



Firmino staggering technical ability and tactical understanding helps Liverpool's build up play in all elements of attacking. He plays a key role in the attacking combinations as well as the combinations from attacking throw-ins an element of performance Liverpool have taken an increasing focus on in the last 18 months, somewhat more than the rest of the premier league, this attacking combination from a throw-in is an important moment within the game, Firmino moves towards the thrower removing the screen that protects the back four, Firmino then looks to either bounce the ball back for Trent to find a central player who can play behind the screen or find Henderson in the wide area.

The below image also shows how Firmino can create some of the more compact combinations around the box, peeling off the opponent and receiving between the lines where he is able to combine with the two attacking players Salah and Firmino around the two centre backs, this combination play is unpredictable and capable because of Firmino's tactical creativity and the players technical ability.





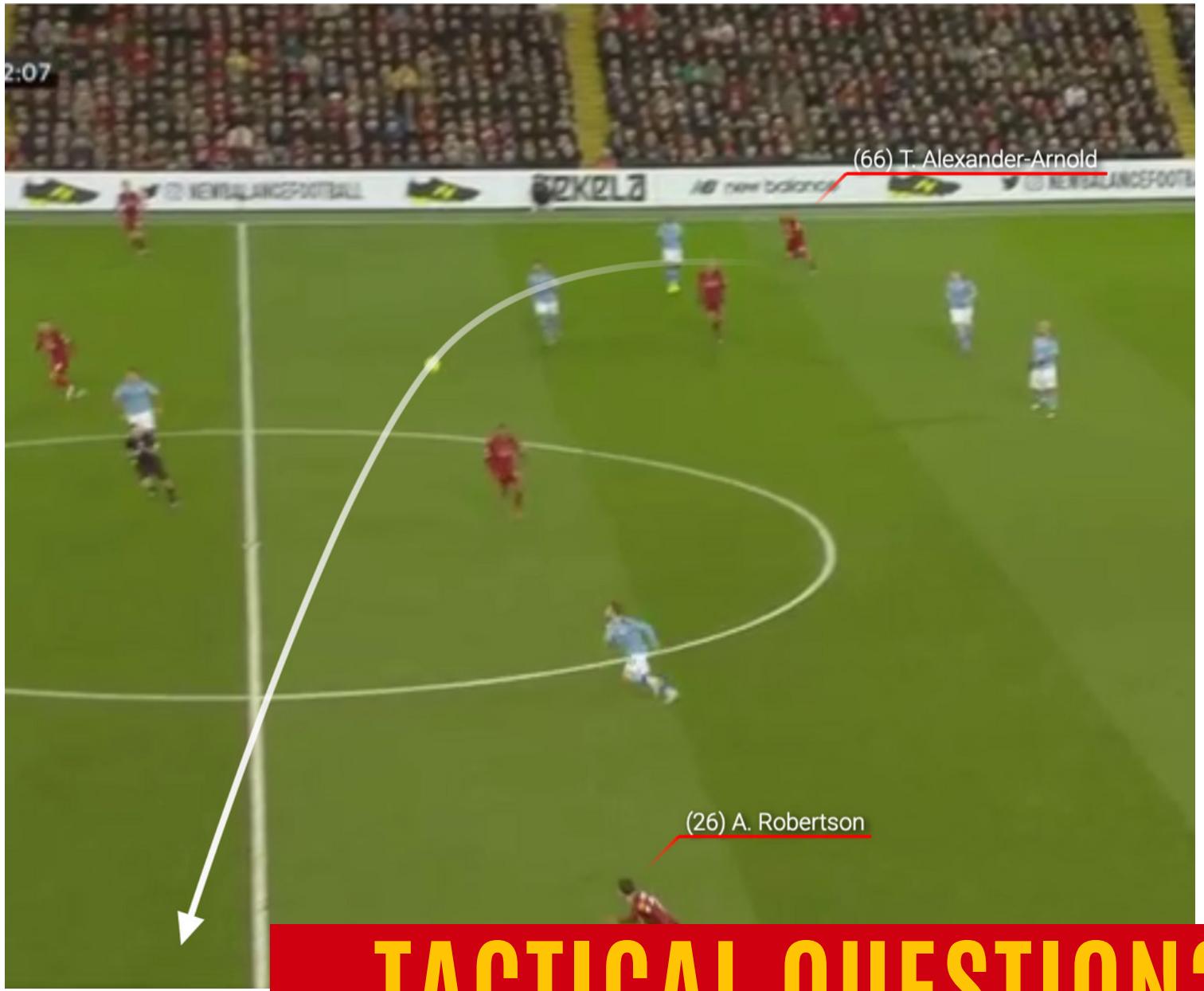
COUNTER-ATTACKING

Counter-attacking has always traditionally played a huge role in Klopp's philosophy as previously explained, and as you can see from key elements of the book Liverpool are able to break through Gegenpressing and Direct play, creating counter-attacking moments within the game. However Liverpool have had to adapt as teams have began to drop deeper and started to allow Liverpool possession of the ball in an attempt to prevent them counter-attacking with pace.

Liverpool still posses the ability to counter attack when the opponent will allow these moments (Man City, Barcelona) in recent times have allowed them to break and with the from three who look to run in behind when possession iswitched quickly Liverpool can be explosive and dynamic and as the below image shows Liverpool can be dynamic through tight spaces by having technically strong players who are confident to run and break at the opponent with pace which exposes the space behind the opponent

Counter attacking has received little focus in the analysis because of its breakdown through out every section





TACTICAL QUESTION?

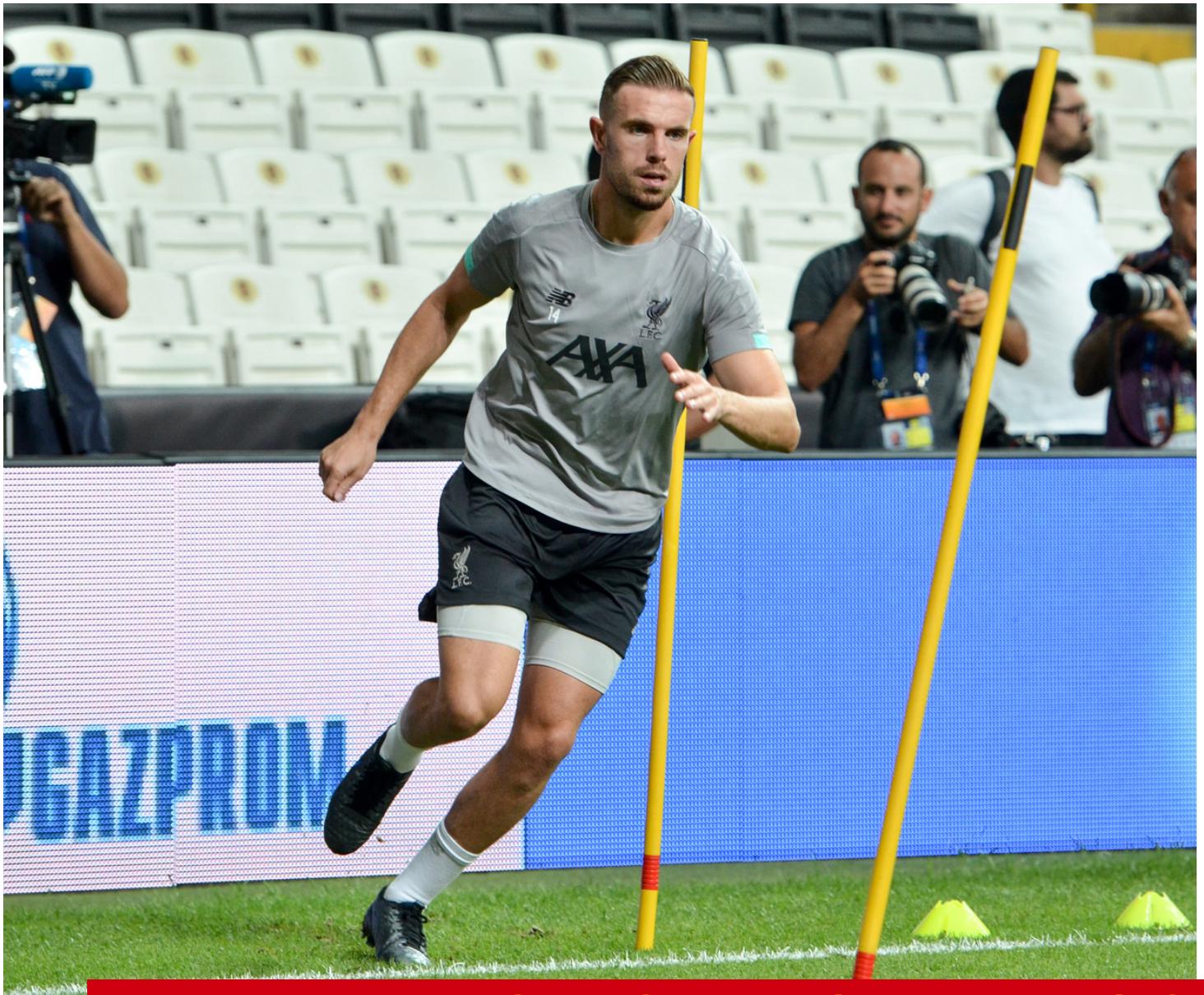
During Liverpool's recent match (2019) with Manchester City, Liverpool were faced with a relentless high press trying to cut Liverpool's full-backs out of the game and restricting the space for Roberto Firmino to play. In this situation, this was countered very intelligently by Klopp, who invited the pressure from the opponent before switching play with one pass to the opposite full-back who was able to expose the space behind Manchester City's defensive shape.

Manchester City were not able to counter this and quite quickly found themselves 3-0 down, the difficulty was caused through the overload on the strong side, and the space this left of the weak side for Liverpool to expose.

If you found yourself in this situation what would you do to stop Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool?

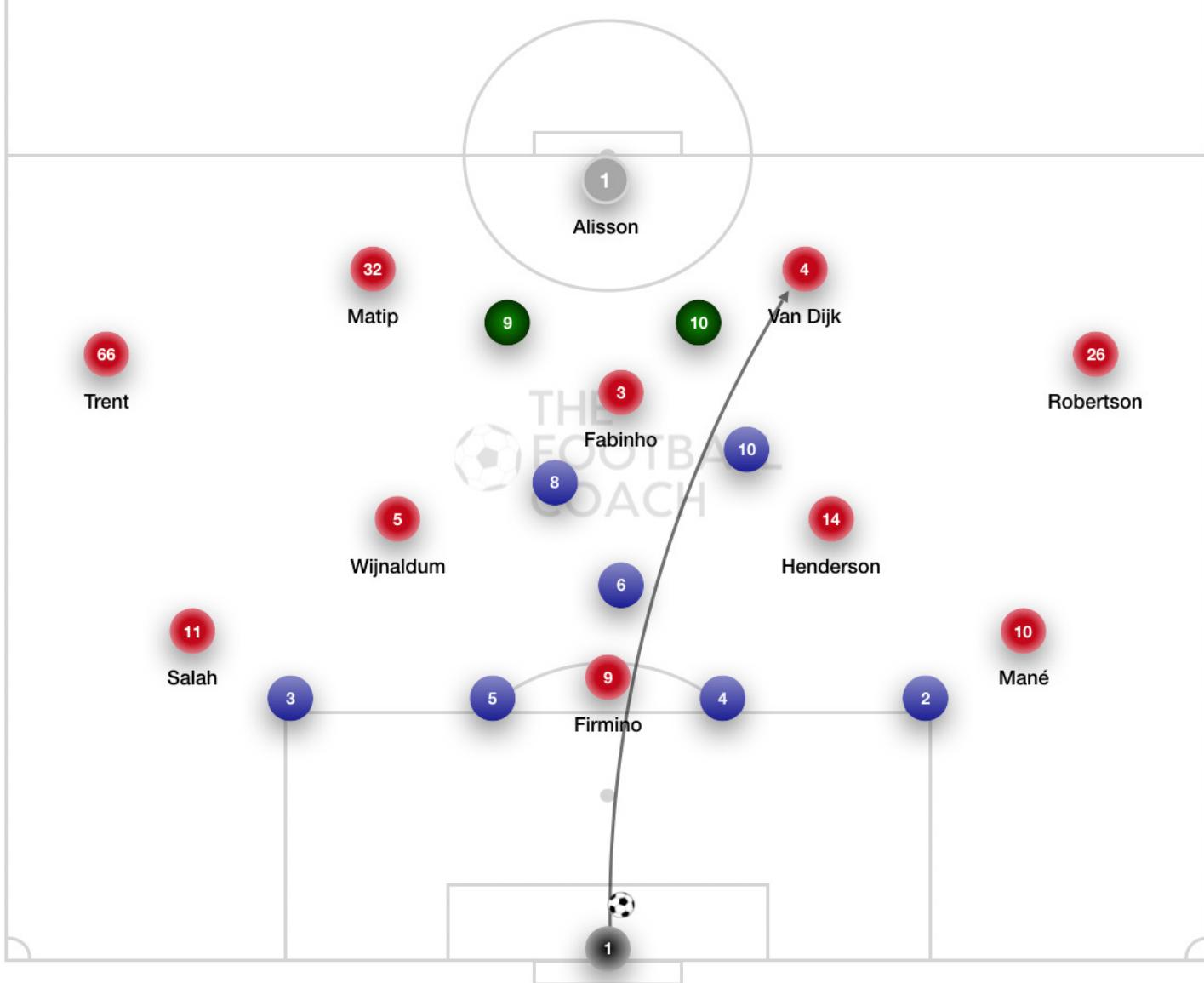


TRAINING SESSIONS



PLAYING AGAINST A BLOCK

- How to use the full-backs to play around the block and then uses crosses as a way of beating the block
 - How to defend against the counter-attack when playing against the block
 - How to ensure that the opponent can not break out of the block
- This session was viewed in 2019 and shows how simple and effective breaking the block can be coached to players of any age, this easy to use session can be transferred very quickly in to your practice, it is incredibly effective for those coaches who play with high attacking full-backs or sides who often play against deep defensive blocks.



PLAYING AGAINST A BLOCK

Explanation:

The session is very simply set up as the Reds within a 4-3-3, they are then playing against a 4-3-2, however the front two are not active until the blues gain possession of the ball. This means that the red team are able to create a shape around the block and look to expose the opponents shape.

The practice will quite simply start via the blues goalkeeper who will hit a long goal kick in to the the Red's centre back who will then look to quickly transition in to attack looking to work the full-backs in to attacking positions in an attempt to expose the opponents defensive shape

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can our wide players pin the opponents full backs to prevent them using the wide area, giving our FB Space
- 2.) Can Firmino's movement help create midfield overloads / and narrow the opponents defensive line
- 3.) Can we prevent the counter attack by creating a positive shape around the opponents block



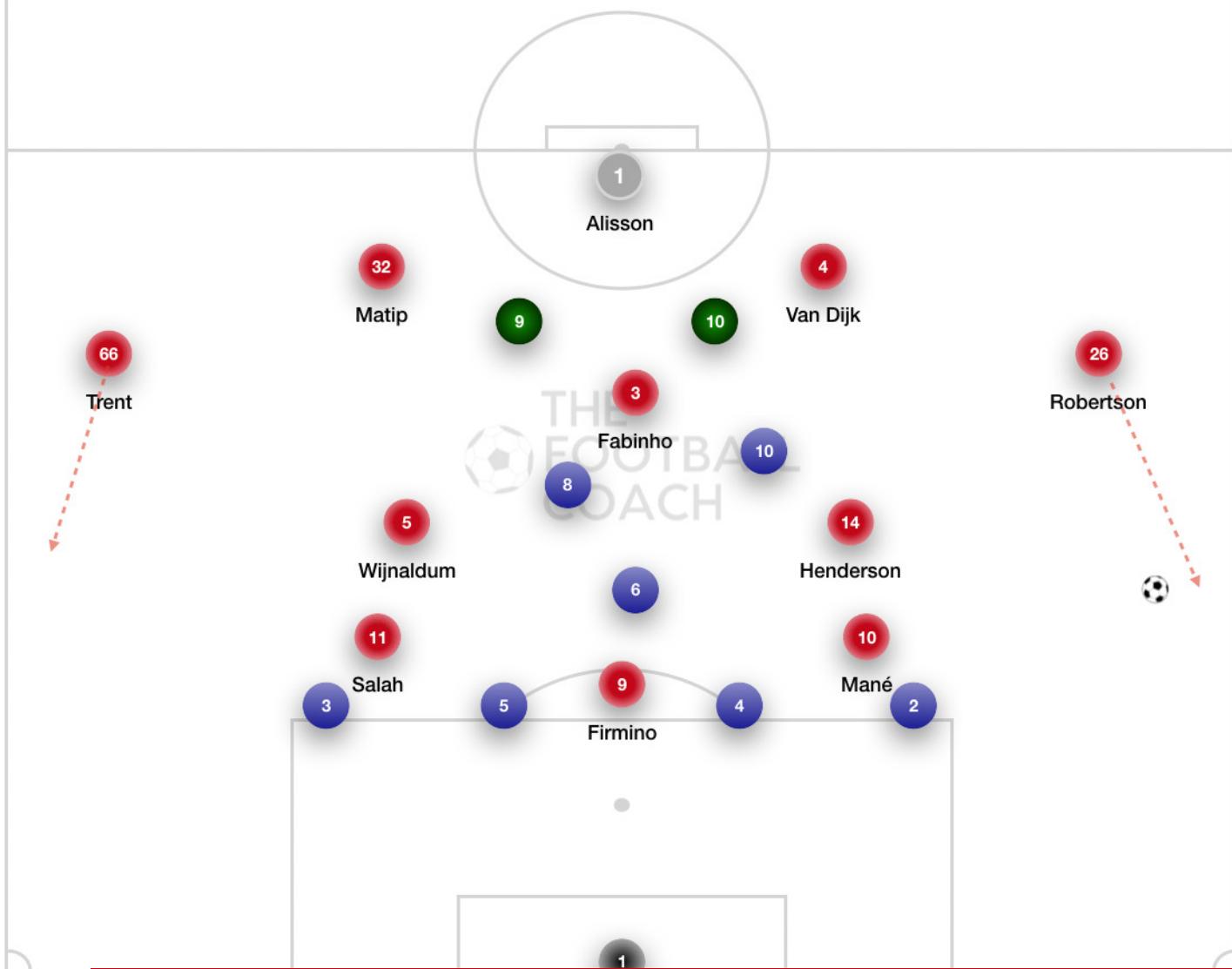
8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



FULL-BACK MOVEMENT

Explanation:

As the centre back receives possession, they will receive possession under little to no pressure because of the limited involvement of the Greens, the attacking team now need go to try and move the ball forward quickly preventing the opponent being able to secure their shape from the transition. As the central back receives the ball and secures possession, this should be the trigger for the full backs making attacking movements in to the space out wide, this is now going to stretch the opponent and make defending difficult because of the space used.

As always when going forward the defensive shape is key and it is important that the two central defenders + the deepest midfield player keep the defensive triangle around the two strikers to ensure that they are able to defend against any counter attacking movements from the opponent if the full-back loses possession. It is also now key how our wide players support are play in creating space for the full-backs.



8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



WIDE PLAYER MOVEMENT

Explanation:

This image shows the movements of the wide players as the pass from Van Dijk goes towards Robertson, their key movement here is for the front three to become compact.

Before they pass is played to Robertson the wide players stay wide incase the Reds look to make a quick counter attacking break and to do this the front three may commonly stay wide in an attempt to stretch the opponent. However once the centre back has dictated the type of build up play going to be used. it is vital that the wide players come inside the edge of the box and open their body towards the ball to ensure the full-backs are pinned inside the box, this now asks a question of the opponent, who will go and deal with the full-back who is in possession, someone will need to apply pressure, but where will this pressure come from?

Most commonly we will now see the screen move across in to the wide area and apply pressure to the full-back whilst the blue full-back moves across to become ball-side of the wide player to support the midfield player



8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



NUMBER 9 MOVEMENT

Explanation:

If the pressure comes from the midfield screen, there will naturally become a space in front of the opponents back four, as the screen is dragged in to the wide area, this will then leave Firmino with space to come short and try to receive between the lines, this adds further difficulty to the defensive challenge for the blues, as now somebody has to step out of their position to deal with him, we will generally see one of three things happen here; One the opponent will miss the movement and Firmino will be able to receive between the lines in space to play forward; The opponent will counter the movements and a centre back will move out of his slot and leave space in behind; or an opponent's midfield player will drop in to this space (maybe the 10).

However from this movement the back four will become compact and leave Robertson with a 1v1 situation in the wide area, which he will look to expose if he chooses not to pass inside.



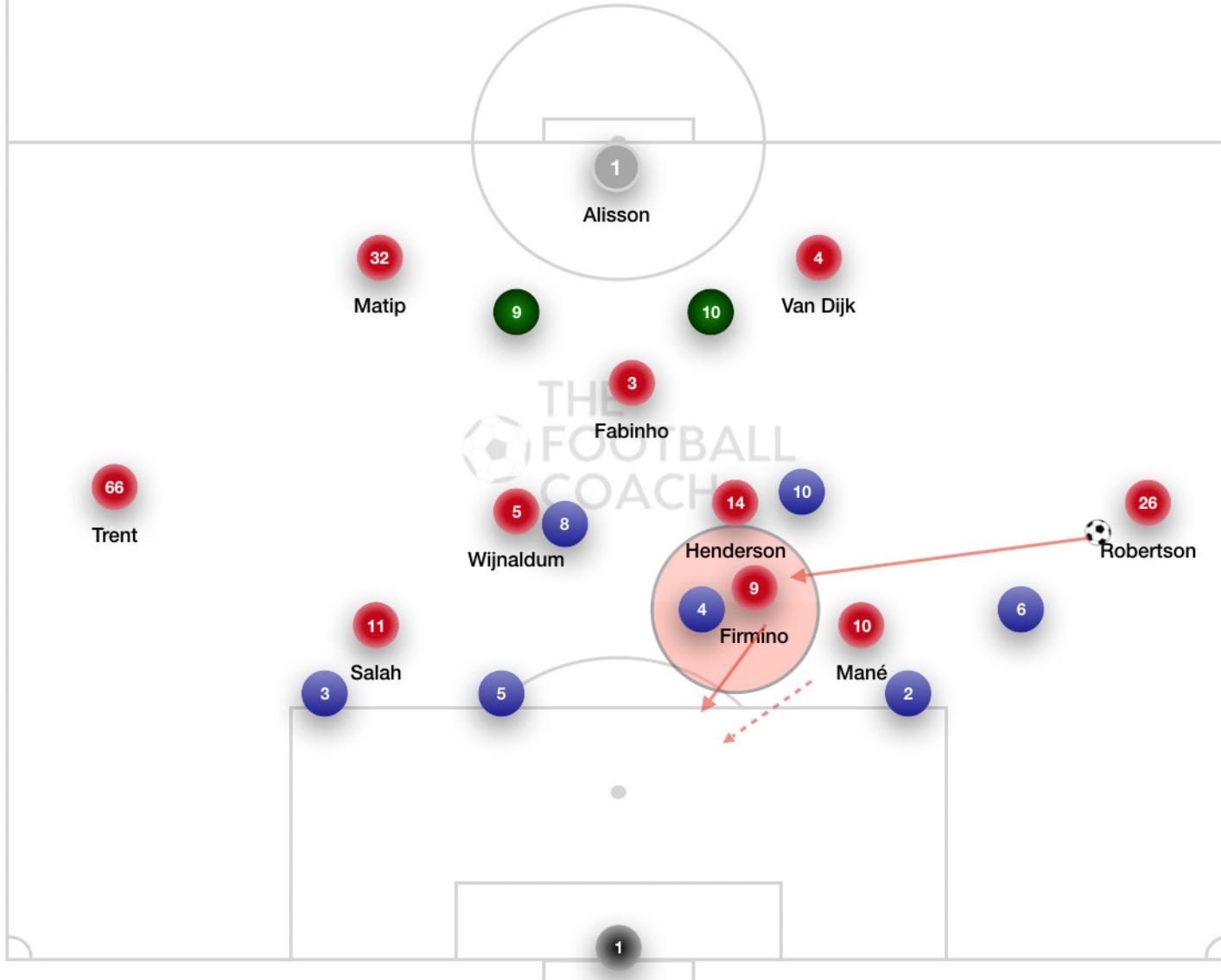
8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



EXPOSING THE BACK FOUR

Explanation:

Once Firmino has received between the lines, this begins the attacking motion where the reds may be able to expose space behind the opponent. As Firmino comes ball side to receive in this example, he is followed by the opponents centre back, who then leaves a giant space within the defensive line, this space within the defensive line is exposed by Mané who then makes his run off the shoulder of the full-back and in behind the opponent.

This combination happens quickly and the intensity and sharpness of the movements adds to the difficulty to the opponent to defend this, however this is not the only attacking situation where the reds are able to enter the attacking third, however the process of creating these attacking opportunities is trained and the next page will show further attacking opportunities.



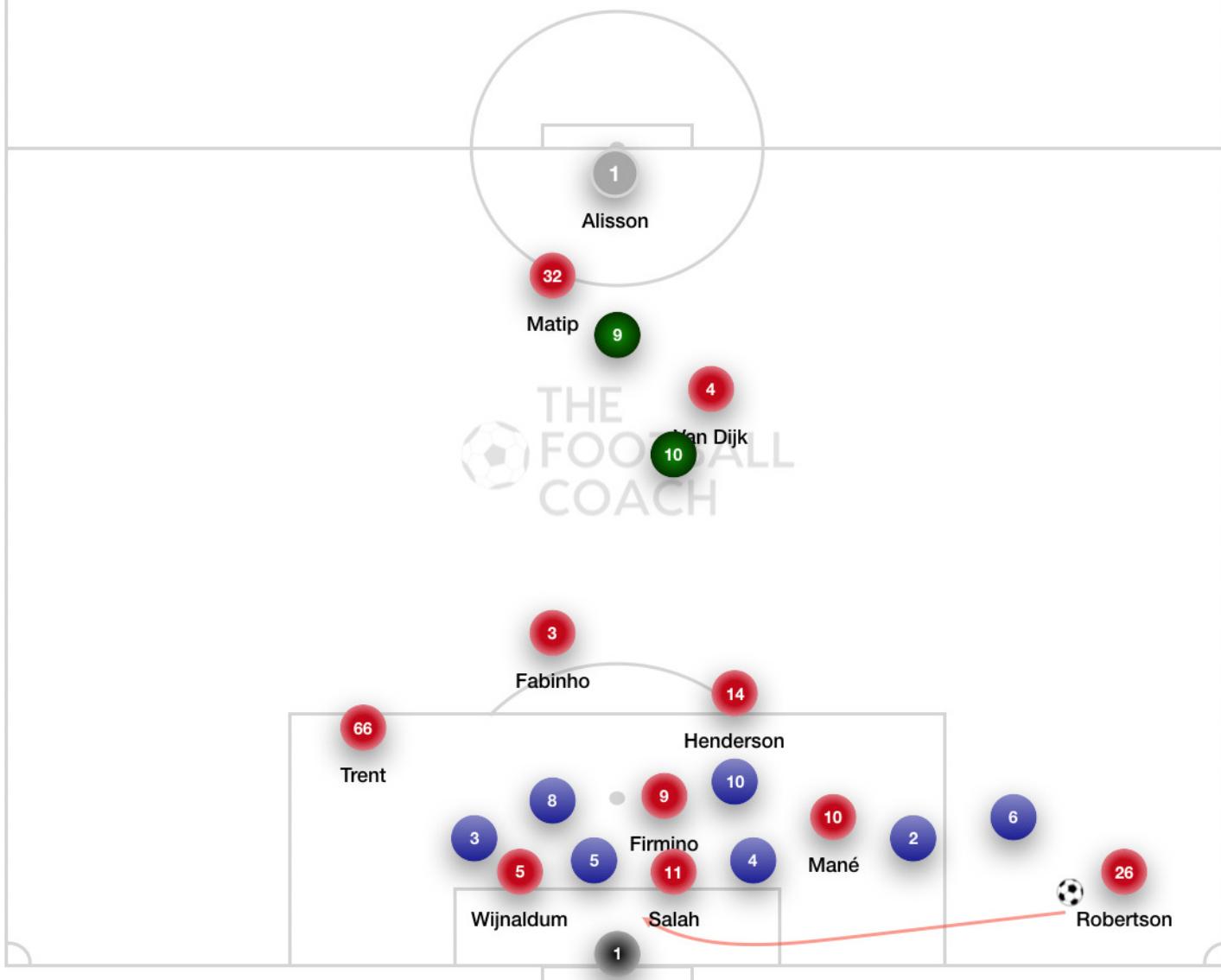
8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



EXPOSING THE BACK FOUR

Explanation:

Once Firmino has made the movement away from the back four, and the opponent has prevented the central pass with the movement of the midfield. Liverpool must find an alternative route to expose the opponent, this is done by Mané making movement across the box, focusing the opponents full-back inside.

This will naturally create a 1v1 situation for Robertson who till look to travel to the touchline before producing a cross, Liverpool's attacking players will delay their movements in to the six yard box encouraging the opponent to stay out, this is so Robertson can drive a low hard cross in to the six yard box in the hope that Liverpool's attacking players will be able to run on to it and finish.

However with these attacking moments, it is still vital that the defending still has a priority, this is Liverpools attempt to counter the counter, something that has been mentioned religiously within this book



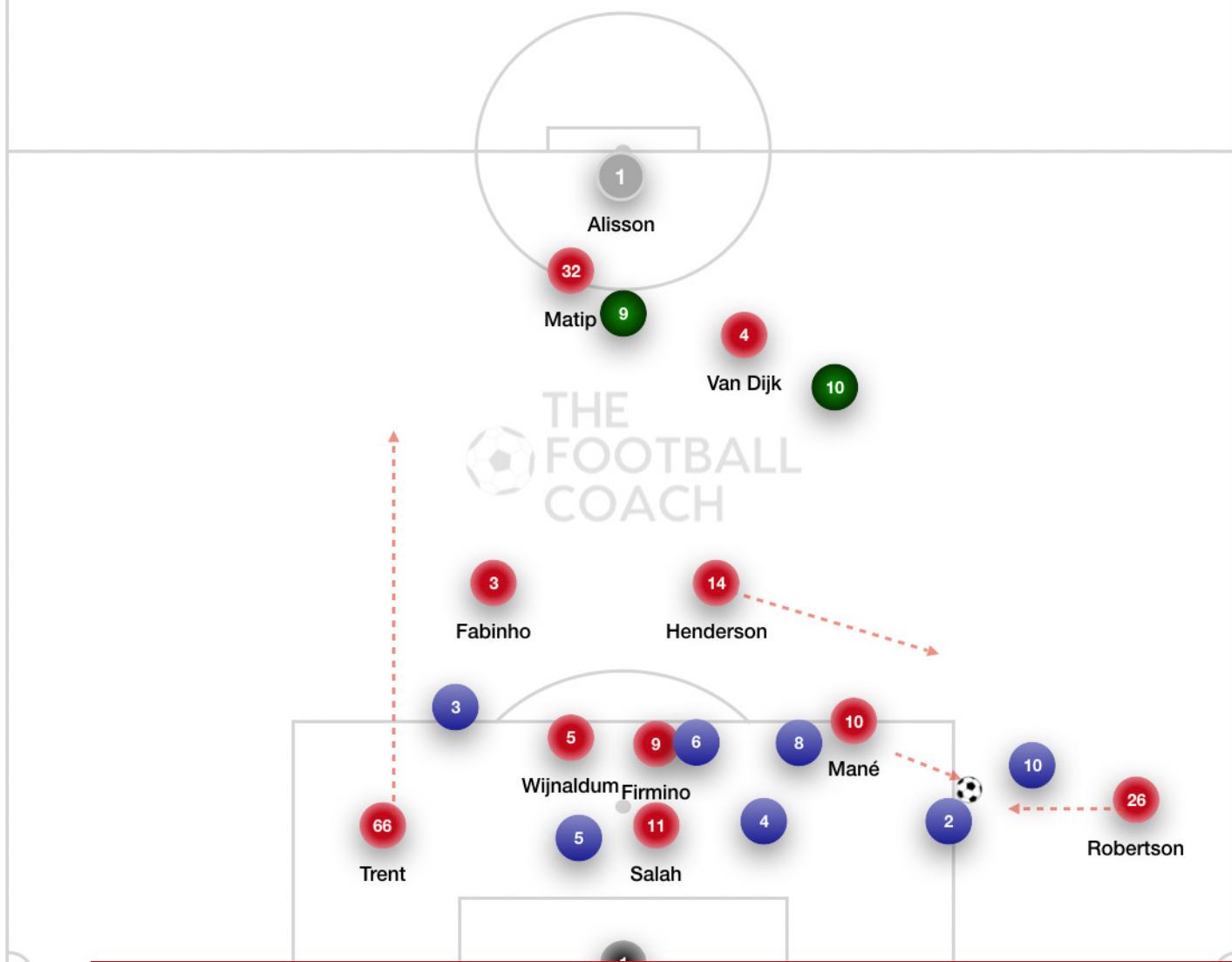
8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



Explanation:

In the above example, Robertson loses the 1v1 (or the cross is blocked) as soon as this happens it is important to prevent the opponent playing forward, Liverpool's compact attacking shape supports this, Mané and Robertson instantly Gegenpress looking to prevent the number two playing forward, whilst this occurs there are some clear movements and positions taken up to support the defensive shape.

- Ball winning centre back is tight to the passing option
- Centre backs play on different lines to win second balls
- Henderson blocks passing lane in to attacking players
- Opposite full-back recovers in to defensive shape
- Midfield players create a defensive shape around the edge of the box to win second balls at all times



8:2 Work Rate



21 Players



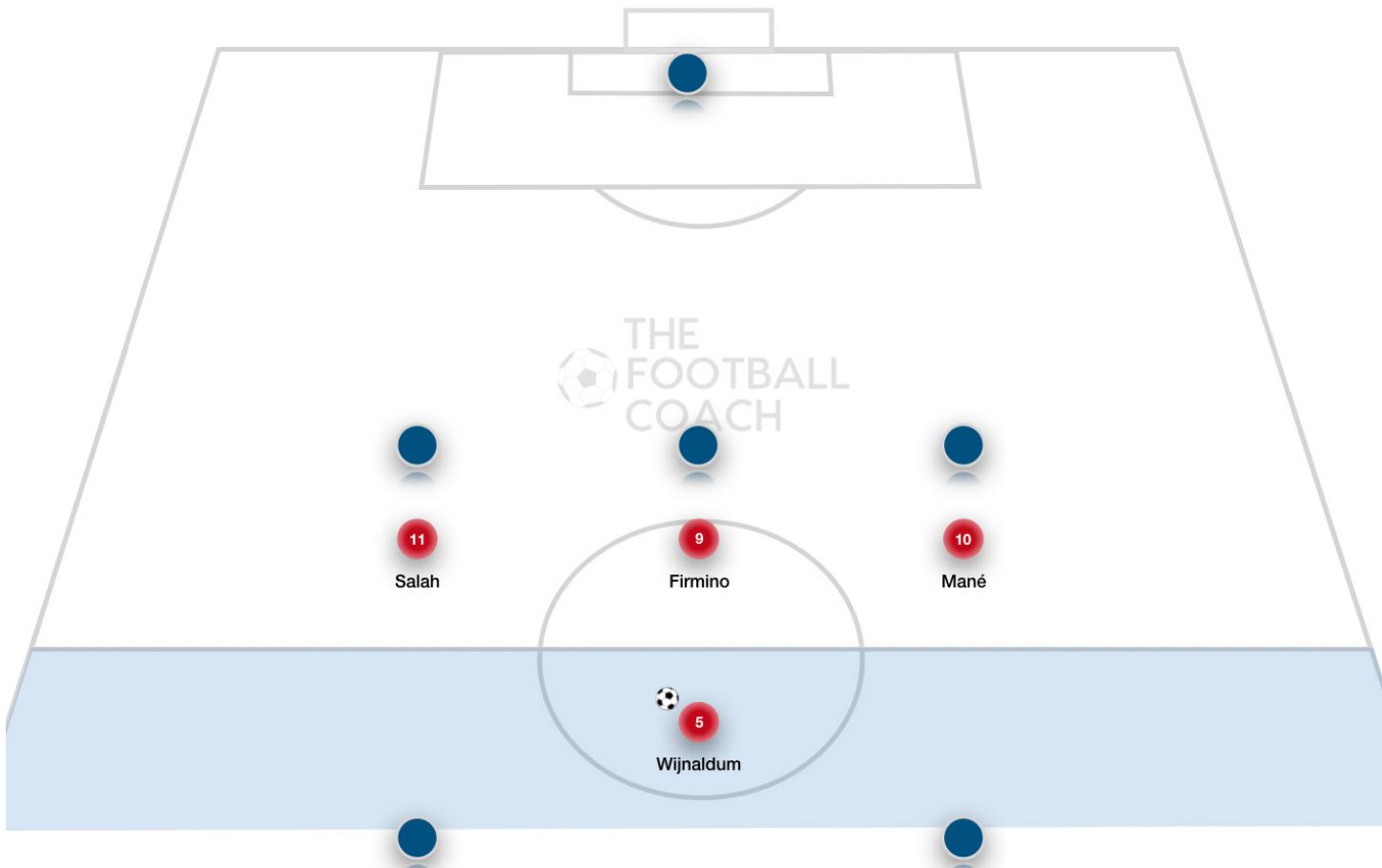
1 Relevant Half Pitch



6V4 COUNTER ATTACKING

- Create attacking players comfortable in their link up play in the final third
- Create players more comfortable in exposing the space behind the opponent
- Increase the pace of your attacks/ Improve decision making when counter-attacking
- Understand how to emergency defend when overloaded

This session is a clever and creative way to create the count-attacking moments and behaviors that coaches desire within their coaching practice. The session is easy to use, does not require huge spaces and can be adapted to any age group or ability Level, this could quite easily be used within youth grassroots sessions or elite sessions like the club mentioned here.



6V4 COUNTER ATTACKING

Explanation:

This session has an extremely simple approach to recreating counter attacking behaviors, the central play (5) looks to break out of the blue zone and join the attack head creating a 3v4, as the ball leaves the blue zone the two blues can begin their recovery runs and apply pressure to ensure that the red's attack with a realistic amount of pace and challenge

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can we ensure that we develop the combinations relevant to our playing model and philosophy
- 2.) Can we improve decision making at speed and improve our application of these behaviors
- 3.) Can we improve our emergency defending, can we recover behind the ball early to prevent the opponent making a counter attack



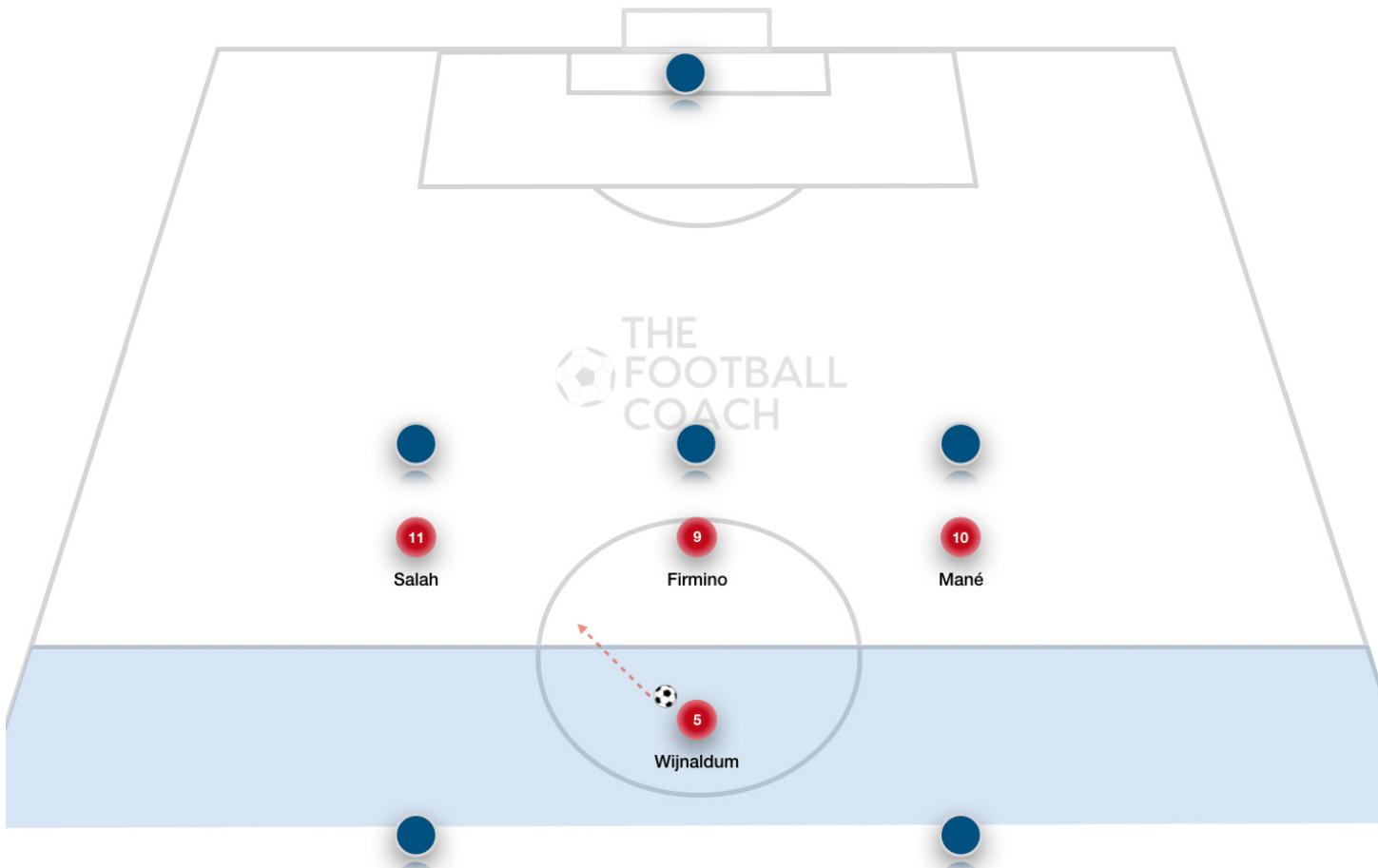
5:1 Work To Rest



10 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch



6V4 COUNTER ATTACKING

As this image shows the session begins very simply with the red moving from the blue zone and in to the attacking half, from here it is important that we begin to develop the skills needed to counter attack with speed, speed is important as it doesn't allow the opponent to recover in to a defensive shape, neither does it allow them time to react to our movements within the final third:

- Can we penetrate the space behind
- Can we expose defenders in 1v1 and 2v1 situations
- Can we make intelligent movements that manipulate the opponent and leave gaps for runners
- Can we perform these actions quickly to ensure that our opponent can not react
- Can we strive to create goal scoring opportunities from these moments



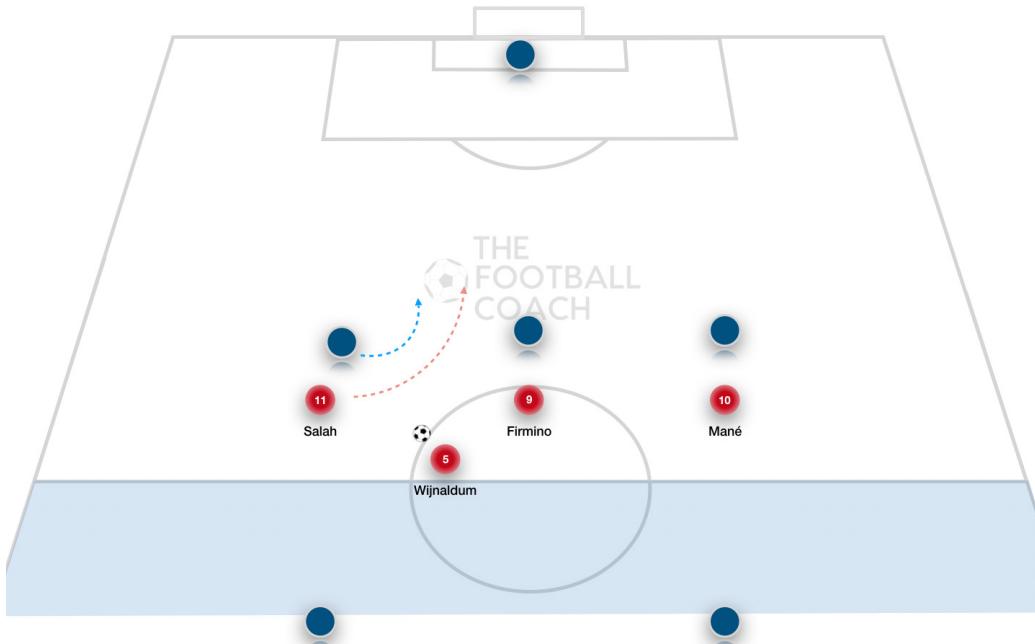
5:1 Work To Rest



10 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch

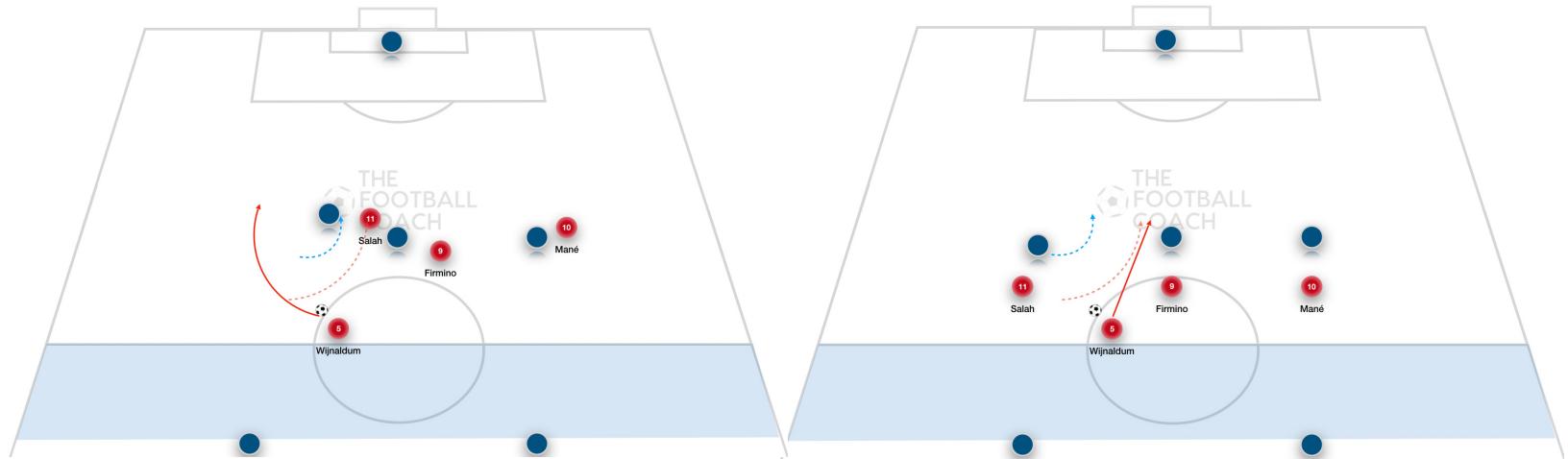


6V4 COUNTER ATTACKING

This image displays a simple movement that can expose space behind the opponent, the wide player making a run inside offers a channel for the player in possession to three a pass, if the player in possession is not able to thread the pass then the run will narrow up the opponent and leave space for the ball carrier to run in to, this will delay the recovering defenders influencing the break and also potentially create a 2v1 in the wide area due to Salah being on the inside shoulder of the widest defender.

- Timing of Salah's run

- Do not make the run until the body weight of the defender has shifted to engage the player in possession
- Keep body open to ensure that as Salah makes the movement with eyes on the ball, this is key so that he is able to adjust his run to receive possession comfortably.



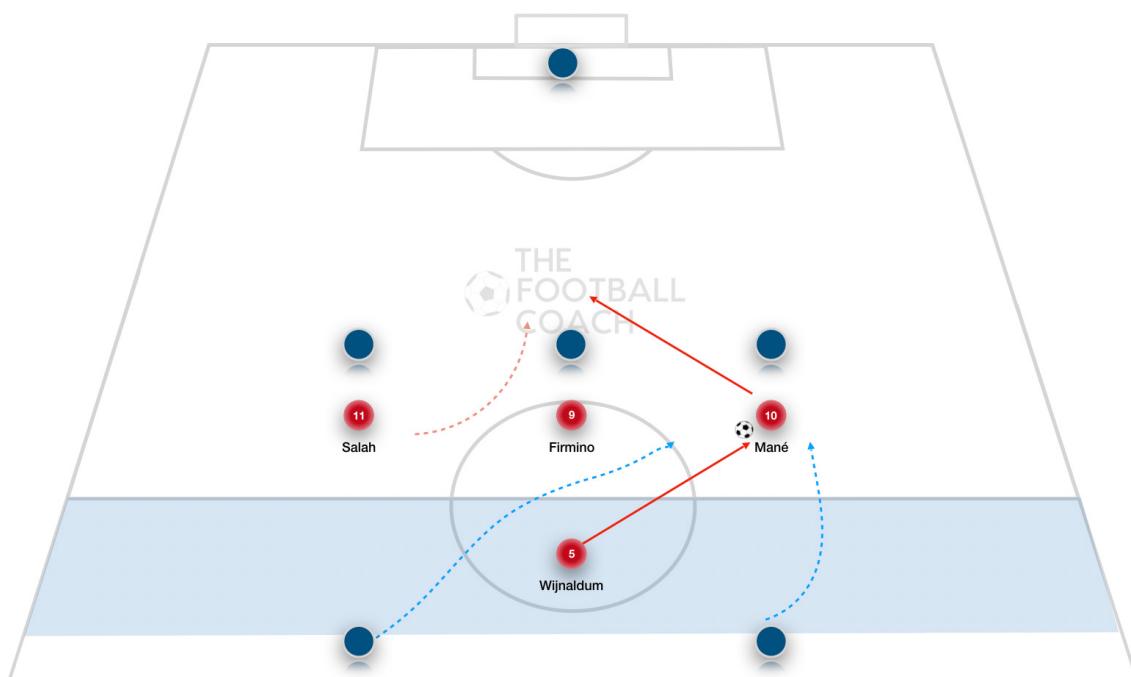
5:1 Work To Rest



10 Players



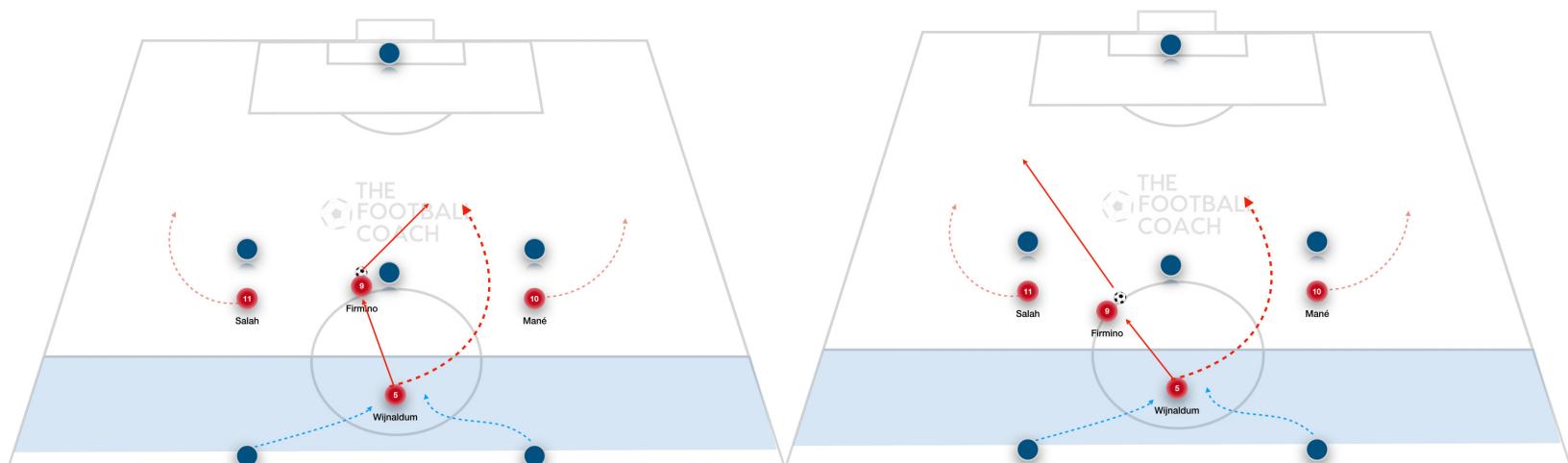
1 Relevant Half Pitch



6V4 COUNTER ATTACKING

The above image shows another easy to use rotation with the player in possession quickly moving the ball to the wide player who has pulled away from pressure, as he pulls away from pressure the opponent will delay slow their dropping and potentially create an uneven defensive line, as this occurs, the opposite full back can make movements across the line towards the ball before bending the run in behind the opponent, this bent run can be found with a diagonal pass, the diagonal run finishes with a straight run in behind, this means that the straight run will be found by a diagonal pass, creating good receiving angles

In the below images it shows two other rotations possible once possession is played to the central player can the central player peel away from the central defender and then expose the defender 2v1 as the runner from deep attacks his blind side. In the second image the same situation occurs but this time the central player looks to find one of the two wide players who spins in behind, the runners then attack the box to wait for a cut back.



5:1 Work To Rest



10 Players



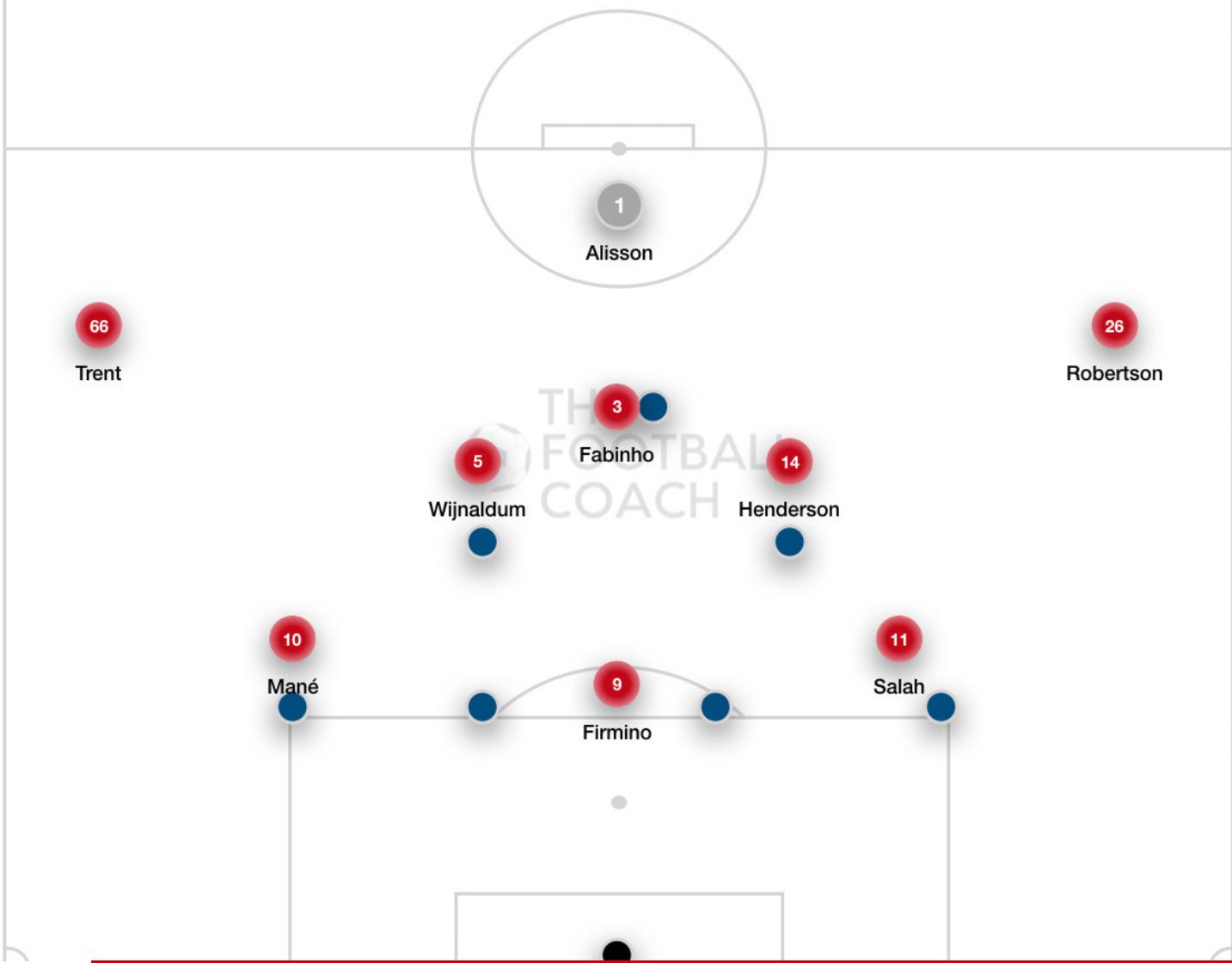
1 Relevant Half Pitch



8V9 ATTACK THE BLOCK

- How can we continue the attack when the opponent overloads the wide area
- How can we switch play when we begin to attack blind alleys
- How can we create overloads and crosses from blocked lanes
- How can ensure we are comfortable that we can not be counter-attacked

This session originally viewed in Mellwood in 2018 was also seen in the USA during preseason, but is an easy way adaptation of the first session to practice attacking a group of players who are not pressing and decide to sit in a defensive shape to protect the goal, within this practice the group out of possession will be setup to move quickly laterally and try to prevent the opponent from leaving the wide areas due to a high intensity out of possession and a overloading tactic to block passing lanes and opportunities



8V9 ATTACK THE BLOCK

Explanation:

This session is very similar to other Klopp practices and looks at how to create combinations and patterns of play to deal with the opponent's tactic of overloading the wide area, this is a common tactic used by opponents such as Napoli and Sheffield United. This session will also provide a challenge to the midfield three, and how they're able to deal with playing against another midfield three, this is a common shape that Liverpool will play within the Premier League and other competitions.

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can we move the ball in to the wide area quickly, making quick decisions in the wide area.
- 2.) When the opponent overloads the wide area, can we look to move the ball in to a different zone.
- 3.) Can individuals stay away from the wide player to ensure we are able to create overloads in other areas of the pitch, if we compact one area we can not have an overload in other areas



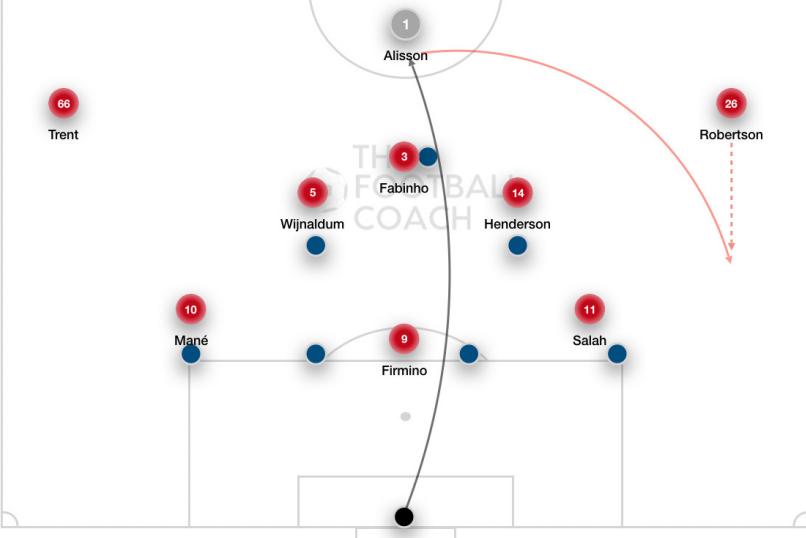
8:2 Work To Rest



18 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch

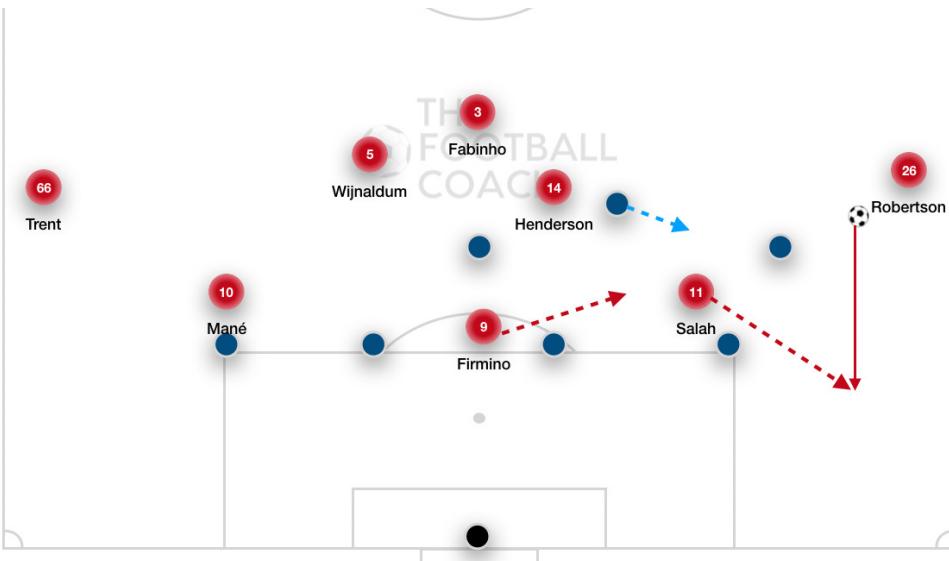


8V9 ATTACK THE BLOCK

As you can see, the session starts by the blues goalkeeper playing in to the red's goalkeeper who receives and looks to play. Instantly, the idea of the practice is to try and get in to the wide area and find a solution to the problem the opponent put forward. Within this practice what solutions can our players find for the opponent overloading the wide area, with a full back, a traveling centre back and the midfield screen all moving in to the wide area.

The image in the bottom left corner shows one solution this is to withdraw the the full back from the wide area so that the opponent can't overload the wide area in fear that the wide player hasn't engaged in the area. Then the full-back looks to slip a pass for the wide player in to the channel quickly, the pace on the ball should take the wide player towards the touch line.

The wide player then needs to ensure that their decisions are made quickly as we can only avoid pressure if we can quickly complete actions before the opponent can't create the pressure. It is still important that the number nine (Firmino) makes movements towards the full-back before he plays the pass, this is to encourage the back four in to a higher line which will allow the wide player (Salah) with more space to attack



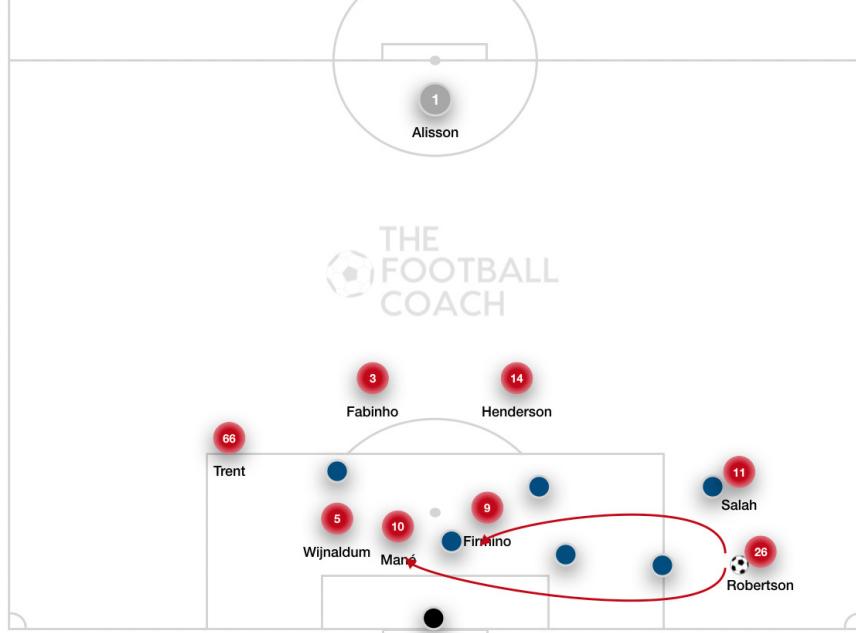
8:2 Work To Rest



18 Players



1 Relevant Half Pitch

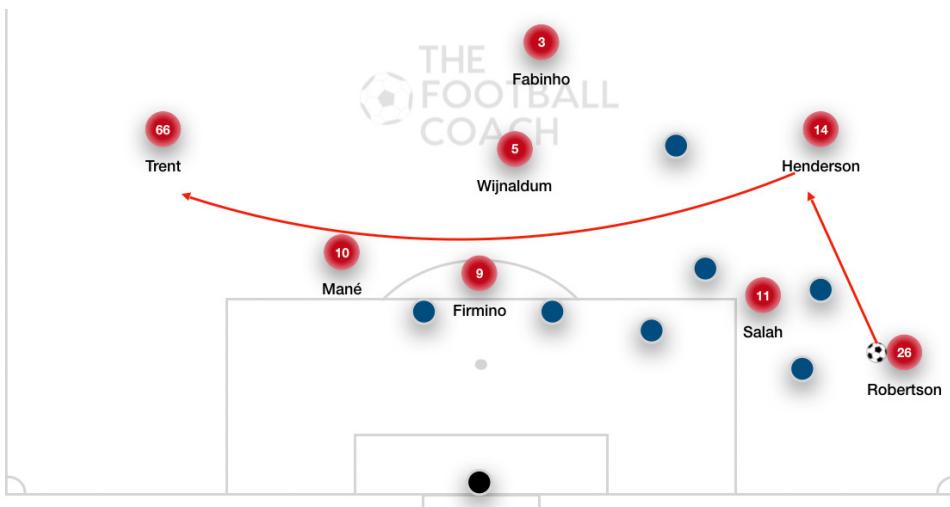


8V9 ATTACK THE BLOCK

Once our Full-Back Or Wide Player has entered the final third we must ensure we have a strategy as to how the goal will be scored, for example just crossing the ball may give us success, but strategic movements are developed patterns will increase our chance of scoring from these areas.

In this situation we are looking for the furthest attacker to arrive at the back post making a diagonal movement across the box, attacking to receive the ball between the goalkeeper and the deepest defender. Whilst the movement from Firmino (9) is much different looking to pull short and secure a cut back behind the pressing defenders.

The second pattern Liverpool used to stay out of pressure in the wide area was to hit massive switches of play between full-backs, in this situation the Liverpool midfield slides across to support Robertson in possession, the ball moves back before Henderson looks to switch play and release the opposite full-back who will be able to attack on a strong side where there is space and opportunity to attack with a numerical overload.



8:2 Work To Rest



18 Players



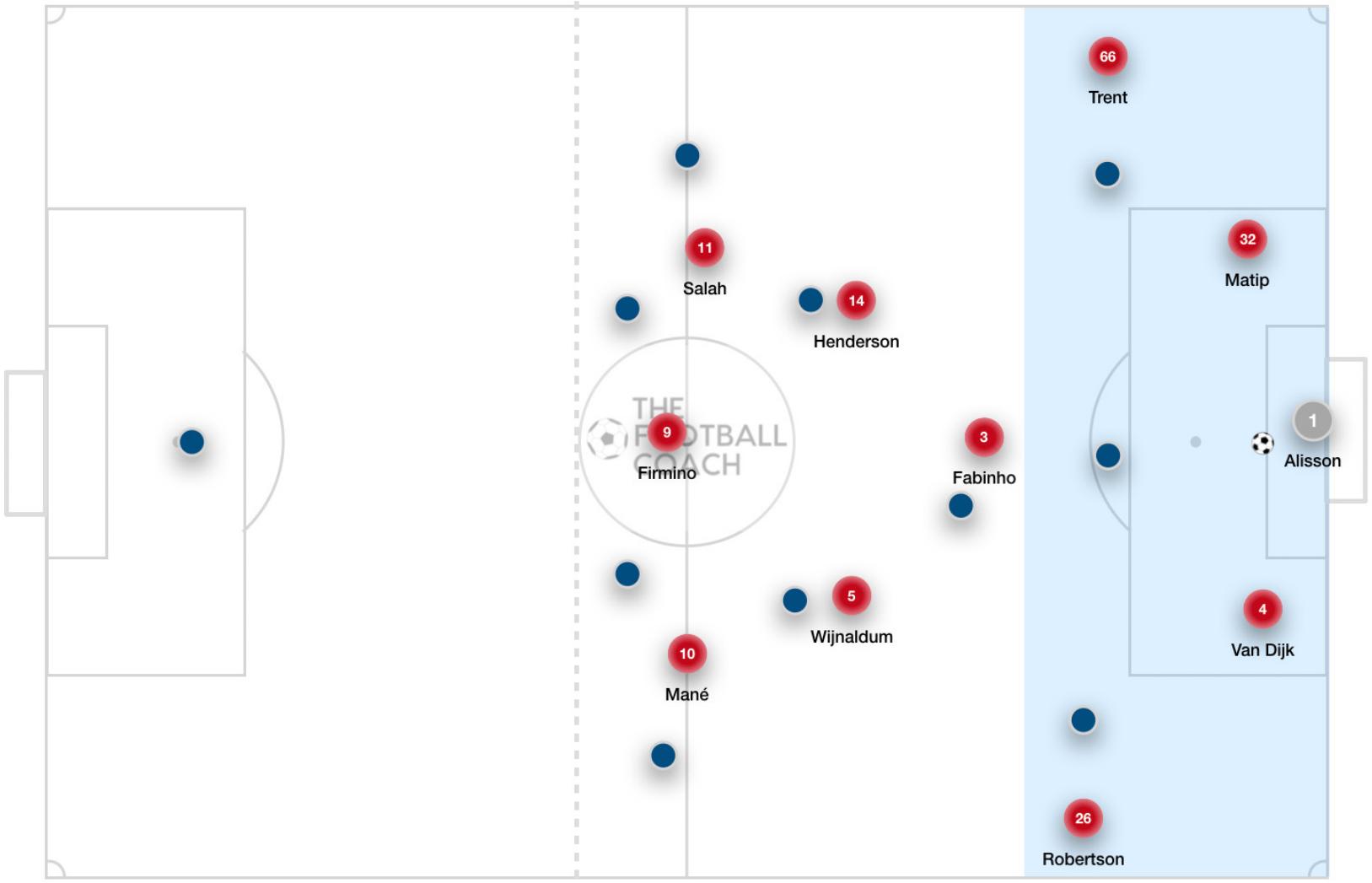
1 Relevant Half Pitch



11V11 BEATING THE PRESS

- Are we technically capable of playing out when being pressed by the front three
- Can we find the spare player within the 3v4 to release us in to the middle phase
- When we break in to the middle phase, can we ensure our players recognize the need to expose the opponent once they are high using the space behind the opponent

This session was viewed during The Champions cup preparation during 2018 delivered by Klopp in the main, really focusing only the quickness and directness of the attack, simplifying football, playing forward passes and making straight runs in to the heart of the opponents space. Klopp really insisting on the directness and tempo of the attack once they had broken from the defensive phase of the game.



11V11 BEATING THE PRESS

Explanation:

This session is an easy way to practice playing out with a realistic challenge, to make this more difficult the goalkeeper is not allowed to play out of the blue zone, a member of his back four must drive out of this space, this will create the attacking moments and the aggressive, high tempo attack that the philosophy requires, but it will also create the technical creativity needed to play out of compact area.

Although this area is compact it does still create a 3v5 situation which should be overloaded enough for us to be able to play through the central zone, once we break from the central zone, can we look to have runners in to the space behind.

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can our full-backs take their first touch forward to break the press and release pressure
- 2.) Once we are out of the defensive zone, can our attackers look to penetrate the space behind the opponent
- 3.) Can we understand the areas we want to expose, can we drive in to the space behind, and then ensure our attackers hit the box to receive finishing moments.



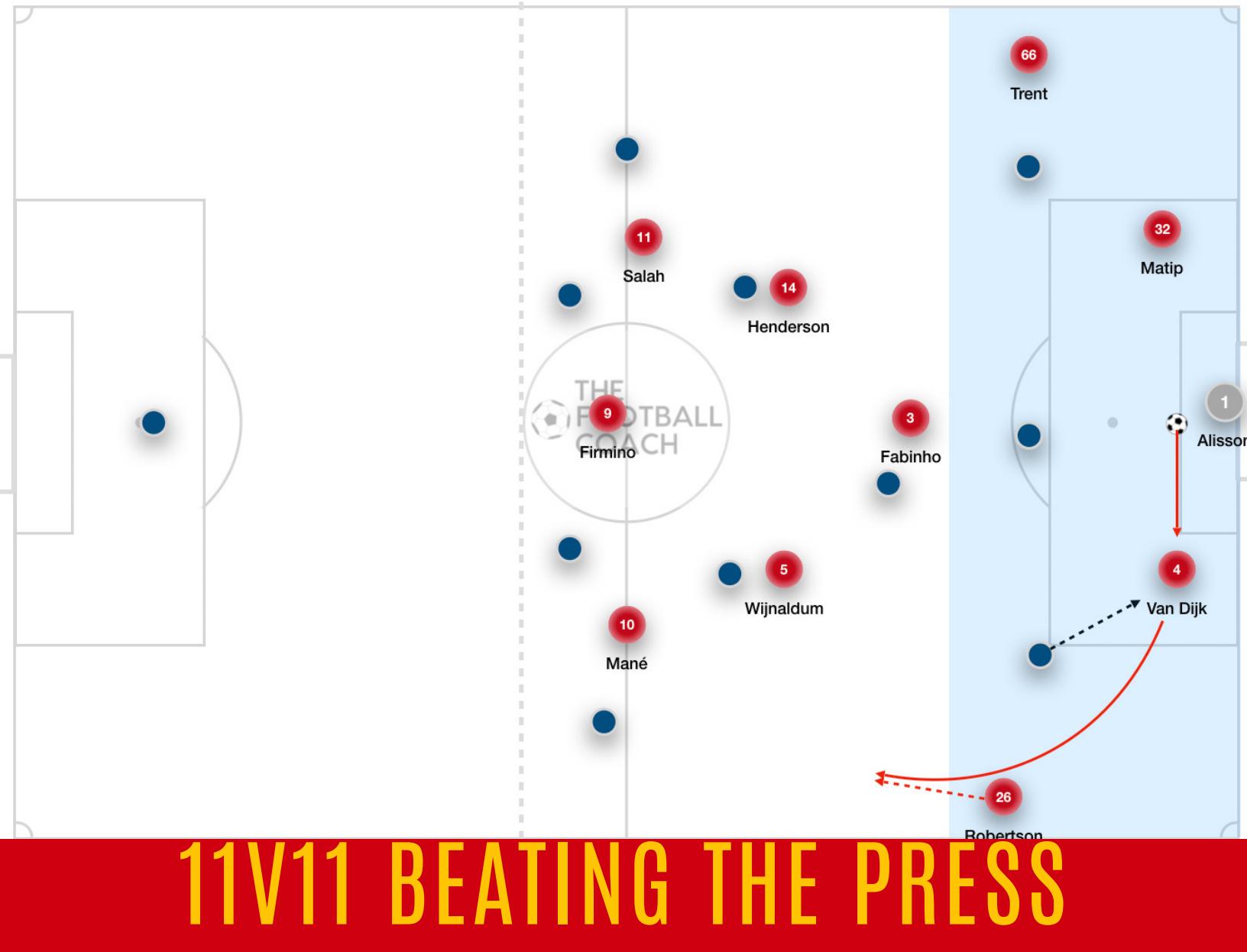
8:2 Work To Rest



22 Players



1 Relevant Pitch



11V11 BEATING THE PRESS

As you can see, the team in possession are challenged to find a way out of the blue zone quickly, the use of the penalty area is a way to provide the Centre back with more time and space in possession (We know Liverpool will look to dominate space over the dominance of the ball), this will attack pressure from the attacker, when the attacker commits to pressing the centre back, can the centre back move the ball in to the channel for the full-back to drive out of the blue area. The pass should look to be slightly ahead of the full-back to create the forward moving attacking motion, this forward movement will allow us as an attacking unit to expose the space left behind the opponent.

The opponent will naturally be high because of the location of their front three, this high attacking line will naturally pull forward the back four, to make sure this is maintained there is a defensive line that the opponent can not drop behind until the attackers have left the blue zone. This is not the only exit route for the reds, as centre backs can break out of the area if they receive the space and opportunity to play through the blues high press



8:2 Work To Rest

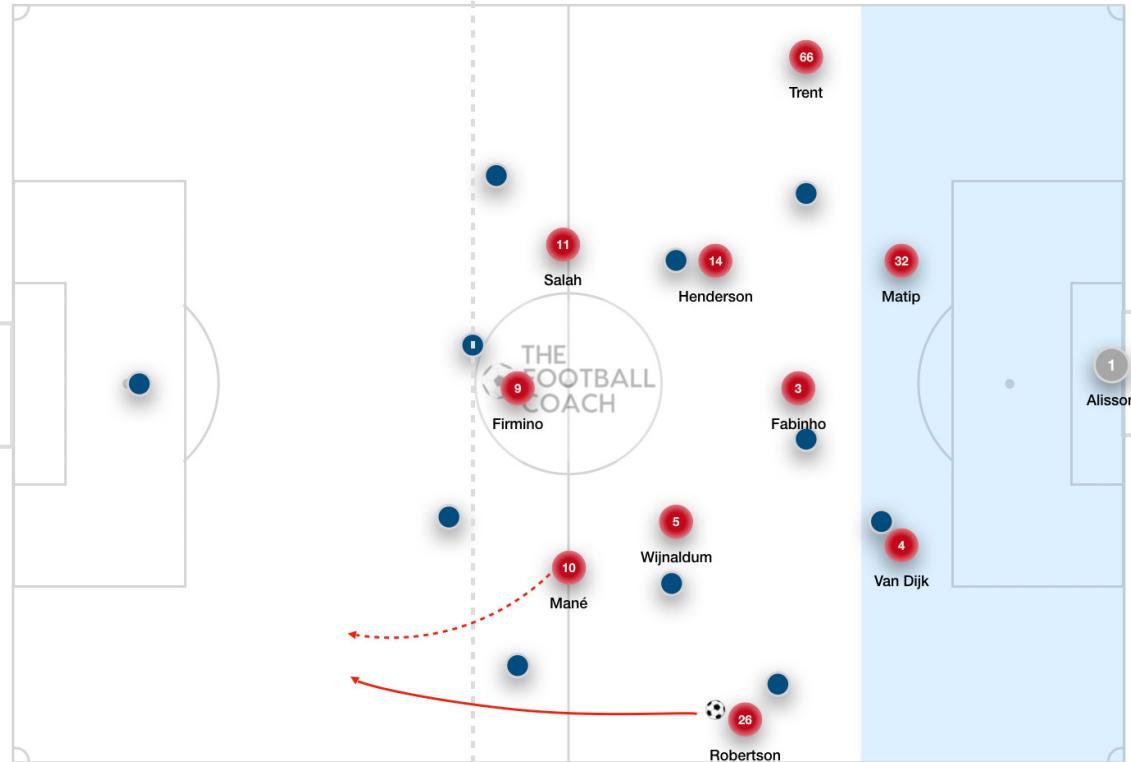


22 Players



1 Relevant Pitch

As this image shows once the full back has broken out of the blue zone, the blues will look to drop and protect the space, as they do this we are looking for runners from the attacking line in behind the opponent, as Mané makes his run between the centre back and full-back he can use his pace to run in the space behind. it is important that the run comes from a more central area creating an in to out movement that ensures the full-back is stuck in two minds; does he engage the red full-back or does he drop and protect the space left behind.



11V11 BEATING THE PRESS

Once Mané has got in behind, the finishing phase must occur quickly,

Mané will only be successful in these moments if he is able to move the ball quickly out of his feet, still ensuring he is moving towards the touchline so that the opponent is not able to recover in to the penalty box, then Mané looks to hit a low driven cross in to the space behind the back four. The cross should be in to a space where the opponent's goalkeeper is not able to deal with the cross, but also in a difficult position for the defensive line to deal with, ensuring the centre backs can not recover and have an influence.



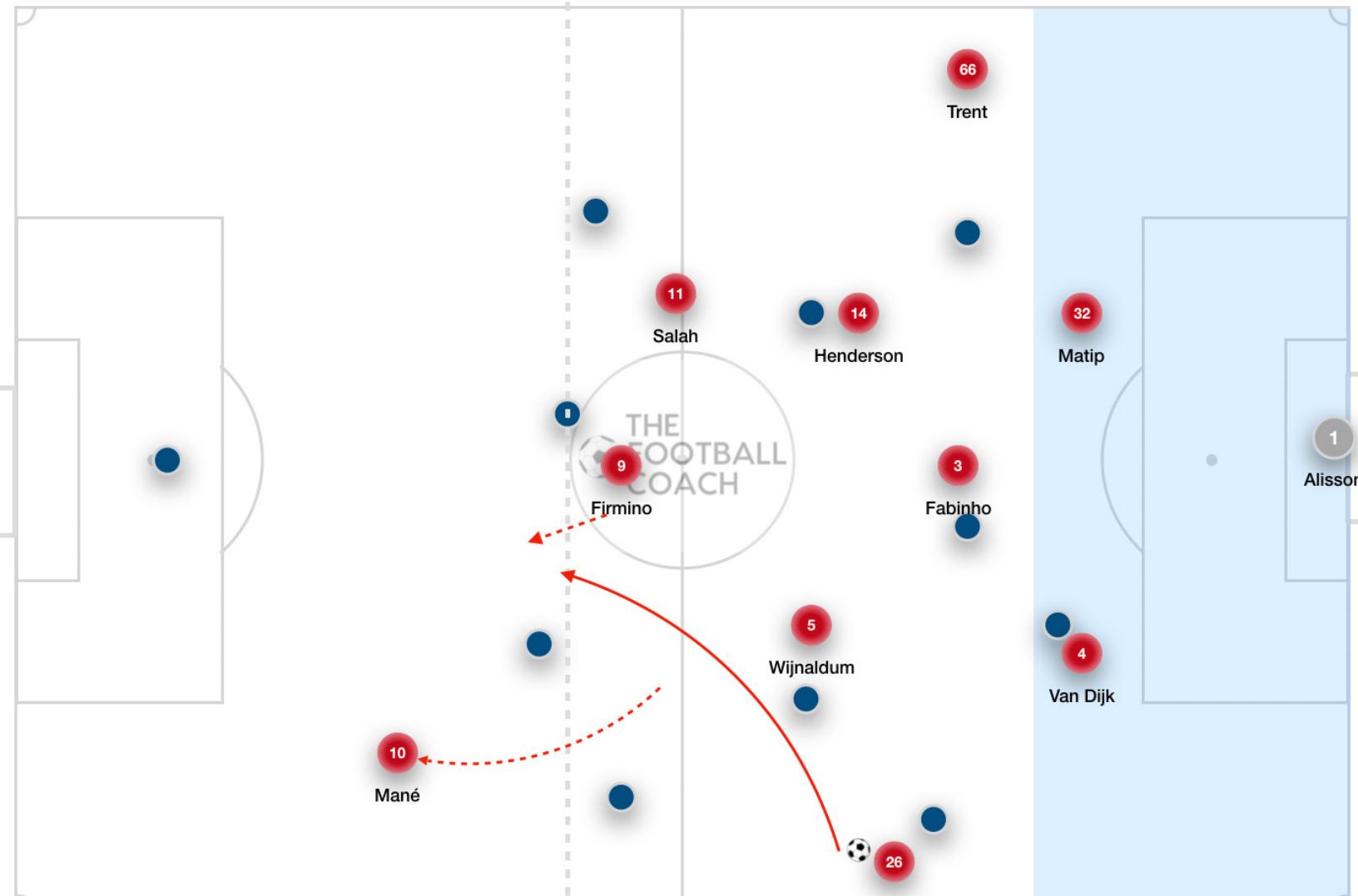
8:2 Work To Rest



22 Players



1 Relevant Pitch



11V11 BEATING THE PRESS

There are more completed rotations that can lead to attacking opportunities for the reds, once the full-back has broken out, Mané's movement across the full-back will naturally tempt the centre-back to follow the moment of Mané which is natural because of how uncomfortable footballers can become when they see runs towards the goal because of their fear of leaving them. As the centre-back makes a slight movement towards the runner Mané can we challenge our full-back to slide a pass in to the space between the centre backs for Firmino to run on to

This is a more complexed attacking motion because of the need for Robertson to make positive and reactive decisions whilst traveling with the ball at speed, it also becomes more complexed because once Mané has made the run in behind, he will become offside and if the ball has not been played to Firmino, then the attacking options will start to become limited and the chance of creating a goal scoring moment becomes limited.



8:2 Work To Rest



22 Players



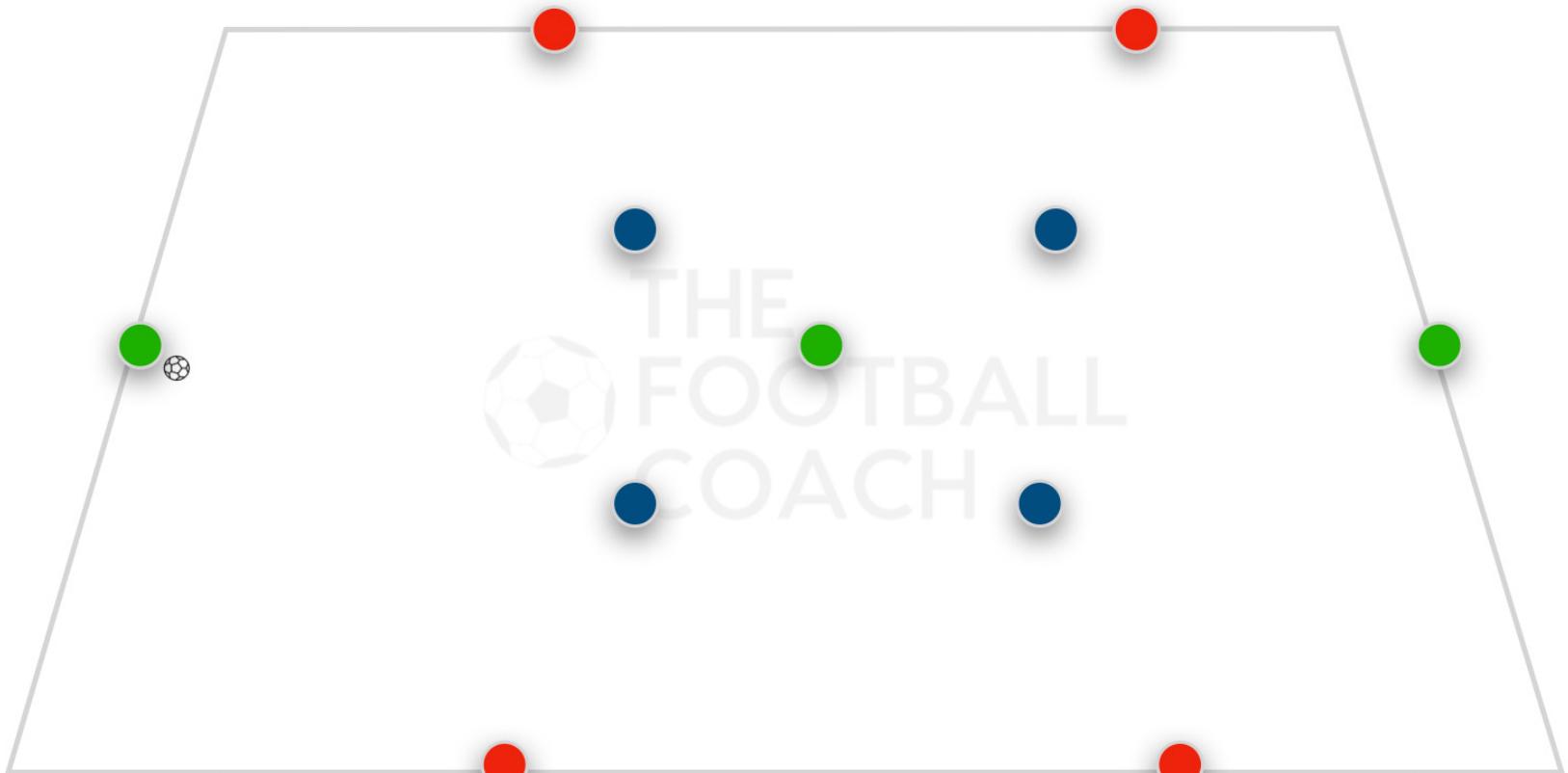
1 Relevant Pitch



4V4+3 COUNTER PRESSING RONDO

- Can our players receive pressure between the lines of the opponent when in possession
- Can our players play forward under pressure from the opponent when under pressure
- Out of possession can our counter-pressing behavior suffocate possession of the ball and win possession back for us quickly
- When there is a transitional moment in the game can we react quickly to ensure the opponent can not play forward and leave the space

This session was commonly delivered by Klopp and Ljinders over the last 18 months, viewed both in preseason at Melwood and in the USA, its a session that really suits the principles of counter pressing and the principles of keeping possession within a tight numerical situation.



4V4+3 COUNTER PRESSING RONDO

Explanation:

This is a 4V4+3, in possession of the ball are the greens who look to link with the reds, to keep possession away from the blue team. Greens must move the ball quickly in order to avoid the pressure from the blues who look to press and prevent the central green getting possession and switching the ball forward, this would replicate an opponent playing forward under pressure, something that must not happen within Klopp's philosophy.

The second part of the session involves the winning of possession from the blues, as soon as the blues win possession they look to keep possession of the ball away from the reds and with the support of the greens creating a 7v4 but with only two outside players, this transitional element to the practice is perfect for teams looking to develop the counter pressing behaviors that Klopp strives to install in his players.

This session can also be manipulated for a lower intensity session, where the counter-pressing from the reds does not occur until the coach releases the outside players once the team in possession have made a quality of passes

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can we disguise passes so they can be played between the lines and break the opponents pressure
- 2.) Once the transition occurs, can we be ready to instantly counter-press the opponents possession
- 3.) Within these practices the counter-pressing behaviors are very coach driven, the standard expected is 100% of the time, anything short of that is not accepted.



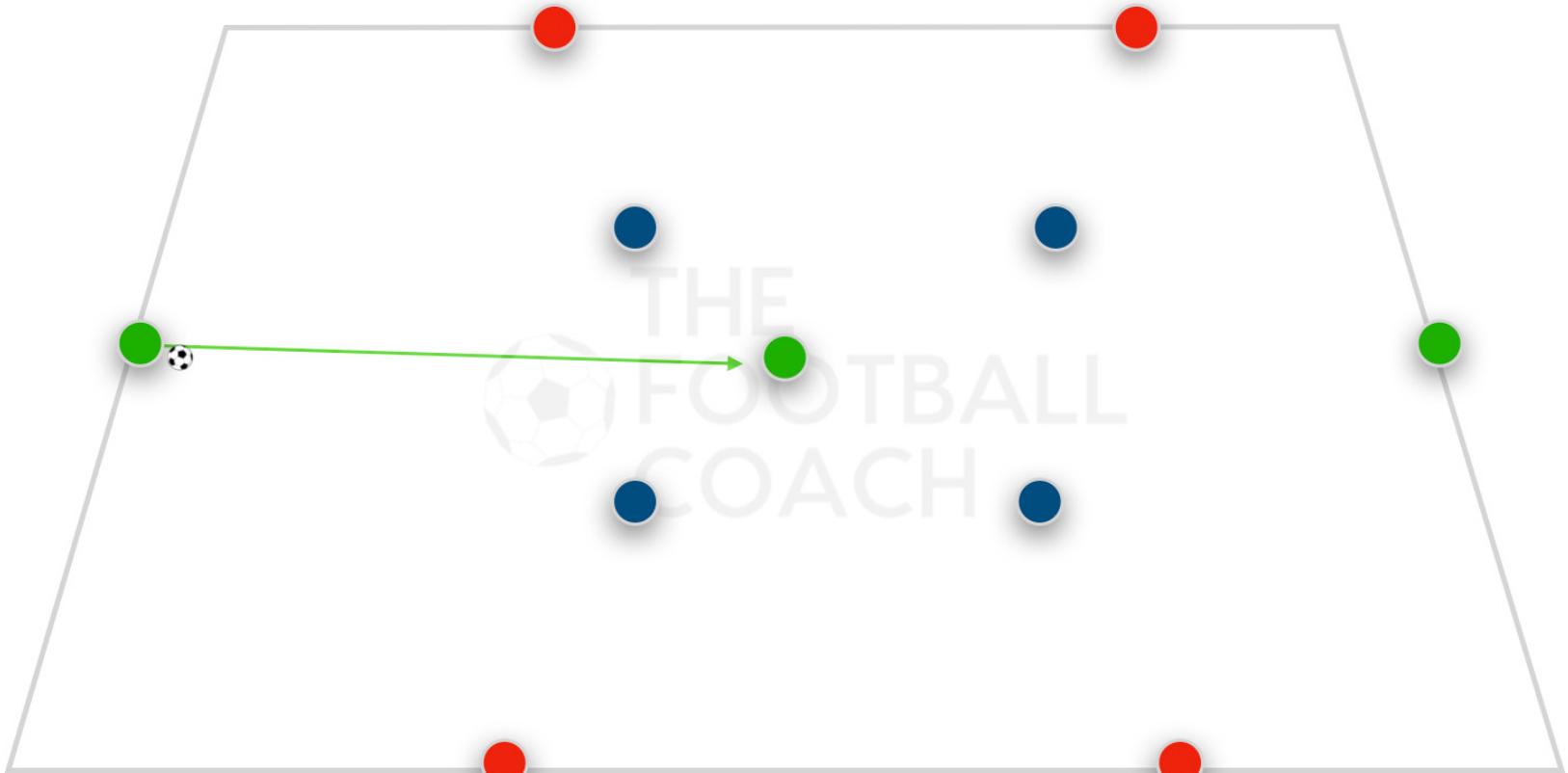
4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players



20x25 Yards

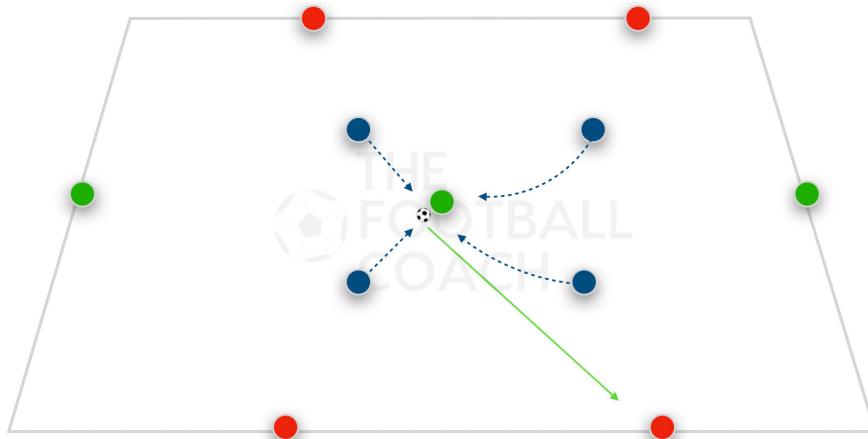


4V4+3 COUNTER PRESSING RONDO

Explanation:

The session starts very simply by the green player looking to find a spare man to start the practice, this does not need to be green-green but must find a spare player, the practice then goes live as soon as the ball comes in to the session, from here the blues are now looking to press the green and prevent the ball being switched out to the other side.

As you can see in the bottom image, the role of the middle four players is to apply pressure to the ball and block passing lanes when possible, the closest player should apply the heaviest pressure to the ball, whilst the players behind should be consciously aware of the furthest green and the danger to the team if the opponent is able to switch possession to the other side of the practice. The intensity at this moment will be a key element of the practice ensuring that the midfield four are working relentlessly to apply pressure to the ball and suffocating the play



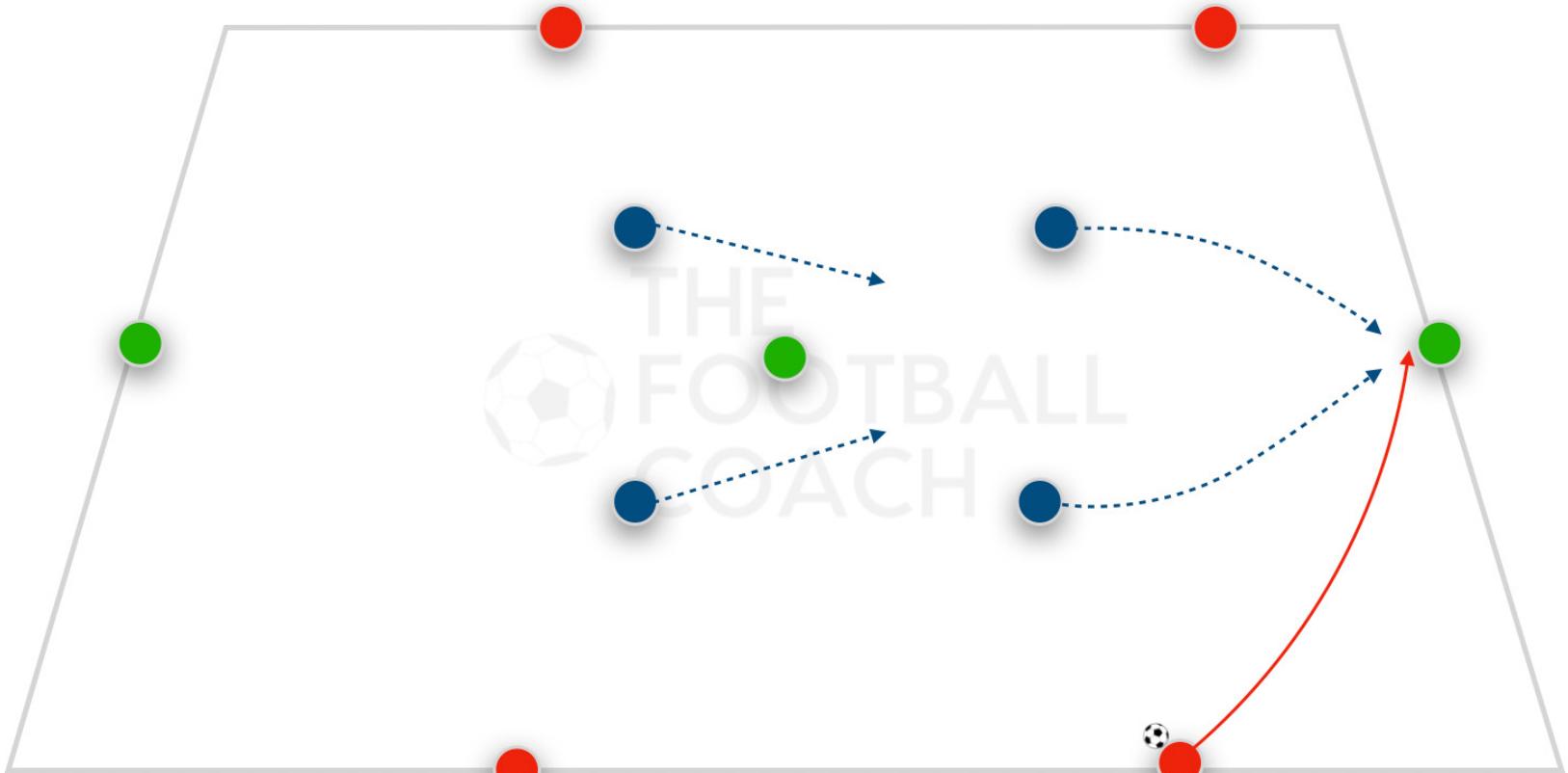
4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players



20x25 Yards

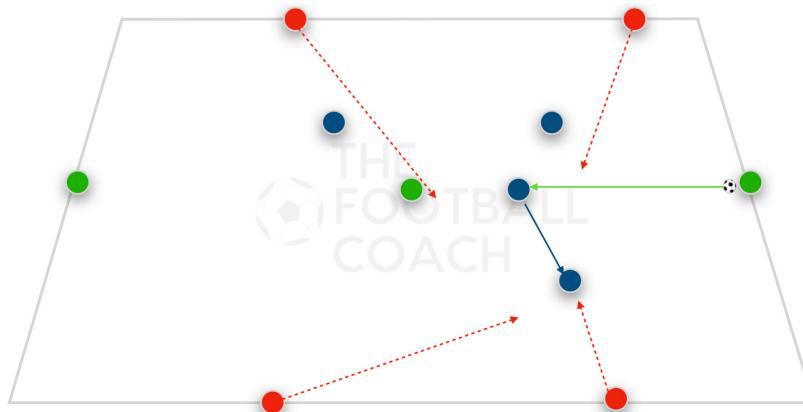


4V4+3 COUNTER PRESSING RONDO

Explanation:

As the above image shows, if the opponent are capable of beating the press (Something that will happen) we must encourage our players to recommit their pressure and keep the intensity to ensure that one broken line does not become two, three or four. In the above image the green who receives possession will naturally receive pressure from one side first, this will be the role of the first play to shut down one side of the field of play and ensuring that the opponent does not have the ability to consistently switch play, when the passing options become restricted we are more likely to see passing errors, these passing errors will give our pressing players opportunities.

In the below image you can see the response from the reds when the blues regain possession, it is instant and explosive and it is high in contact, contact that makes the opponents life difficult and creates doubt in the players mind when they receive possession because of their expectation of the opponents pressure



4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players



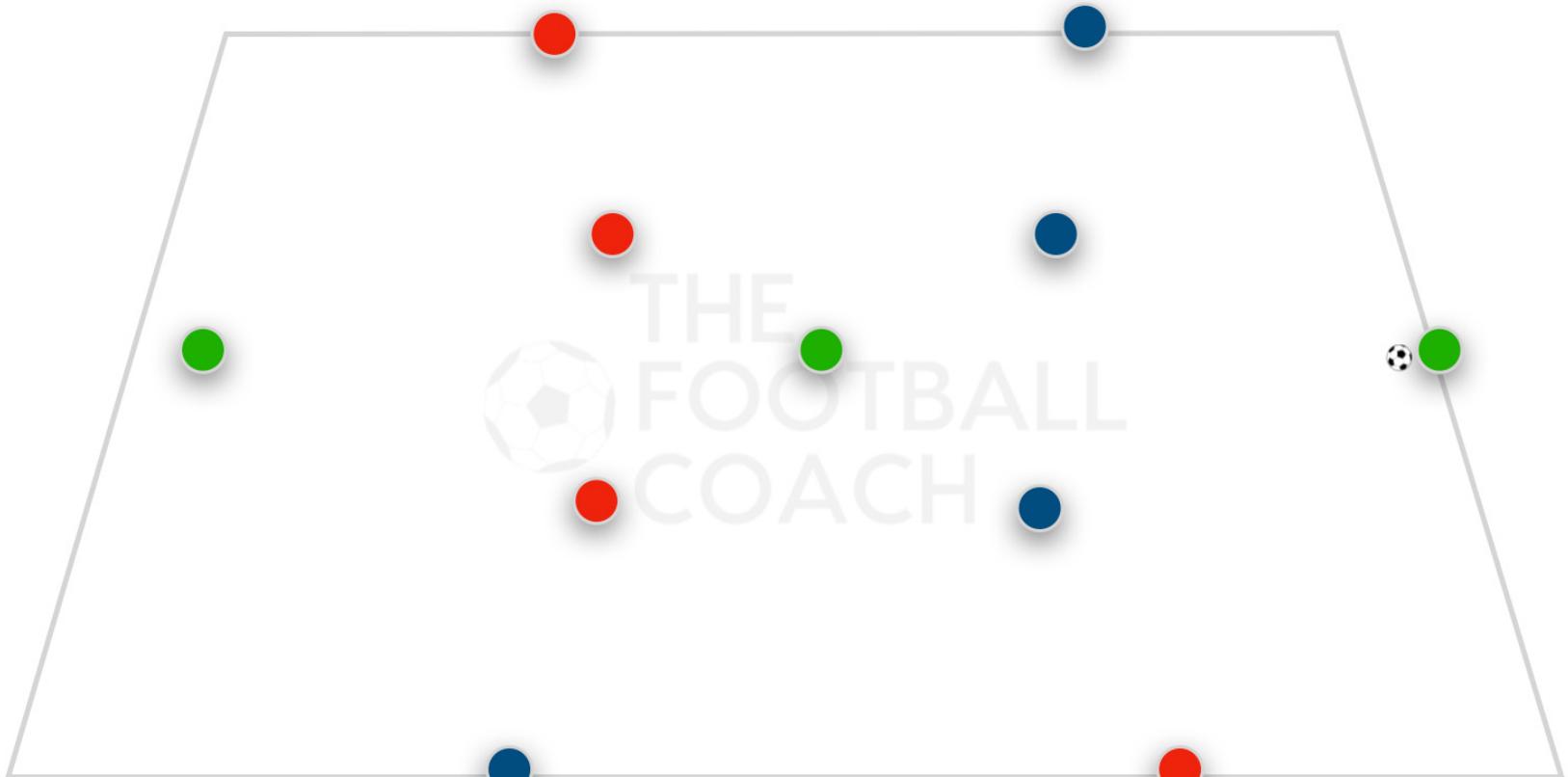
20x25 Yards



4V4+3 MODIFIED RONDO

- Can our counter-pressing suffocate forward passing options and pressure around the ball
- Can we press the opponent instantly creating smaller spaces for the opponent to play in
- Can we be creative in our receiving ability to create opportunities to play through pressure
- Can we press the opponent instantly creating smaller spaces for the opponent to play in - Can we be creative in our receiving ability to create opportunities to play through pressure

This session was adapted from Ljinders and Klopp's work, this creates a more unbalanced midfield, which could be a more realistic scenario that the team may face when pressing in games due to the natural fluidity of the game and the space and the stretch that units can occur in game situations.



4V4+3 MODIFIED RONDO

Explanation:

This is a 4V4+3. It's an adapted version of the previous practice, in this practice the middle four players are now split to create a central 2v2+1 whilst the outside players are now also split with one full back (Wide player closest) and one attacking wide player (Furthest forward), this will create as previously mentioned the natural unbalanced shape that can occur during a game of football.

The session is very simple to setup and very easy to deliver to your players, the greens start with the blues and look to move possession from one end of the practice to the other with the support of the two blue central players and the two blues on the outside, whilst they attempt to play through the opponent the reds will all come in to the middle of the practice and press together to try and prevent the greens and blues playing.

If the reds successfully win possession, they will look to play through the blues, with the support of the greens, at this point the blues will also come inside the practice in order to support the pressure on the ball

Coaching Detail:

- 1.) Can our players in possession recognize when they're under pressure and when they're able to play forward or when they need to play backwards in order to relieve pressure on the ball
- 2.) Can our counter-pressing involve contact, contact is an important part (this does not mean fouling) but harassing the opponent for possession of the ball, really making sure the opponent feels every element of the pressure
- 3.) Once we regain possession can we create the calm and relaxed players capable to finding passes to secure possession of the ball



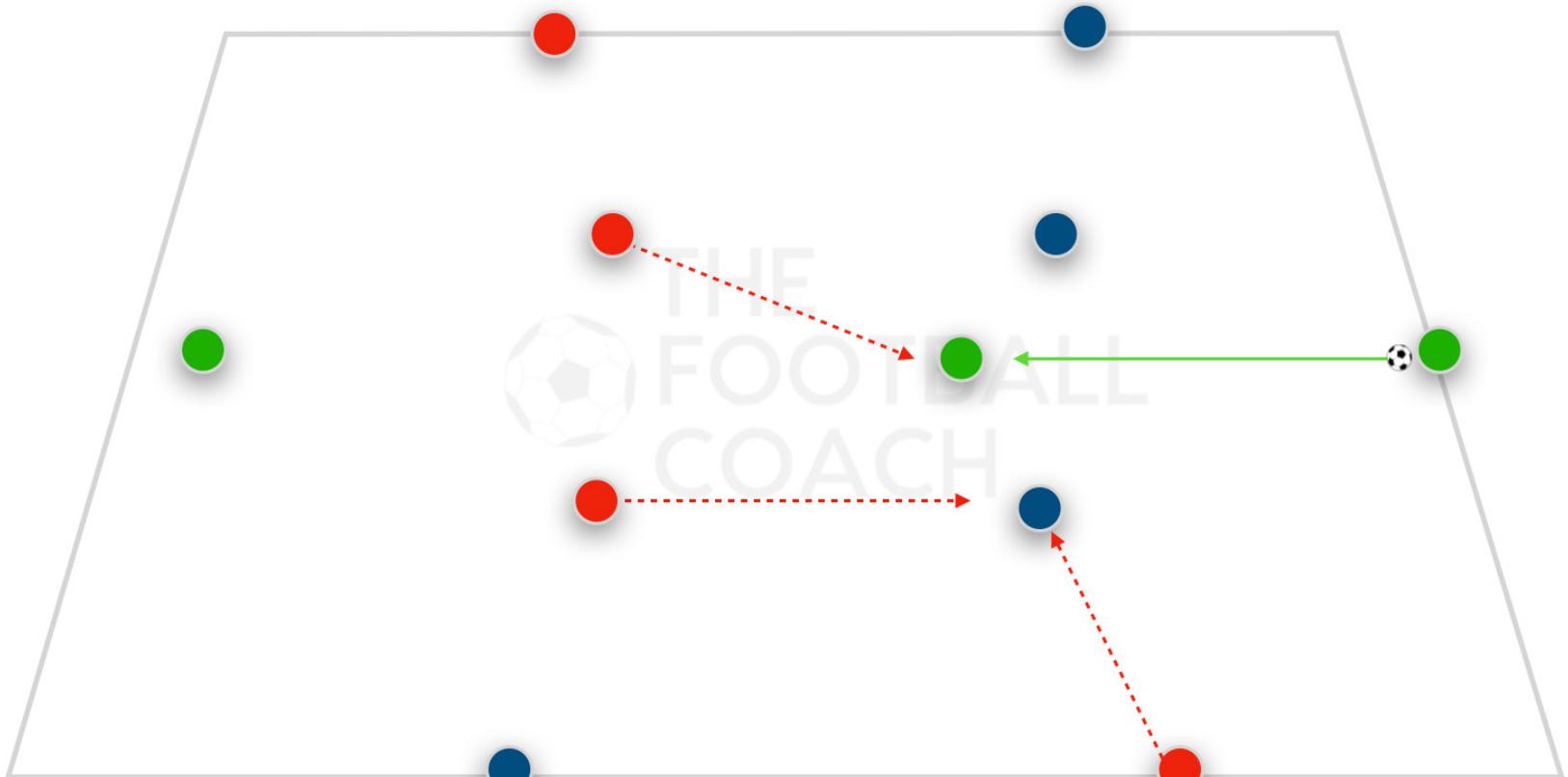
4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players



20x25 Yards

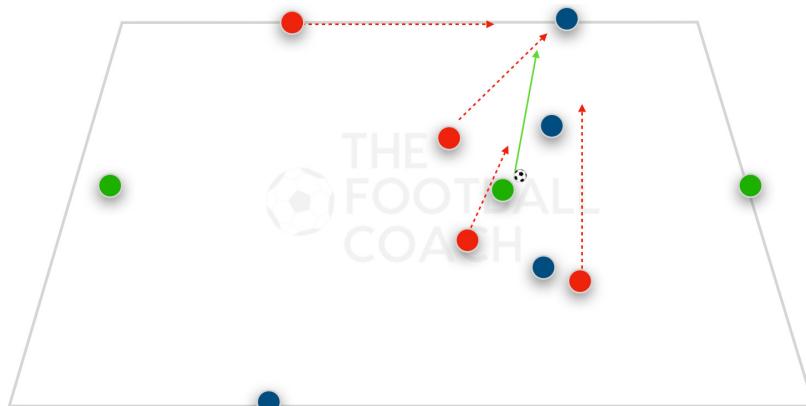


4V4+3 MODIFIED RONDO

Explanation:

In the picture above you can clearly see where and how the practice begins, the outside reds are making their way inside to apply pressure and the two central players are instantly looking to make life difficult for the team in possession, we must ensure that our players in possession are comfortable playing under pressure, and these players need to shift the ball quickly to release pressure. It is important that we invite pressure, and then kill pressure by playing passes in to areas when the opponent can not quickly apply pressure.

Once the practice develops from its first pass we must encourage the players to react quickly moving with the ball to cut passing lanes and apply a ring of pressure around the ball. As you can see here as the ball travels towards the blue, the pressure is coming from all angles to ensure he is not capable of receiving the ball in space. Instantly the pressure our players apply will create a level of self doubt, this self doubt will potentially create errors, these errors can lead to us regaining possession of the ball.



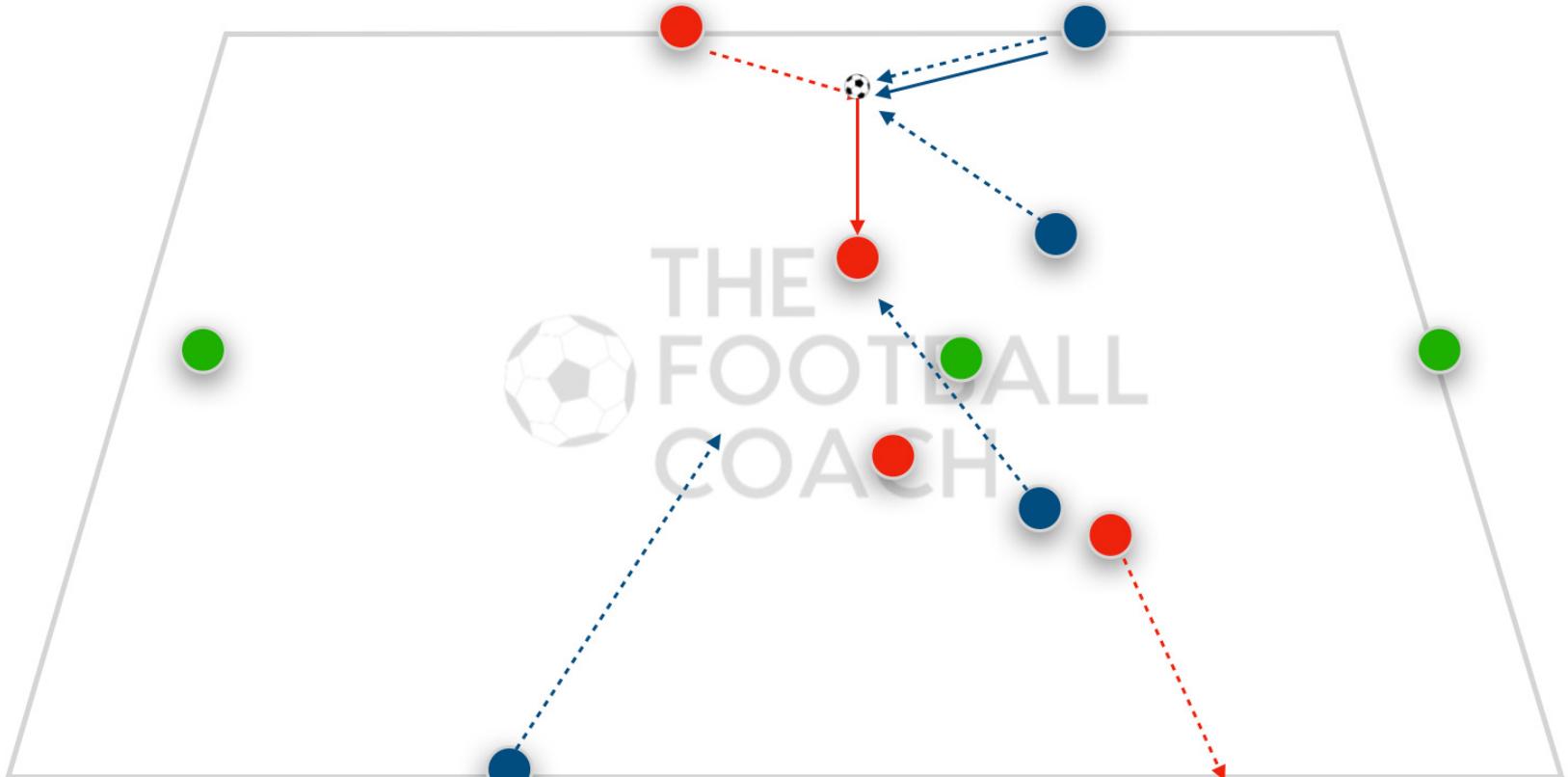
4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players



20x25 Yards



4V4+3 MODIFIED RONDO

Explanation:

The above image displays the moment that the reds regain possession, a good decision press, and a great place to transition. Now there are key things that must happen in and out of possession in these moments:

In Possession:

- Can we instantly see if we can play forward, has the opponent left spaces for us to play through?
- If they haven't can I find a team mate who can play forward and cause pain to the opponent?
- Lastly if we can't play to play forward, can we secure possession of the ball by playing away from pressure to a team mate who can nullify the pressing behaviors of the opponent

Out of Possession:

- The best players can begin to counter-press before the opponent secures the ball recognizing that the ball is going to leave our control, can we encourage this behavior
- As the first player applies pressure, can the supporting players close the space around the ball
- Can player further back ensure that we have defensive balance, can the opponent hurt us? If the answer is Yes can you prevent the damage occurring, if No can you quickly organize and communicate the problem

Quick thinkers can have big influences on games, lets encourage and provide opportunity to players to make quick decisions and brave decisions within practices, not every decision in training can be made by the coach, as none of the decision in the game are made by us, we need to have thoughtful, brave and tactically aware players.



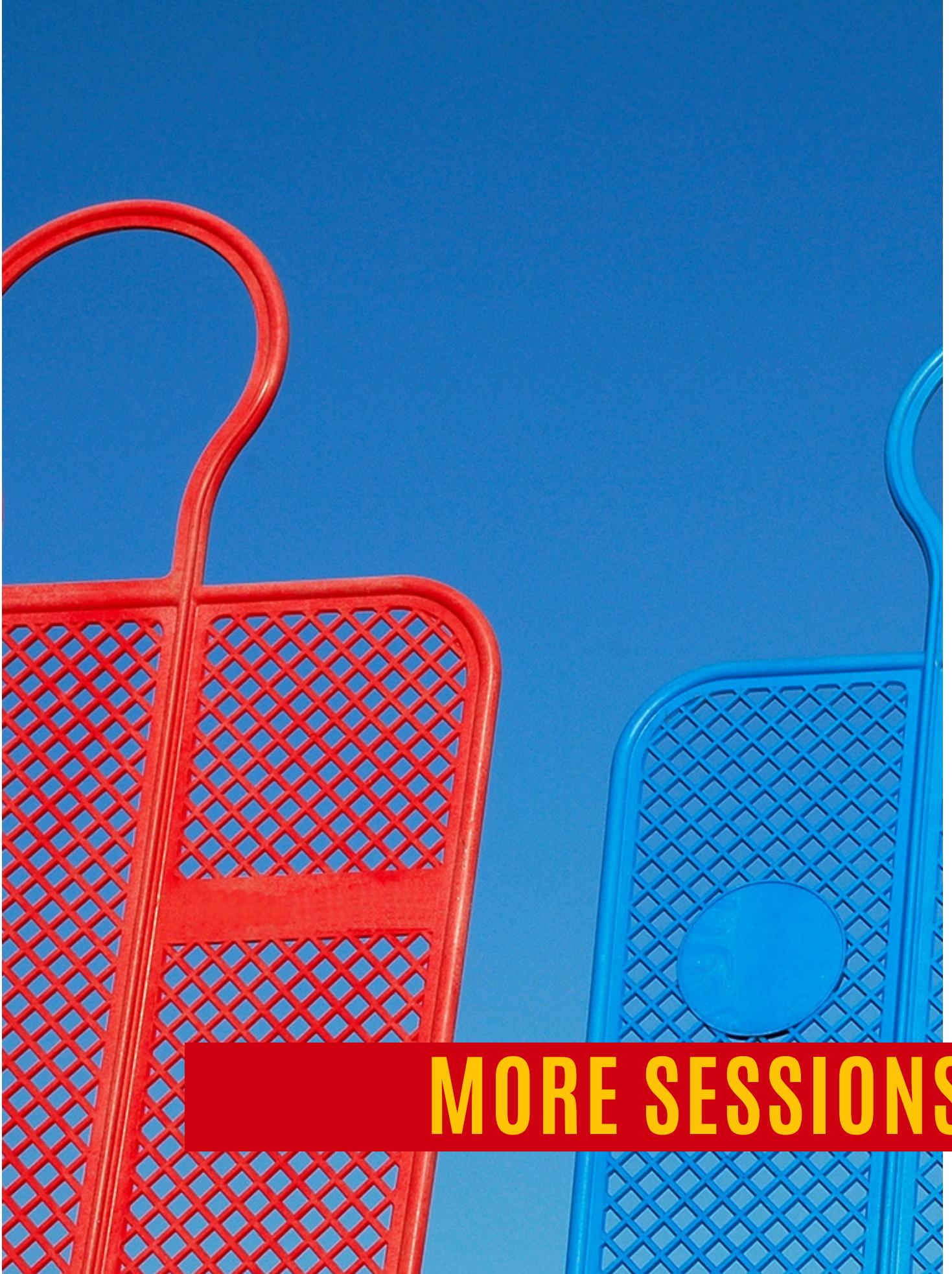
4:1 Work To Rest



11 Players

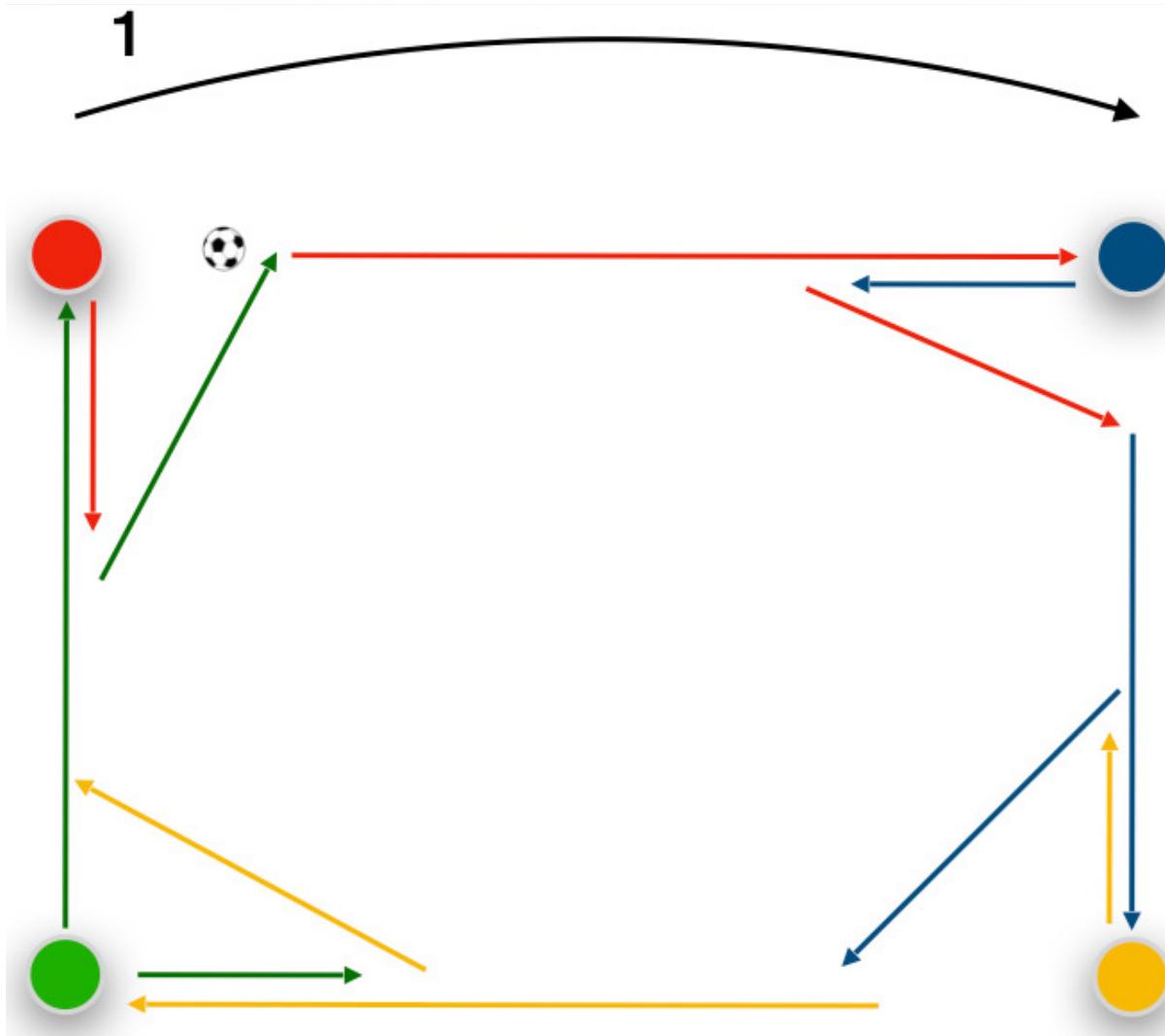


20x25 Yards



A red metal chair with a diamond-patterned seat and backrest is positioned against a solid blue background. The chair's curved armrest and vertical legs are visible. To the right, a portion of another blue chair is seen.

MORE SESSIONS



SQUARE PASSING PRACTICE

SESSION EXPLANATION:

This session is a very simple passing practice, completed in this order.

Red passes to Blue who then sets the ball back to the red, before the reds plays a diagonal pass through to the blue, who then repeats the same pattern with yellow, then green and then back to the red.

This goes in a square with players staying in the same position, or with five players with players moving position around the square each time they pass the ball

COACHING POINTS:

- Can players play passes with the correct weight e.g is it a threaded pass, is it a line breaking pass
- Can we focus on first time receiving, the set back to the first player should be with a locked ankle and a cushioned control, where the player just moves the foot towards the body at the last second to take the pace of the ball and absorb some of the energy from the pass



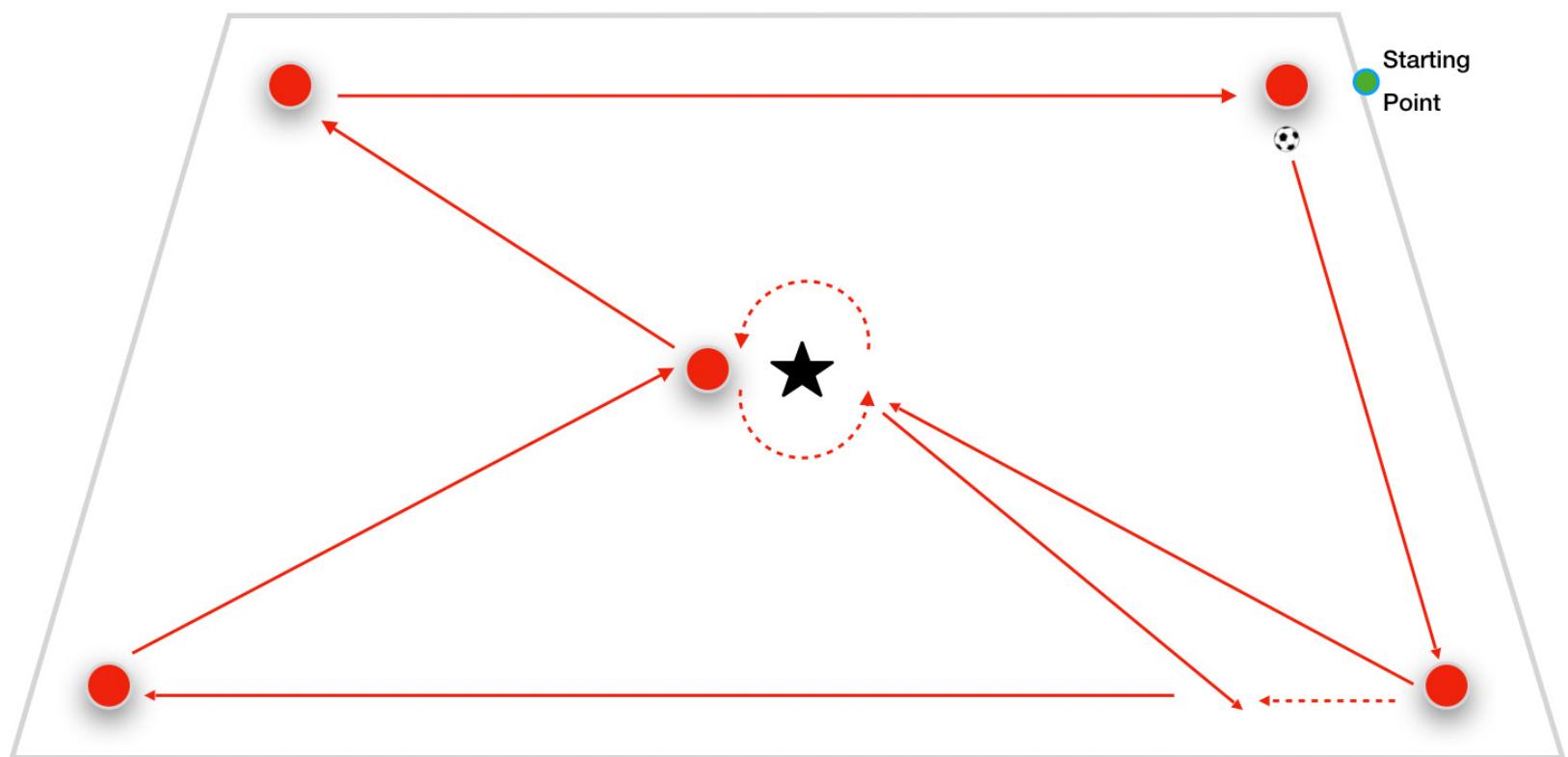
3:1 Work To Rest



4 or 5 Players



18x18 Yards



★ Mannequin

WITHDRAWN 9 PASSING PRACTICE

SESSION EXPLANATION:

This session is another easy to use passing practice that involves the use of the withdrawn striker, the player looking to drop between the lines and receive possession, creating overloads in central areas.

The practice is simple to use and a common practice among coaches, it quite simply move from outside player to outside player before the central player moves around the mannequin to receive possession ball side, bounce the ball back to the team mate who passed the ball and then switch the ball in to the other half, the ball is then played back to the central player who switches play out to the far side before playing back to the start of the practice.

The practice involves the outside players rotating around the oblong shape whilst the central player stays fixed and works for 2 and a half minutes at any point

COACHING POINTS:

- Can the central player receive possession with an appropriate body position to play forward
- Adjust weight of pass, can the pass in to the middle player be fired in as if it was breaking the opponents lines
- When outside players play to outside players, can they ensure the pass is played in to the space in-front of the player receiving possession



3:1 Work To Rest



4 or 5 Players



18x25 Yards



4V2 RONDO

SESSION EXPLANATION:

This 4V2 Rondo is a common practice within coaching something that generally evolves from boxes at the start of coaching session, for Klopp and Liverpool it is commonly used to practice the pressing behaviors that are so important to the Philosophy.

The practice starts very simply with the outside players looking to keep the ball away from the two central players, to make the practice more difficult the size of the practice can be manipulated to manipulate the challenge for the players.

COACHING POINTS:

- Can players move the ball quickly to avoid the pressure applied from the opponent
- Can we disguise are passes to break the pressure applied by the opponent
- Can the players ensure that there is no pass between them, making sure they can protect central areas and ensure that they are not split by a pass
- When out of possession can we recognize the triggers to win possession, when the opponent makes a poor pass or a poor touch or plays in to an area of relative strength for us out of possession can we use this as a trigger to go and win possession.



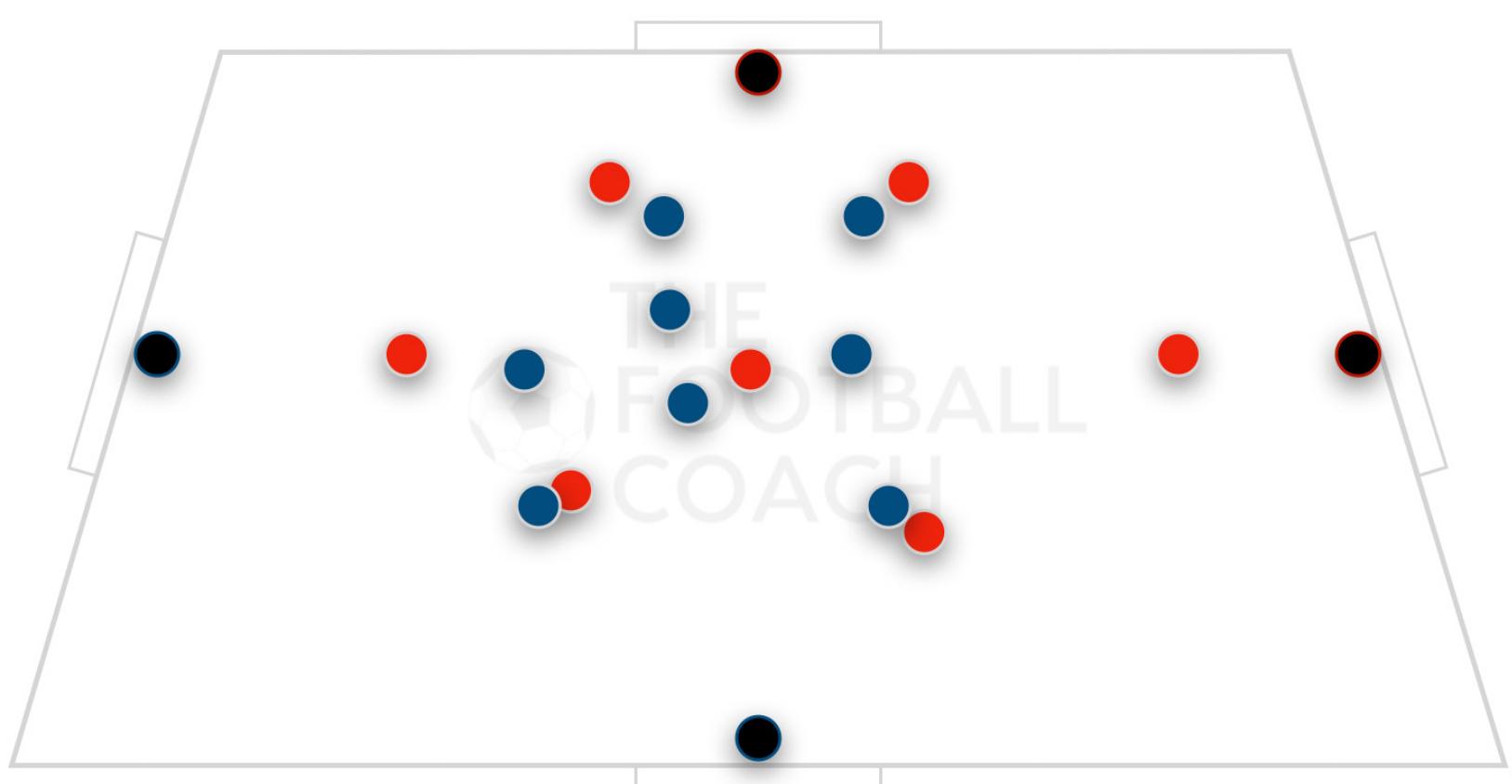
2.5:1 Work To Rest



6 Players



18x25 Yards



7V8 Attacking Practice

SESSION EXPLANATION:

This is a more complexed session used by Klopp during a recorded session at Melwood, 7v8 attacking game with two red goals and two red goals, the practice is very simple. reds attack blues from the top goal to the bottom goal, every time a team score, they must then look to score in the opponents other goal. This will mean potentially at times the game is being played on an angle.

It is a great way to create confusion for players during the pressing phase of the game. During this phase the players must react quickly to the changing conditions of the practice, every time the team in possession score, they keep the ball as the coach will instantly drop another ball in to the practice for them to attack, this will mean there is a reward for the team that dominate the practice and the team out of possession will have to avoid making negative responses to conceding goals and must instantly react to the new ball

COACHING POINTS:

- Stay engaged even in the moments where conceding.
- React quickly to transitional moments within the practice.
- Work when in possession to move the ball away from pressure and find gaps in the opponents shape
- Transfer the ball from one side to the other to avoid the pressure building around the ball.



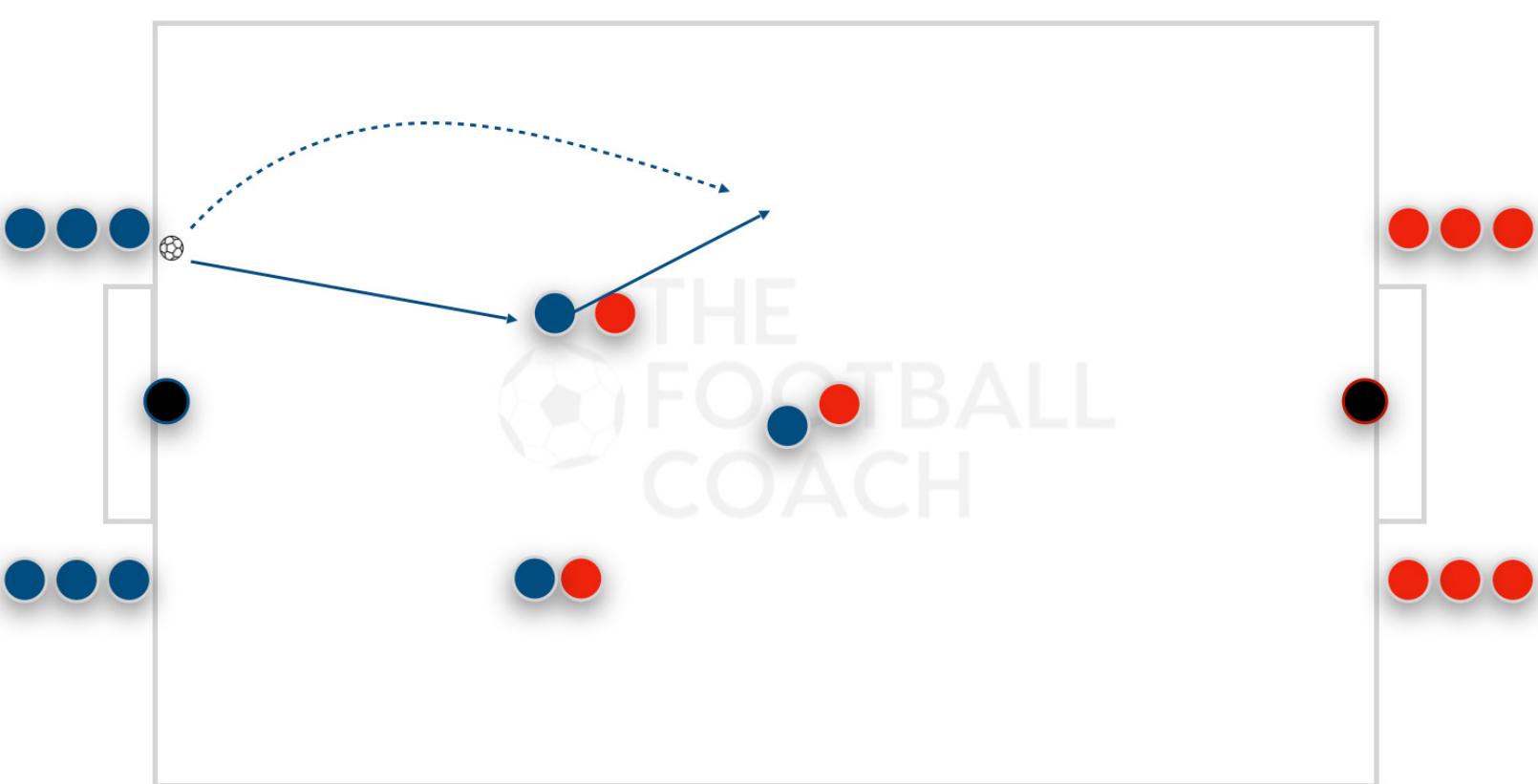
8:2 Work To Rest



19 Players



28x28 Yards



FINISHING ON THE BREAK

SESSION EXPLANATION:

This is a simple to organize and implement session with the use of counter-attacking overloads to create goal scoring opportunities, the session involves a 3v3 in central areas with a line of players on all four goal posts, the session simply starts by two blues breaking out to create a 5v3, the players look to move the ball quickly before entering the goal scoring area and finishing with some kind of finish, if the reds win it, then they can break to the other end, the blues then join the other queue and this is not followed by the reds breaking out and tackling the blue, completing the same task as before.

This session is a great way to practicing the finishing moments with pressure that is realistic and situations and pictures that will occur in the game because of our game model.

COACHING POINTS:

- Be direct in the attacking moments of the game
- Create moments where we can shoot across the goalkeeper for a rebound at the far post
- Can we be compact out of possession and deny the opponent central space to attack
- When we win possession can we play through quickly being direct with ball carriers.



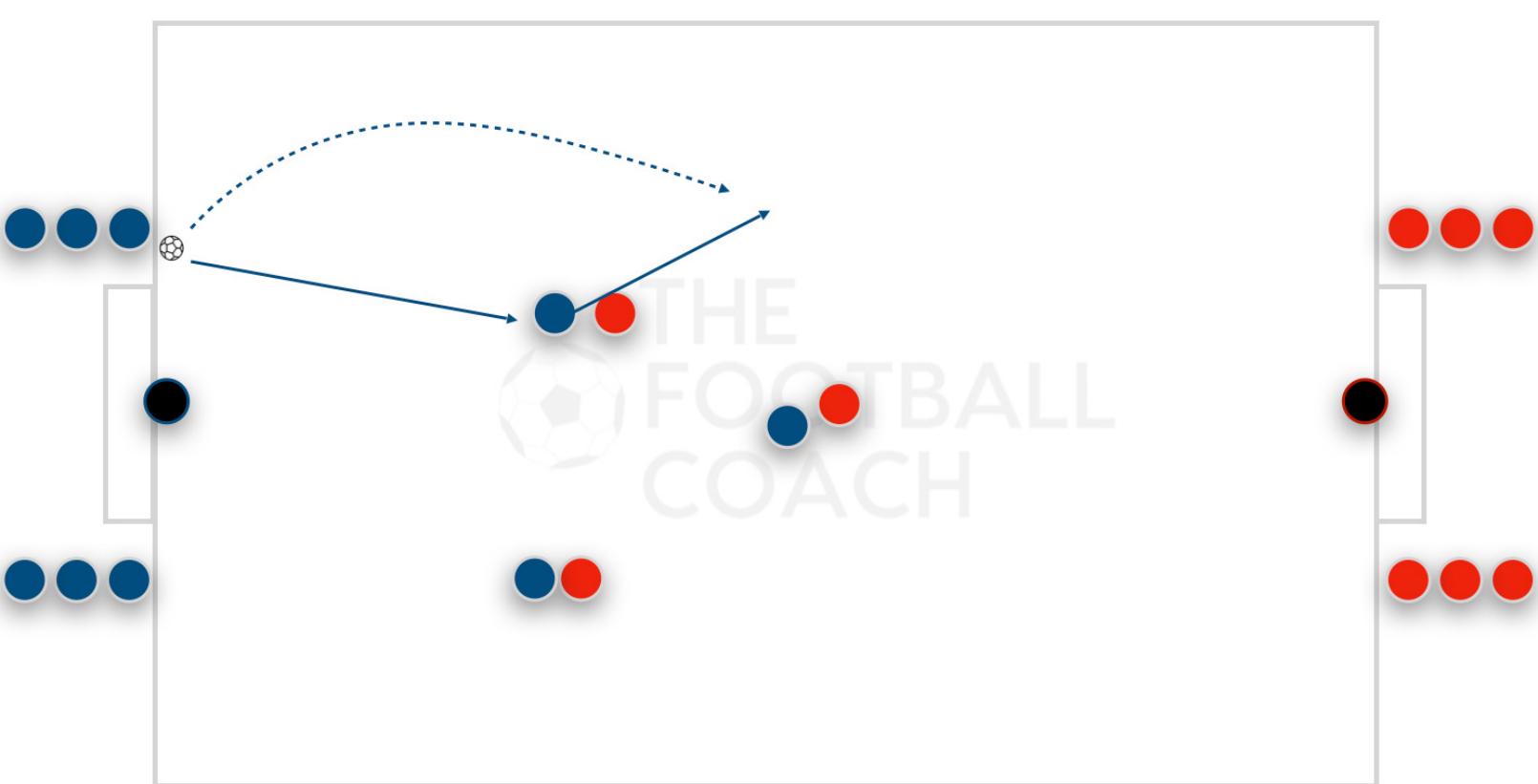
4:1 Work To Rest



20 Players



20x30 Yards



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4:1 Work To Rest



20 Players



20x30 Yards



A red metal chair with a diamond-patterned seat and backrest is positioned on the left side of the frame, angled towards the center. To its right, a portion of a blue chair is visible. The background is a solid blue color.

TACTICAL SOLUTIONS SHEFFIELD UNITED



SHEFFIELD UNITED - 3-5-2

TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

Liverpool regularly dominate opponent with their narrow 4-3-3 midfield and full-backs who get really high and look to create crossing opportunities and expose the opponents full backs in 1v1's however, most commonly Liverpool will face 4-4-2 or an animation of 4-3-3 meaning Liverpool can look to isolate the opponents full-back by the placing of the wide planner, holding the full-back inside so that the wide player (Who often wants to get forward) is challenged with dealing with Liverpool's athletic and forward running full-backs.

However Sheffield United played with a 3-5-2 meaning that (As the photo shows) when Liverpool's full-backs look to go and play up against the opponent's full-back they were able to slide across with their five, meaning they still had the stability of a defensive four, even when the full-back went very wide, to make this more difficult, Sheffield united moved the midfield screen (two players) in to the wide area because the third member of that midfield was still able to block central areas.

This also means that the movement from the number 9 was less effective as Sheffield United had overloaded the wide area so passes inside their block were incredibly difficult. But to add to this Mane and Salah's movement to play on the inside shoulder had little effect as there were still defenders either side, leaving Liverpool with little attacking threat through out the game.



SHEFFIELD UNITED - 3-5-2



TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

As the game developed Liverpool tried to find solutions to find a way to play behind Sheffield United, this involved first Salah Firmino pinning the two centre back's whilst the wide player on the over side Mané looked to play on the opposite full-back so that four Sheffield United players were occupied by three Liverpool players. However Sheffield United were able to still combat this by allowing the Full-back to engage The Liverpool full-back, whilst the midfield screen is willing to move in to the wide area and flood Liverpool so they are unable to play out of the space.

This caused Liverpool real challenges in the first half, barely able to create attacking moments and unable to play within their usual fashion

TACTICAL TASK?

How Can We Solve The Problem?



STRATEGY 1

STRATEGY:

Liverpool decided to split the front three, the two wide players using the outside channel, with the number 9 (At this moment Mané for his speed) on the outside shoulder of the right sided centre back.

Because of how high Sheffield United defended, the space behind the back four becomes extremely tempting for the side in possession, Liverpool then looked to expose the space by playing a direct ball through the middle as Mané made his run of the shoulder of the defender across the line and in to the space behind

Liverpool did this with great success, finding a through ball in to the space only for Mané to miss his opportunity, Sheffield United then opted to become more narrow as a front three and Liverpool resorted back to playing out from the back sourcing a new way to break down this block





STRATEGY:

Liverpool finally found a solution for the problem. They did this simply by inviting Sheffield United in to the wide area, with the use of the midfield player not the full-back which then encouraged the screen and the midfield unit across, whilst this occurred Liverpool's front three made a conscious effort to move to the ball side of the pitch really overloading this side of the Pitch.

Whilst this happened the ball side full-back set back in support of the midfield player in the wide area, and the opposite full-back stayed wide. As soon as the midfield player couldn't play forward the ball was set back in to the near side full-back who then switched possession out to the opposite full-back who created a 1v1 opportunity against the opponent full-back and looked to produce a cross for the onsetting front three who were attacking from the back fours blind side because of their initial movements

Although Liverpool still found it difficult to execute this because of Sheffield United's quality, they were able to breakthrough, from their tactical creativity and secure three more points.

COACHING TASK?

How Can This Be Trained?

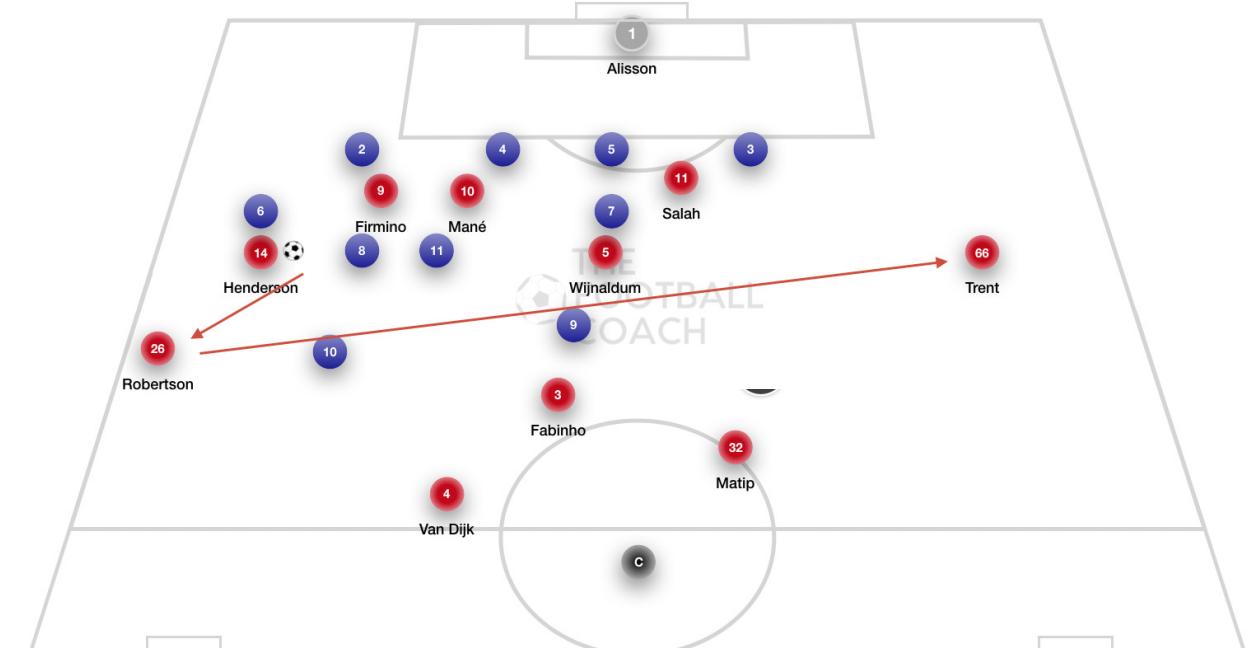
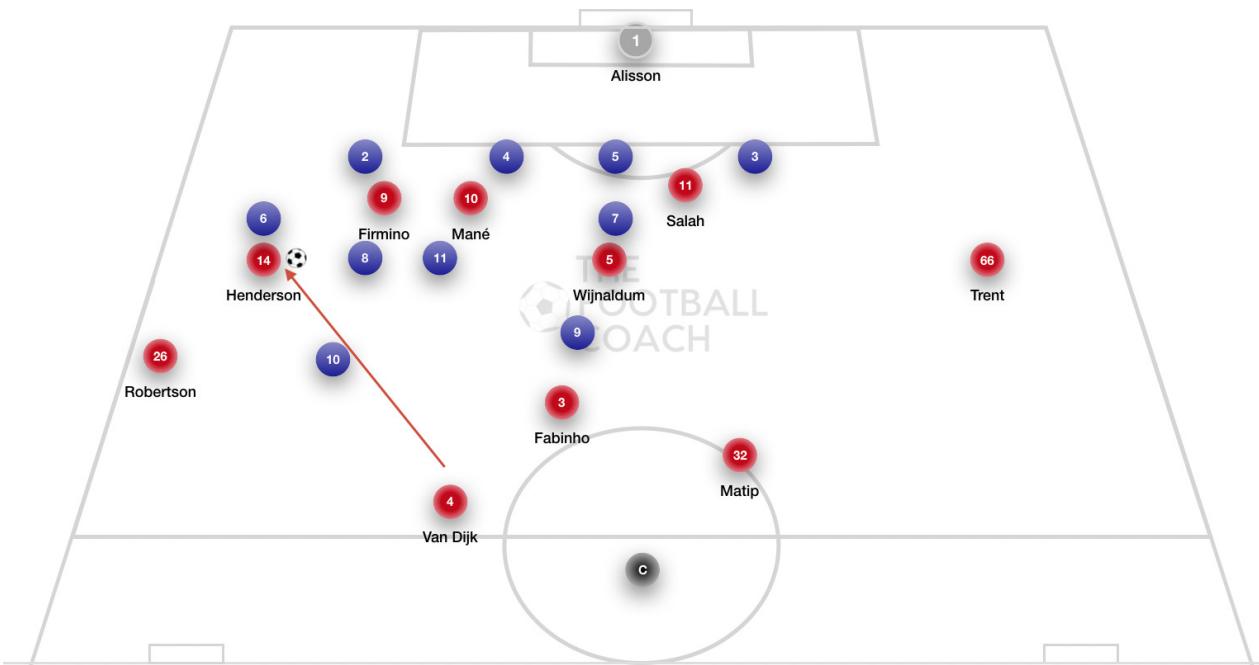
COACHING SOLUTION 1

SESSION:

The session is a very simple practice to explain the process within a 11v10 session.

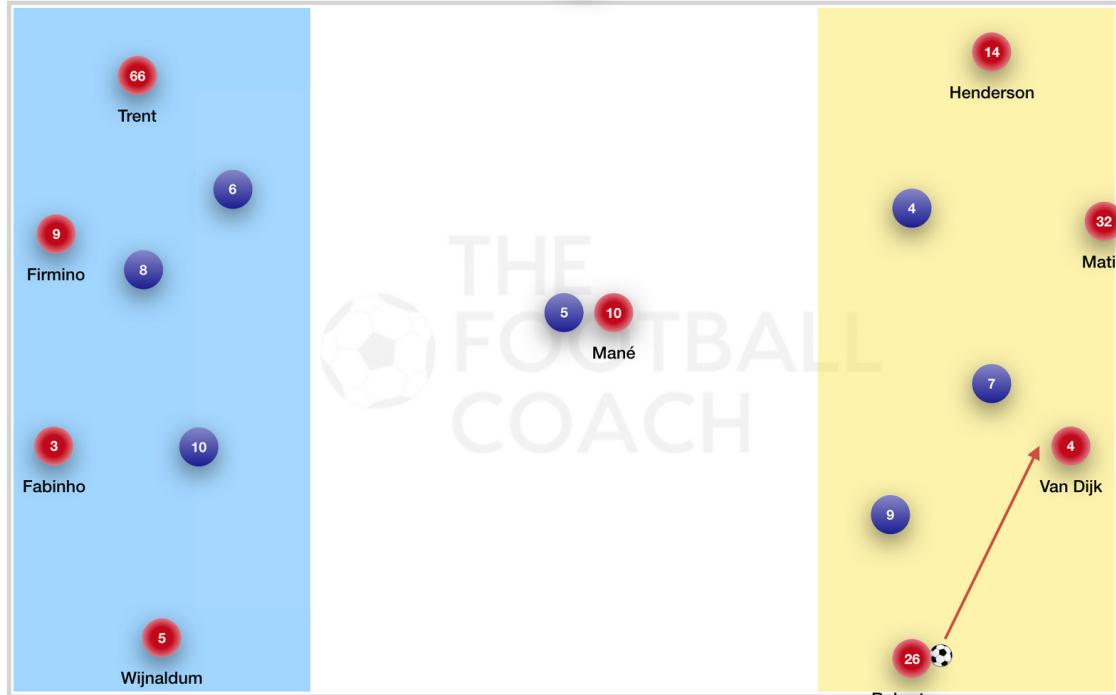
The coach feed the ball in to the centre back who looks to dictate the way the attack we begin, the midfield player (Example is Henderson) moves in to the wide area where he looks to receive with his back to goal, at this point the from three look to lock on to the three near sided forward players whilst the full-back sits back waiting to support the team in the transition, once the midfield players comes under pressure he is challenged to set the ball back to the full-back who switches play out to the opposite full-back who should have space to attack in a 1v1 or 1v2 if the wide player can peel out to support him.

The attackers from the far side should now be able to hit the box in support.



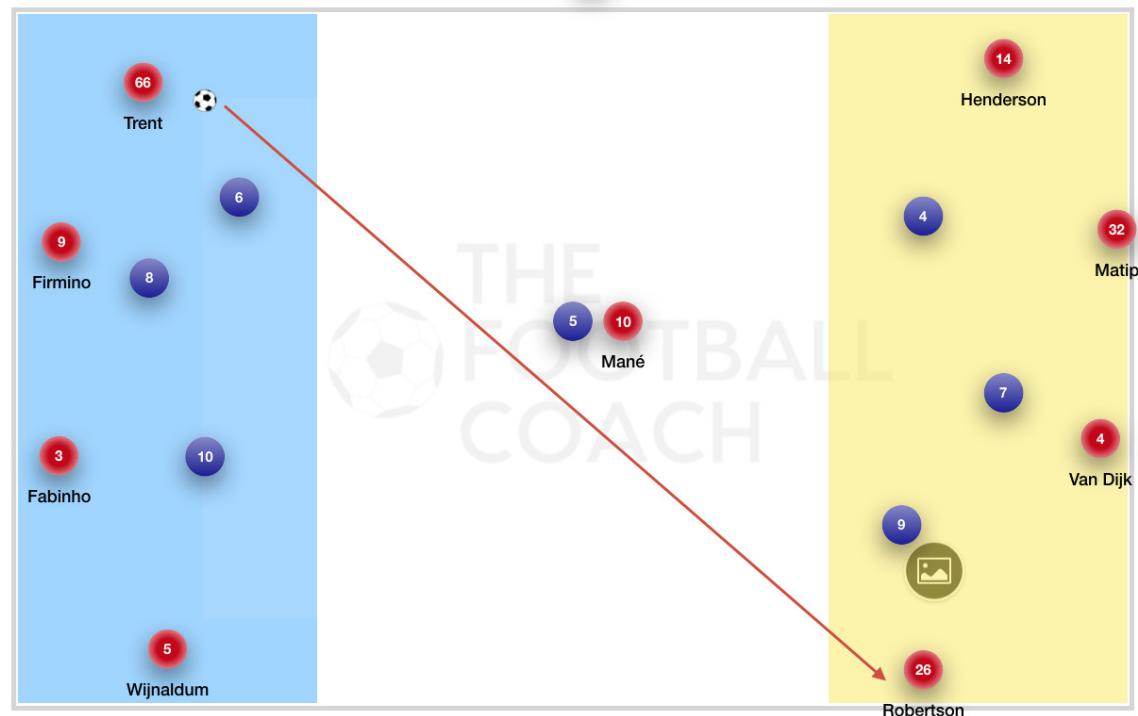
COACHING SOLUTION 2

SESSION:



The second session is a more technical session to develop and maintain the skill set required to perform those actions needed.

The 4v3 in the yellow box starts with one rule, when possible look to switch It to the opposite wide player on a diagonal to the other side. When the ball is switched the receiving wide player has one free touch.



The players are locked in their zones and to add to this if they can't switch it in one pass, then they can opt to use the central player to switch play but the central player is opposed and is in a 1v1.

Lets encourage the players to work the ball quickly within their zone in order to break the pressure and switch the play to the opposite side.



TACTICAL SOLUTIONS

MANCHESTER CITY



Manchester City- 4-4-1-1

TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

Manchester City posed Liverpool with early challenges in their recent game despite Liverpool taking a resounding early lead, Liverpool struggled to play through the first third because of the way Manchester City pressed.

Their shape represented a 4-4-1-1 or at time 4-2-3-1 and it was the front four players who made life difficult for Liverpool with the wide player cutting the pass for the full-back to play long down the line in to the wide player. This suffocated passing lane forced Liverpool back inside to Lovren who was tactically targeted as the weaker of the two in possession.

His touch was then pressed by Aguero whilst KDB and Silva sat on the shoulder waiting to press the switch of play, this forced Liverpool to try and play through the lines, a task they found difficult due to the centre back who was being pressed (The less technically comfortable).

This problem caused Liverpool to look long in to the channel where Manchester City were able to win possession back, Liverpool needed to find a solution, even though they had scored two early goals, Manchester City had dominated moments in the game, especially in the Liverpool Half



Manchester City 4-4-1-1

TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

As you can see, although the opponent quality makes life difficult, their tactical setup is causing Liverpool problems as the full-backs can't be released from their slot. This forces a coach to make early changes to the shape or plan even if the score line is going well, as you can see on the other side Liverpool's back four is still forced backwards and the long ball is hit in hope towards the attacking third as Liverpool can't find a solution to the early problem, despite the score line

We as coaches not only have to prepare for these moments during the coaching process through out the week but we must also find solutions to the problems in a reactive manor when they occur in front of our own eyes.

TACTICAL TASK?

How Can We Solve The Problem?



Manchester City 4-4-1-1

STRATEGY:

Liverpool quickly found a solution that suited not only the situation in the game but also the strategy outline by the opponent. Liverpool detached the full-backs from the two centre backs, risking the larger spaces between the centre-back and full-back but now increased the distance that the pressing players had to cover.

The goalkeeper now had to also play a key role, this role was to hold on to the ball for longer to invite pressure, as the number nine made the attempt to press the ball, the wide player also came high. But at this point the full-backs movement was away from his own goal where he was able to receive under limited pressure as Liverpool's wide player had pinned the opponents full-back inside. Allowing initially Trent and Robertson to receive under limited pressure

As this developed Manchester City found a solution of to drop in to a more comfortable 4-4-1-1 where the midfield four could deal with this, but that relieved the pressure on Liverpool's defensive line who were able to play out from the back more comfortably

COACHING TASK?

How Can This Be Trained?

COACHING SOLUTION 1

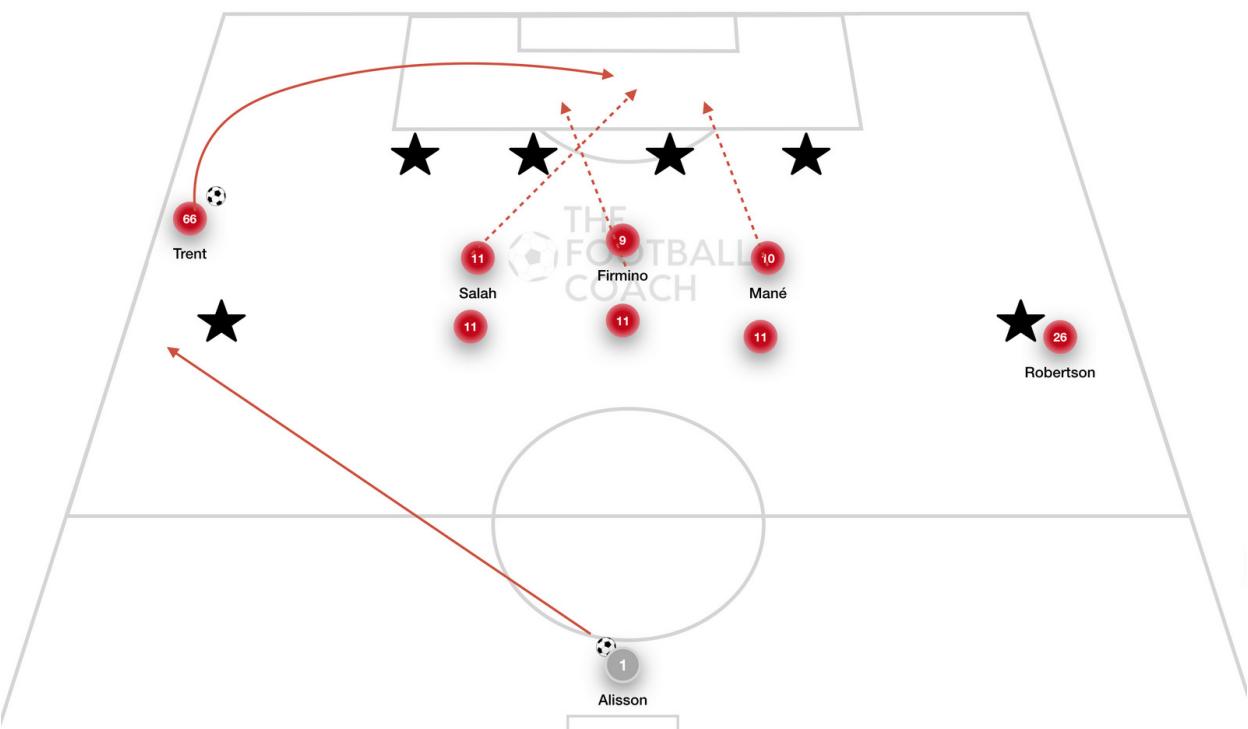
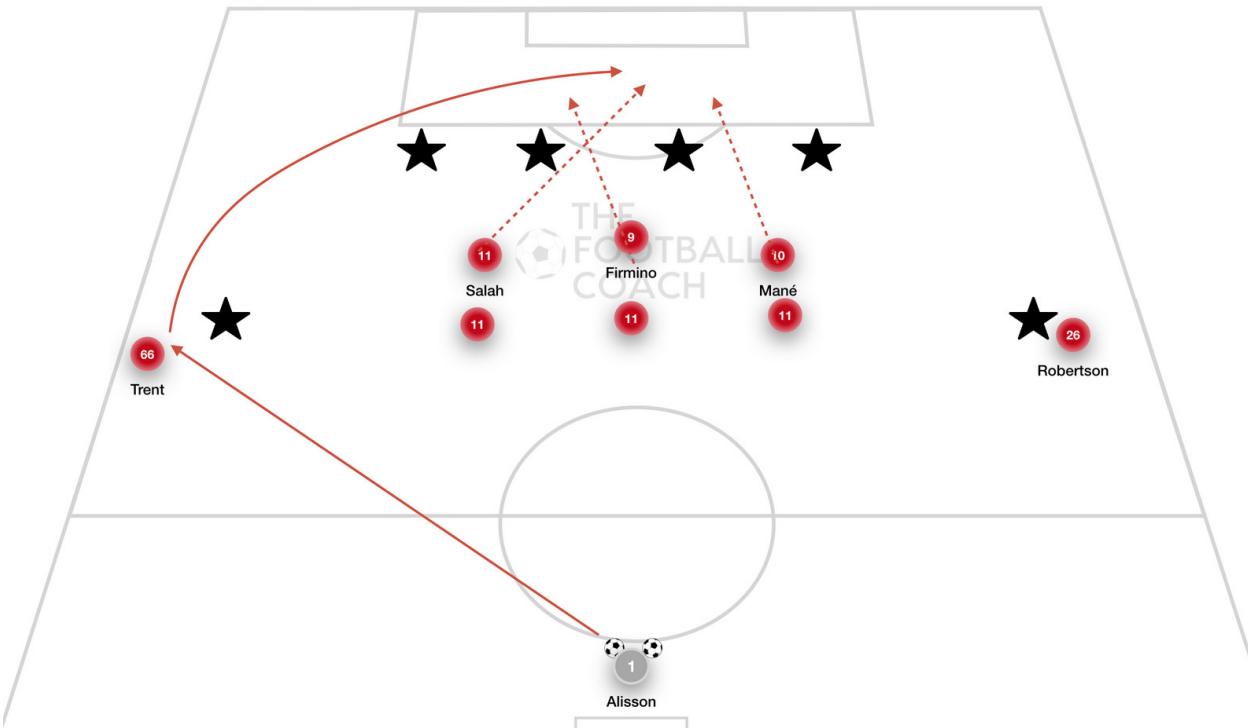
SESSION:

The session is a very simple practice for match day -1 where players can execute the skills needed to execute the tactical plan.

The Goalkeeper, the player most likely to serve the ball in to the full backs will start in a realistic position, whilst the two full-backs will start behind mannequins, the goalkeeper hits a ball driven in the air in to the full-backs (switching from side to side with each serve)

The full-back needs to take his first touch away from the mannequin and in to the space behind where he delivers a cross to the front three.

The front three need to make creative runs that aren't in straight lines, and ensure they end up on different playing lines, and attack the cross that is delivered from the wide areas.



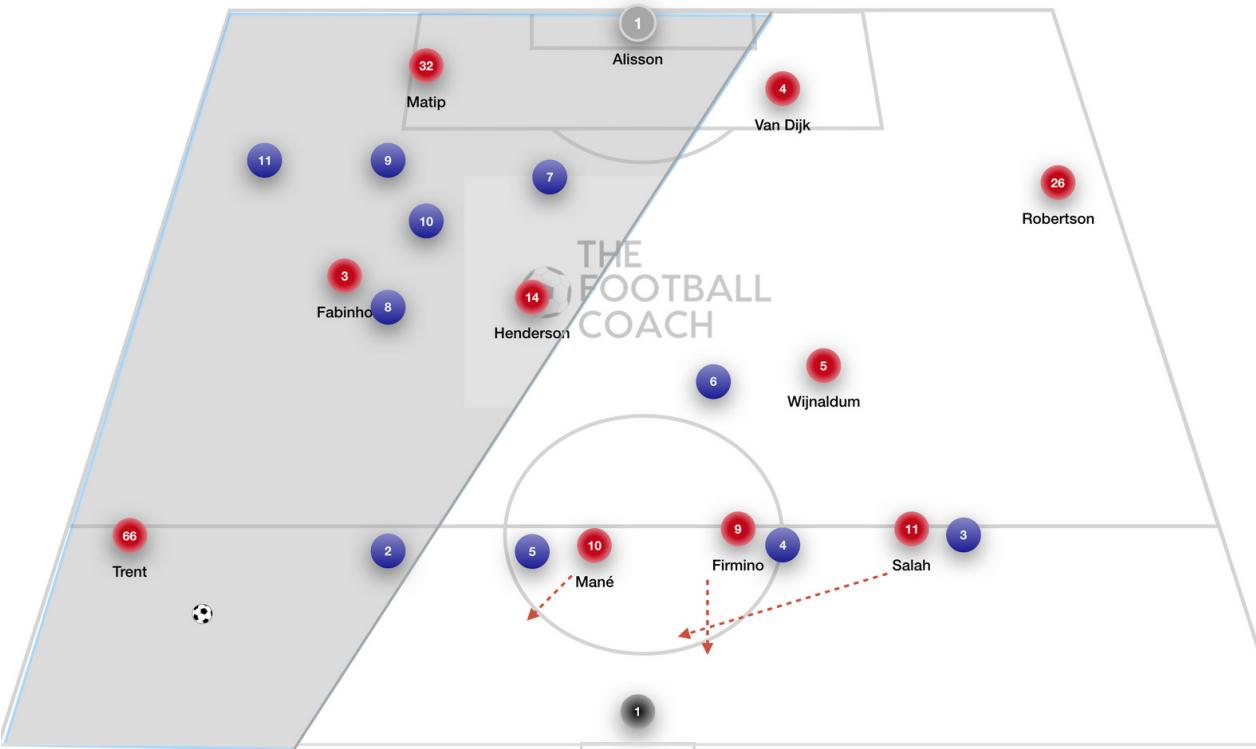
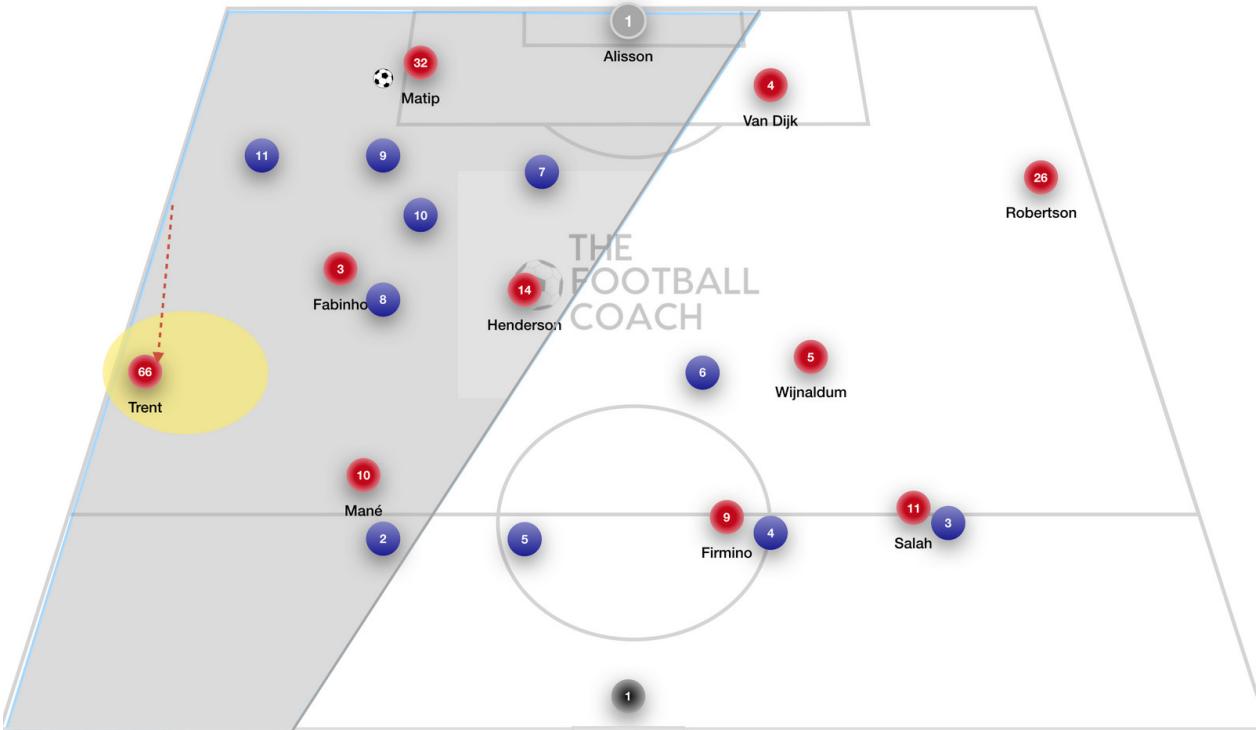
COACHING SOLUTION 2

SESSION:

The second session is a modified 11v11 practice, where the reds blues look to press the centre back who quickly looks to find the full-back who makes a movement down the line, the practice is not fully realistic, but applies more pressure than the previous practice.

Key coaching detail here is for fashion and Henderson to stay away from the wide area to allow Trent the space to receive the ball, the movement from Trent must be sharp and explosive to exploit the wide area.

The second image recreates the first practice with Trent now able to deliver a cross for the three attackers who are looking to hit the box with varied movement and good speed to approach the ball as it comes across the goalkeepers face.



The background of the image is a solid blue color. In the foreground, there is a close-up view of two plastic chairs. One chair is blue with a light blue mesh backrest, and the other is yellow with a yellow mesh backrest. The chairs have curved armrests. The image is cropped to show only the top half of the chairs.

TACTICAL SOLUTIONS MANCHESTER UNITED



Manchester United- MID BLOCK

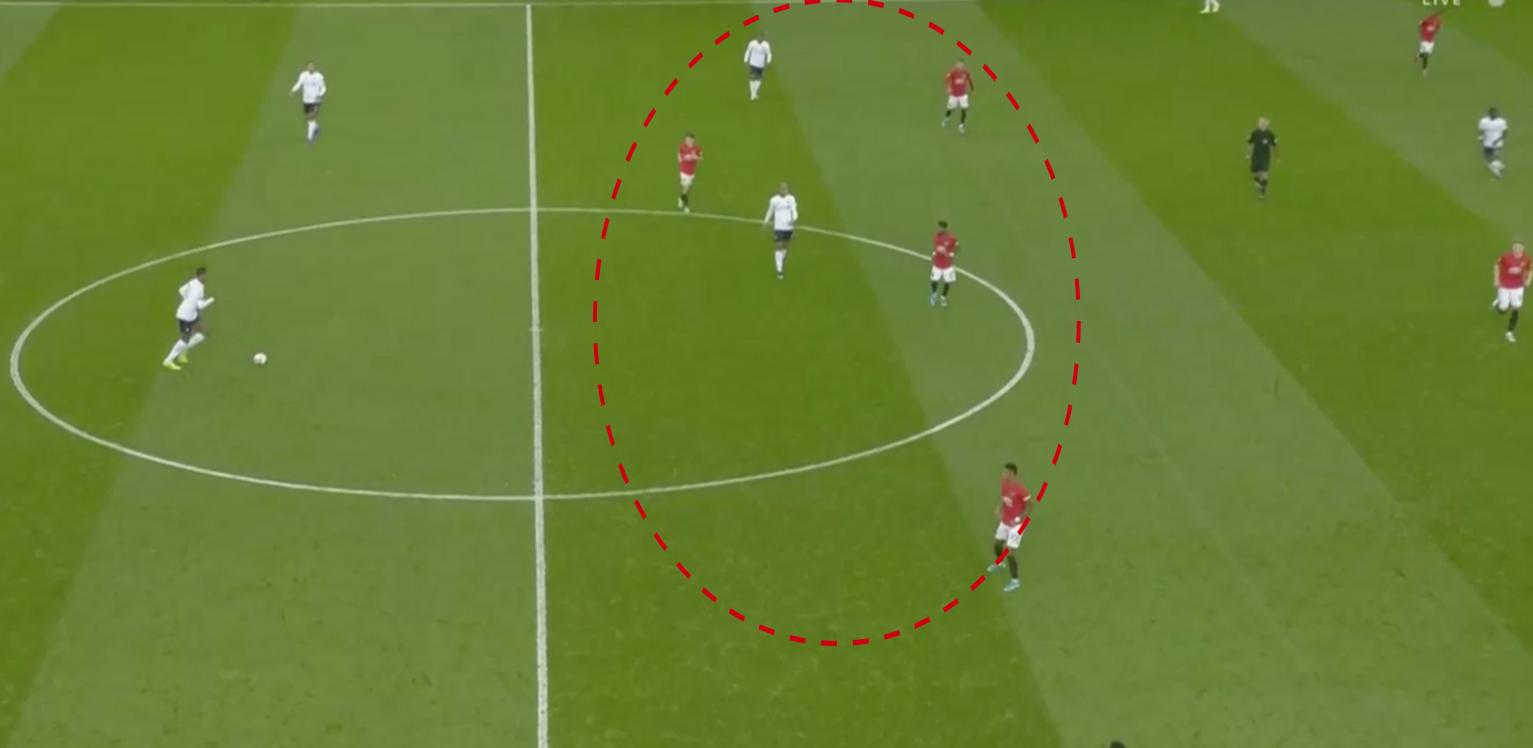
TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

Manchester United posed Liverpool a unique challenge, when United were the first Premier League side to take a point from Liverpool in the 2018/2019 season.

United setup within a 4-4-2 or at times 4-3-3 mid-block where United looked to press Liverpool as soon as the ball was played past the front two, as soon as the ball was played between the front two the midfield player came out to stop Liverpool playing between the lines, and forcing play away from their goal and forcing Liverpool to play within their own half.

Manchester United have clearly set a pressure line and a line of engagement six yards inside the opponent half. This was set by the front two adjusting their body to press the passing options beside them whilst one of the midfield players set poised to press Fabinio whilst the other three midfield players compact behind the ball to ensure that Liverpool are not able to play through central areas, and are forced to play in the wide areas.

United then allowed Liverpool to use the wide area, but ensured the full-back stayed tucked in and delayed the opponent for the arrival of the midfield four to apply pressure to the ball and squeeze possession out of this zone.



Manchester United- MID BLOCK

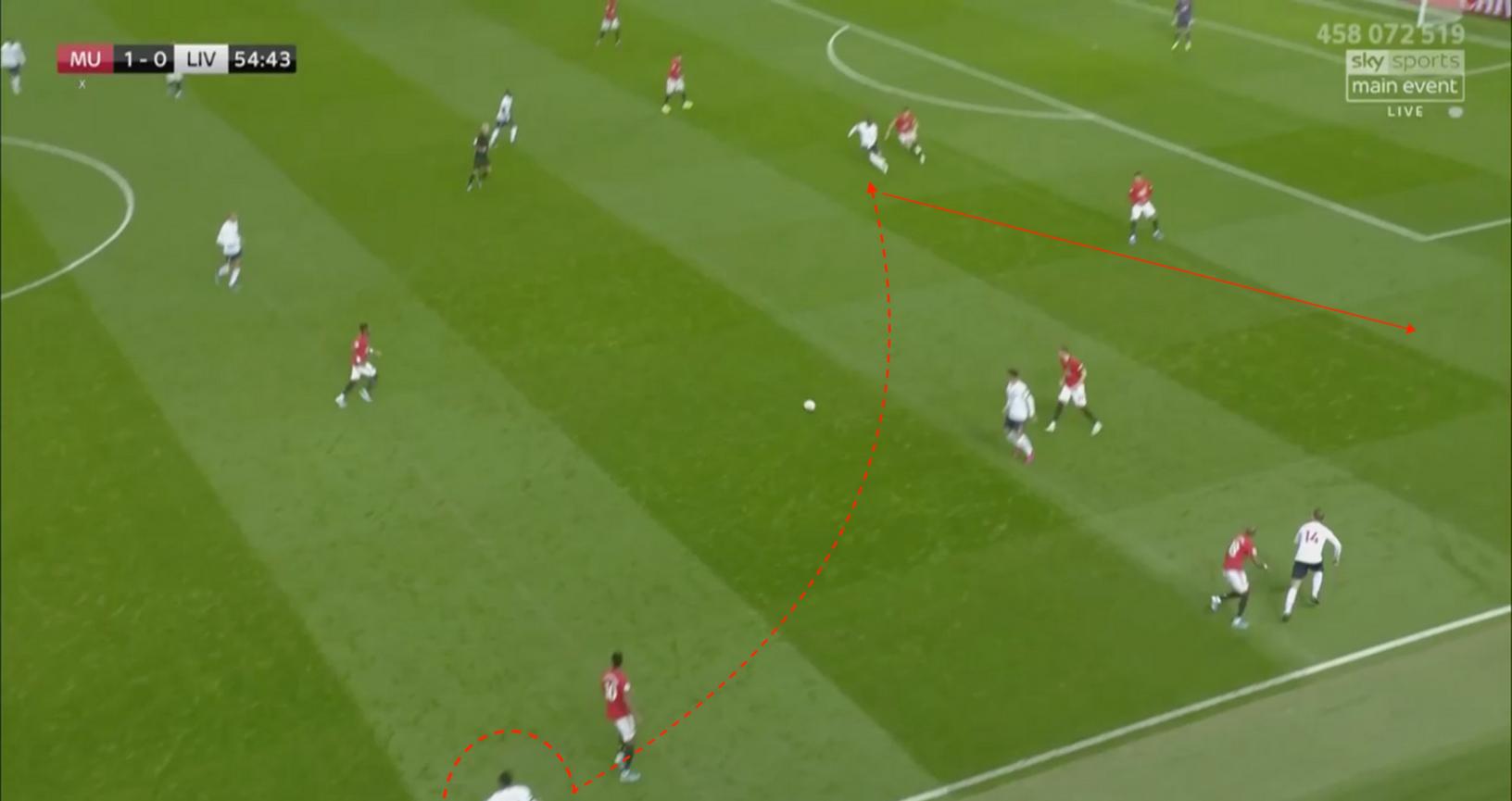
TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

As you can see the Liverpool players are struggling to find space between the Manchester United shape and expose the back four. Liverpool have resorted to a long ball game but can't but can't do this because of the depth of the block, unlike our last scenario this block is extremely deep and the long ball is not an option as the centre backs can defend the edge of the box whilst the goalkeeper can sweep up anything that is hit behind the back four.

As a coach this can be a difficult situation, Manchester United have managed to get an early lead and have now sat back in their block so they are able to defend their lead and look to break on the counter-attack through a front three.

TACTICAL TASK?

How Can We Solve The Problem?



Manchester United- MID BLOCK

STRATEGY:

Liverpool found a strategy to expose the space in front of the back four by moving the midfield in to the wider area, as you can see here Henderson and Firmino have moved in to the wide area, whilst the other midfield players have pulled away from the central space moving the midfield screen away, the full back's at this point are completely withdrawn from the attacking areas encouraging the opponents midfield out.

As the ball moves in to our full-back can we look to play a pass reversed in to the feet of the number nine, who can then play between the lines and look for runners off his shoulder, the most common run made by Liverpool in these moments were the movements of Henderson to try and run off the shoulder of Ashley Young and play in to the space behind the opponent to create a cross.

Once the ball had gone in to the box, it is important that we can flood the box with numbers due to the importance of capitalizing on these attacking moments.

COACHING TASK?

How Can This Be Trained?

COACHING SOLUTION 1



SESSION:

This session is very simple session to practice the crossing behavior as well as the attacking of the box, the type of runs, the angle of the runs and the timing of the runs.

Putting these skills together will allow us to have a better understanding of the movements needed to enter the final third as well as the techniques the wide player will need to perform to cross the ball.

This session can be quite repetitive and at times feel almost like an animation of play but will give us the best opportunity to perform these actions with relative ease.

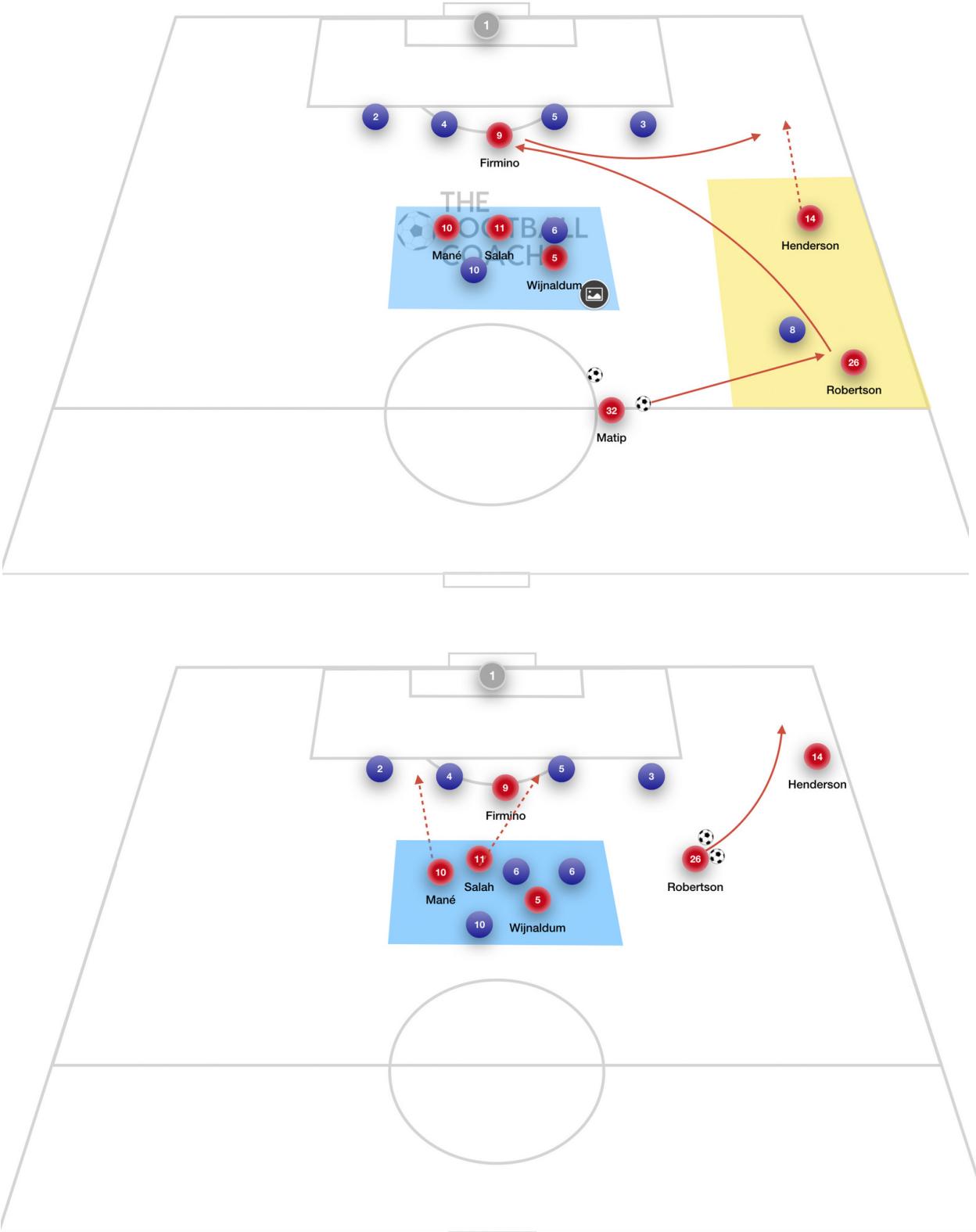


COACHING SOLUTION 2

SESSION:

This can be very quickly practiced for players. Centre back starts on the half way line and plays in to either Henderson or Robertson in the wide area who compete in a 2v1, they need to create the space for Robertson to find a pass in to Firmino who will come short to receive before flicking the ball round the corner In to the wide area. At this point the back four go live and can go and engage Henderson who looks to cross whilst the rest of the players can now break out of the blue box and attack the far post, front post etc.

The practice is relatively realistic, the challenge to ensure this practice stays realistic is to manipulate the areas in which Firmino can receive to keep a consistent challenge.





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FOOTBALL CLUB



TACTICAL SOLUTIONS
SHEFFIELD UNITED



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CRYSTAL PALCE - CHEATING

TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

When Lijnders first came to join Klopp at Liverpool they found life incredibly difficult against Crystal Palace, this was a side Brendan Rogers had struggled against in his final season. The team had unique characteristics within the Premier League and offered a different problem to the majority of sides Liverpool faced.

At the time Palace had an extremely dynamic front three, with explosive speed and unique 1v1 attacking ability. To challenge the opponent Crystal Palace often defended with eight or nine players whilst either a front two, or at times front three cheated in an attacking role with little tactical work to carry out when the team was out of possession.

Now this caused an issue to an attacking side like Liverpool, how do you defend against a not very involved front three, how do you defend against the transition when it involves three instantly attacking players, do you keep the back four back? But then who protects the ball in to the front three, do you keep a midfield player back and create a 5v3.

Liverpool continued to struggle in these moments, but I was lucky enough to witness a session delivered by Lijnders on how Liverpool opted to train to protect against these moments.



CRYSTAL PALACE - CHEATING

TACTICAL CHALLENGE:

Now we can see the difficulty it is important to understand how this can be prevented, what system do you use to defend against such a deadly attacking there.

You have the opportunity to break the opponent down with an overload and score, but you know if you lose possession first and they score? You could be attacking an 11 man block needed to score twice because of the risk you were willing to take.

As a coach how would you manage these situations and how would you prepare tactically?

TACTICAL TASK?

How Can We Solve The Problem?

LIV

1-1

CRY

72:46

CRYSTAL PALACE - CHEATING

STRATEGY:

It could be claimed Liverpool never really found a strategy to play against this! Crystal palace whilst at the peak of their power regularly caused Liverpool tactical difficulties and challenged them in game situations.

Liverpool did however attempt to implement some of their own philosophy to help defend against these moments.

The first was to play with a high defensive line to ensure the midfield lines were close to the back four limiting the space the opponent would receive the ball in.

The second was to focus on counter-pressing (Early in Klopp's time) to force the opponent away from playing forward when winning the ball back, delaying the counter attack

COACHING TASK?

How Can This Be Trained?

COACHING SOLUTION 1

SESSION:

The coaching session used is nothing short of brilliant. Reds attack blues in an 11v11 the blues front three players play in green, they only play when in possession. So when reds have possession its 11v8 the game plays as normal but when the blues win they can use the greens and the reds must counter-press to stop these moments and prevent the opponent breaking forward.

However the big tactical twist is that the coach will walk around the session through out, when at random the coach decides he or she will drop a ball and the reds will instantly need to counter-press the transition that has occurred and defend the goal with the ball that has appeared in randomness. This is one of the best counter-pressing sessions witnessed to date.



CONTACT US

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