

CHAPTER 1

INTELLIGENT POSITIONING TO RECEIVE BETWEEN THE LINES (ARSÈNE WENGER TACTICS)

Opposition's Midfield Move Forward to Press but Lose Compactness and Leave Space in Behind (4-2-3-1)



This is a variation of the situation on the previous page and shows what happens if the blue central midfielder (8) decides to move forward and deny space for red No.6 instead of providing support to blue No.11 - space is created behind him.

In this situation, the red right back (2) decides that a direct pass to No.10 is unlikely to be successful. However, if the blue No.11 puts pressure on him in a way that prevents the inside pass, the red right winger (7) can become a 'link player' to direct the ball to No.10.

The No.10 can then receive in the available space and turn towards goal. This creates a very favourable situation for the reds to score in a 3 v 3 attack. The best option is the pass in behind for the forward (9) as shown - he can then shoot at goal himself or pass the ball across to the left winger (11) who makes a run from deep.

**Opposition's Centre Back Denies No.10 Time but Creates Space in Behind
(4-2-3-1)**



In this example, the No.10 is denied available space to receive and turn in between the lines. This is because the blue centre back (5) decides to move forward and mark him. The space behind blue No.8 is therefore now restricted, but it does create space in behind the blue centre back No.5 (highlighted area in diagram).

This space can be exploited by the forward (9) in two different ways:

- a. When the full back (2) passes inside to the defensive midfielder (6) who is put under pressure by blue No.8, he can play a direct aerial pass in behind. The forward (9) times his run into the available space created by blue No.5's movement and receives. No.9 can try to score himself or pass across for his teammate (11) to finish. It is important that the medium range pass is accurate, especially if the opponents defend with a low block.
- b. If the direct pass is blocked by blue No.8, red No.6 can pass to the right winger (7) who acts as a 'link player' and passes into the available space for the forward (9) to run onto. The result is the same.



ASSESSMENT:

1. When a player (most often the No.10) is able to receive between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines, a favourable 3 v 3 situation can be created, as shown in the examples on the last few pages. This can lead very quickly and directly to a final pass in behind the defensive line and goal scoring chances being created.

CHAPTER 5

CREATING AN OVERLOAD WITH A FORWARD SHIFTING ACROSS (ANTONIO CONTE TACTICS)

Forward on the Strong Side Shifts Across to the Weak Side and Creates an Overload

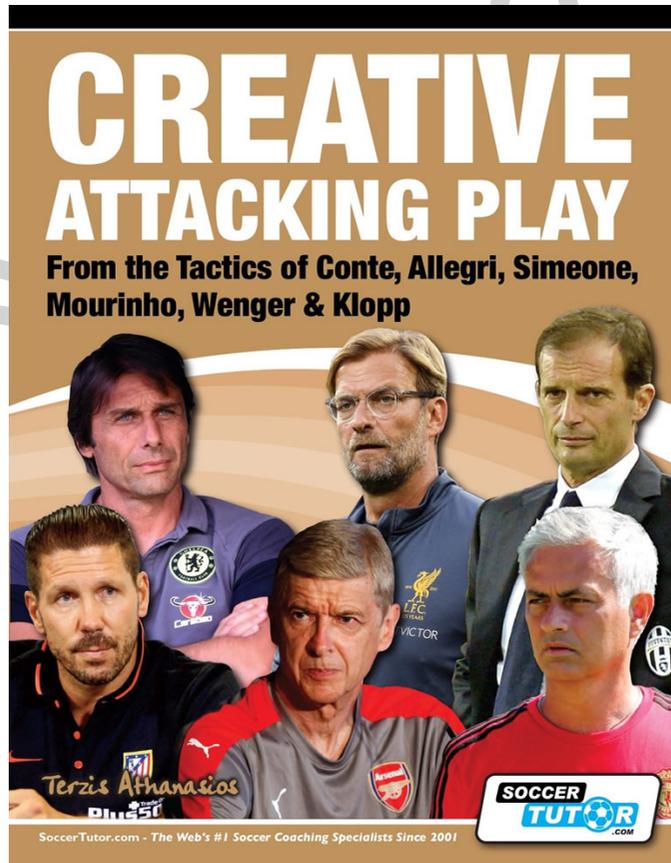
Overloading the Centre Back's Zone of Responsibility with the Forward Shifting Across to the Weak Side (3-5-2)



As soon as the defensive midfielder (8) receives, the forward (9) makes a dropping back movement towards the passing lane. However, as the passing lane is narrow (as shown in the diagram), the man in possession (8) directs the ball to the other forward (10) who is positioned towards the weak side.

No.9 then shifts across towards the blue centre back No.4's zone of responsibility, creating a 2 v 1 advantage in this area. No.9 receives the pass back from No.10 and moves inside - he has 2 passing options in behind the opposition's defensive line:

1. Make a final pass through the centre for the attacking midfielder's (11) run. This will lead to a 1 v 1 situation against the goalkeeper, with a good chance to score.
2. Play the ball into the space out wide for the advancing full back (3). In this situation, the full back will be in a great position to cross the ball for oncoming runners No.11, No.10 and No.9 himself.



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