

Expansive Football - The Second Phase



We now enter into the second phase of **"Expansive Football"**. As we said before, after looking at the width we must focus on depth. The full back must connect with the winger down his flank. Here there is another sequence of movements, always searching for support to give the game some continuity:

Tactical Instructions

- The full back (3) on the same flank moves further up and overlaps (if the winger is not already close to the byline).
- One attacking midfielder provides support from a deep defensive position. The other one provides support staying close by for continuity
- The defensive midfielder (6) provides support and security
- The striker moves vertically, providing deep attacking support.

If the winger (11) is unable to pass to the full back (3) on the overlap, he moves the ball back inside and away from where the opposition have concentrated their players, thus decongesting the zone. We must ensure that we keep possession of the ball even if that means going backwards and moving into the logical positions as directed by our initial organisational plan.

The winger passes inside to an attacking midfielder (10) who then passes to the other attacking midfielder (8), the defensive midfielder (6) or the striker (9) who lays it off to a midfielder. The attacking midfielder (8) passes the ball out wide enabling the winger to connect with the overlapping full back. Notice how all of the players supporting the player with the ball are staggered and covering in order to provide continuity, remembering to stay at the optimum distance so as not to draw their marker too close to the player with the ball and reduce his space.

Two Vital Expansive Football Concepts



Notice that there is always width and depth in each situation, invading and conquering the opposition's half.

It is important to highlight two vital concepts of "Expansive Football" which are:

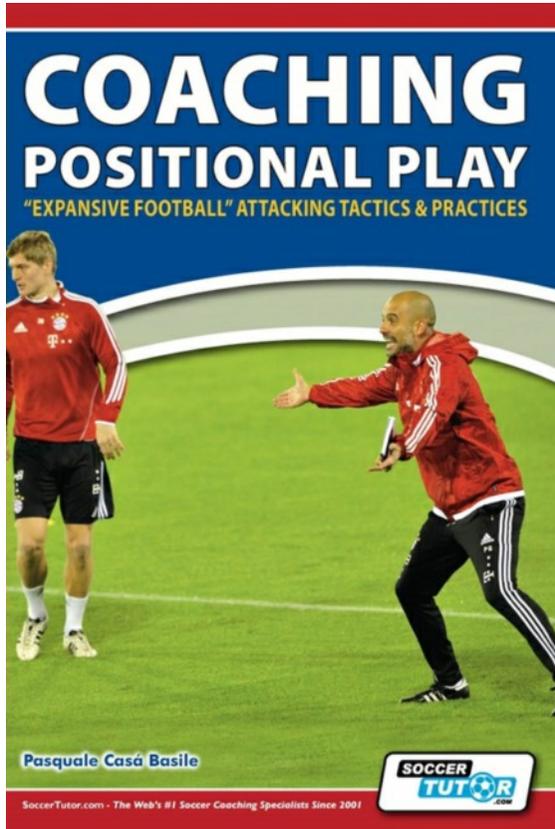
1. Play between the opponent's defensive and midfield lines (especially the central players).
2. Take advantage of the wide areas left open by the opposition, uniting against a compact defensive group by creating space through movement both in the centre of the pitch and on the flanks. This is why we should use the width of the pitch, moving the ball from one side to another if necessary until we can make progress up the pitch. We work as much in the initiation-creation zone as the creation-finalisation zone in order to continue moving the ball forwards and penetrate the opposition's defence, as shown in the diagram:

This is achieved through continuity of play, moving the ball quickly and ensuring that constant support is available to whoever has the ball.

There are 3 support players who are always close by in all directions for security and in case of emergency:

- The last defender (for security and in case of emergency).
- Close support behind the player with the ball (for continuity).
- Deep attacking support (vertically high up the pitch).

**Learn How to Effectively Coach Positional play
with the Spanish game model of "Expansive Football"**



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