



Pep Guardiola's Ideas

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Coach's Role

- The coach's role is to make sure that the idea is a collaborative one, that everyone feels it, enhancing each one's skills through the game, so that they can understand each other and fluidly.

'False 9'

- I have long established a scheme where the team doesn't have the Striker in the box.
- There are matches where I need a typical Striker: when the opponents are very tight and we must strike from the outside. But in many matches I don't like a typical Striker, expecting him to be the crosses' target. That doesn't thrill me.
- I like to generate some ball movements, so that we can run into certain gaps. But every club must have a typical Striker with a special goal-scoring ability.

Pep Guardiola's favorite coaches

- I like the coaches who say: "I'll do that to you". I have fewer weapons than you, but I will do play. I like the daring, brave ones, those who think about the supporters, those who score a goal and try to score a second one. I like those who exert high pressure or those who make effective movements. We can see when there is work behind a team, either in attack or defense.
- I like to see movements, for example building up from the back with long balls and I say, "well done!". There is a purpose in what they want to do. I like to see things that have come out of the coach's head and have been passed on to the players to operate. I lack the time for the number of things I must accomplish with the team that I don't do and don't reach, as well as having the time to watch other stuff.

Marcelo Bielsa

- When you play against Marcelo Bielsa's teams, you must do things that during the whole year you never have to do. You must adapt your way of attacking and defending twice during the year, which is when you play with him.
- The way he trains and plays leads to huge physical and emotional wear and tear. Sustaining this over time requires a great capacity for leadership, insistence, and persistence.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City Game

- In our way of understanding the game, the pass from the Goalkeeper to the Center Back or from the Center Back to the Full-Back or Center Midfielder is the entire foundation of our game. If this starts badly, everything ends poorly, or better said: it doesn't progress. This process must be felt and seen by the players. And, when they see it, they say: "that's right, I have more time, I have more decisiveness, I have more possibilities".
- How to practice this game? By playing! I don't understand any other way to improve playing football than by playing! When we play, we must make decisions continuously, in real time.
- How to practice? By playing! We must generate plays and, the more situations we play, the more decisions we must make about controlling, receiving the ball, when to play with a single touch or more, when to drive the ball forward (this depends on the opponent, and then there are the actions of our teammates and the other opponents). This continuous decision-making is what makes us learn how to play football.

Match Preparation

- I'm afraid of losing before I play the match. That makes me work and prepare the game in the best way possible.
- With videos, we can stop the footage and this is good for conveying the game idea to our players.
- I adapt to the players I have, when they are playing they tell me a lot about what I must do. I "listen" to them, I "see" them! Always according to the opposing team, which attacks and defends us differently, because that "tells" us where the space to attack and defend is.

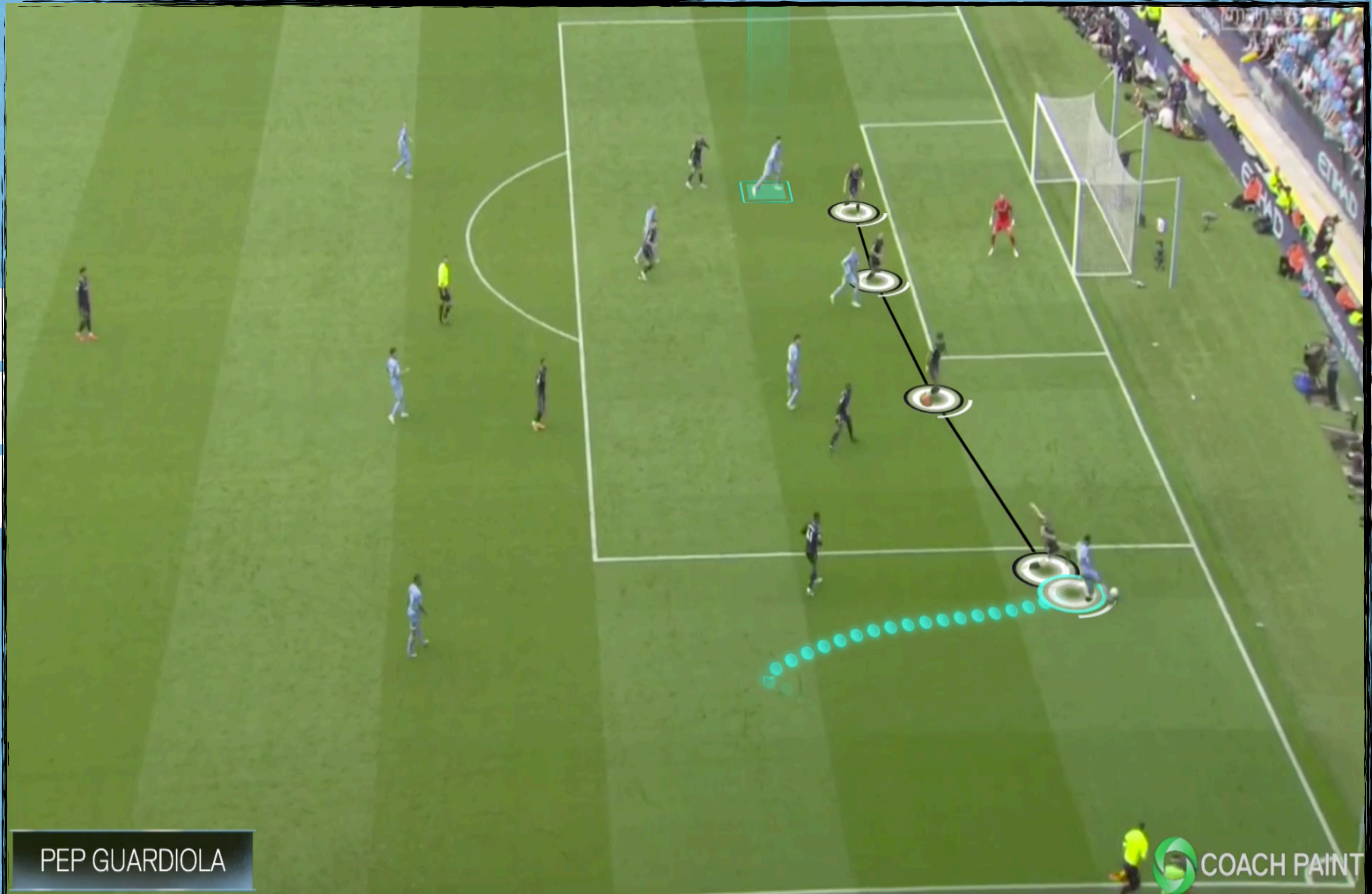
Play with the ball

- The players have decided to be footballers because of the ball, so I try to give them guidelines to at least play with the ball and pass it.
- Coaches who want to play without the ball: that pains me and I admire them deeply, because I can't do it. I admire those who tell their players to stay back for 80 minutes waiting for an attacking action, trying to steal the ball, and run to the counterattack, or to wait for a Set Piece to win. And they manage to win! Perfect. They managed to convince their players to do that.
- I can't tell my players that they are worse than the others. And no one is worse than the other! Players are not worse because they are cheaper! I can't tell my players to defend at the back because the others are better. I tell them to do things for themselves, try to get out playing here or there, and try to win. There are coaches who can do that and have that resilience, to hold on for a long time only to win in one action. But I can't do it, I don't know how!

Win

- Professional football is a business where you must win. And, if I'm here, it's because I have won. We can't ask for time in football, we must win immediately! There are no projects, the project is to win! It's a capitalist and competitive world, you need performance and results.
- What you did before helps you to land a job, but to keep it you must win "tomorrow". Whoever loses is out.
- Defeat is tough. Defeat lasts longer than victory! And I believe it should be that way.

Win



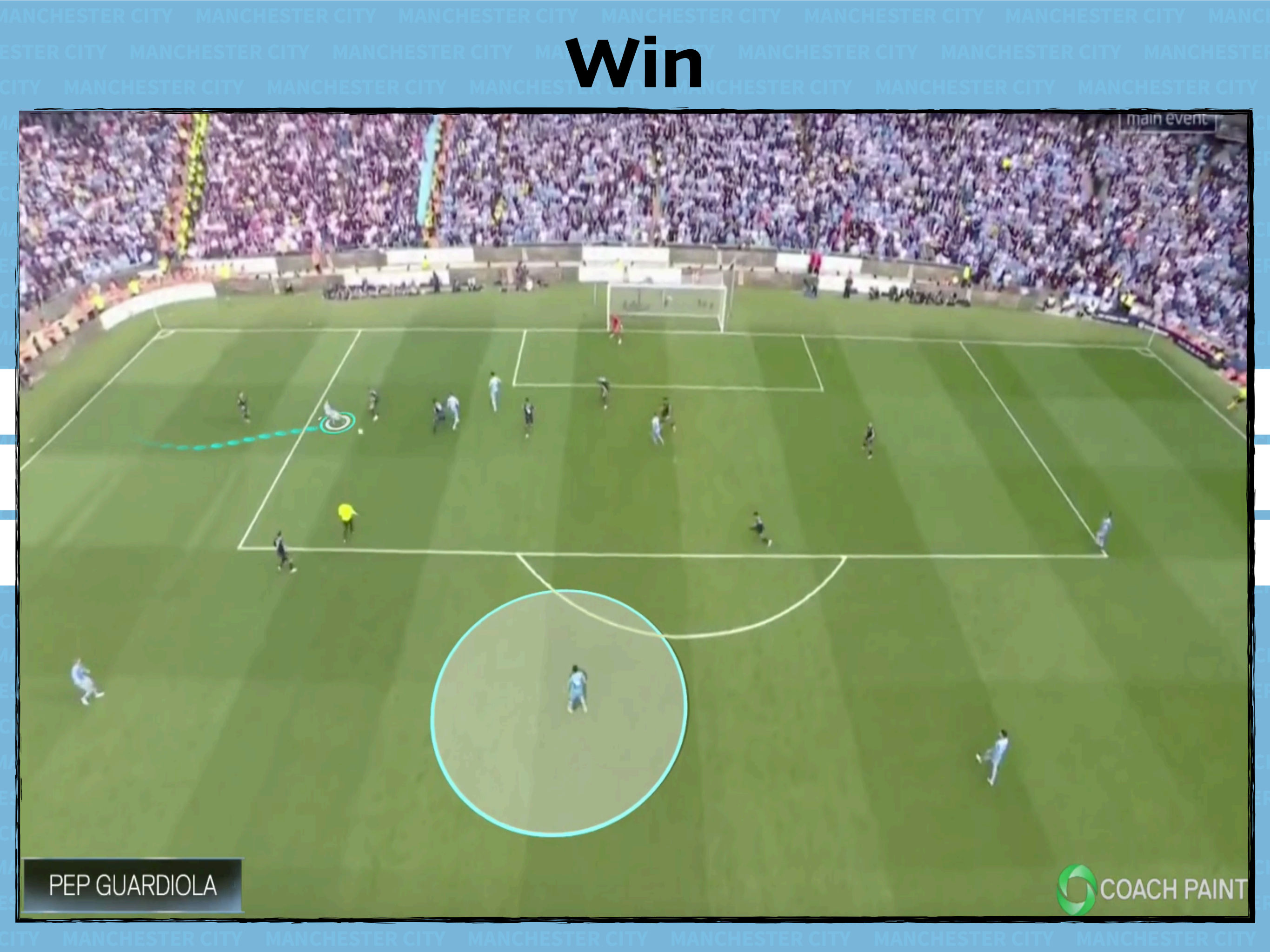
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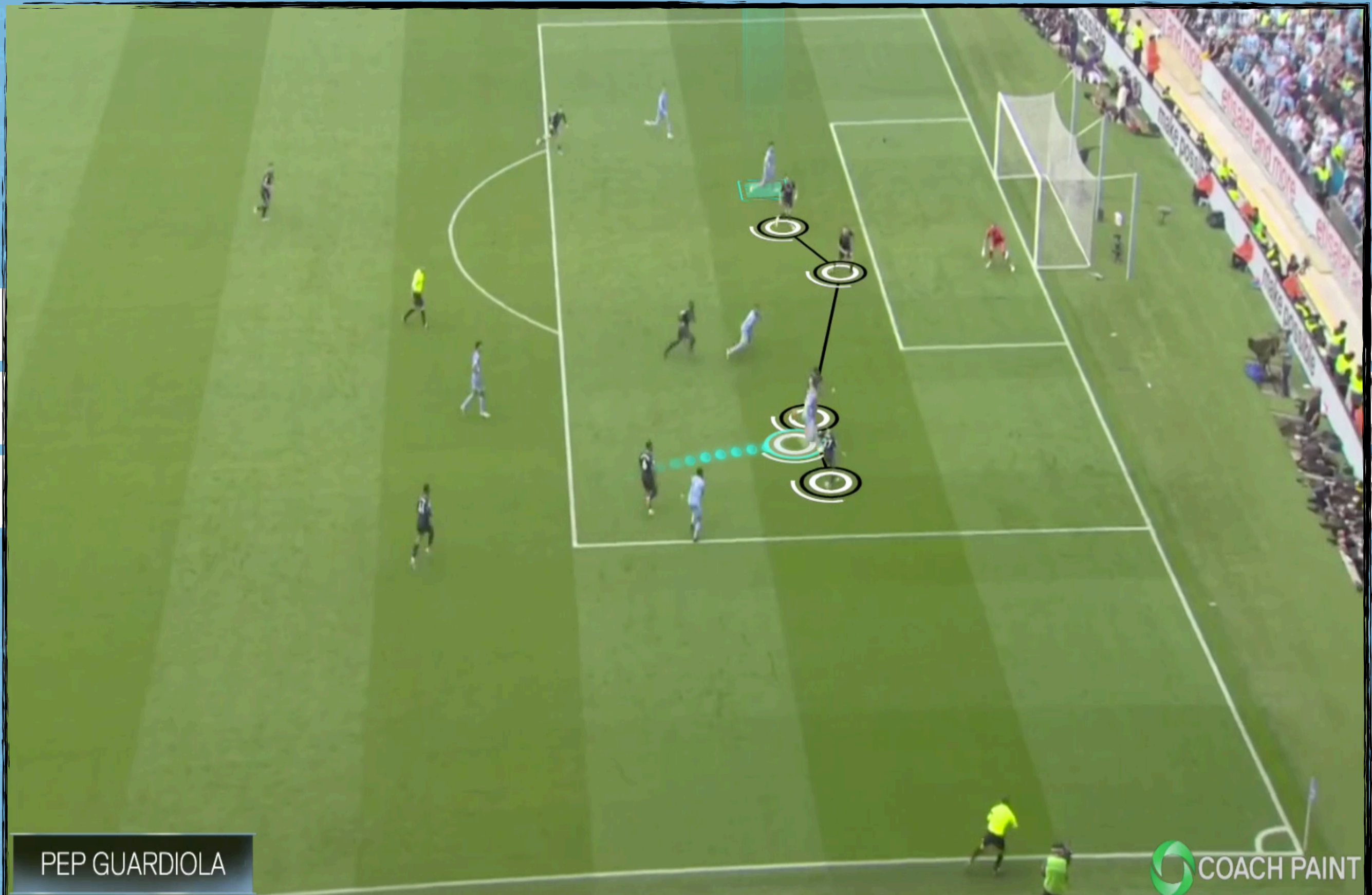
Win

An aerial view of a football pitch during a match. The pitch is green with white markings. A large crowd of spectators is visible in the stands surrounding the pitch. Several players are positioned across the field. A red dashed line indicates a curved path from the left side towards the center. A yellow circle highlights a player in the center of the pitch. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "COACH PAINT".

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Win



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Football Statistics

- I'm not a fan of statistics, but of goals. For example, there are players who make a lot of passes, but how are the passes? Good or bad? Do the passes break lines and generate situations? A goal doesn't have two interpretations: either you put the ball into the net or you don't!

Reference

