



# MAN CITY 1-3-2-5

## Attacking Tactical Analysis

# ABOUT THIS STUDY

An In-Depth Look into Pep's 1-3-2-5 Attacking Formation

Our tactical analysis delves into the roles and responsibilities of the front five attackers, with a specific focus on the middle three. Discover the strengths of this formation and how Manchester City utilizes it to dominate possession through superior positional play. Additionally, we explore how you can incorporate Pep's methods into your own team's training routine by offering detailed practice sessions.



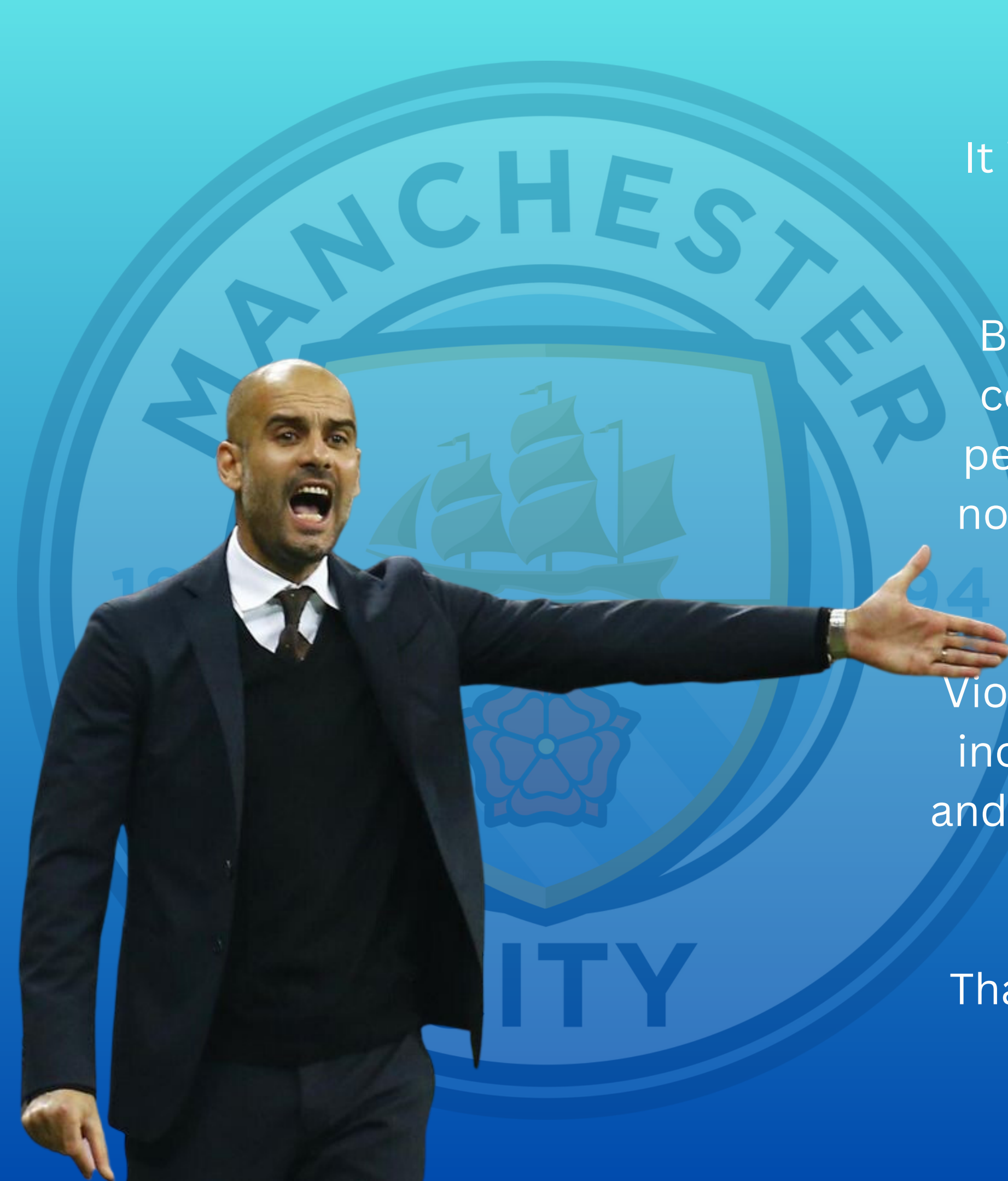
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# Pep's Positional Play Philosophy

Outlined below are the three fundamental principles of Pep's positional play philosophy:

- The primary focus is on retaining possession of the ball and positioning the players strategically to generate passing options.
- Players are expected to exhibit versatility, capable of performing in multiple positions and adapting to varying game scenarios.
- The philosophy emphasizes a team-first approach, with constant movement and interchanging of positions to create opportunities in the opposing team's defense.



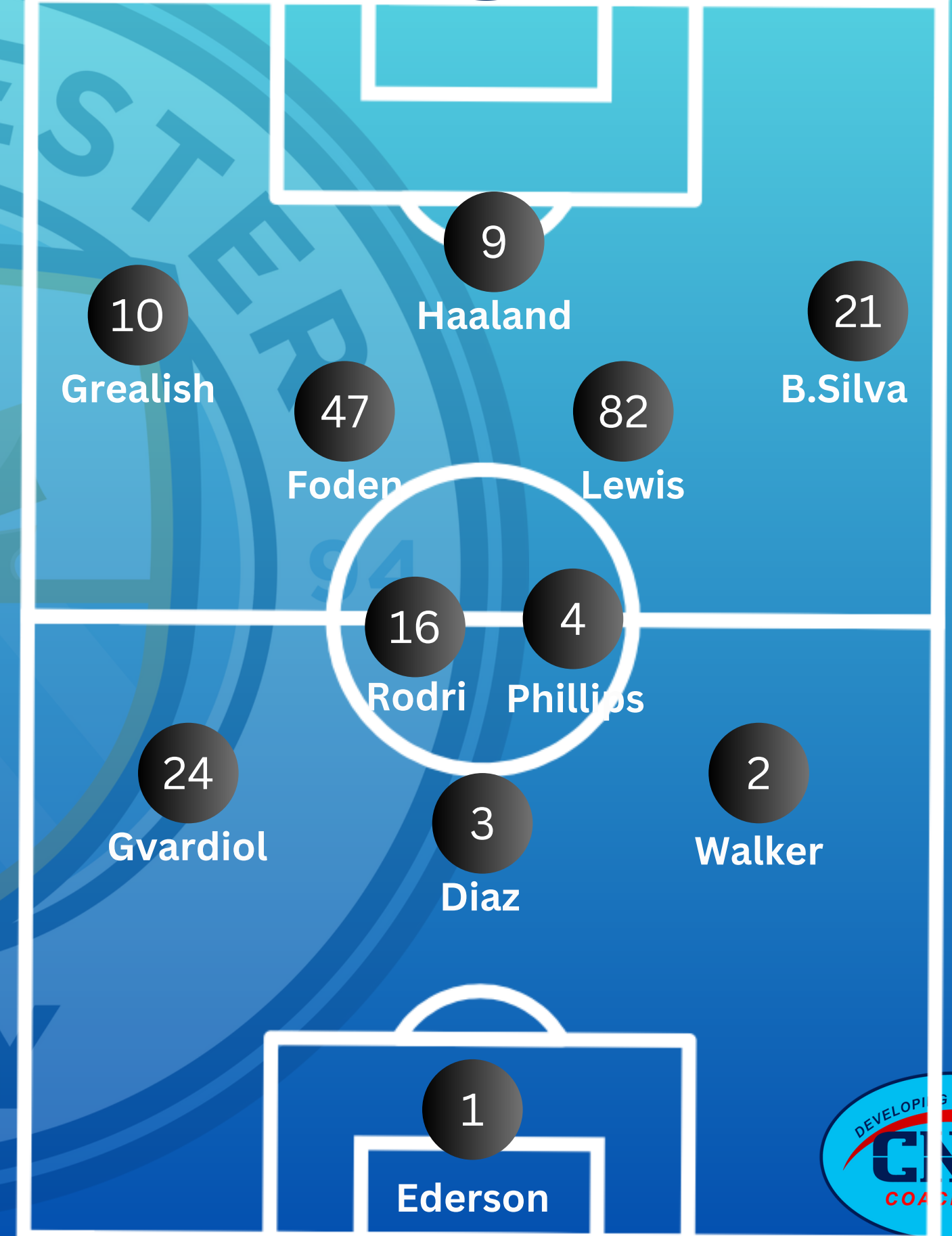
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# Leipzig 1 vs 3 Man City



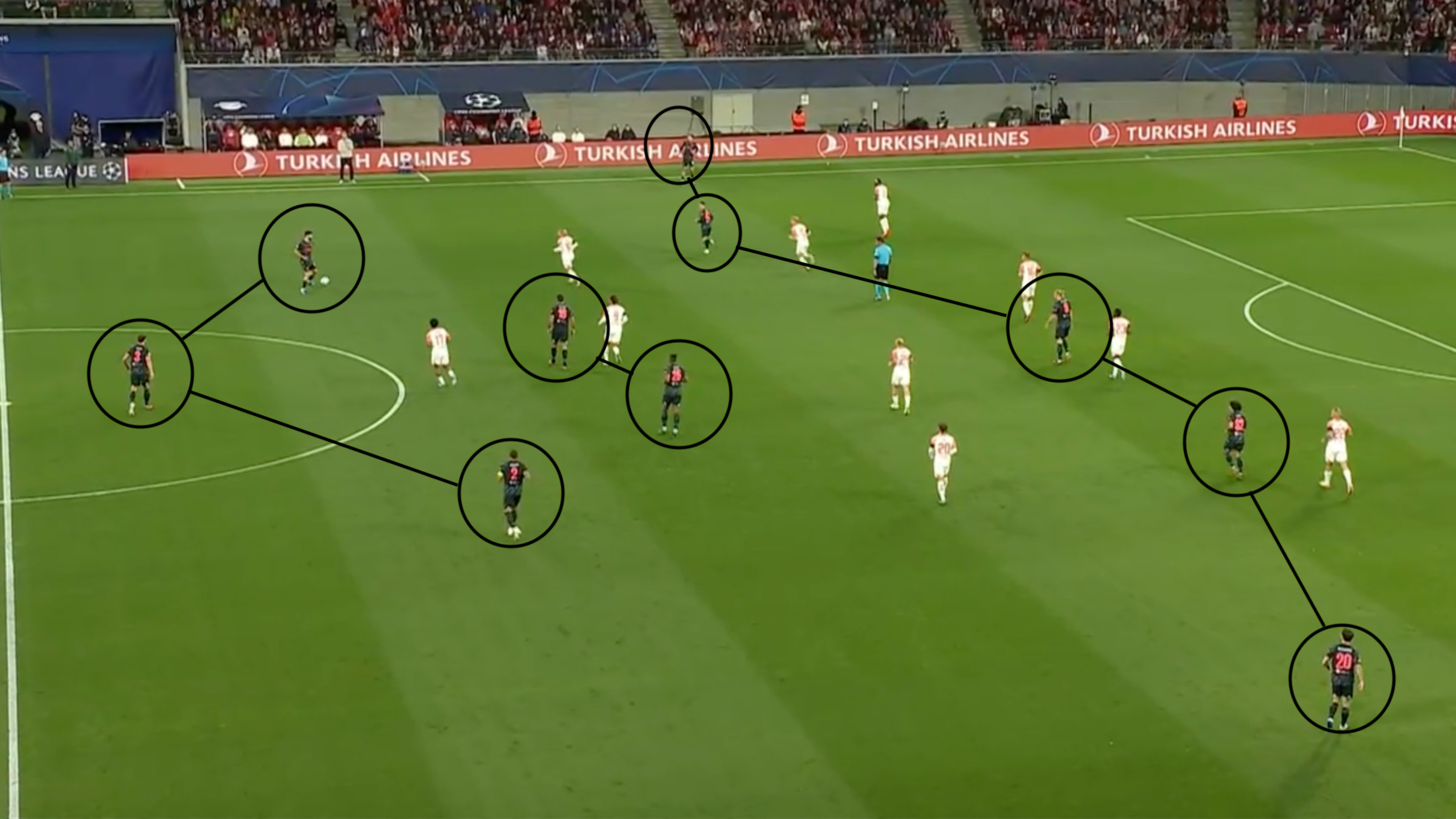
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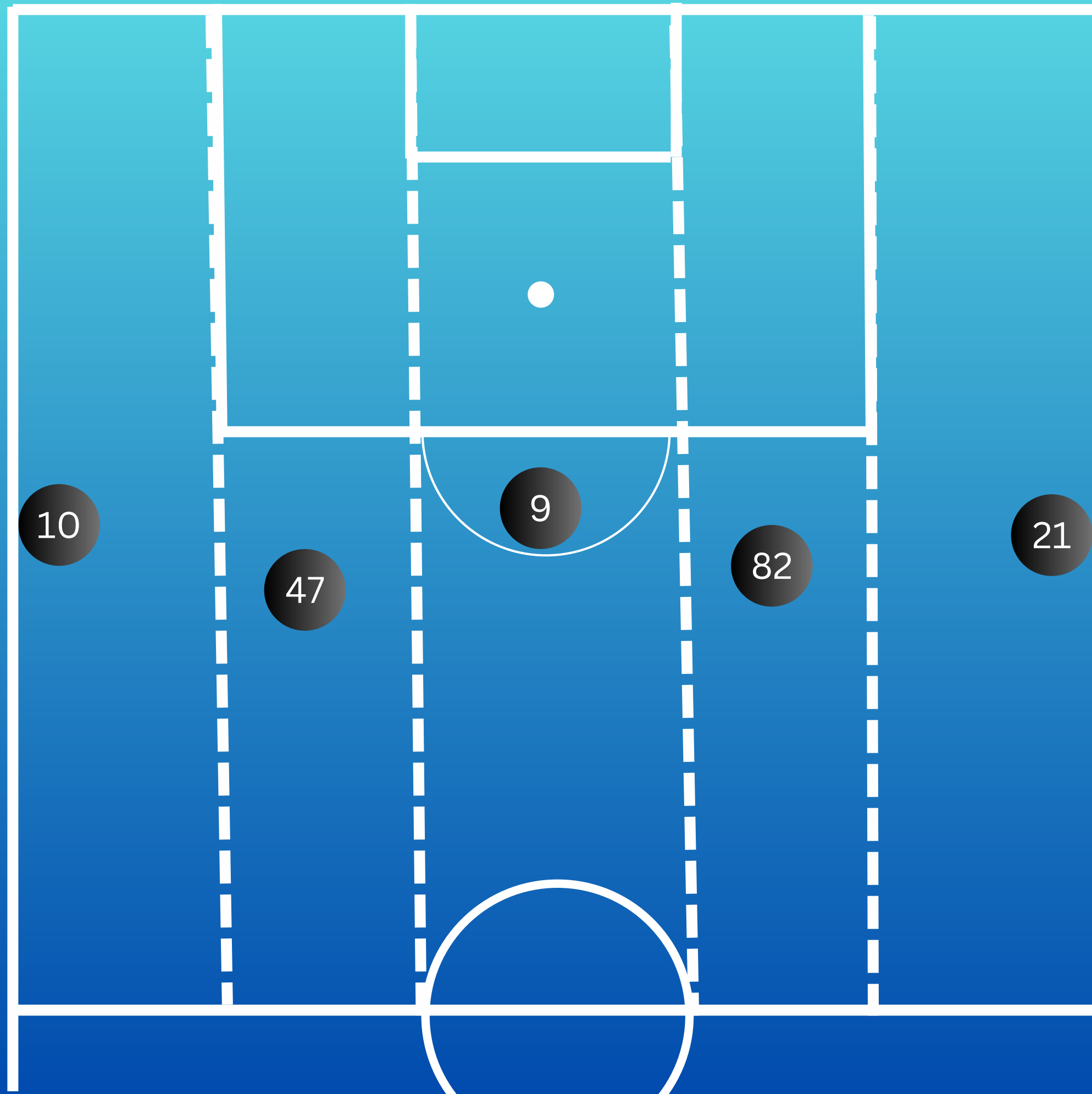
## Key Positions for a Successful Team:



- Two Wide Centre Backs - In an attacking formation, it's crucial to have Wide Centre Back's skilled in 1v1 defending situations. Physical attributes such as power and speed are essential.
- Two Central Midfielders - Balancing this area is crucial in rotating the ball from side to side, creating space between defensive units, and safeguarding the team against transitions.
- Two Wide Forwards - Disciplined positioning in wide areas creates opportunities to stretch and dismantle the opposition's defensive organization. The key action is to pull the Fullback away from Centre Back for underlapping runs.
- Two Inside Forwards - With two players in close proximity to the Centre Forward, the team has a potent attacking threat.



# 5 Forwards / 5 Channels



## Roles and Responsibilities of Five Forwards:

- Two Outside Forwards are responsible for providing the team with width during the game.
- Two Inside Forwards play in-between the three inside channels of the pitch, look to get on the ball in the half spaces. They aim to connect with the wide forwards by using underlaps and picking up pockets around the edge of the box to shoot or create opportunities for the Central Forward.
- The Central Forward, played by Haaland, is positioned centrally and looks to connect with the inside forwards. He also arrives in the first and second six-yard box for crosses and cutbacks.

# Analysing Manchester City's Attacking Style

In order to replicate Manchester City's attacking style in your own sessions, we've studied the three goals they scored in their latest game. This will provide us with an understanding of the strengths of their five forwards

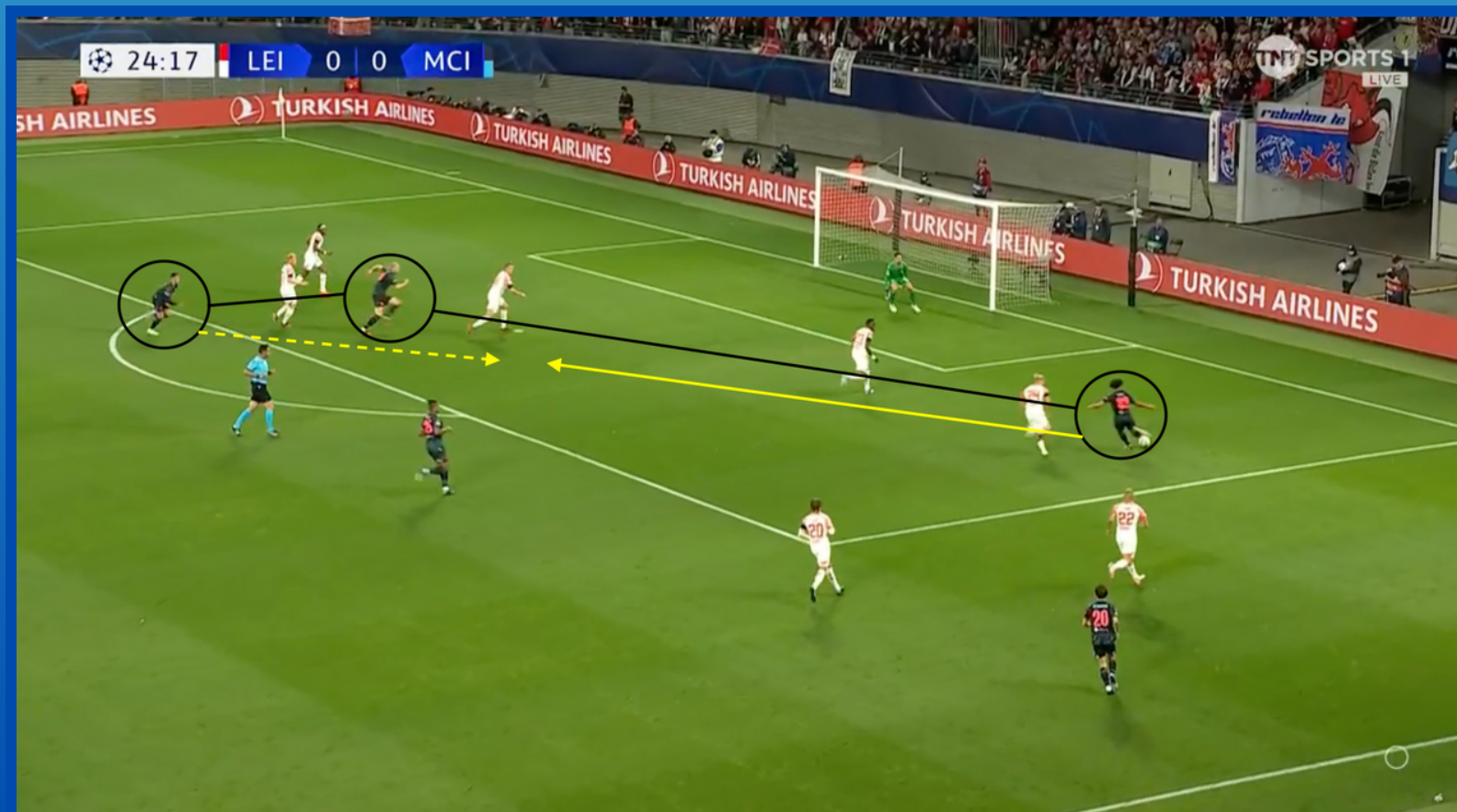
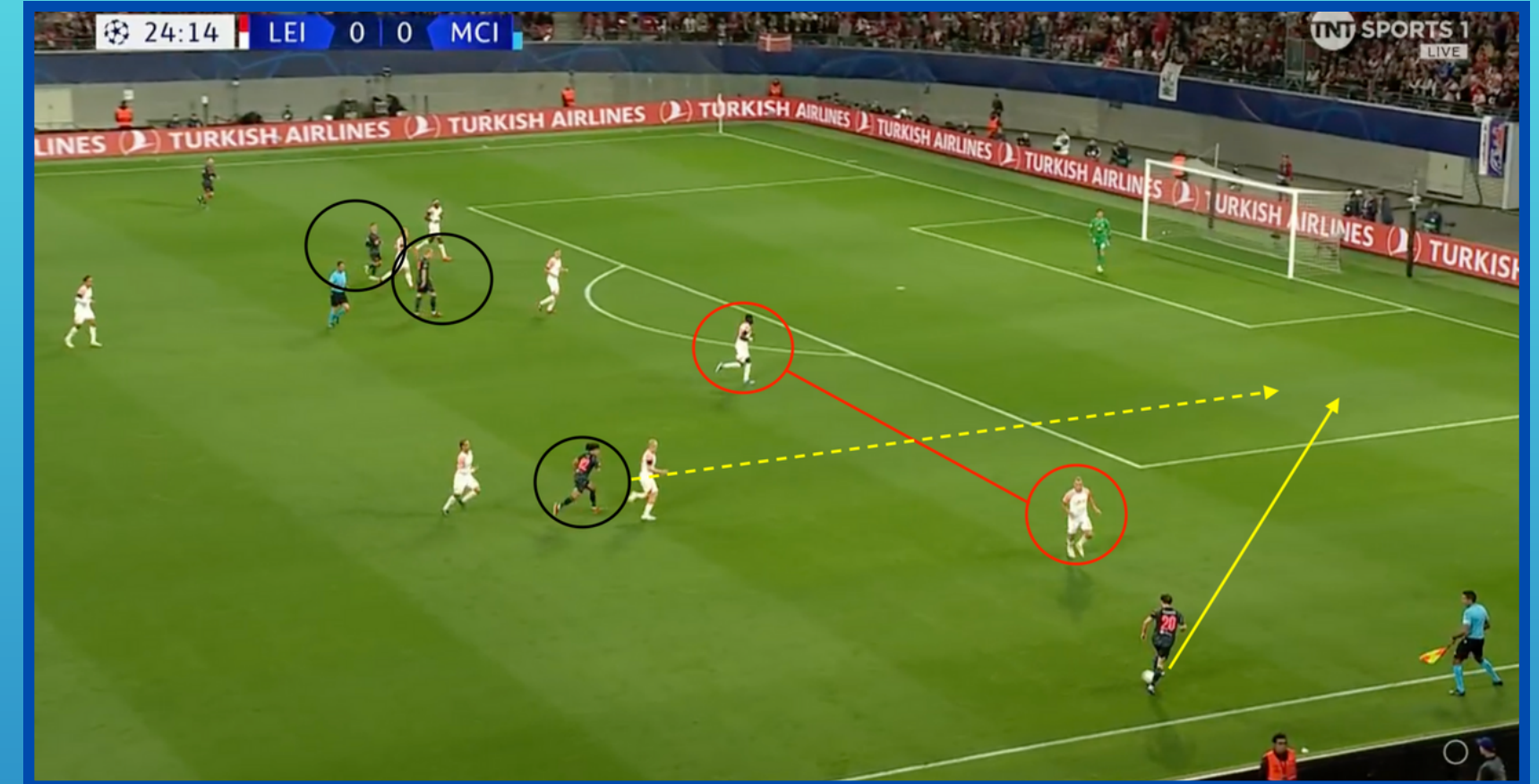
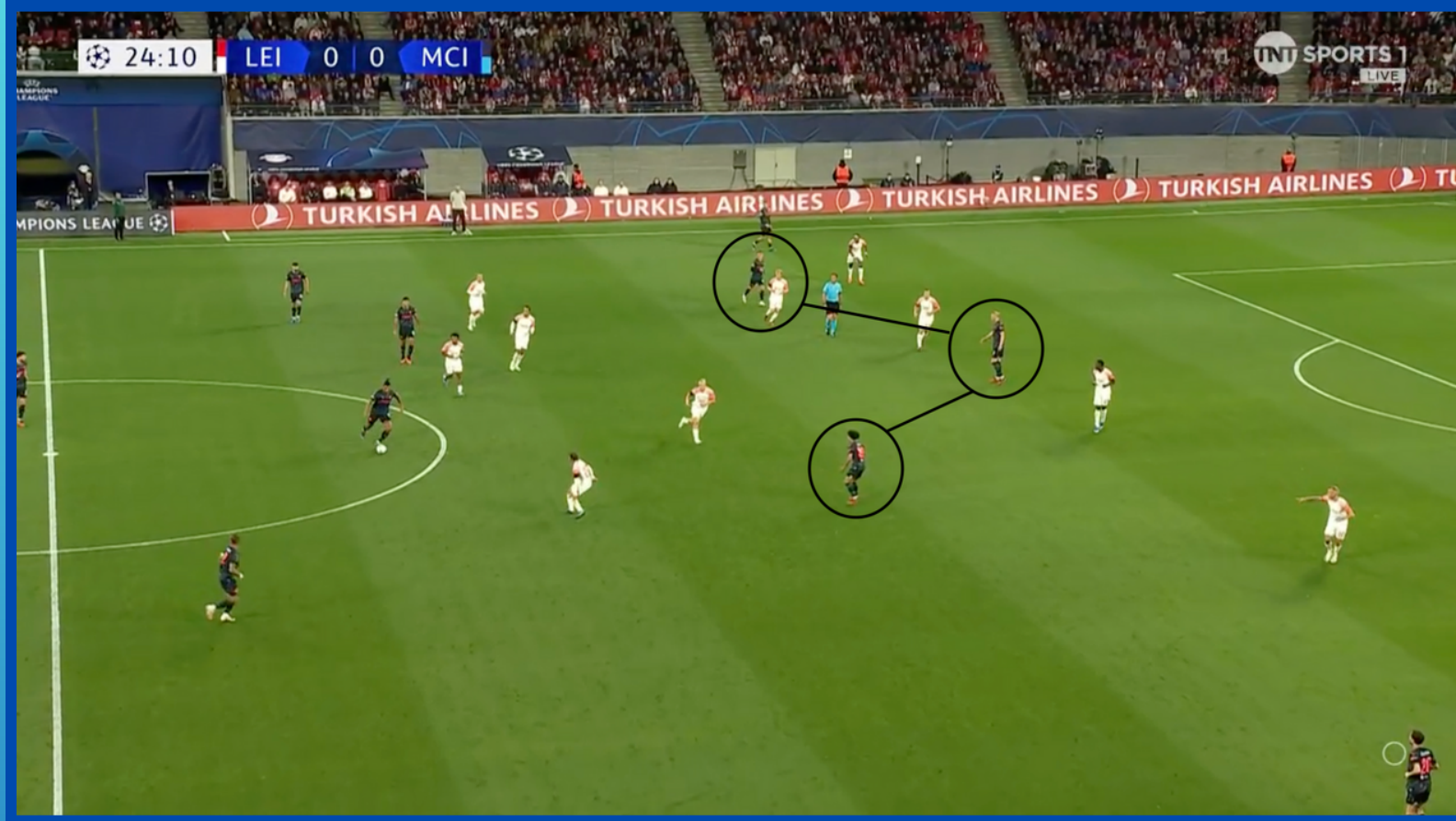
## First Goal

Here's a breakdown of the tactics used to score the first goal:

- During the start of the play, the central forwards position themselves in the three inner channels of the pitch to keep the opposing back four tight, thus creating opportunities in the wide areas.
- Silva stays wide and lures the left back out wide, which creates space for Lewis to make an underlapping run.
- Lewis enters the box and delivers a well-executed cut back, which is a trademark of City's play.
- Foden, arriving in the second six-yard box, scores the first-time finish.



# First Goal



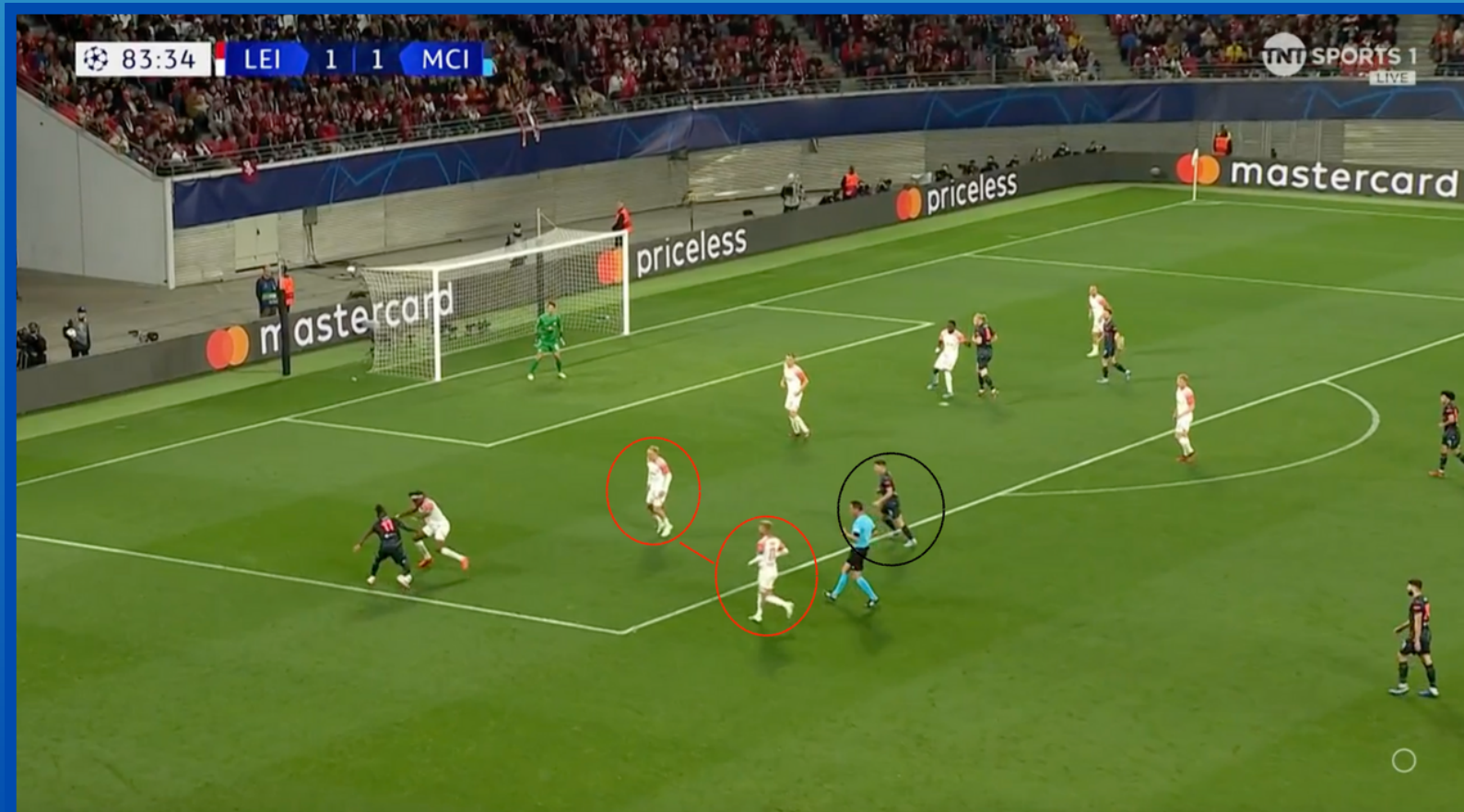
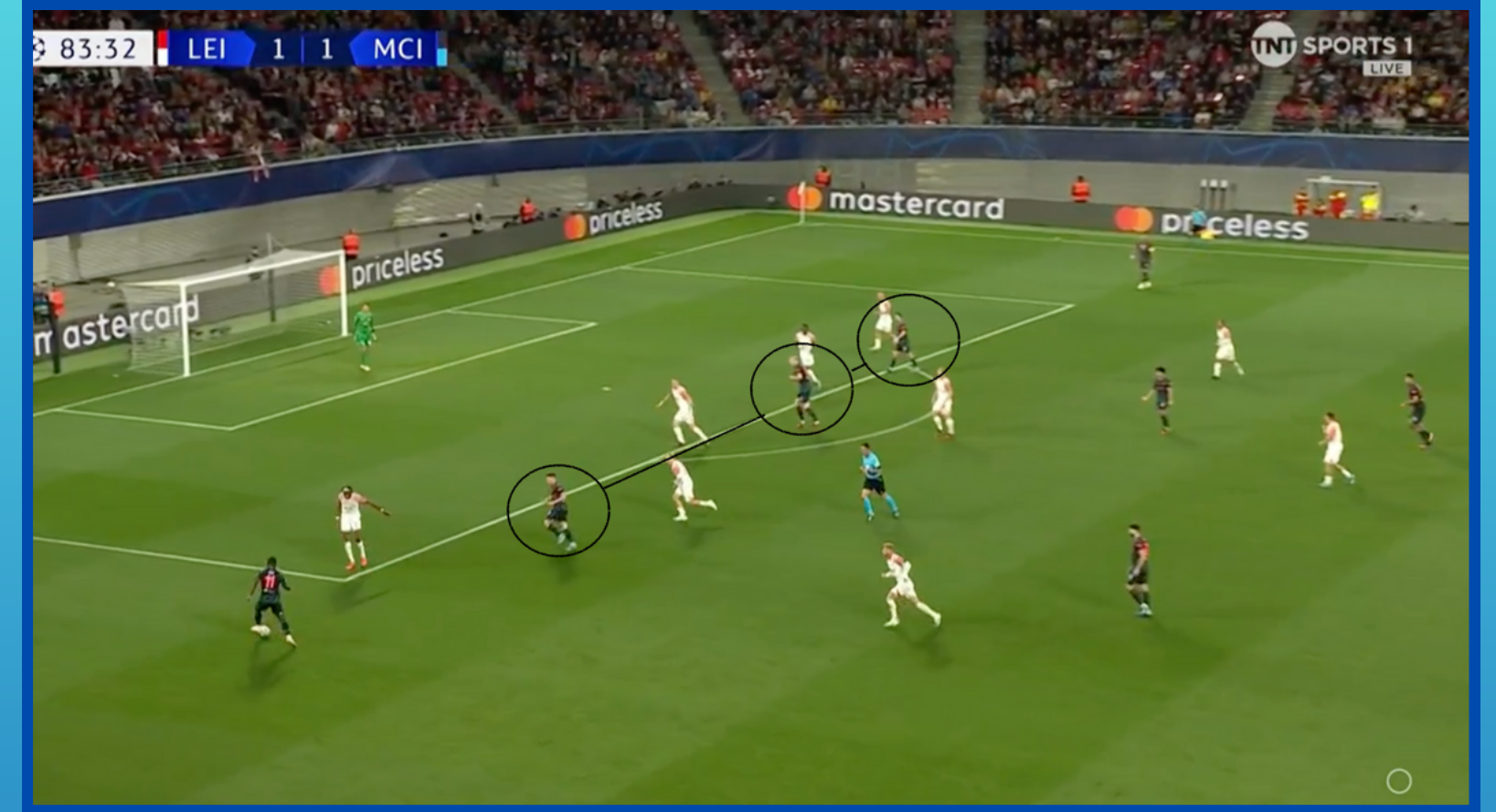
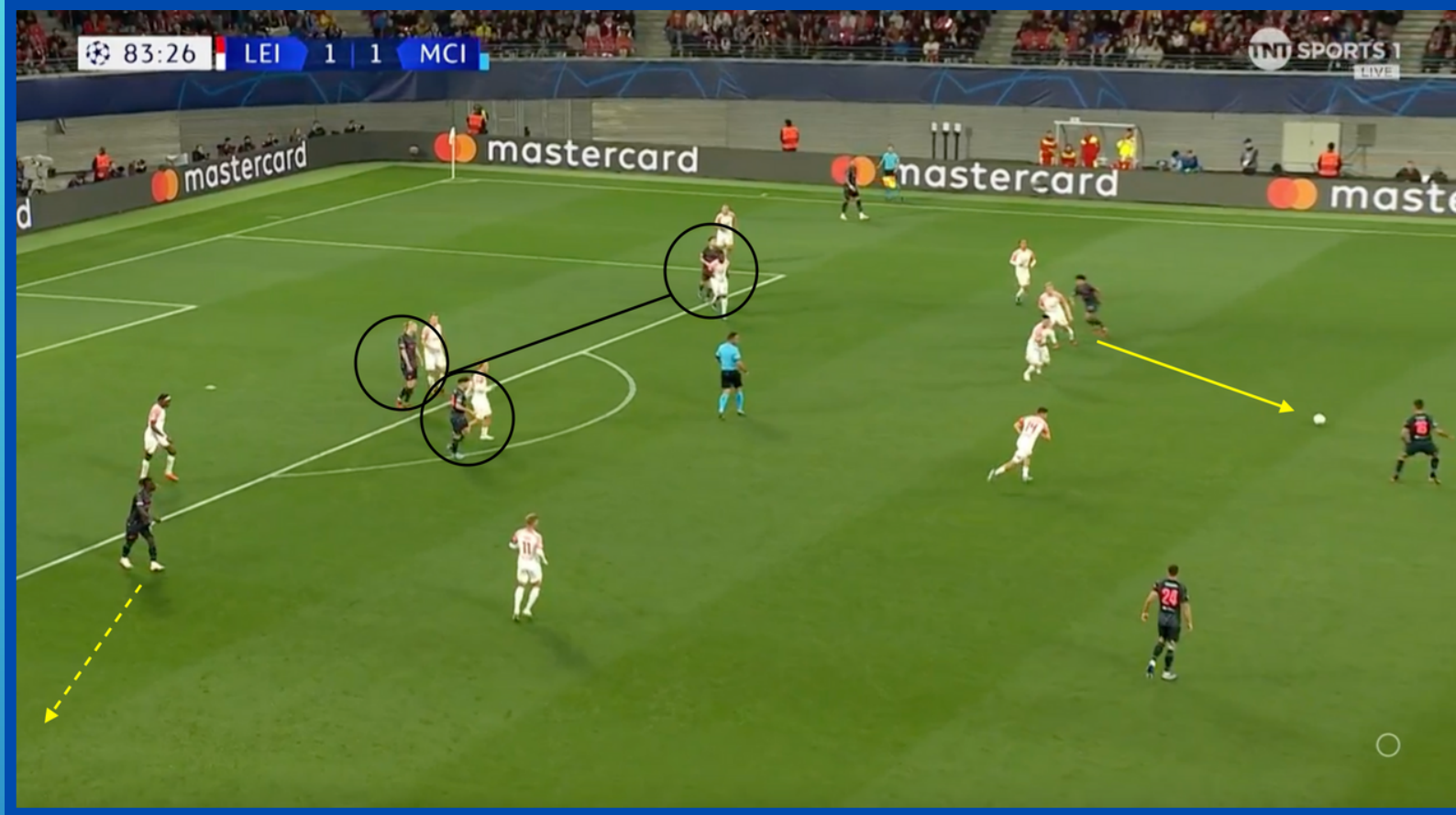
# Second Goal

Here's a breakdown of City's second goal:

- City started with Walker and rotated the ball across the pitch through Lewis.
- Gvordiol stepped in to create an overload on the left, allowing Doku to receive the ball and drag the defender down the line before cutting back.
- The most dangerous space for the wide combination was now on the inside, with Alvarez positioned between defenders in a pocket on the edge of the box.
- Doku made a great pass to find Alvarez who executed a top-class finish to secure the win.



# Second Goal



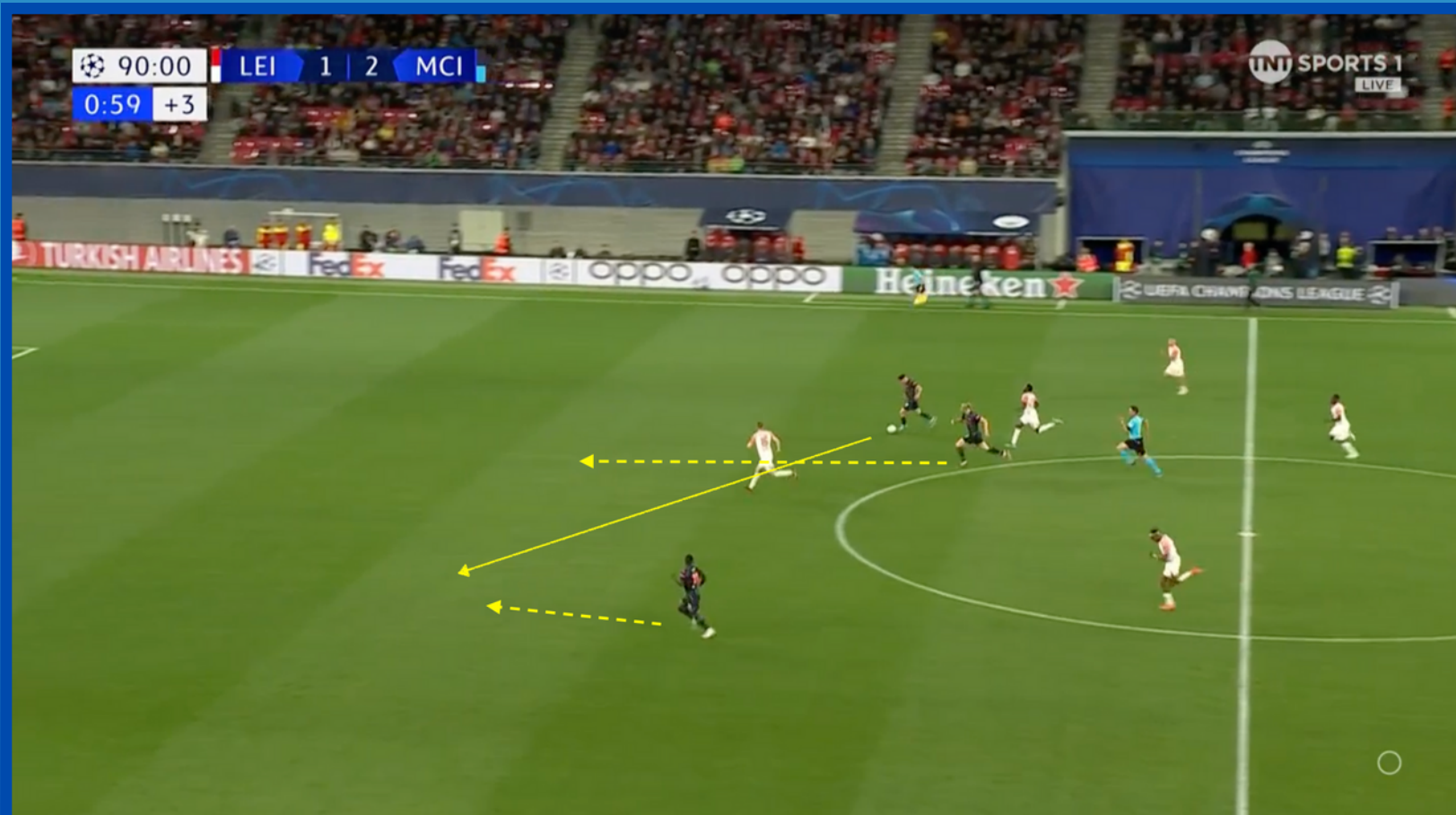
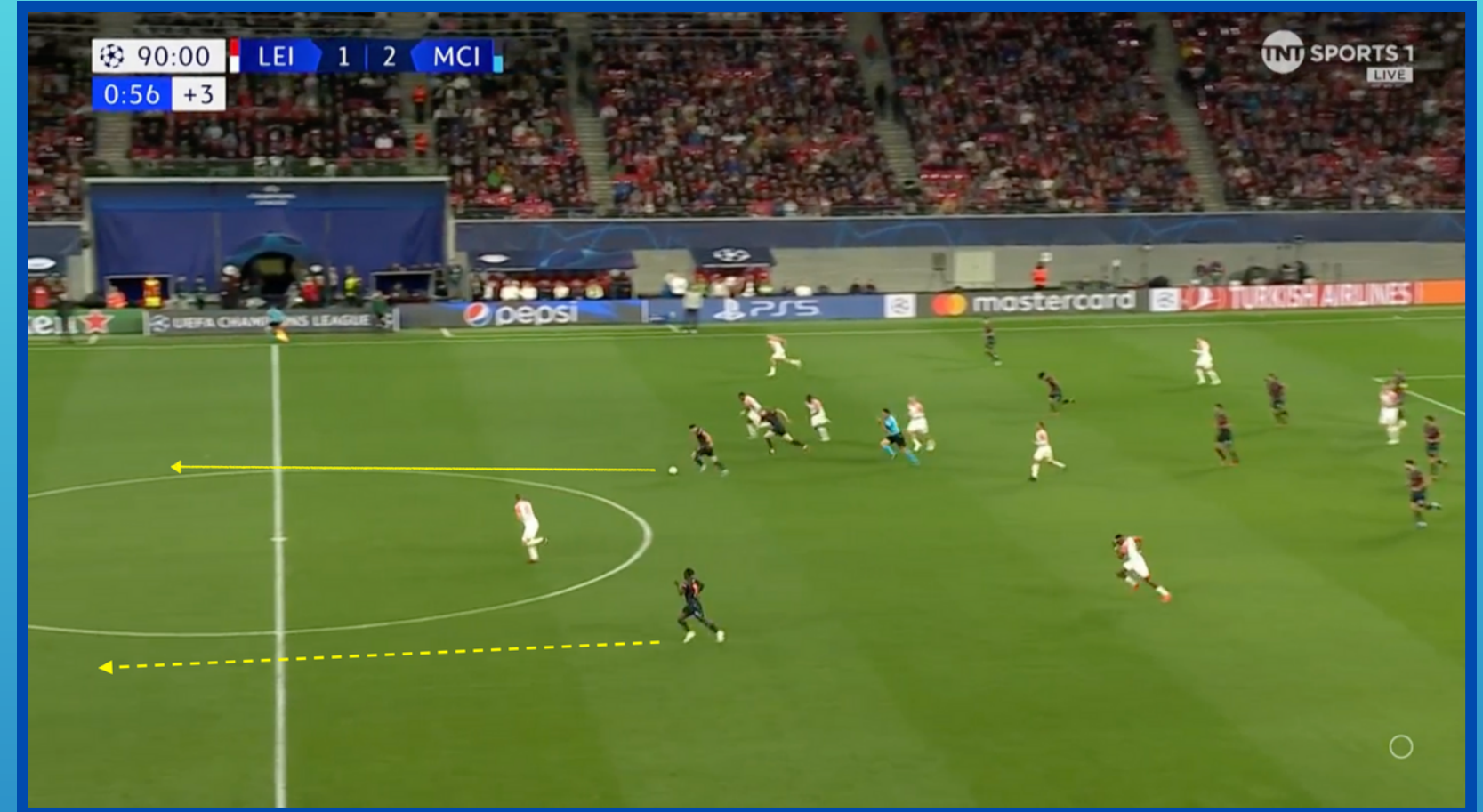
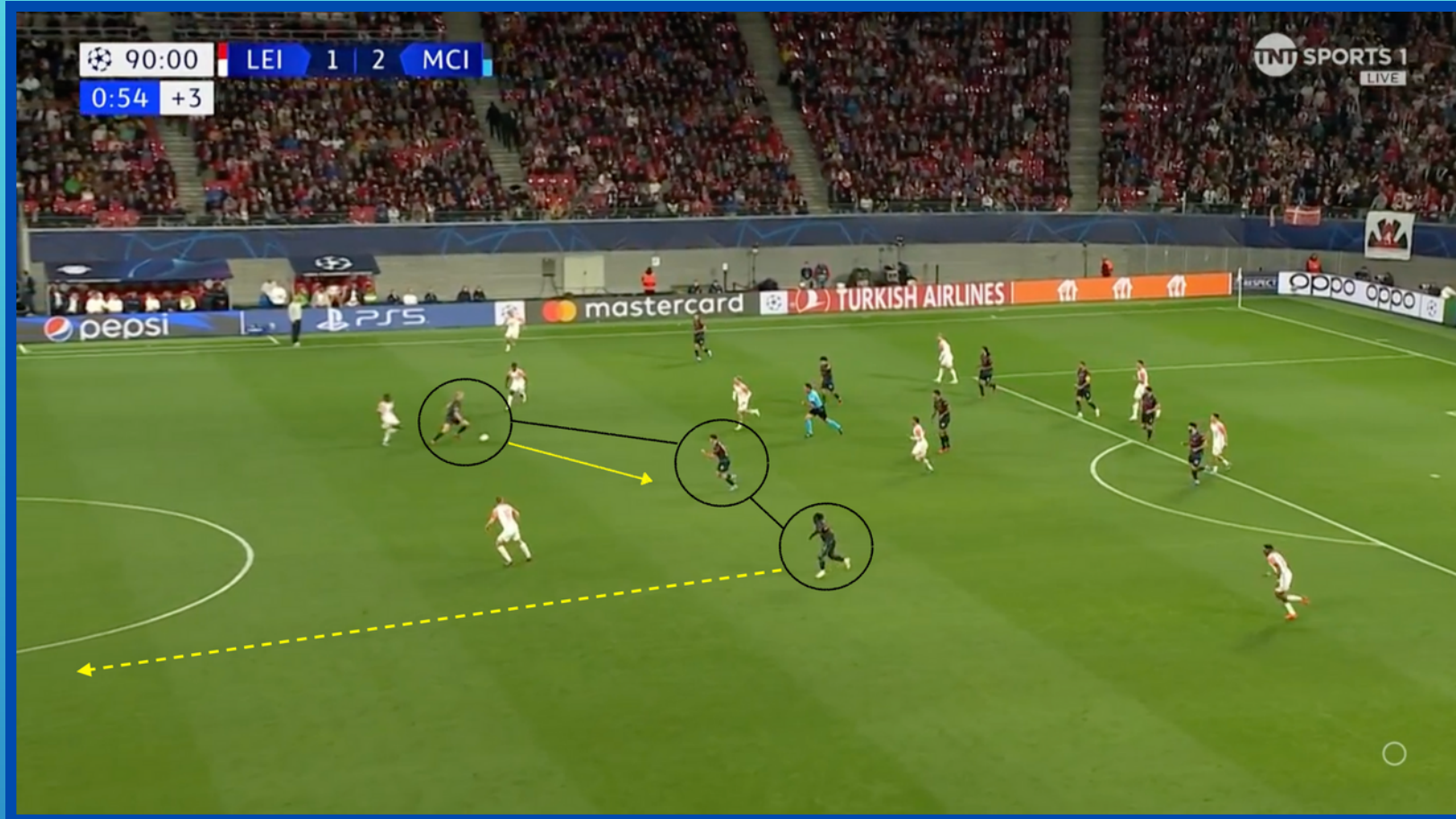
# Third Goal

Here's a breakdown of the play:

- City are defending deep in their own half and the ball is headed towards Haaland.
- Haaland receives the ball, shields it from the defenders, and makes a well-timed layoff to Alvarez.
- Alvarez and Doku spot an opportunity to attack the open space behind the defense and quickly transition forward.
- Alvarez advances with the ball, causing the defenders to shift to the left and leaving space for Doku to run into.
- Alvarez delivers a perfectly angled pass with just the right amount of weight for Doku to run onto and finish the move with a composed strike.



# Third Goal



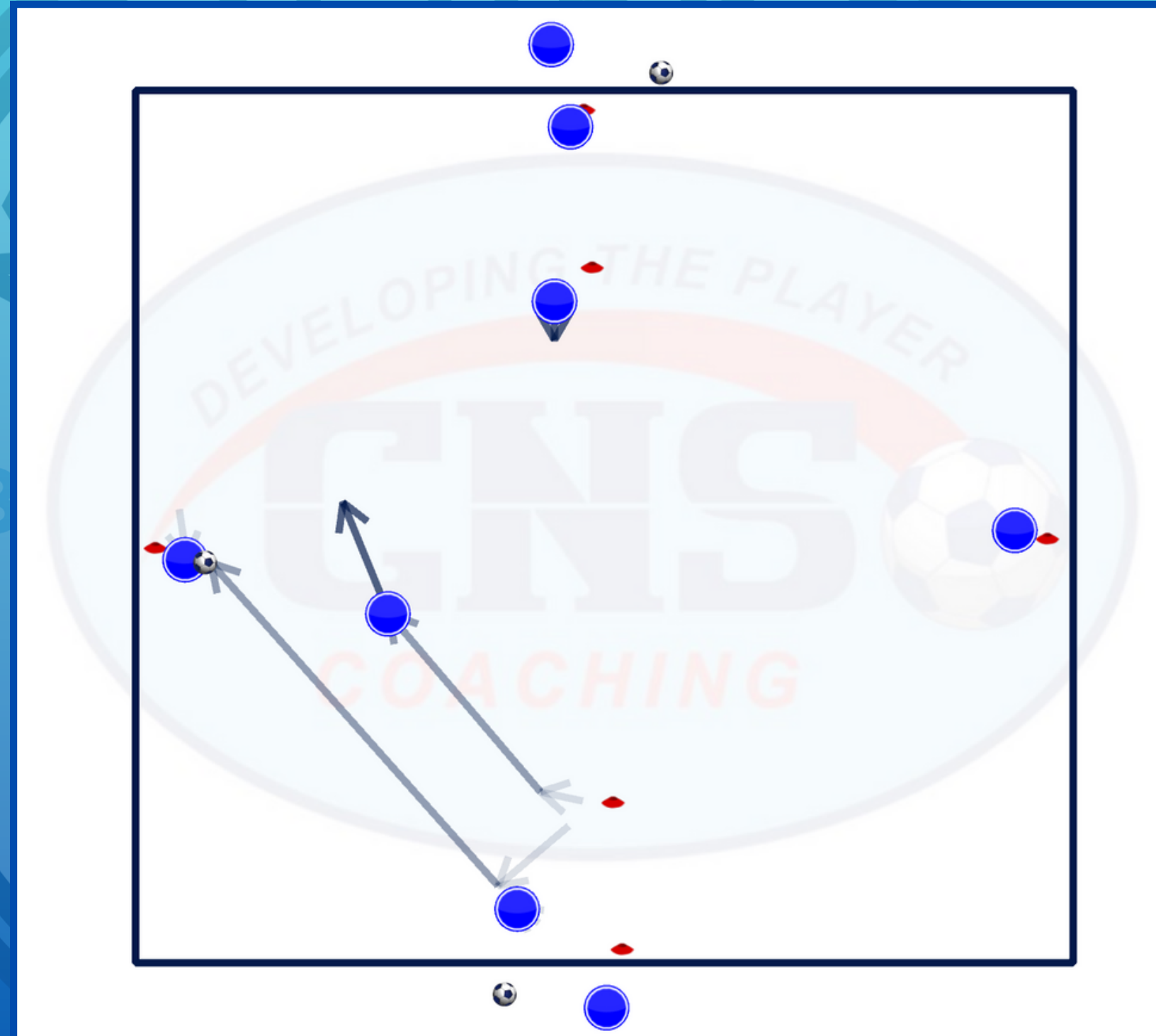
# Five Training Practices

We have designed five training sessions to help you work with your team to recreate Pep's methods. :

- **Session 1**-Passing Practice working on developing underlapping runs, that City use so effectively in the final third in wide areas
- **Session 2** - A Crossing & Finishing Practice designed to develop wide attacking combination play.
- **Session 3** - Attacking Central Practice working on developing patterns towards the goal
- **Session 4** -Transition to Attack (T2A) Practice, with the forwards playing inside the three central lanes of the pitch City are devastating on the break
- **Session 5** - Final Session is a Transition to Defending (T2D) Practice , designed to develop the base (1-3-2) of the formations strengths in central areas



# PRACTICE 1 - PASSING - Developing Underlapping Runs



## SET UP:

Grid size depends on players age & ability level, time of week/season, ideal size could be 30mx20m  
Minimum 8 players, 6 Big Cones, 6 small cones, 6 footballs

## Organisation:

Players at each end with 2 fixed players on side (Wide Forwards). Play starts with combination between 2 players, up, back & out to wide player. Highest combination player makes an underlapping run, wide player takes touch & passes forward for underlapping runner to move onto ball & make a cut back pass & the sequence repeats moving on the opposite side.

## Progression - Add in 2nd ball

## Coaching Points:

- Timing of underlapping run
- 1st touch on the move
- Quality of cut back pass

# PRACTICE 1 - PASSING - Developing Underlapping Runs

## SET UP:

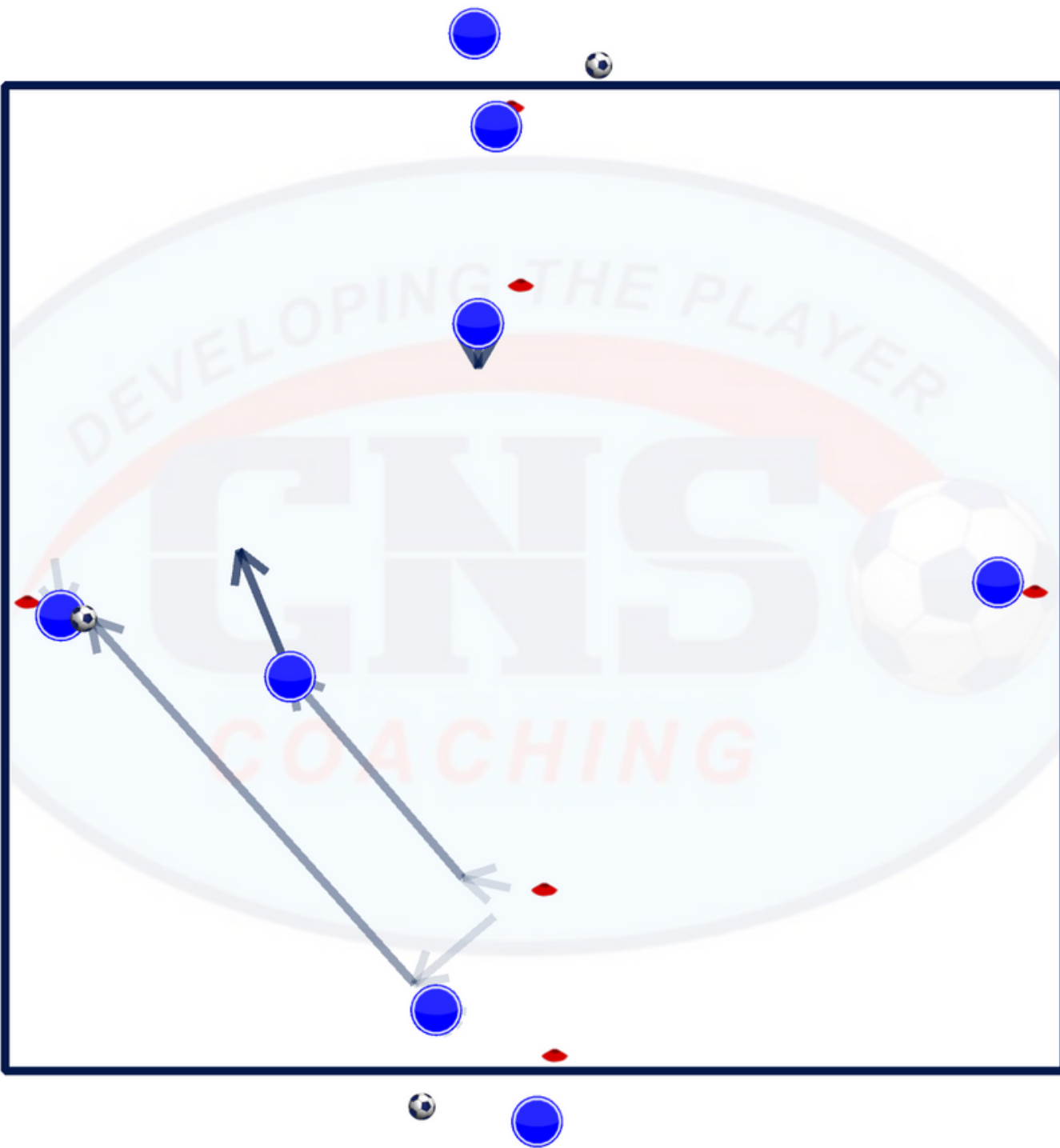
To determine the optimal grid size for football practice, consider factors such as the players' age and skill level, as well as the time of week and season. Generally, a 30mx20m field works well. Additionally, you'll need a minimum of 8 players, 6 big cones, 6 small cones, and 6 footballs to ensure a successful practice.

## Organisation:

Football Training Drill: Combining with Wide Forwards

This training drill involves a setup where two players are positioned at each end of the field, with two fixed players on the sides (Wide Forwards). The play begins with a combination between two players, moving up, back and out to the wide player. The player who made the highest combination then makes an underlapping run, while the wide player takes a touch and passes the ball forward for the underlapping runner to receive and make a cut back pass. This sequence repeats as the play moves to the opposite side.

**Progression:** To make the drill more challenging, add a second ball into the mix.



# PRACTICE 2 - Crossing & Finishing - Underlapping Runs

## SET UP:

The grid size should be determined by the type of practice you are running. It can range from the full width of an 11-a-side pitch to a smaller area for increased repetition.

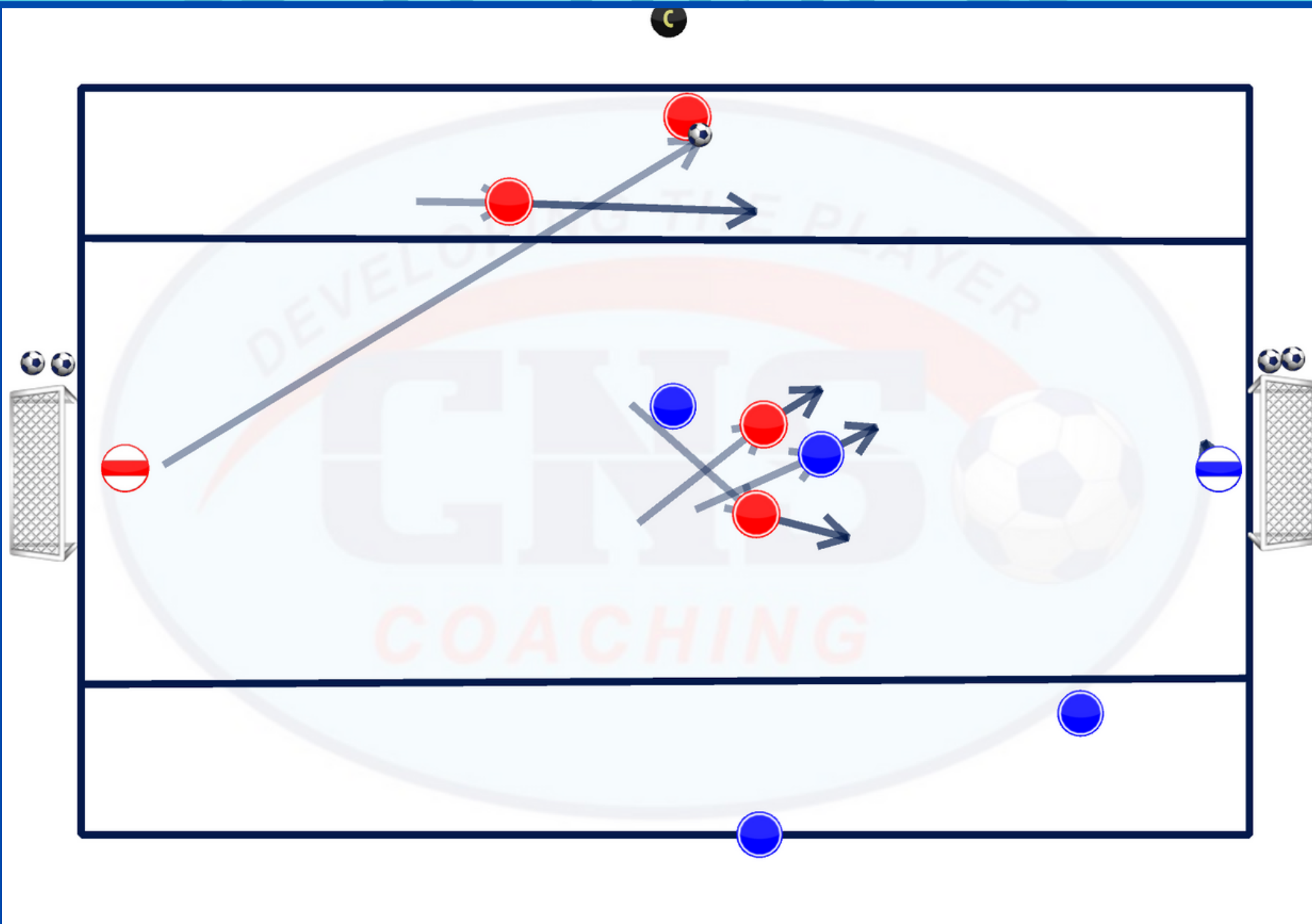
For optimal repetition, a grid size of roughly 25m x 30m is ideal.

Equipment required for the training includes 2 main goals, 4 red bibs and 4 blue bibs, 8 cones, 8 mats or cones for the inside line, and 10 footballs.

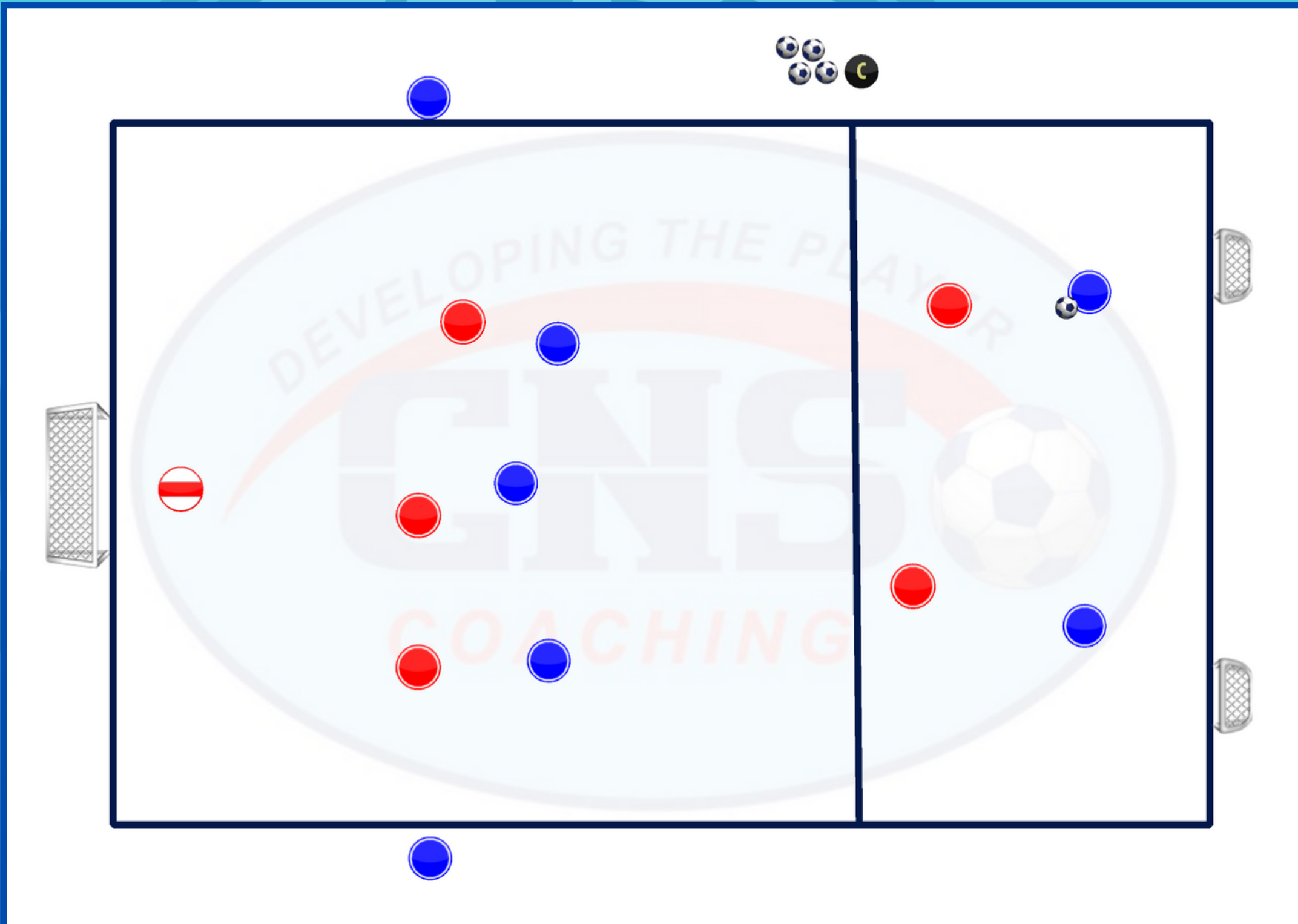
## Organisation:

Start by placing two keepers at each goal. Next, position two players from each team in the wide zones to facilitate crosses and combination play. Have two more players from each team inside. The drill begins with the keeper passing to one of the wide players, while the second wide player makes an underlapping run to receive the ball. This creates a 2v1 opportunity towards the goal. Then, the opposite keeper plays the ball wide and the process repeats with the other team.

**Progression:** To make the drill more challenging, create a 2v2 inside



# PRACTICE 3 - Attacking Centrally with 3 Forwards



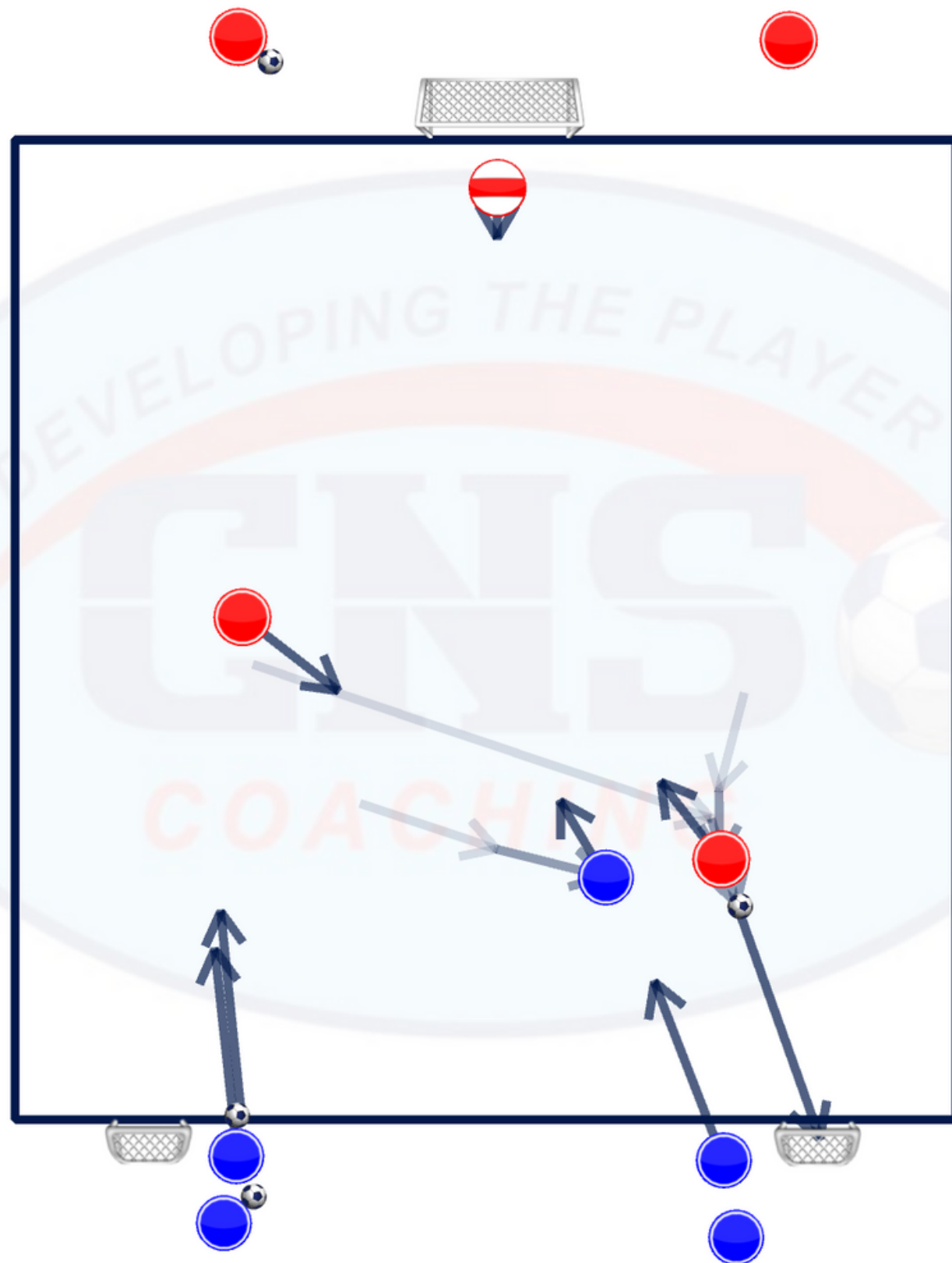
## Set Up:

To ensure an ideal soccer practice grid, a size of 30mx40m is recommended, but feel free to adjust to your needs. You'll need one main goal, two smaller ones, five red bibs, seven blue bibs, ten cones, and ten footballs.

## Organisation:

Start with a 2v2 match in zone 1. Two blues aim to pass to one of three inside blue forwards in zone 2. Meanwhile, the red team's goal is to intercept the passes and score in the small goals. The two wide forwards can move up and down and play off two touches. The blues work to score in the main goal, while the reds attempt to win back possession and score in the small goals.

# PRACTICE 4 - Transition to Attack - Attacking Centrally



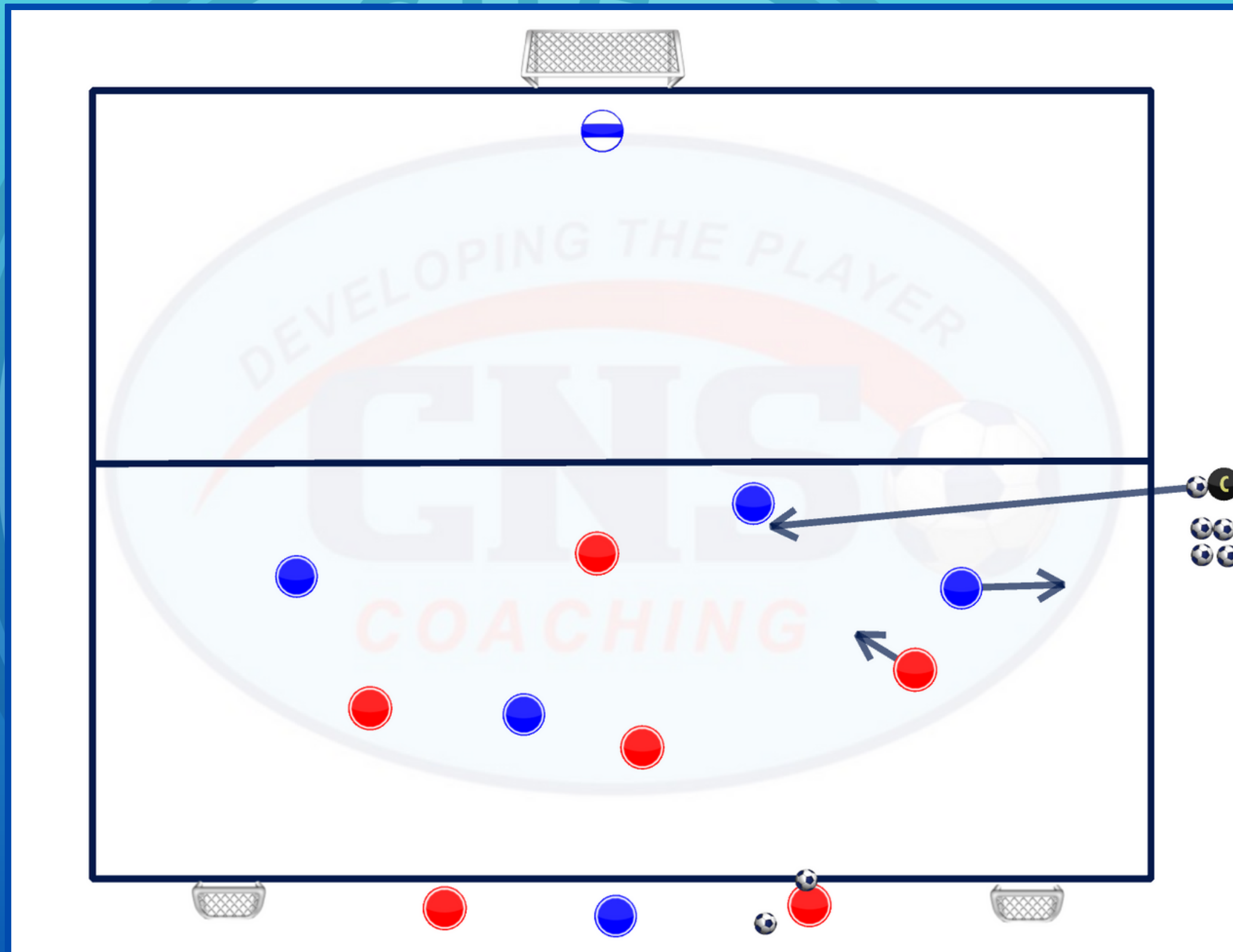
## Set Up:

Grid size will depend on type of practice, can be done on half pitch or made smaller to get more repetition in. Ideal size for reps could be 25mx40m. Main goal & 2 small goals, 6 red bibs/7 blue bibs, 12 cones, 10 footballs.

## Organisation:

Begin with two players in red attacking one player in blue, aiming to score in either of the two small goals. Once the attack is over, the two resting blue players enter the game, creating a 3v2 scenario that targets the main goal.

# PRACTICE 5 - Transition to Defend - Protecting central Areas



## SET UP:

Grid size will depend on type of practice, can be played on half pitch or made smaller to get more repetition in. Ideal size for reps could be 25mx40m. Main goal & two small goals, 6 red bibs/5 blue bibs, 12 cones, 6 mats (inside line) 10 footballs.

## Organisation:

Start in zone one with a 4v4 towards two small goals, coach passes into blue who try score in small goals, when play is over or red team win the ball. The resting two reds and one blue join the play and zone two opens up to play on whole area, reds attack main goal while blue team look to regroup after the transition and defend to regain and score in small goals.



# Thank You

Thank you for reviewing and studying our analysis of Pep's 1-3-2-5. We hope that you can utilize the practices directly in your team's environment, or adapt the ideas to suit your needs. If you're interested in receiving more free content like this, please let us know.

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