

FORMATIONS AND SYSTEMS OF PLAY

Region 1472 Coaches' Corner

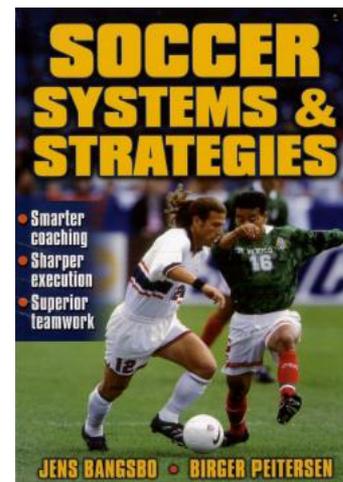
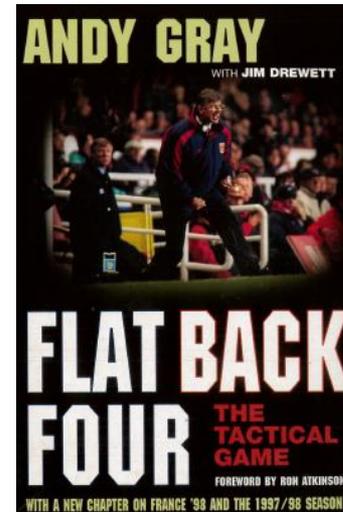
DR

REFERENCES

Andy Gray, with Jim Drewett
Flat Back Four: The Tactical Game
Reedswain, Inc., 1999

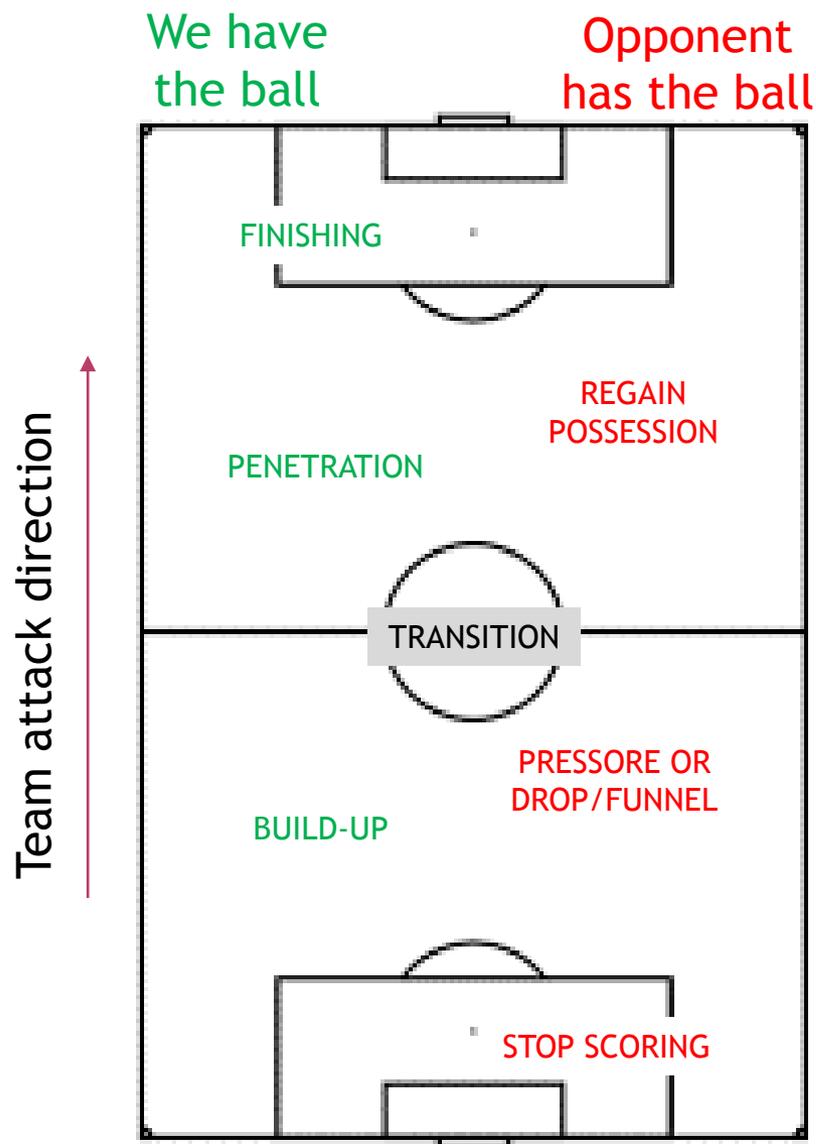
Jens Bangsbo and Birger Peitersen
Soccer Systems & Strategies
Human Kinetics, 2000

Useful books on tactical and formation choices...



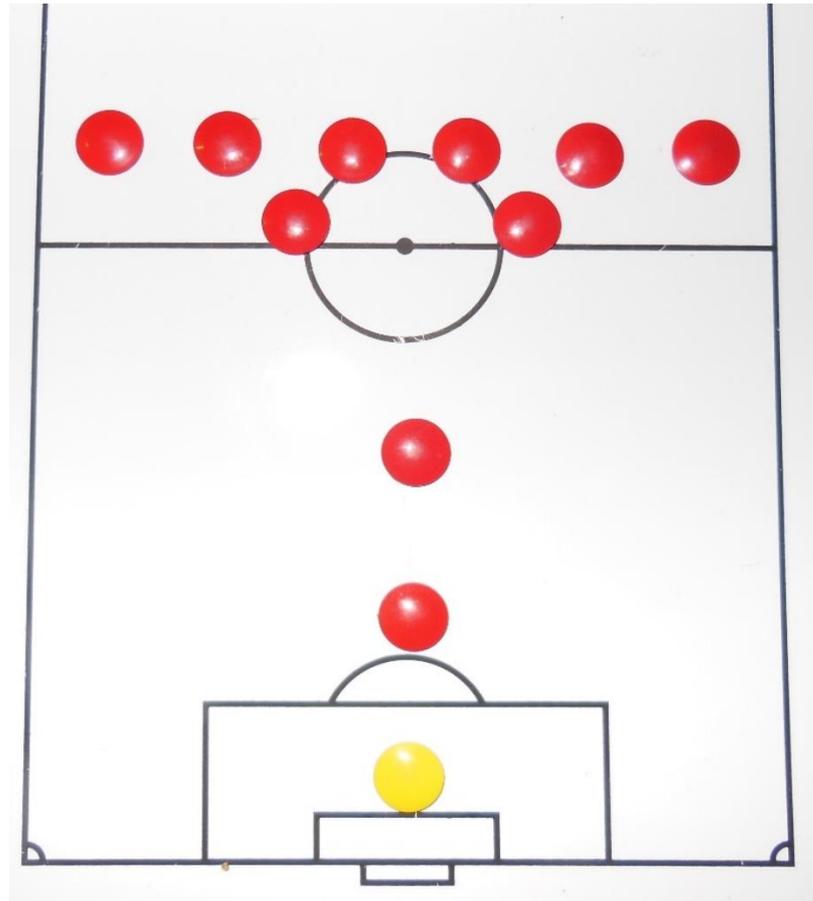
OBJECTIVES

- Objectives depend upon
 - Scoreboard
 - Time/Score
 - Teammates
 - Opponents
 - Goal
- How do we teach this?
 - Wrongly?/Rightly?



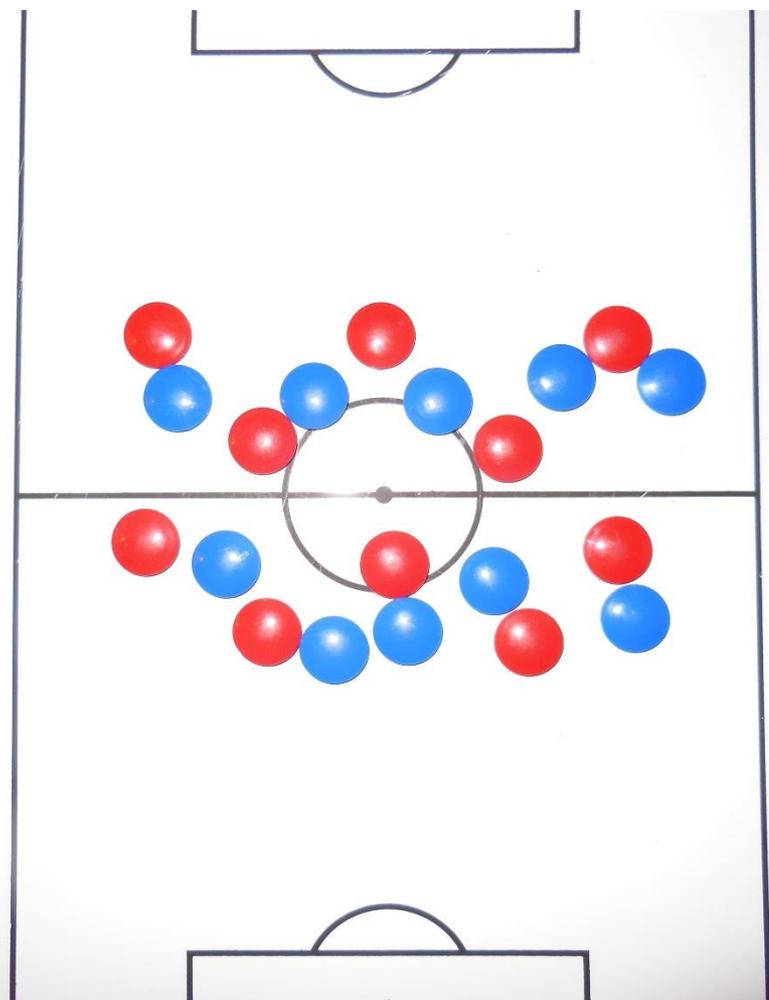
CHANGING STYLE OF PLAY

- The Early Days of Soccer were Based on a Massed Rush
- Formations were Things Like 1-1-8
- Play was High-scoring and Back-and-Forth
- Later, More Players were Dropped Into Layers of Midfield and Defense



THE EARLY DAYS

- ◉ Before 1925, Three Defenders Defined Offside Position
- ◉ Teams Pushed Forward and Employed the Offside Trap
- ◉ Play was Compressed Within 20 Yards of the Halfway Line



MID-CENTURY FOOTBALL

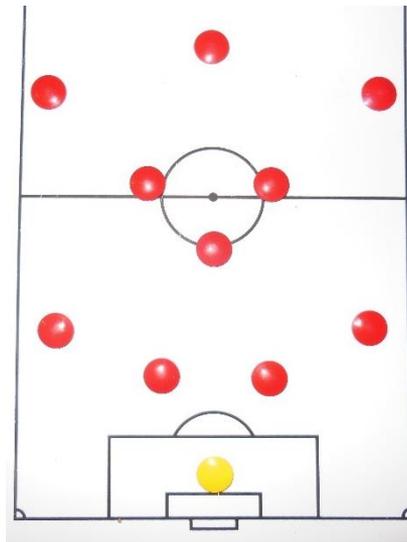
- Offside Law Reduced to Two Defenders in 1925
- Formations like
 - WM (Defensive Center Half)
 - 2-3-5 WW (Attacking Center Half)
- Dominated Soccer
- Formulaic Play
 - Wingers Stayed on Touchline
 - Forwards Did Not Tack Back and Defend



SOME MODERN FORMATIONS



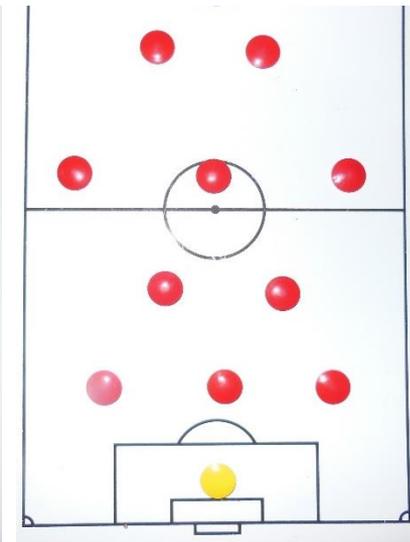
Conventional 4-4-2
with Advanced
Striker



4-3-3 with Defensive
Center Midfielder



4-5-1 with W-Shaped
Midfield and Two
Defensive Midfielders



5-3-2 in Defense,
3-5-2 in Attack, Like
the Old M

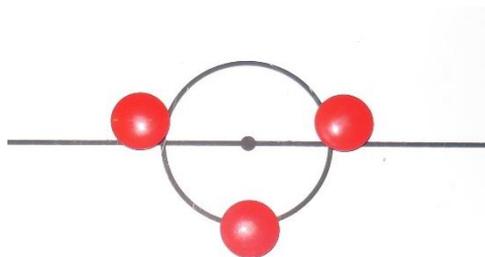
Formations are Not Everything

There are Lots of Ways of Playing Any Formation

“You Can’t do Tactically What You Can’t do Technically” - John Oullette

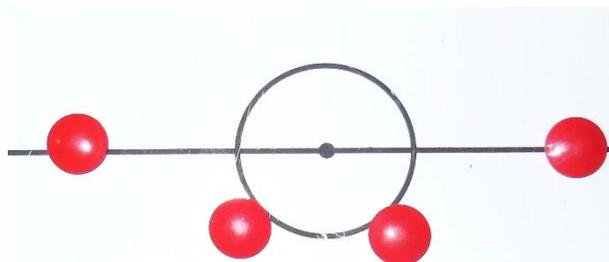
ARRANGING THE MIDFIELD

Three-Man Midfield

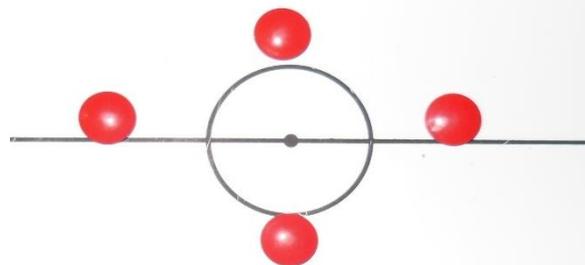


One Defensive, Two
Attacking - Narrow, but
Works with Wing Forwards

Four-Man Midfield

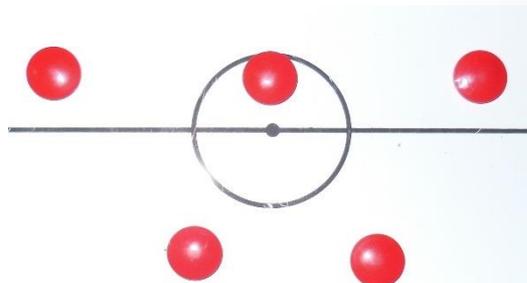


Bowl-Shaped
Two Central Midfielders
May be More Defensive
or Play-Making, Wide
Midfielders



Diamond: One Defensive
Midfielder, Wide
Midfielders for Width,
and a Playmaker

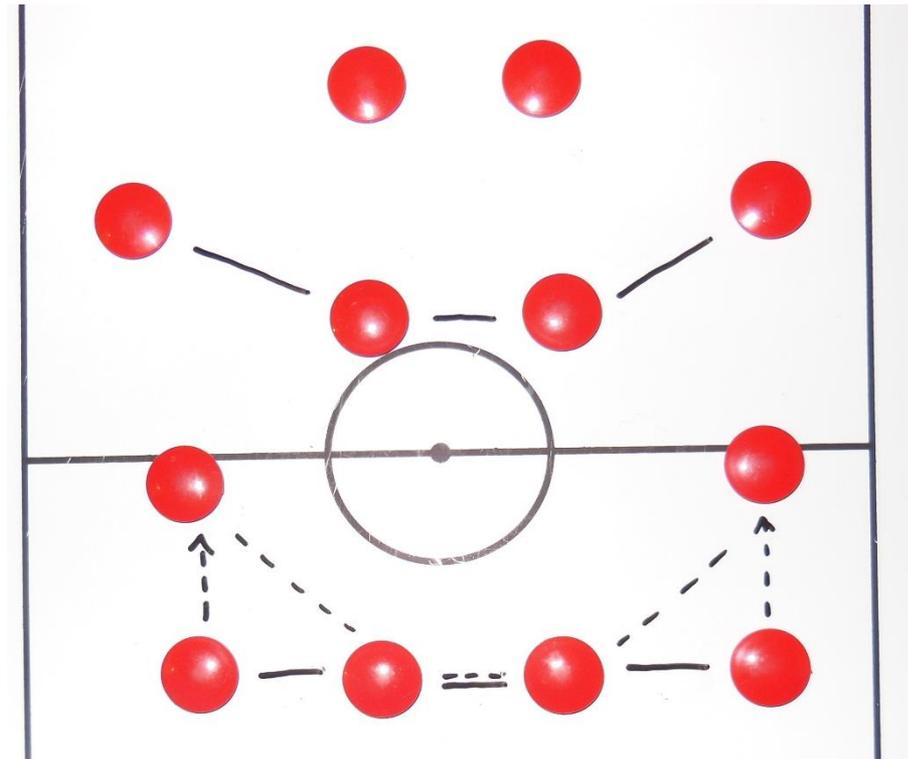
Five-Man Midfield



W-Shaped: Two
Defensive Midfielders,
Two Wide Midfielders,
and a Playmaker

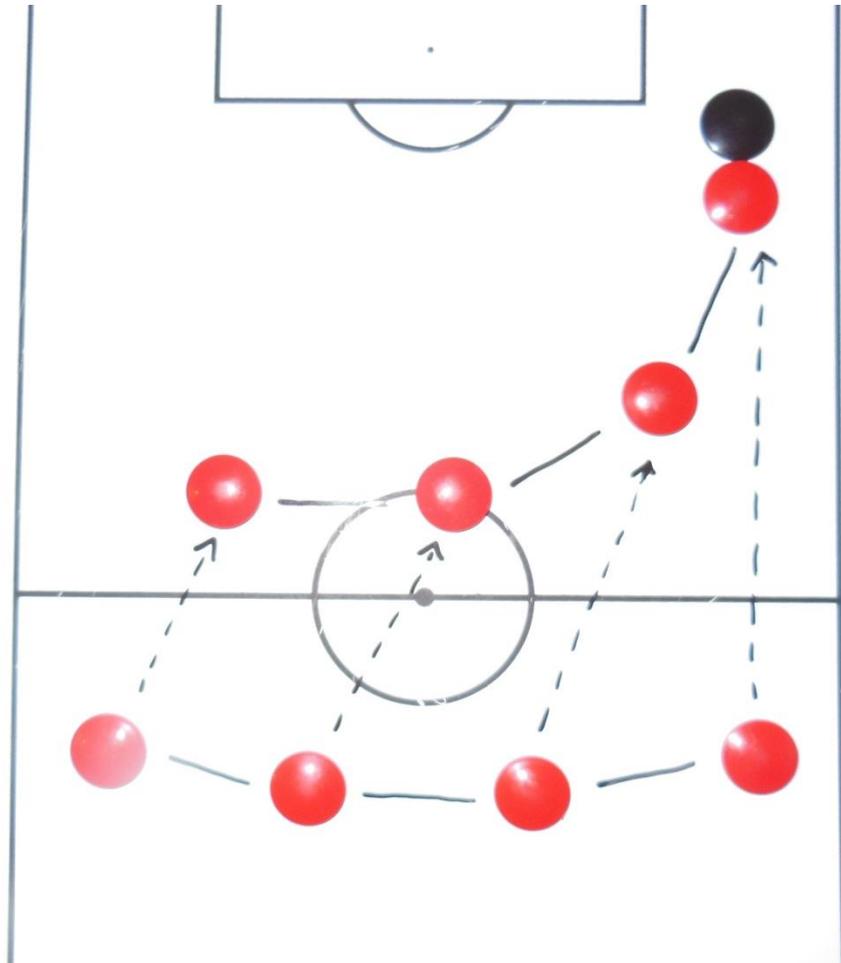
GETTING THE BACKS INVOLVED

- ⦿ The Full Backs Should Get Involved in the Attack
- ⦿ The Center Backs Generally Stay Home



MOVEMENT OF THE BACKS

- ◉ When the Full Backs go Forward, the Back Line Shifts



DROPPING OR PRESSING

