

La Salida Lavolpiana

Hotspurs SC

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Yellow background = material still needed
or revised

I. Introduction

A. What is “La Salida Lavolpiana?”

- “Salida” = exit in Spanish.
- This “exit” refers to a team’s shape when they build out of the back with center backs splitting wide to the corners of the 18, outside backs going high and wide towards the second line of players in the midfield, and the #6 dropping in between the center back to receive the ball.
- “Lavolpiana” is an adjective made up from “La Volpe,” the last name of Ricardo La Volpe, an Argentinian soccer coach who is credited with inventing “La Salida Lavolpiana.”
- AKA “**la salida a tres**”
- AKA “**salir de novios**”



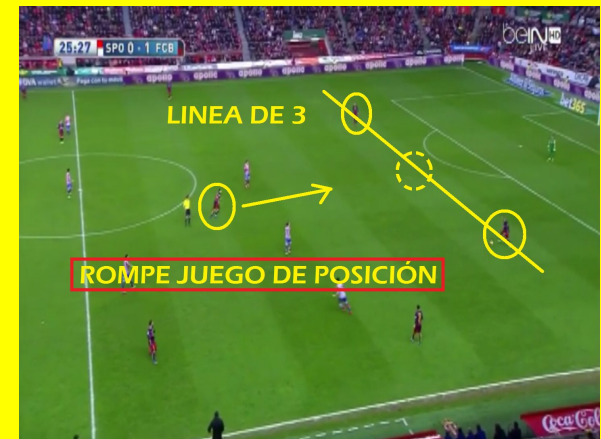
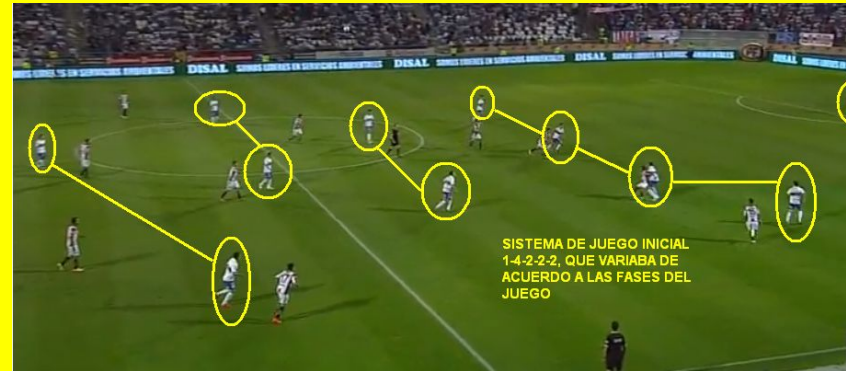
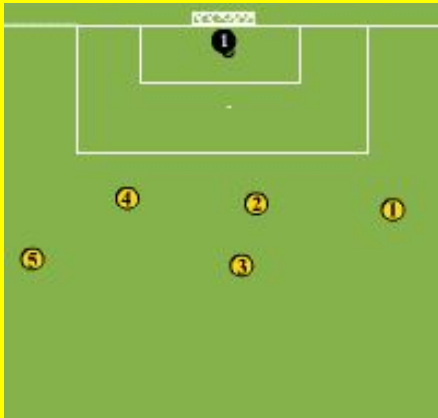
- <https://www.martiperarnau.com/la-salida-lavolpiana/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A-pMN_1G9M





B. *La Salida de Cuatro*

- I need to find more about this—pics and explanation.
- This article (<http://www.ecosdelbalon.com/2011/09/salvar-una-moda-dificil/>) refers to some coaches in Spain (“el Villarreal de Garrido y Bruno, el Espanyol de Pochettino y Márquez y el Málaga de Pellegrini y Apoño”) in the second paragraph during the 2010-11 La Liga season using the more “archetypal” “salida a cuatro.”



C. Compare & Contrast

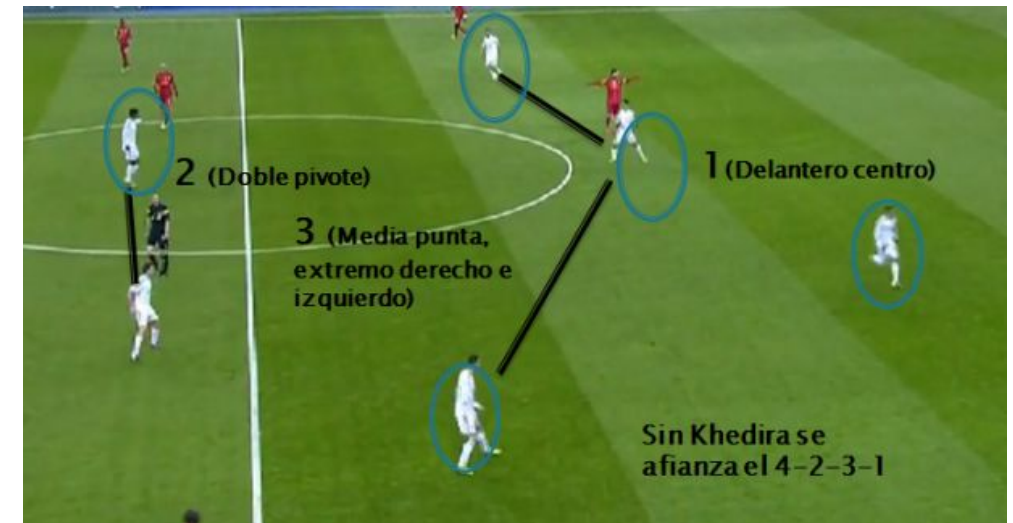
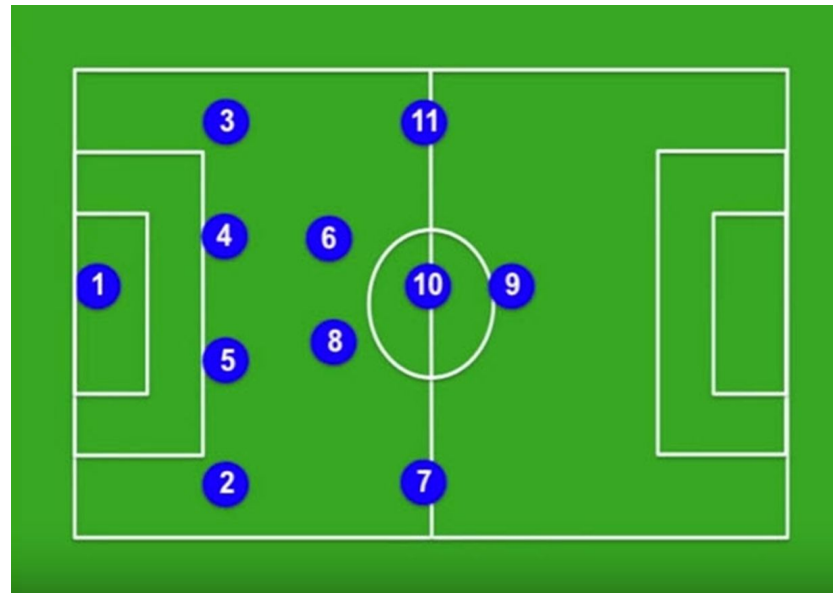
La salida a tres

La salida de cuatro

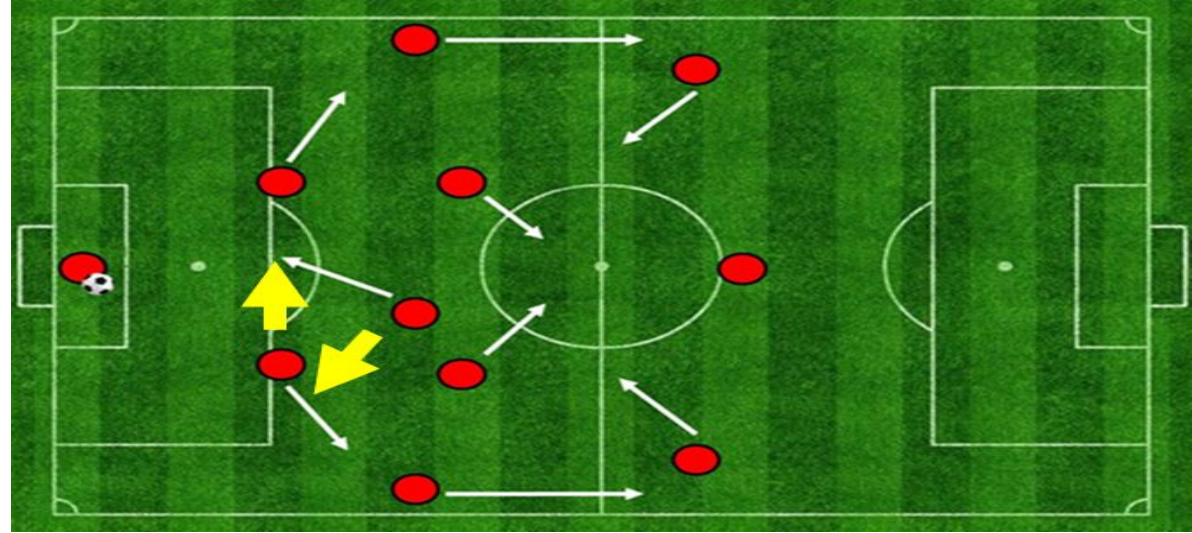
D. Variations

- La Salida Lavolpiana is normally executed by teams playing in a 4-3-3. However, there are several variations.

- **The double pivot system:** The pivot (holding midfielder who drops in between the #4 and #5) may vary in a formation that includes two defensive midfielders, such as a 4-2-3-1, or 3-4-3.



- **A lateral #6 in the first line:** In the case of Manchester City, 2017-18, under Pep Guardiola, the #6 (Fernandinho) drops into the first line in a lateral position. (Instead of dropping in between the #4 and #5, the #4 and #5 shift either left or right together and the #6 drops in to the open half space.)



- **The 4-4-2:** In the case of Barcelona, 2017-18, under Ernesto Valverde, they play 4-4-2, but still use La Salida Lavolpiana. The #6 (Busquets) drops in between the #4 and #5 and the #2 and #3 move high and wide into the second line to create a 3-5-2 when building out.

Pic?

E. Who is Ricardo La Volpe?

- An Argentine soccer coach who made his career coaching primarily in Liga MX (Mexico), as well as two stints internationally
- América (2016-17)
- Boca Juniors (2006-07)
- Mexico (2002-06) **World Cup
- Costa Rica (2010-11)
- Played goalkeeper
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricardo_La_Volpe



F. *Lavolpismo*

- The philosophy of Ricardo La Volpe
- <https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavolpismo>

G. Lavolpismo in Modern Football

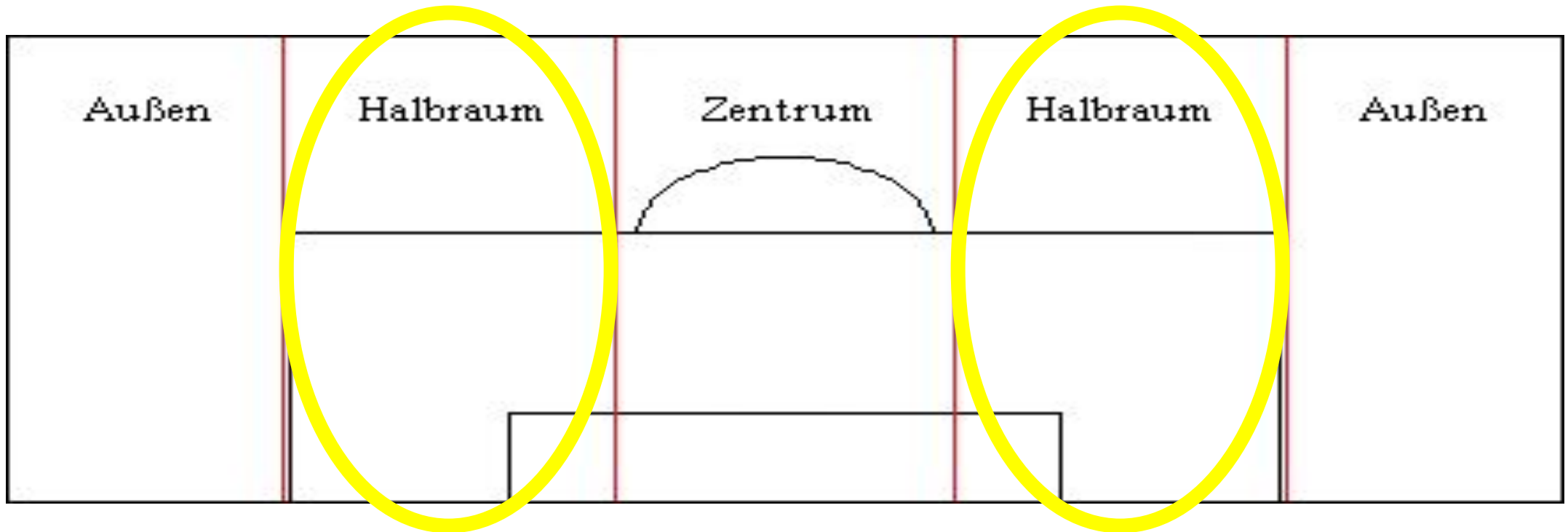
- 1983: Ricardo Lavolpe → Mexico
- 1990s: *Lavolpismo* takes over Mexican football
- 2005: Juan Manuel Lillo → Mexico to coach Dorados de Sinaloa (Sinaloa, Mexico)
- 2005: Pep Guardiola → Mexico
 - Played for Dorados de Sinaloa under Lillo
 - Attended coaching school in Puebla
- 2007: Guardiola → Barcelona B
- 2008: Guardiola → Barcelona A
- 2008-2012: FC Barcelona dominate European football. Their style of play influences coaches around the world.



II. Vocabulary

1. The Half-Spaces

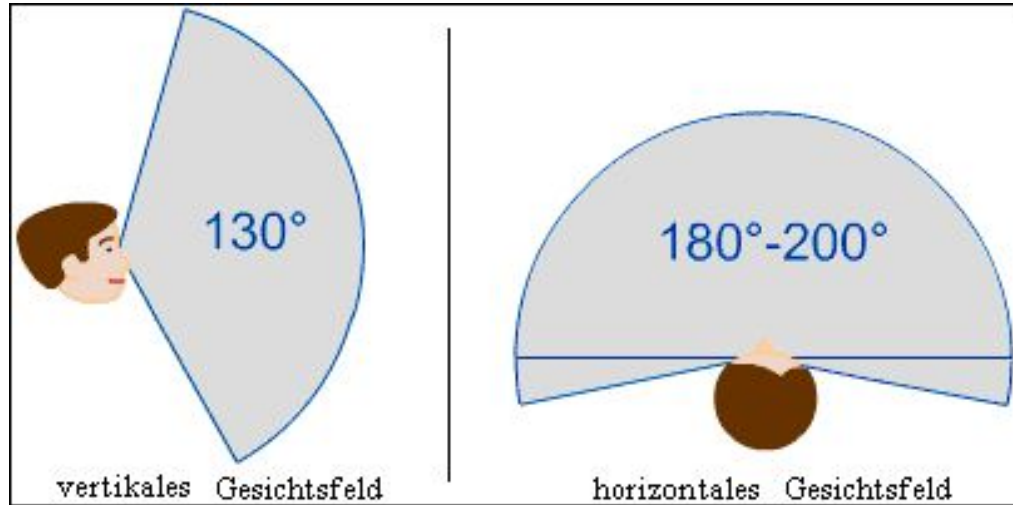
- Divide the field into 5 vertical channels of equal width. The half-spaces are the channels in either side in between the center and outside channels.
- The half-spaces are an important part of a number of tactical considerations...



Two things to understand first...

Range of vision

- Humans have a 180-200° range of vision.



Diagonals

- Diagonal movements, especially passes, by a team in possession are generally accepted as the most effective in soccer because they force the defending team to shift both vertically and horizontally, thus increasing the likelihood that they get pulled out of position.

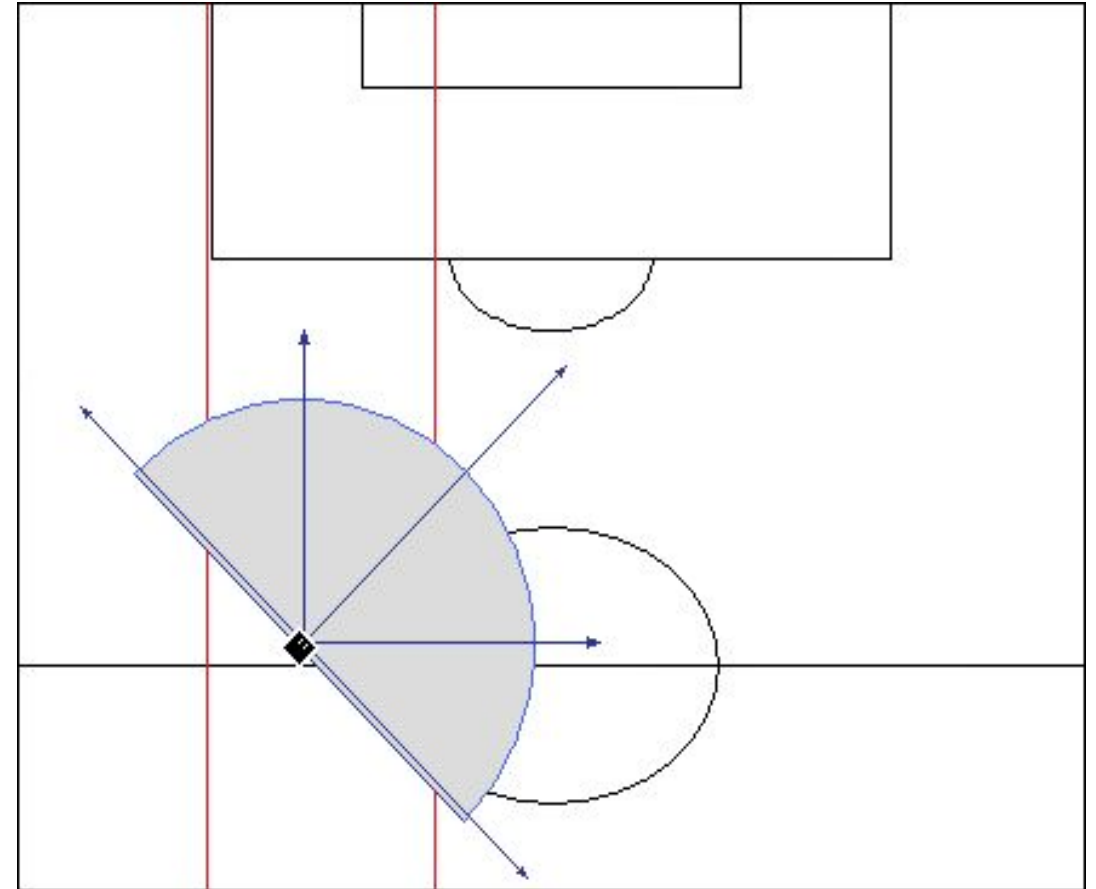
- <https://spielverlagerung.com/2016/09/05/tactical-theory-the-offensive-and-defensive-potential-of-the-blind-side/>

- <https://spielverlagerung.com/2015/08/05/bayern-ac-milan-30-douglas-costa-arturo-vidal-and-diagonality/>

	Central Channel	Flanks
(+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A player can survey the field 360° to consider his passing and movement options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, more time and space on the ball • A player who faces diagonally forward... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases the number of passing options within his 180-200° range of vision • Still faces the goal
(-)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A player who faces diagonally forward... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns away from goal • May likely decrease the number of passing options he can view within a 180-200° range of vision. • Negatively impacts his ability to survey valuable parts of the field going forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A player has less options because... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His ability to survey the field is reduced by 180 degrees • It is easy to press here using the touch line as an extra defender

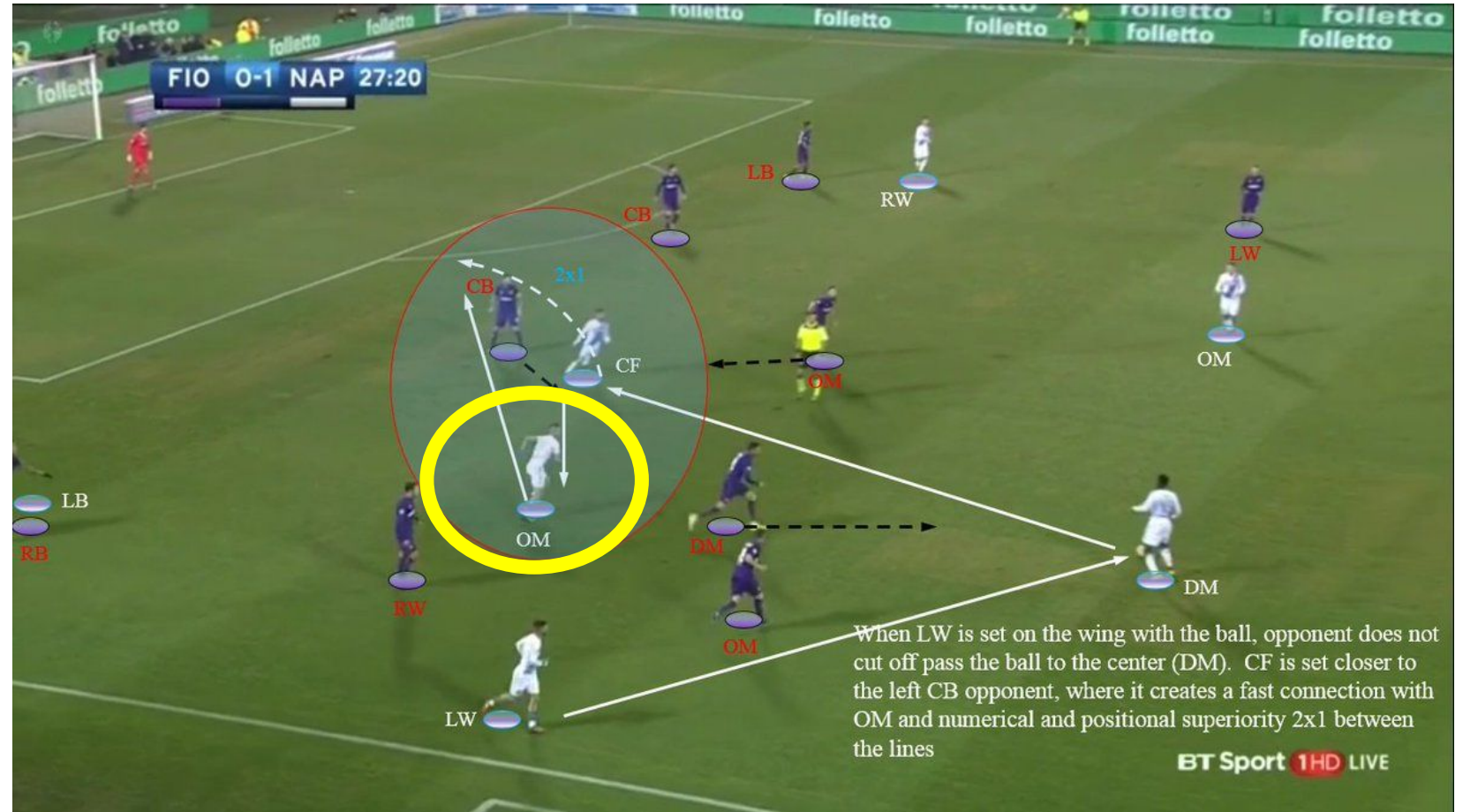
Tactical advantages of the half-space:

- Less crowded than the central channel
- Far away enough from the touch line that it doesn't invite the defending team to press
- When facing forward diagonally, the player...
 - Still has an excellent ability to survey meaningful parts of the field (options left, right, forward, backwards)
 - Has a greater number of diagonal passing options compared to the center of the field.
 - Is still facing the goal.



2. The Third Man

- The player who provides support to the player receiving a pass, often an “outlet pass” in transition.
- **First man:** Passes the ball
- **Second man:** Receives the ball
- **Third man:** Next guy in line to get the ball



Tactical purpose of the third man...

- **Problem:** Because the pass from the first to second man is often a long, forward pass, the second man often receives the ball with his back to goal and with defenders closing him down.
- **Solution:** The third man has to anticipate this problem and be moving to support the second man before or as the ball is played by the first man.
- **Note:** The pass from the second to third man is often a one-touch, lay-off, or “set pass” to the third man, who, facing forward with time and space, is in a dangerous, attacking position.
- **Note:** It is the third man who often provides his team with numerical superiority going forward in attack.
- **Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVfr7OZgpAE>.

3. The lines

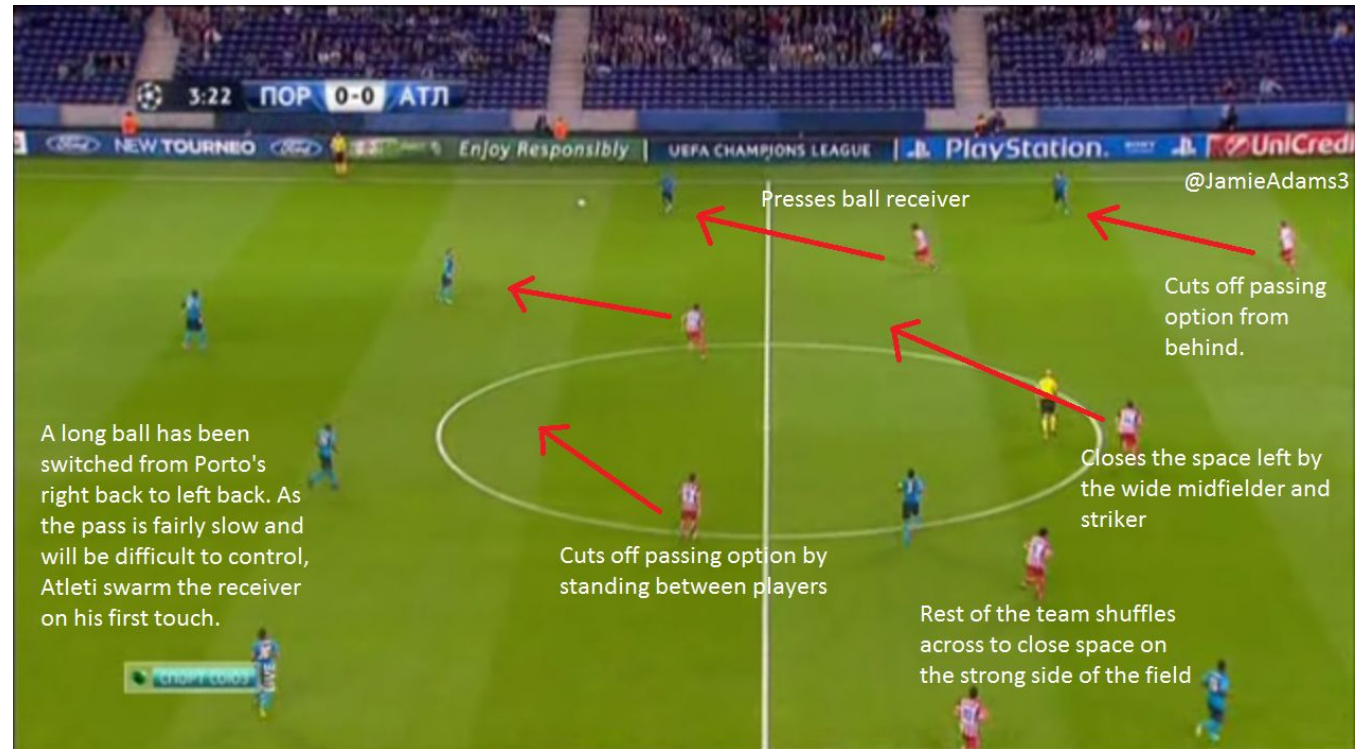
A. Team building out:

- **First line:** The first line of players in front of the GK
 - #4
 - #5
 - #6
- **Second line:** The next line of players formed around midfield
 - #2
 - #3
 - #8
 - #10



B. Pressing/defending team:

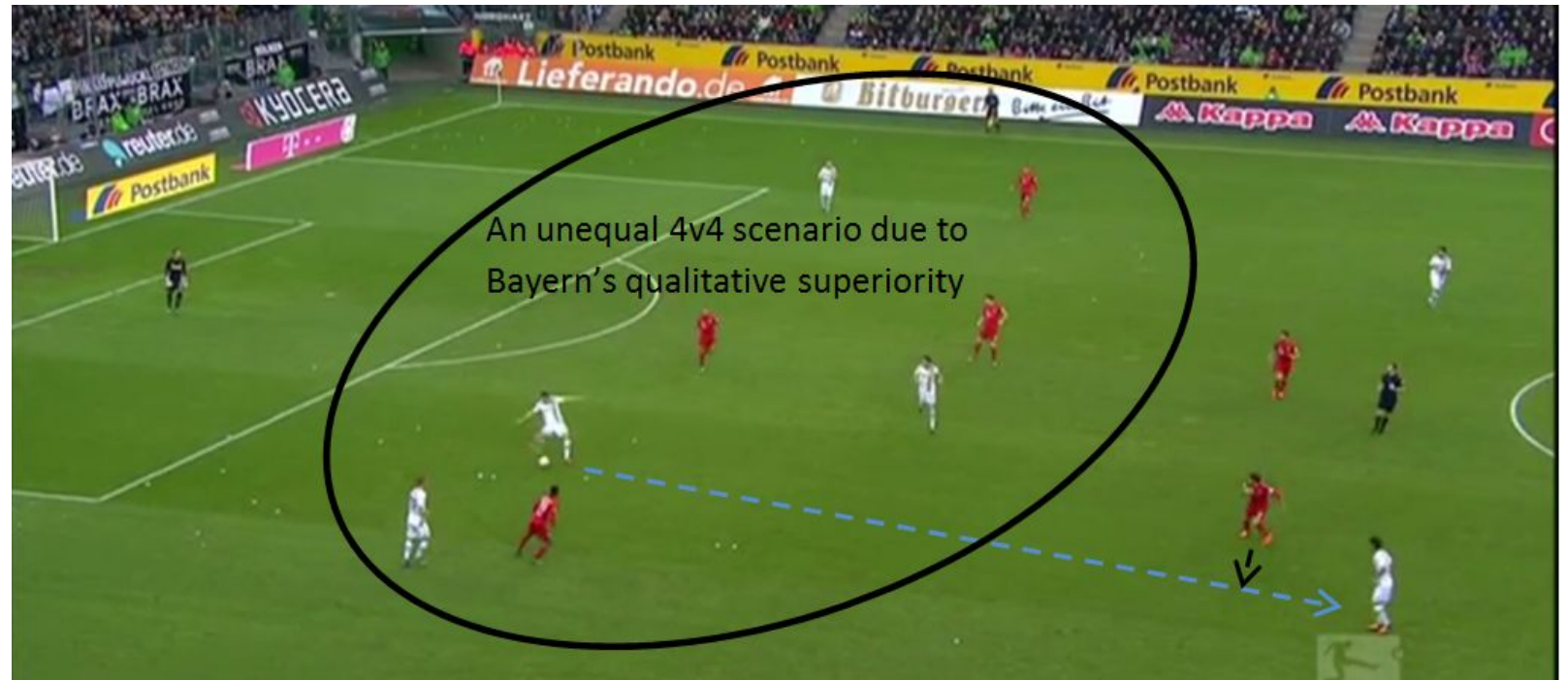
- **First line:** Forwards
- **Second line:** Midfield
- **Third line:** Defense



4. Superiorities

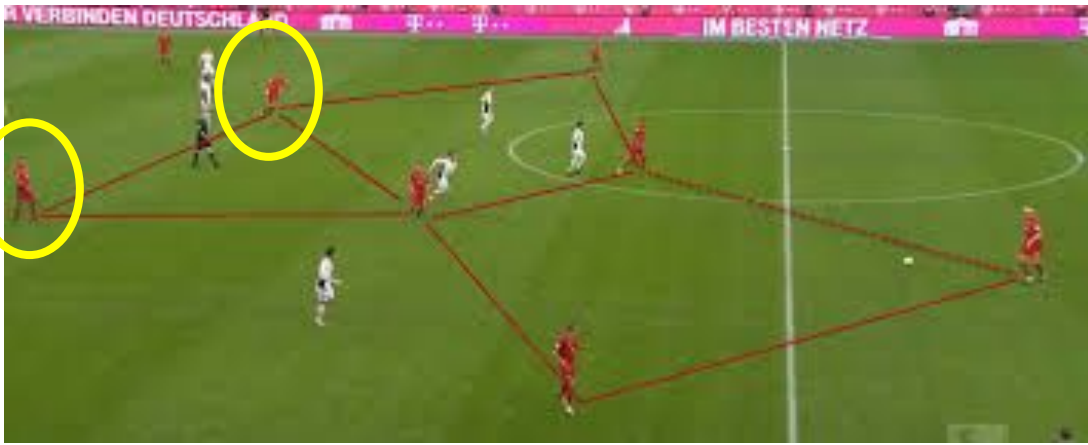
- A. **Qualitative Superiority:** Situations where, although your numbers in comparison to those of the opposition may be equal, the skill or quality of your players is superior to that of the opposing players.

Vidal, Muller, Coman,
and Ribery vs. 4
scrubs ☐



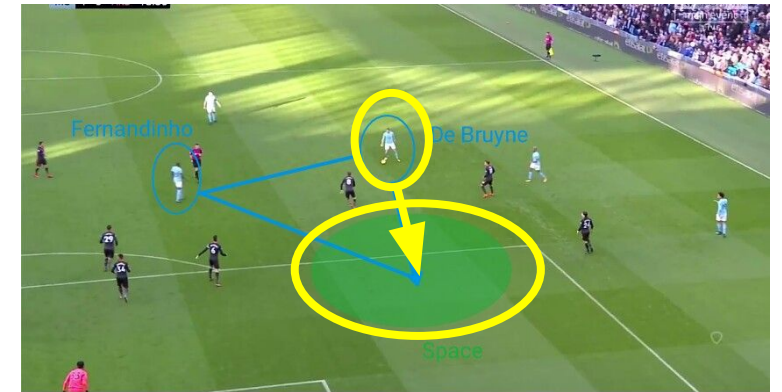
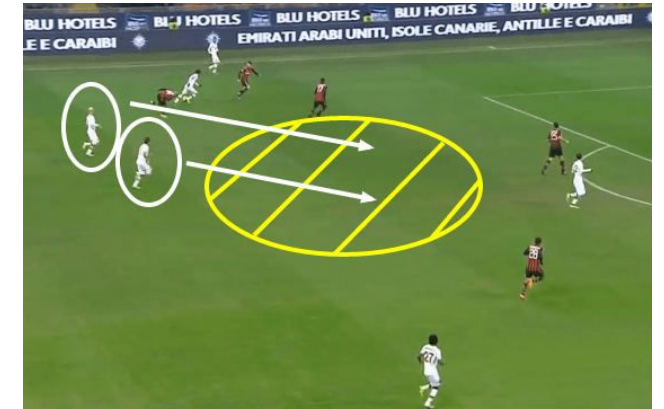
B. Positional Superiority: The superiority of space. It often means to be in a better position to attack the goal than your opponent, or mark, is to defend it. Where one can find positional superiorities varies based on the phase of the game.

○ <https://spielverlagerung.com/2014/12/25/juego-de-posicion-under-pep-guardiola/>



- **In between the lines:** This picture shows Bayern Munich building out of the back. In this phase of the game, a number of their players have positional superiority over their opponent because they are in between their opponent's lines of defense, free and unmarked to receive the ball.

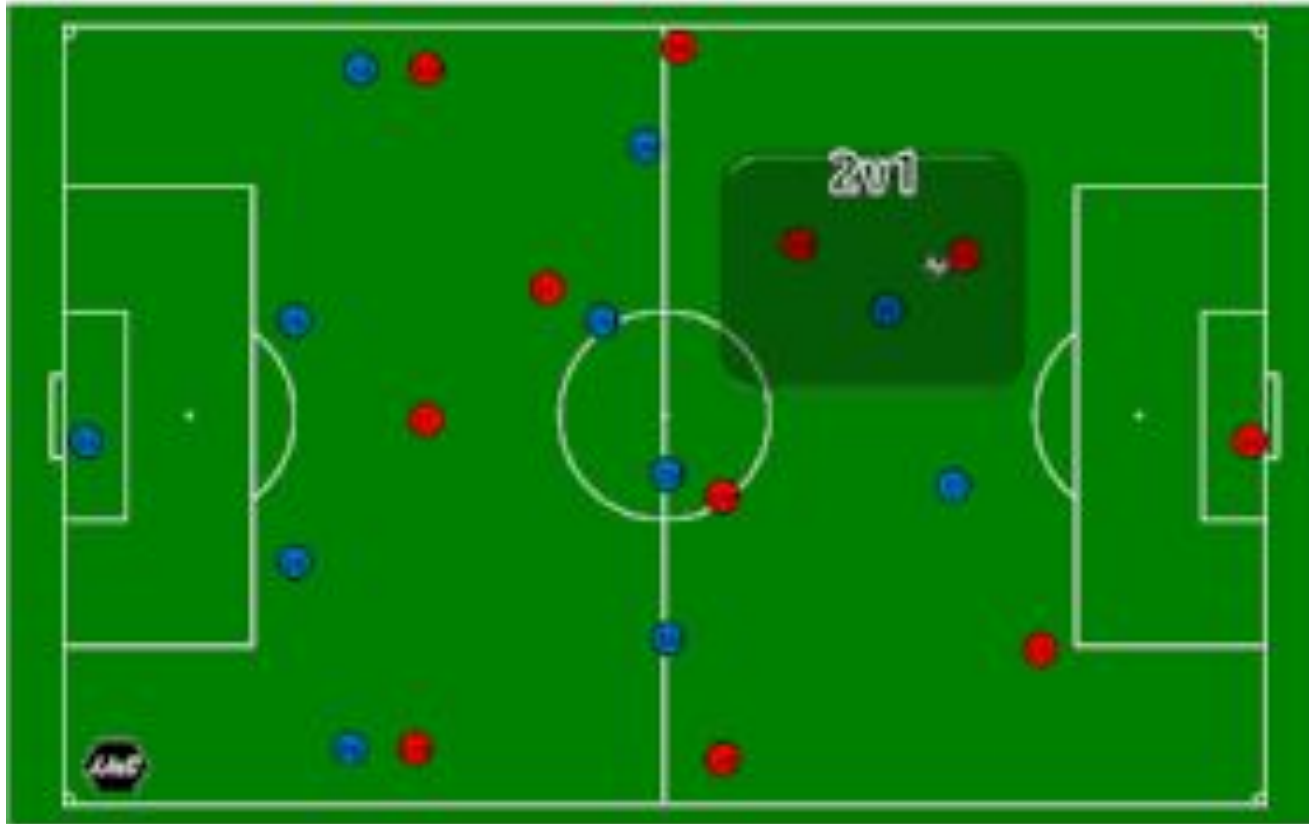
- **With space to attack the goal:**



- **Behind the back line:**
 - <https://vimeo.com/223153424>
 - <https://www.esdfanalysis.com/match-analysis/general-concepts-positional-play/>

C. Numerical superiority: When a team has an advantage in numbers in a part of the field (2v1, 3v2, etc.)

- Players must shift to create numerical superiorities where/when necessary on the field.
- Often provided by third man when building out of the back.
- *Numerical superiority in the center of the field = positional superiority*
- Lends itself to counterpressing
- <https://spielverlagerung.com/2014/12/25/juego-de-posicion-under-pep-guardiola/>

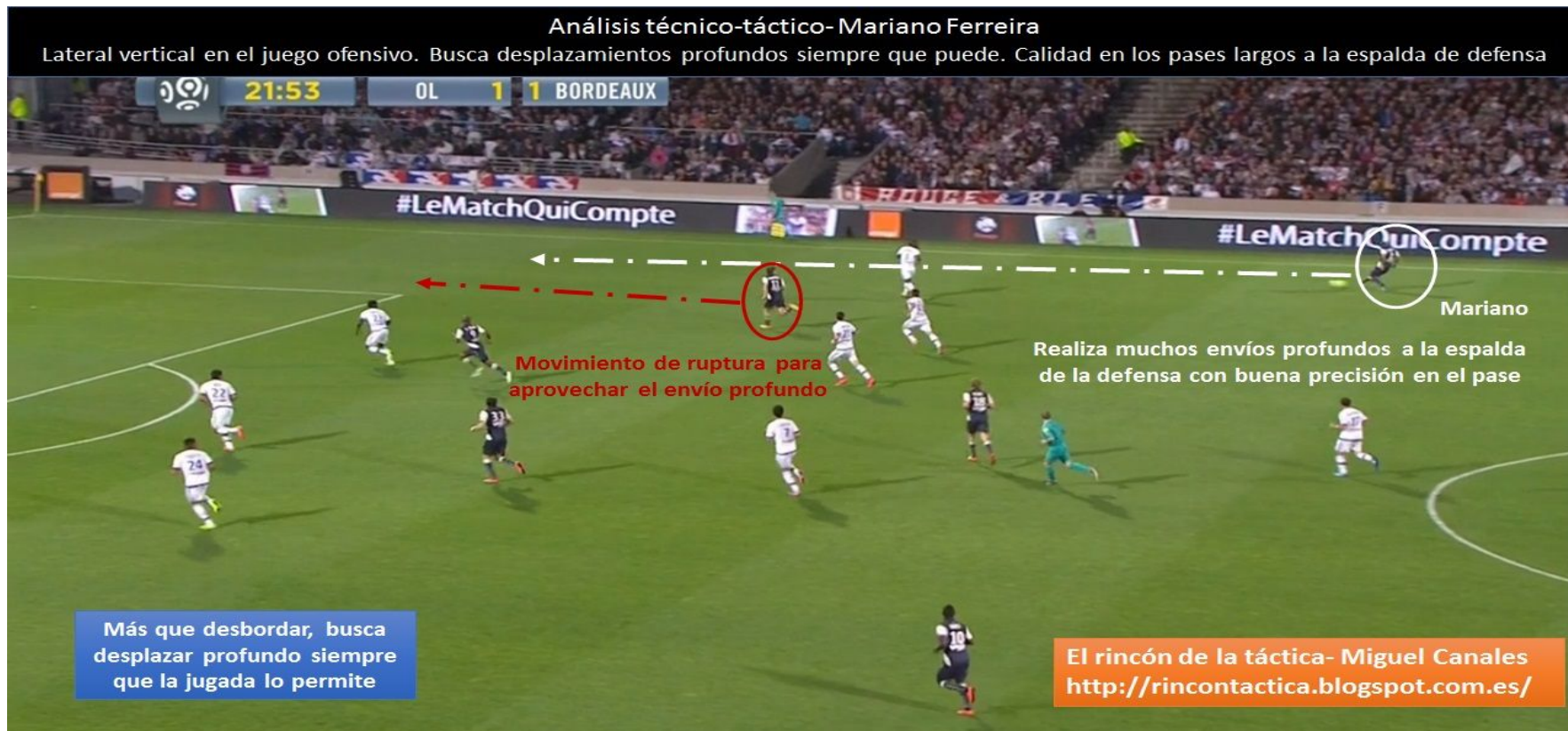


6. The Second Ball

- First Ball: The ball, often from an aerial service, that two opposing players will compete to receive.
- Second Ball: The ball that is free to obtain after no one has succeeded to control the first ball.
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqUtwg1YZGg>

6. “A las Espaldas”

- *Espalda* = “back” in Spanish
- *Buscar la espalda*: To look to get in behind the defense (runs of a forward)
- *Jugar a las espaldas*: To play direct, over-the-top, behind the back line, especially when they are facing forward

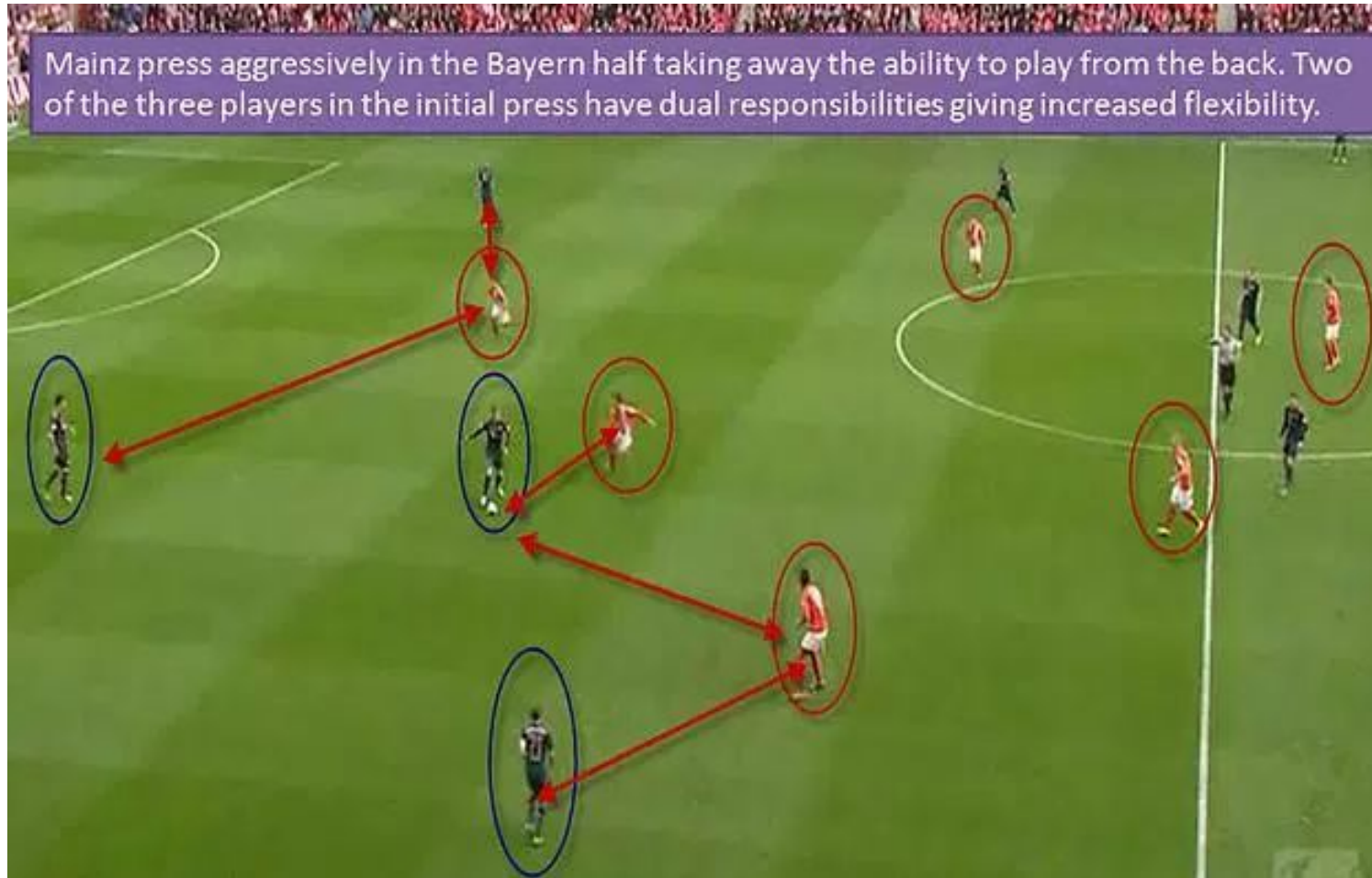


7. Zona de Carga

- Literally, “loading zone,” but what does this actually mean? I need to do more research here.

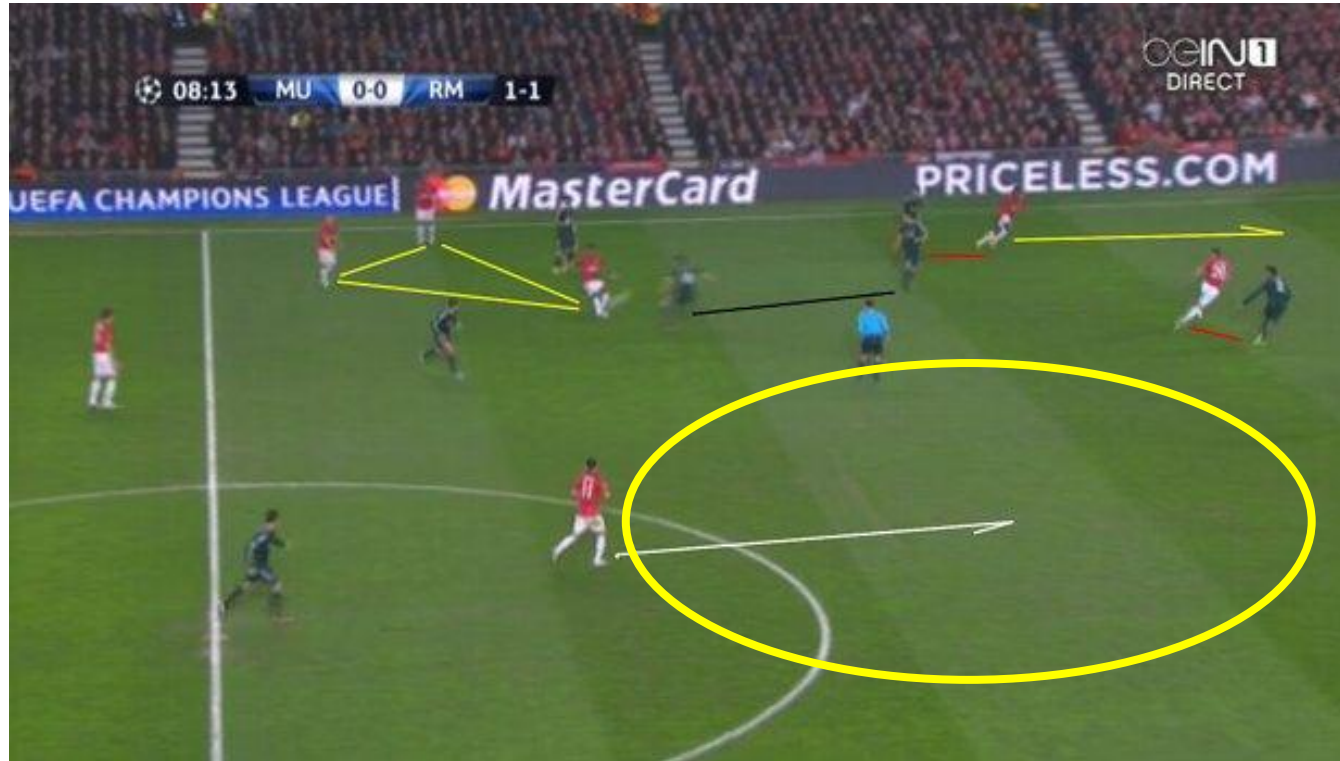
8. High Press

- Presionar en bloque (todos a la vez)



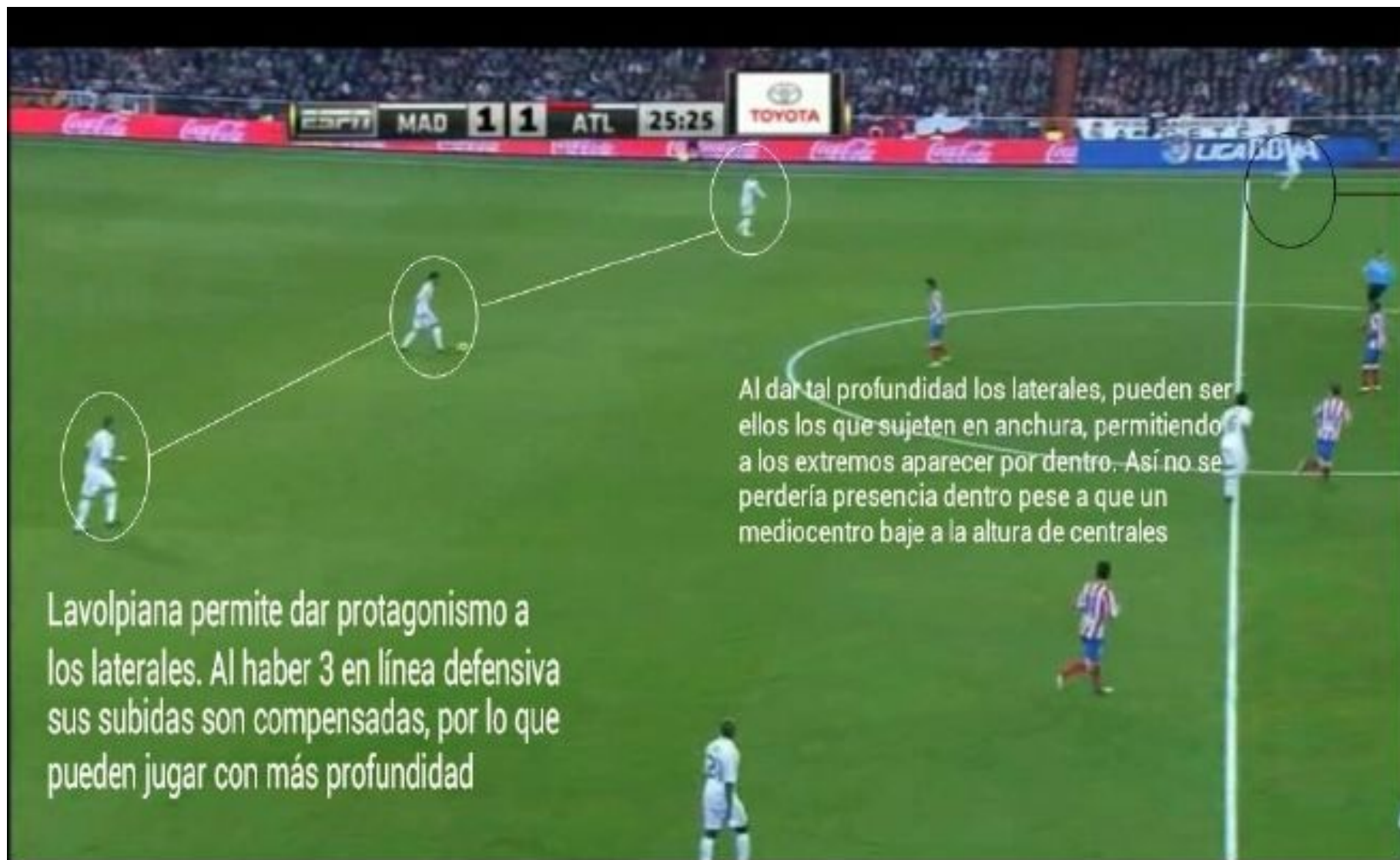
9. The Zone of Acceleration

- **Definition:** Refers to a space occupied by a player with no opposition in front of him, which means that if/when he receives the ball, he can “accelerate” quickly into this space to generate an attack.



- **Nota importante:** A zone of acceleration only exists if it allows you to “eliminate marks.” You don’t want to charge into an empty zone in front of you if you are not “eliminating marks” because then you are effectively running into a press. If no marks are there to be eliminated, wait and/or pass around until the opposition presses or chases, which is pulling them out of position, and then go forward.

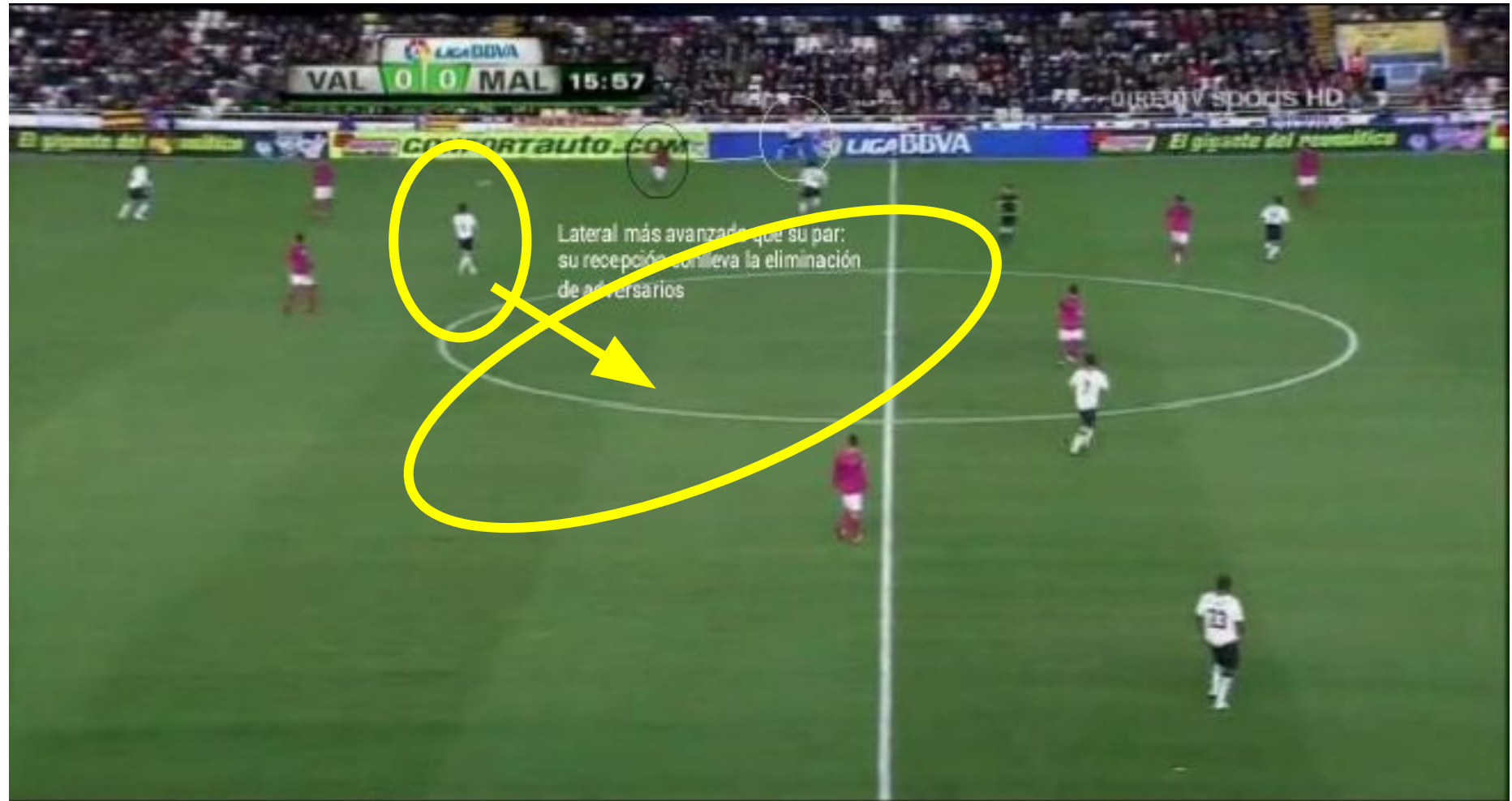
No zone of acceleration:



10. “Accelerate the game”

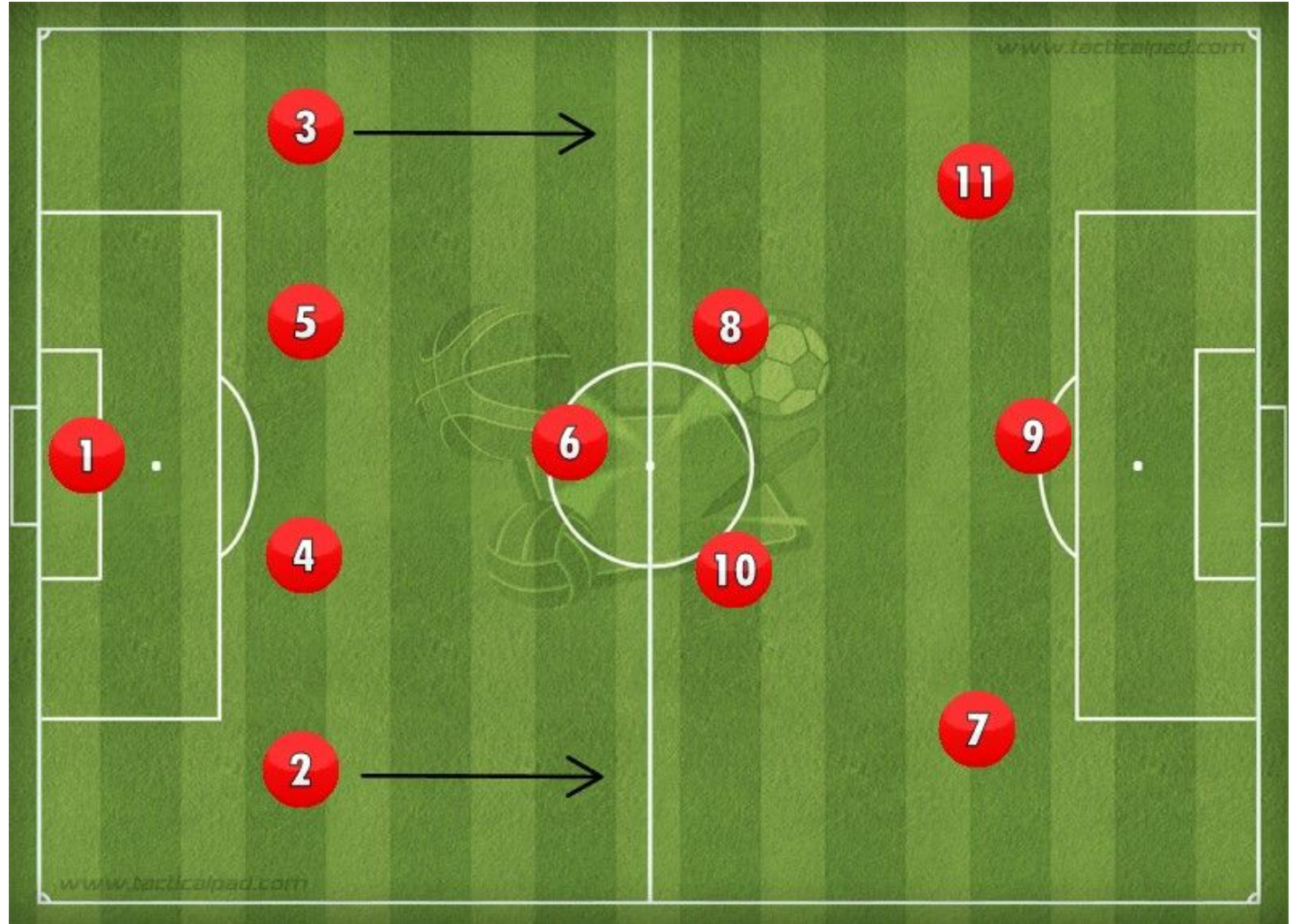
- **Definition:** To attack the zone of acceleration.

In position
to
accelerate
the game:



11. The number system

- **Definition:** A system of numbers used to identify specific positions on a field.
- **Nota importante:** Shown here is a 4-3-3 system.



12. La Superación/Eliminación del Par

- **Definition:** Literally, the “overcoming / elimination of the mark.”
- **Tactical significance:** When a player overcomes or eliminates his mark, it means that he has advanced past his mark with the ball either by dribbling or receiving a pass (positional superiority), and is now creating or about to create numerical superiority in another part of the field while continuing the attack.
- <https://www.martiperarnau.com/la-salida-lavolpiana-2/>



In position
to
“eliminate
his mark:”



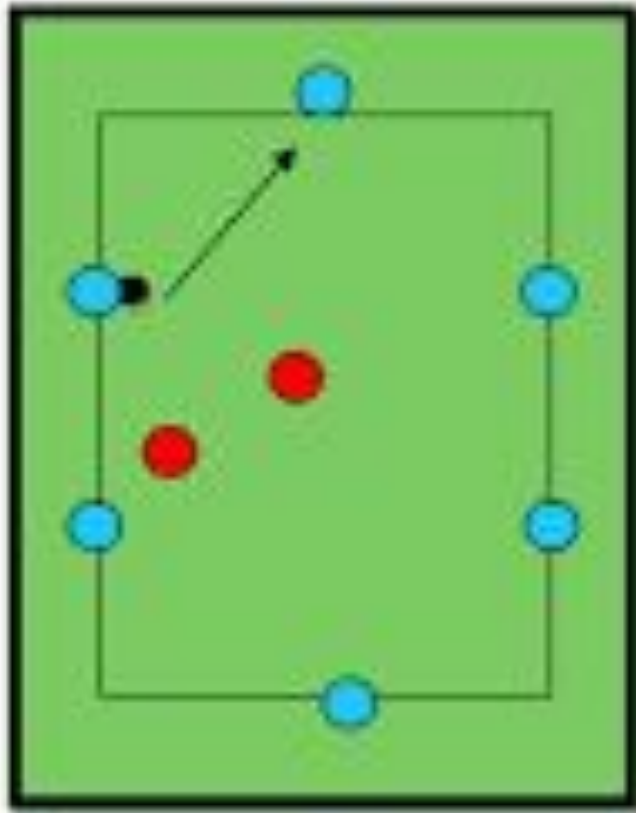
13. Las Zonas del Campo



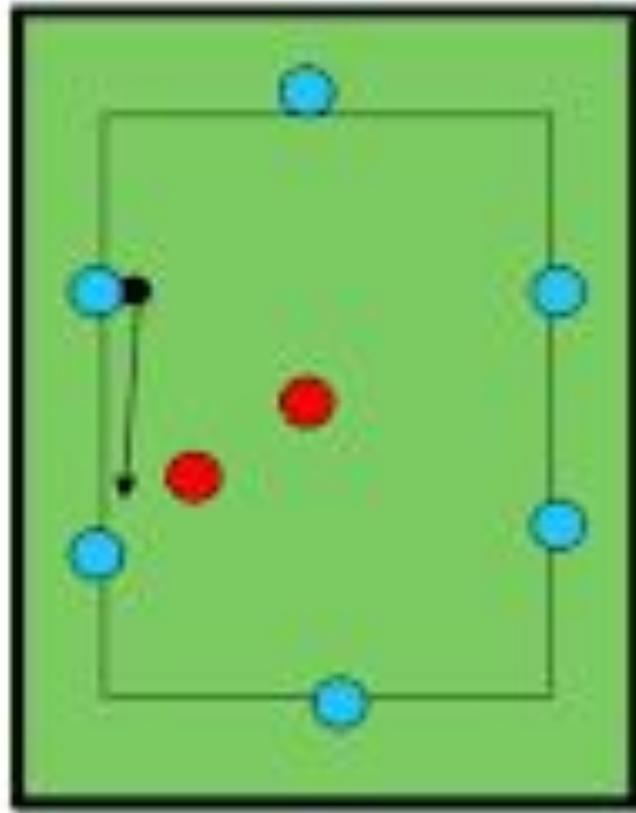
14. Recibir orientado

- **Definition:** To receive facing forward / the goal.
- Tactical importance: When building from the back, players must try to receive the ball in this manner as much as possible.
- Picture?

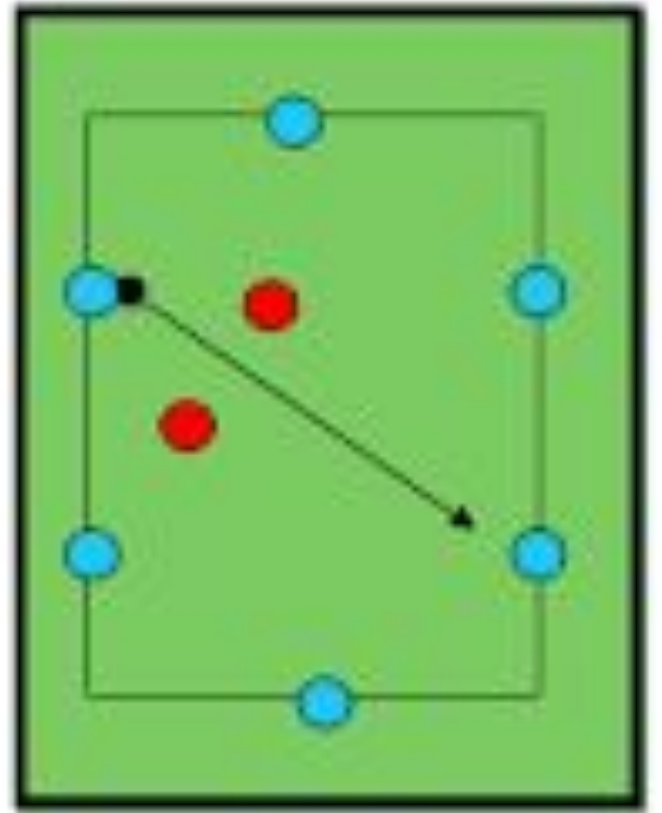
15. Passing Lines



First Line Pass



Second Line Pass



Third Line Pass

III. Coaching the “Exit”

Scenario #1

Defensive obstacle	Attacking response	Session topics
If the opposition...	You...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not press and defends in a low block	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be patient and wait for them to come.• Pass around the back and wait for them to come.• Can advance towards them with the intention of next playing backwards to try to pull forward and/or disconnect one or two of their lines and then playing through the resulting gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting positions• First, second, and third line passes• Passing and receiving• Receiving “orientado”• Establishing/using width and depth in possession

Scenario #2

Defensive obstacle	Attacking response	Session topics
If the opposition's...	You...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First line defends high, but is disconnected from the second line... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to find <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A player in an intermediate position of the field between the opposition's first and second lines who is "orientado" and can "accelerate the game. b) A player facing a "zone of acceleration who can exploit the space in between the opposition's first and second lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing & receiving over longer distances (6-yd box to second line / beginning of the middle third) • Receiving "orientado" • Second man lay-offs • Third man movements to receive • Dribbling (with speed, to eliminate mark, to find pass)

Scenario #3

Defensive obstacle	Attacking response	Session topics
If the opposition's...	You...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and second lines defend high, but are disconnected from the third line, which has kept its depth... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play direct with the expectation that the difficulty of defending direct balls by the opposition's back line will result in a clearance, or a "second ball," into the space between their back and middle lines for your to exploit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending & receiving aerial balls • Battling to win aerial balls • Winning first and second balls • Second man lay-offs • Third man movements forward to receive

Scenario #4

Defensive obstacle	Attacking response	Session topics
If the opposition's...	You...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defends in a high block/press	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play direct, over-the-top, “a las espaldas”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sending & receiving aerial balls• Buscar la espalda: Movement/runs of the #9 to get in behind and aerial balls from the #4, #5, and #6 to connect with him• Winning first and second balls

Scenario #5

Defensive obstacle	Attacking response	Session topics
If the opposition...	You...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Man marks your players, including those in wide areas...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have players rotate positions with teammates• Have players move to pull defenders out of position and open up important areas of the field to exploit• Dissect them through the middle	

IV. Conclusions

A. Challenges

- **Postureo:** A Spanish term that refers to people using social media to try to convey to others that their existence is way more exciting than it actually is. (Think: Selfies!)
- Is La Salida Lavolpiana *postureo*?



1. You need a very skilled and capable #6.

a) Must have tremendous vision and range of passing ability.

- The Sergio Busquets debate:

- Great positioning
- Poor distribution
- < Xabi Alonso

- <http://www.ecosdelbalon.com/2011/09/salvar-un-a-moda-dificil/>

- Pattern of play: #4 □ #2 □ #6 □ #3 or #8

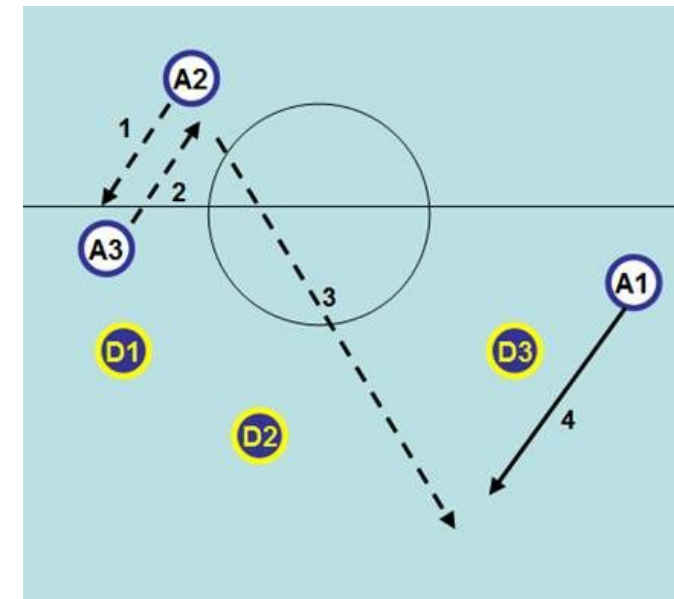
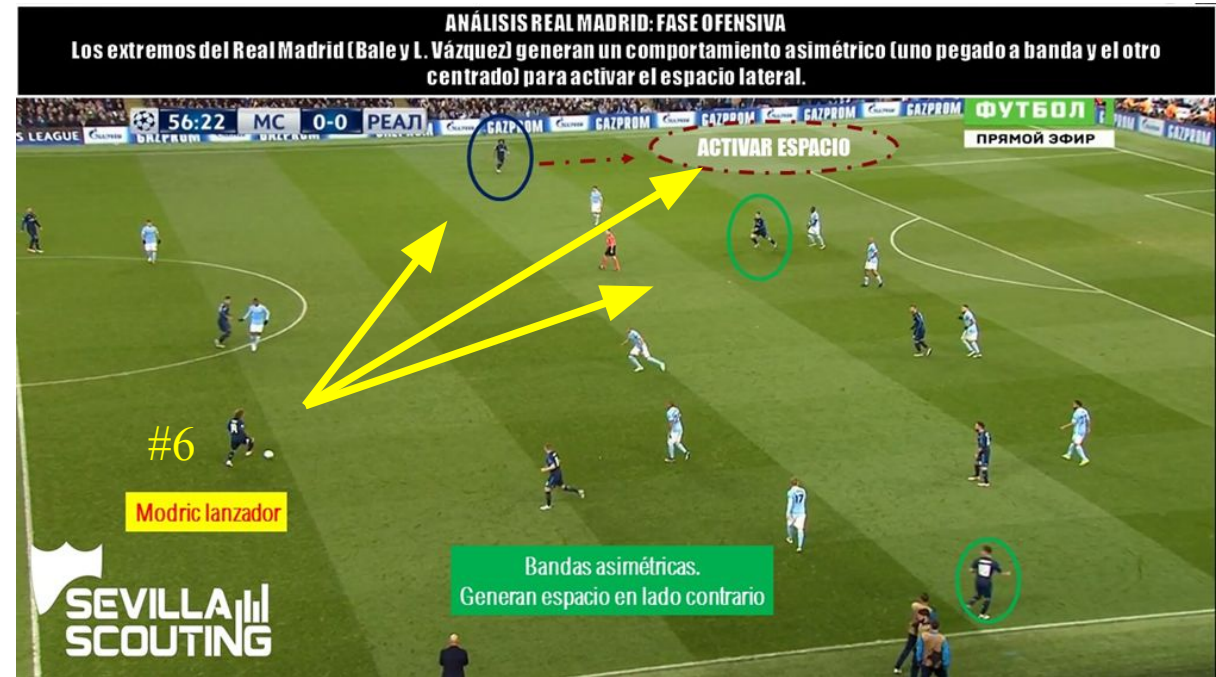
- When the center back plays to the outside back, the defense will shift to the near side. A first line pass from the outside back to the holding mid may likely put the holding mid in a position to exploit the defense's shift and find the weak side outside back or center mid with time, space, and a zone of acceleration in front of him to attack.

(<http://www.ecosdelbalon.com/2011/09/salvar-una-moda-dificil/>)

- <https://www.martiperarnau.com/la-salida-lavolpiana-2/>,

- This picture of a third man run/pass kind of illustrates the scenario:

<http://www.smartsoccerguide.com/third%20man%20run.htm>



- b) Must recognize when to insert himself between the #4 and #5.
- c) Must keep balance in the first line when the #4 and #5 advance forward.
- d) In some systems, must occupy a lateral position in the first line.
(Instead of dropping in between the #4 and #5, the #4 and #5 shift either left or right together and the #6 drops in to the open half space.)
- e) In a double-pivot system, he must communicate with the #8 to decide who will drop in between the #4 and #5 to receive the ball.

2. All players must have exceptional technical ability. (<https://www.martiperarnau.com/la-salida-lavolpiana/>)

- Defenders must now also be attackers.
- You are attempting to play through tight spaces.
- You risk losing the ball in your own half. (<http://www.ecosdelbalon.com/2011/09/salvar-una-moda-difcil/>)

3. Establishing width by the #2 and #3 in the second line.

- The weak-side outside back will always be prone to leave his position and drift inwards toward the ball.
- If these players know that the objective is to build through the middle, they may be discouraged, feeling as if they are nothing but decoys.

4. Understanding and precision by the coach.

- If the coach does not understand the intricacies of the “exit,” he may be unable to implement it successfully.
- A lack of understanding by Spain (video): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjNfvztypMA&feature=player_embedded
 - This video shows the Spanish national team trying to build out like La Volpe, but cannot succeed because their #4 and #5 are not wide enough in the first line. The #4 and #5 need to be in either half-space. Without width in the first line, you don’t pull apart the opposition’s first line of defenders in order to exploit passing channels forward.

5. Intelligent and willing players.

- Third man movements: Must be able to anticipate passes and movements of others when deciding how to make their own.
- Must buy into the approach.

B. Advantages

- If you want to build out of the back, La Salida Lavolpiana gives you a number of advantages...
 - a) Numerical superiority:** It creates a numerical advantage against a team defending in the front with two forwards (3v2).
 - a) Four, if you consider the GK (#1, #4, #5, and #6).
 - b) Good distributional positions:** It puts two of the first line players in either half-space, from where they can distribute.
 - c) Qualitative superiority:** It allows your best distributor (if you play him as the #6) to get on the ball as early as possible (in *la zona de iniciación*).
 - d) Diagonals:** With three players in the first line (dividing the width of the field by three) and four in the second line (dividing the width of the field by four), the shape creates a number of diagonal links amongst the players.
 - e) Positional superiority:** By positioning the #2 and #3 as wide as either touchline, it draws defenders wide and opens up zones of acceleration in the middle channel, the most valuable part of the field, through which to build an attack.

C. Final Decision

- Should I use it?
- Go to YouTube, watch “Barcelona 2008-2012 highlights” and “Manchester City 2017-18 highlights” and then decide for yourself.



¡Adios!