

Analyzing The Game

1- Which team is establishing control of the game in terms of:

- a) Territorial advantage?
- b) Ball possession?

2- Is the control the result of:

- a) Tight marking?
- b) Loose marking by opponents?
- c) Physical domination by certain players?
- d) Errors in play of an unforced kind?

3- To what extent are the principles of play being ignored or exploited?

- a) Is there depth defensively?
- b) Do they come through the middle of the field or is there width in the attack?
- c) Does an attack show variation?
- d) To what extent does the team which has lost possession over-commit itself to regain possession?

4- Is the team being stretched territorially? Is this because:

- a) Defenders not supporting attacking play closely enough?
- b) Attackers failing to recover to link up with defenders?
- c) Attackers running away from the man with the ball, particularly when the ball is behind them?
- d) Defenders retreating too soon and too quick?

5- What is the work rate of a team and the individual players? Football is a game which is easy to hide. Some players work hard when the game

is going well and fail to work hard when it goes badly. It is also possible for players to appear to work when, although their energy output is in fact high, they are deliberately working in the wrong place at the wrong time. They are players that are afraid to expose themselves to the possibility of failure. More responsible players look bad as a consequence.

6- What is a team's pattern?

- a) Who are the principle feeders?
- b) Where and how do these feeders gain possession of the ball?
- c) Who are the principle receivers?
- d) Where do they move, generally speaking, to receive passes?

7- Is domination coming from team rhythm and effort?

- a) Can their team rhythm be disrupted?

8- Is the dominant team being given too much time or space, or both?

- a) Which players require tight marking?
- b) Which players are failing to contain those players?

9- Where does a team try to penetrate from?

- a) What methods are used to penetrate near the penalty area?

10- Does a side try to attack from certain areas of the field?

11- What are the strengths and weakness of individual players?