

JOSE MOURINHO'S REAL MADRID

A TACTICAL ANALYSIS: DEFENDING



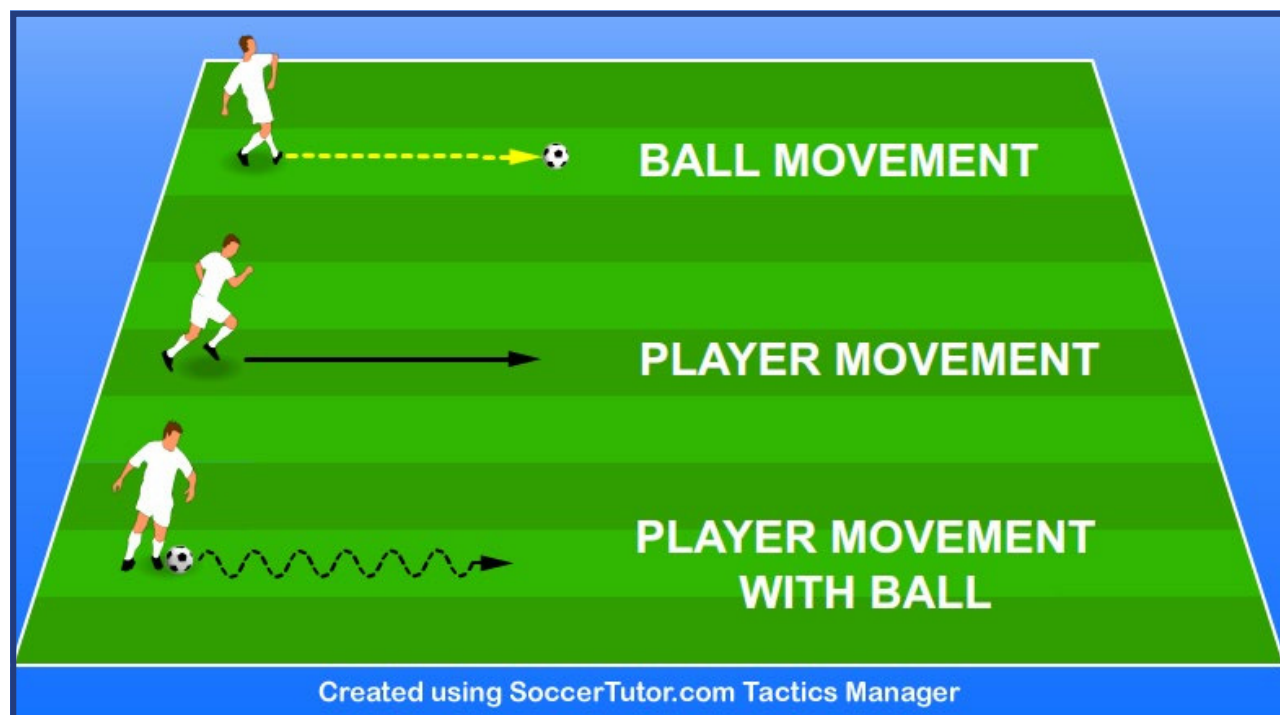
Terzis Athanasios



TACTICAL ANALYSIS FORMAT

1. Outline of the tactical phase of play
2. Progressions within the phase of play
3. Diagrams to support the positions and movements of the players
4. Assessment of the phase of play

KEY



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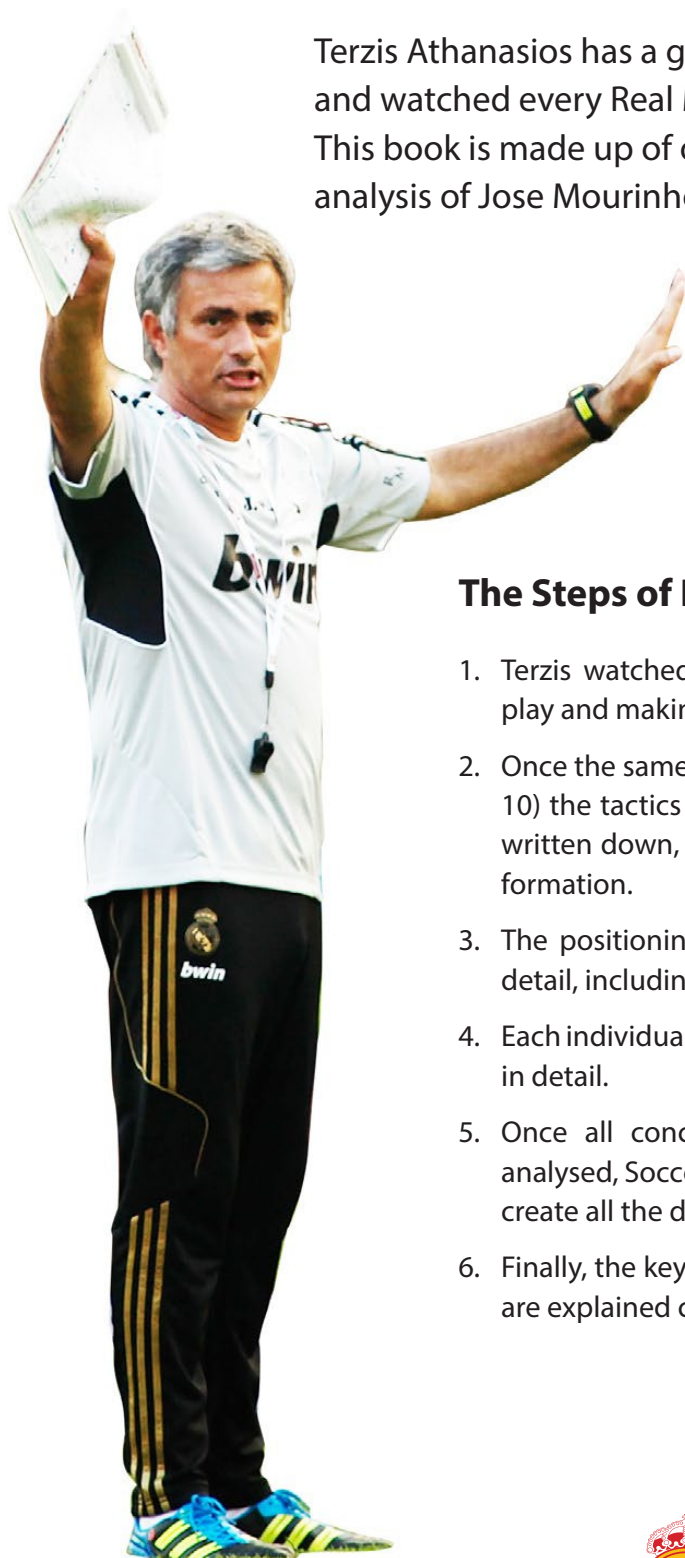
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HOW THE PHASES OF PLAY WERE PRODUCED FOR THIS BOOK

Terzis Athanasios has a great skill of analysing games tactically and watched every Real Madrid game during the 2011-12 season. This book is made up of over 1000 hours of extensive research and analysis of Jose Mourinho's side.



The Steps of Research and Analysis

1. Terzis watched the games, observing Real Madrid's patterns of play and making notes.
2. Once the same phase of play occurred a number of times (at least 10) the tactics would be decoded and more detailed notes were written down, often separated according to the opposing team's formation.
3. The positioning of each player on the pitch is studied in great detail, including their body shape.
4. Each individual movement with or without the ball is also recorded in detail.
5. Once all conceivable phases of play had been studied and analysed, SoccerTutor.com's Tactics Manager software was used to create all the diagrams in this book.
6. Finally, the key aspects of Real Madrid's tactics were assessed and are explained clearly with notes and detailed descriptions.

HOW TO USE THIS CONTENT IN YOUR PRACTICES AND SESSIONS

Some coaches may ask 'How do I use these phases of play to create practices and sessions?'

Here we are going to show you how.

We are going to use a phase of play shown below from Chapter 3. This is a phase of play which was repeated many times by Real Madrid in the 2011-12 season.

MAINTAINING SAFETY AND BALANCE IN AN OPEN BALL SITUATION: CENTRAL MIDFIELDER IN SPACE

On diagrams 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12, there is an open ball situation and the ball carrier has moved forward with the ball in space.

On diagram 2.10, the ball carrier No.6 moves forward with the ball. Alonso moves to close him down. Until he manages to do it, there is an open ball situation. All 4 Madrid defenders move back to retain a safe distance and to prevent the forwards from receiving the ball in the dangerous areas.

Ramos follows No.9's diagonal run and together with Pepe they seek to prevent No.9 from receiving a vertical pass.



On diagram 2.11, the situation progresses. Alonso has reached No.6 and contests him. This is now a closed ball situation and No.6 loses the chance to pass the ball forward. As soon as the Real defenders assess the new tactical situation, they stop moving towards their own goal.



Finally on diagram 2.12, No.6 is under Alonso's pressure and moves towards the sideline. As the ball cannot be passed forward the 4 defenders step up a few yards and restore the team's compactness while also leaving the opposition's forwards in an offside position.



EXAMPLE PRACTICE

DEFENDING AN OPEN BALL SITUATION



Objective

To develop defending in an open ball situation and offside tactics.

Description

Using a full size pitch, 4 defenders and a defensive midfielder practice this tactical situation. The 1 attacking player starts with the ball. All 6 players in the practice start in the positions on the cones as shown.

The attacking player starts with the ball. As soon as he starts to dribble forwards, the 4 defenders move back to the cones behind as if they were tracking runners. The defensive midfielder sprints across to close down the ball carrier.

As soon as the defensive midfielder closes down the ball carrier, all 4 defenders need to sprint forwards together in a line. This is because the tactical context has been changed to a closed ball situation. The movement would leave the attacking players in offside positions.

Coaching Points

1. The timing of the defender's movement is the key here. The movements back and forward need to be at exactly the right moment.
2. The movement of the 4 defenders needs to be in unison, making sure they all remain in a straight line together.
3. Start of the drill slowly and gradually increase the speed.

PROGRESSION

An example where there is an open ball situation and the defenders track the runners.



When a closed ball situation is achieved the defenders move forward in a line, leaving the forwards offside.



Objective

To develop defending in an open ball situation and offside tactics.

Description

Using a full size pitch, 4 defenders, a defensive midfielder and 4 attackers practice this tactical situation. All 9 players in the practice start in the positions on the cones as shown.

The attacking player starts with the ball. As soon as he starts to dribble forwards, the 3 forwards make runs in behind the defence to receive the ball. Once he crosses the halfway line in between the cones he is allowed to make a pass. Their aim is to score a goal.

The defenders track the runs as there is an open ball situation. Their aim is to prevent a shot on goal and clear the ball.

If the defensive midfielder is able to close down the ball in time and prevent him making a pass, a closed ball situation will be achieved. At this point, all 4 defenders need to sprint forwards together in a line. The movement leaves the attacking players in offside positions.

Coaching Points

1. This exercise can also be used to practice attacking in the same situation.
2. Use players in their correct positions to practice their specific roles and responsibilities.
3. The timing of the defender's movement is the key here. The movements back and forward need to be at exactly the right moment.
4. The movement of the 4 defenders needs to be in unison, making sure they all remain in a straight line together.
5. The pass in behind the defence needs to be weighted well for the attacker to run onto the ball.
6. You can introduce a points system to encourage competition between the 2 teams.

CHAPTER 4

REAL MADRID IN THE DEFENSIVE PHASE AGAINST THE 4-4-2

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USING BODY SHAPE TO PREVENT POTENTIAL PASSES

This time, on diagram 9.12, the pressure is being put directly on the goalkeeper by the centre forward at an angle. Benzema uses his body shape to prevent the pass towards No.5. Ozil, because of Benzema's clever positioning can focus more on No.6 and leave No.8 free of marking. Ronaldo moves a few yards forward and is ready to close down No.4 if he receives the ball from the goalkeeper.



As the pass is directed to No.4, Ronaldo moves forward and puts pressure on him. At the same time he blocks a possible pass towards No.2 who is in an advanced position. Benzema uses a clever position which enables him to block the pass towards the goalkeeper and also be able to carry out double marking if the pass is made to No.6.

Ozil moves close to No.6. Alonso moves towards the side to cover No.2 and to block a possible vertical pass. Khedira shifts towards the strong side and so does Di Maria.



On diagram 9.14, we move forward and the pass is directed to No.6. The new man in possession is immediately under the triple marking of Ozil, Ronaldo and Benzema. Alonso is ready to intervene if No.6 makes his first touch towards the left side.



ASSESSMENT:

Ronaldo uses his body shape to prevent a pass going to No.2 who is free in space. Benzema positions himself to prevent a switch of play.

CHAPTER 5

REAL MADRID IN THE DEFENSIVE PHASE AGAINST THE 4-2-3-1

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THE OPPOSITION FULL BACK RECEIVES THE BALL ON THE HALFWAY LINE

On diagram 10.21, the ball is towards the right side. Di Maria is in a balanced position and so is Khedira. No.8 moves towards the ball carrier and using one touch passes the ball to No.3.



Di Maria recovers quickly and puts No.3 under pressure from the side. This response enables Real to create superiority in numbers around the ball zone, as Khedira shifts towards the sideline and Arbeloa follows and then leaves his direct opponent.



Carrying on with diagram 10.23, Pepe tracks No.9, retaining a goal side position while Ramos moves back to provide support for him.



**SOCCER****TUTOR**
The background of the cover features a blurred image of Jose Mourinho in a white Real Madrid coaching kit, looking intently towards the left.

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JOSE MOURINHO'S REAL MADRID

A TACTICAL ANALYSIS: DEFENDING

The long awaited study of Jose Mourinho's tactics is finally here with an extensive analysis of his Real Madrid team's 4-2-3-1 formation.

You can now see a full analysis of Real Madrid's defensive tactics which have been so important to their success. They scored 121 goals in La Liga, but they also only conceded 21. This book shows Real's 4-2-3-1 system of play, each player's responsibilities, positioning and movement within every possible phase of play.

The defensive phase was key for Real Madrid and the main features were applying pressure near the opposition's penalty area to regain the ball, aggressive zonal marking across the whole pitch, using intelligent positioning to double mark opposing players and Xabi Alonso's great tactical awareness.

Terzis Athanasios is a Tactical professor of Football and has compiled an extensive assessment of Real Madrid's defensive play after over 1000 hours of studying all the games from the 2011-12 season. Real Madrid won the La Liga title, beating Pep Guardiola's Barcelona team, one of the most successful club sides in history, by 9 points.

This book starts with the characteristics of the players and builds into a comprehensive overview of the defensive tactics employed with clear diagrams and detailed descriptions.

Some of the phases included:

- Assessment of specific defensive play - pressing, defending on the flank/ in the centre, open/closed ball situations, aggressive marking, goal-side marking, tracking runs, defending set pieces etc.
- Strategies used to counter specific formations (the 4-2-3-1, 4-3-3 and 4-4-2).

Don't miss this unbelievable chance for you to learn Jose Mourinho's 4-2-3-1, how the team play and adapt their tactics to all conceivable situations. Their defensive work is key to their great success and the blueprint is available right here for you to learn and apply the same tactics for your team.

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