

TACTICAL



SERIES

MAURICIO POCHETTINO

by James Lambert



WORLD CLASS COACHING

Tactical Series

Mauricio Pochettino

By

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INTRODUCTION

Mauricio Pochettino is an excellent tactical coach who has adapted to English football showing great innovation and creativity. He is strongly influenced by Marcelo Bielsa, evident in the strategies and mentality of the teams Pochettino develops.

The relationship between Pochettino and Bielsa started in 1985 when Bielsa was working in Youth development taking Pochettino into his set up at 13 years old. Bielsa is a mentor and role model for Pochettino but like all special coaches Pochettino has also implemented stamp on his teams. With an apprenticeship at Espanol to whom he finished is playing career with, success at Southampton leads to Tottenham coming in for the talented coach.

In 2011 I was given a task on my A license to analyse Chile Under 20s, the Chilean national teams were set up and managed by Marcelo Bielsa.



While coaches now are using different formations, they all allow for positional play; all have good passing support for all passes, due to the player positioning set up to support the ball carrier.

CHAPTER 1 - FORMATIONS

1-3-4-2-1

This playing system fits the Tottenham team Pochettino is building with positional profiles matching to perfection.



Lloris is a sweeper keeper who has great distribution, with good feet and an excellent shot stopper.

Rose and Walker are flexible to play in a back 4 and a back three system, but in a back three, they have even more license to push on and take the width.

Vertonghen, Alderweireld and Dier are all very mobile defenders with very good distribution long and short.

Holding Midfielders have the characteristics to screen, win balls but also have the technical skills to support the attack. Dembele is a complete footballer who is excellent in possession and often starts positive moves with his ability to run with the ball and change the tempo of the game.

Wanyama screens and breaks up play, he excels when the other team counters to slow or stop the counter attack. Wanyama is one of the best defensive midfielders in the game today.

The two deep lying creative players Alli and Eriksen have more freedom in this system, and it is this freedom that can add elements of surprise and creativity to the Tottenham attack. When Son is brought on he also give the team something different, he is excellent in tight areas. Positioning himself in the last line with perfectly timed runs or simple body shape to break the last line.

With Kane playing striker they have mobility, strength, a great team player and of course a goal scorer.



Tottenham also use a two striker system to fir in Janssen and Kane, this gives Dembele freedom to work with Alli, Eriksen, Winks or Son. The roles of Rose and Walker are the same, often pushing high to take the width.

When they have fall behind in games they have switched to the 4-2-3-1 to try and overload the central areas.

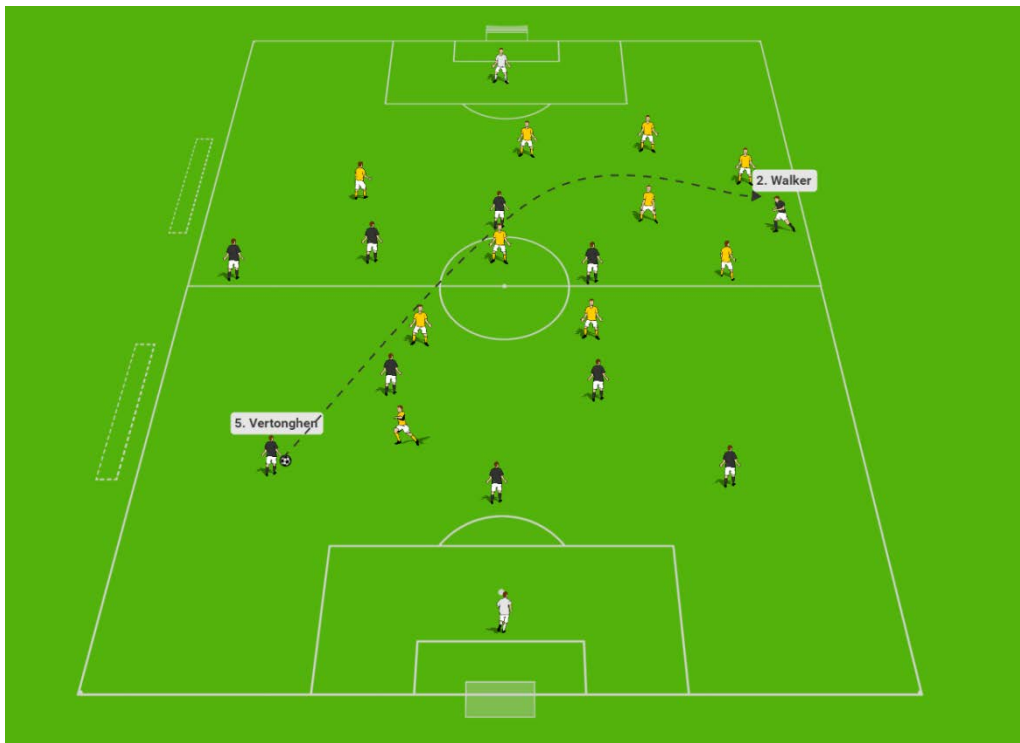


On the right side Eriksen plays inside inviting Walker to take the width, Son mostly plays out on the left but at times he may move to the right wing allowing Rose to push forward. The system is not rigid, it is very flexible with many central rotations to try and break down the opponent.

CHAPTER 2 – BALL POSSESSION

1-3-4-2-1 Build-up patterns from the back third

In the early build-up of a back three, both fullbacks push on to create a five man attack with the two attacking midfielders Alli and Eriksen ready to support. Tottenham mix their game up and do at times play longer balls.



The switching ball is used on a regular basis to Walker who over loads the last line, often this pass is for him to knock down or drop off to supporting players.

Tottenham's, Vertonghen, and Alderweireid have tremendous passing ranges and used a similar switch when playing for Ajax together. The Ajax switch was often after the defensive block had been moved over and the winger just had time to bring the ball down. In the case of Tottenham, Walker is used to challenge in the air with supporting players waiting for the knockdown.

This tactic reminds me of watching lower league football with wide players looking for flick-ons. The long ball below from Alderweireld is perfectly and purposely delivered to the head of Walker who drops it back to Eriksen.



The intensity and level of support Tottenham players provide is difficult to match especially if they win the ball and knock it back.

In this game, the opponent often pressed with three strikers, so it was difficult for Tottenham to build out on every occasion. Lloris used the option of a long goal kick to Walker who attacks the ball well to drop it backward.



Kicking long into the wide areas stops the ball from coming straight back & makes it difficult for the opponent to win and start an attack.

Tottenham always looks to play out from the back and circulate the ball to find opportunities, so they may create forward passes.



Breaking the last line through the longer ball, Alli drops to provide an option for a pass on the ground between the lines. This option was used on many occasions, Rose and Walker push very high and are always ready to make forward runs. Rose breaks the last line with his pace, and even though the pass is not ideal it turns the opponent around, and it becomes a 1v1 situation for the last line defender who clears for a throw in. Now in the front third Tottenham can set themselves up for a more structured attack.

Kane always an outlet when the team is under pressure, as he is always staying high and positioning himself in line with any possible forward balls.



Tottenham players support this ball quickly with both Alli, Eriksen and the fullbacks Rose and Walker ready to break quickly.

1-3-4-2-1 Build-up patterns from the middle third

Kane is always an option in the early build making runs for a variety of different passes. Kane is strong and difficult to mark, his movement towards the ball is quick, so the defenders are not able to steal the ball. See below a chip pass for Kane who drops to receive



This type of ball is very difficult for the opponents to win, Kane is excellent at dropping, timing his movement and screening the ball.

Again below Kane drops but this time for a pass along the ground, with a quick touch, he circulates the ball to the other side to assist Tottenham in an attempt to search for space.



Both of Tottenham's left, and right central defenders are very comfortable stepping forwards and involving themselves in the attack.

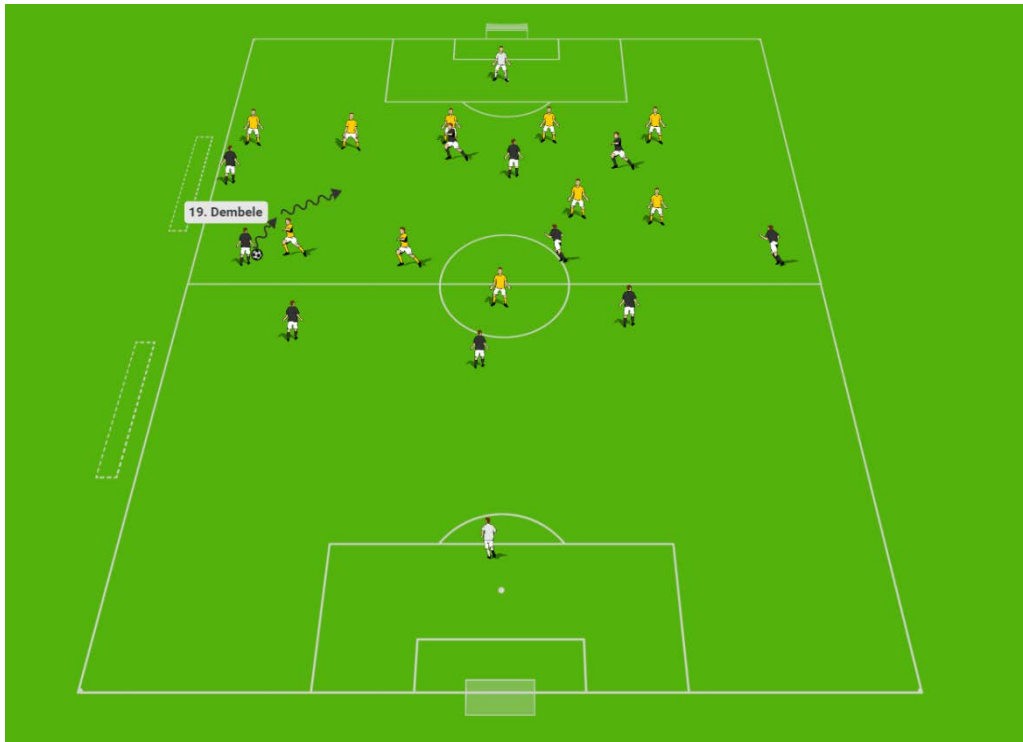
Penetrating passes along the ground between the lines are used too via the attack; the opponent is never quite sure if the ball is going over them or in front of them. The passing range and passing quality of the Tottenham defenders is of a very high level.



Passes between are very effective as the team may break through a defensive line of two or three players. The risk is high because the opponent can see the ball and uses this moment to try and intercept. If a player runs straight towards the ball, this pass carries a high risk. In the image above Alli makes a lateral run towards the ball, to try and pass around the corner to on running Rose. Lateral movement to a penetrating pass is good because the direct opponent is at a disadvantage as he is on the wrong side of the ball.

The shorter options of build-up are through the creative midfielder Dembele, Dembele is tremendously skilful. Dembele enters into 1v1s against his direct opponents, Dembele is excellent at running with the ball and protecting it at the same time. He uses tactical dribbling to draw opponents before he releases to a

free player. Dembele uses deception before he receives, on his first touch and can move the ball both ways if he doesn't beat the direct opponent, he draws many fouls.



Dembele changes the dynamics of the attack, by beating his direct opponents and drawing the next one he eventually frees a teammate. The Tottenham team lift and a front third attack is started.

1-4-3-1-2 Build-up patterns

Tottenham show great flexibility to playing formations, all built around key players with all their top players fitting well within each formation.



Fullbacks Rose and Walkers roles are very similar across all playing formations. Wanyama sits and screens, Dembele involves himself in all build ups with the ability to move up and down the park. Eriksen roams in the pocket looking for an opportunity to find space and create a positive action. Interestingly Pochettino will include a younger player if he feels he fits the profile of the playing system, in this case young English born midfielder Harry Winks.

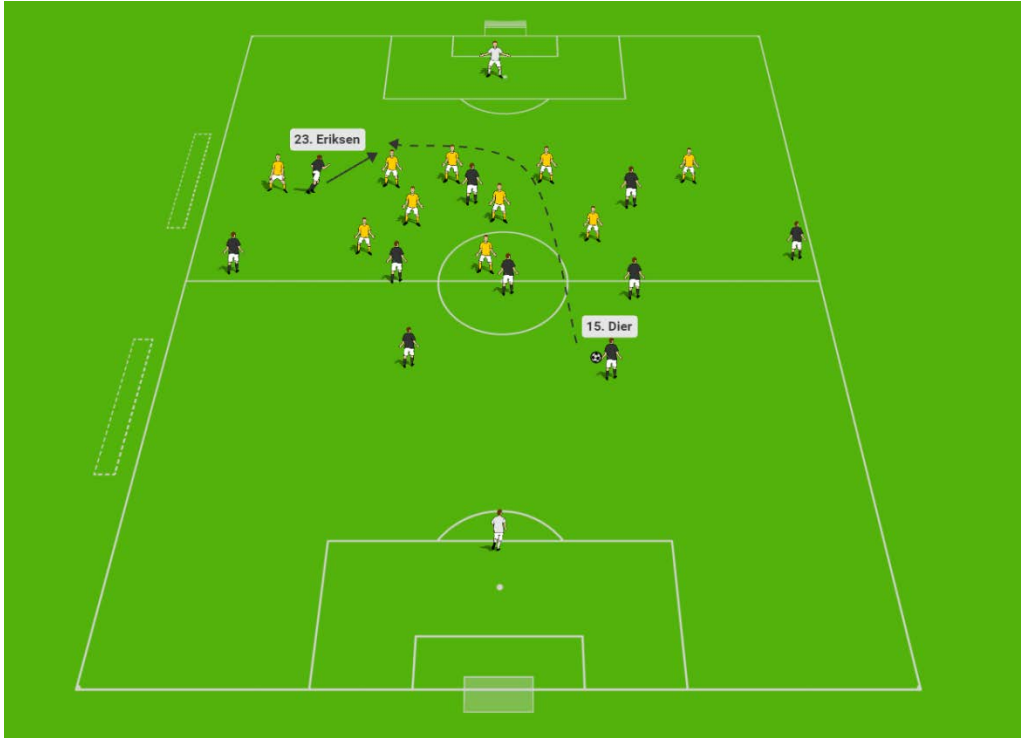
When attacking in the 1-4-3-1-2 Tottenham are patient so they can circulate and build, giving time for the fullbacks Rose and Walker to get higher up the field. With midfielders playing short passes centrally it compresses the opponent and opens up the wide areas.



Once Rose and Walker move up field, the opponent's wide midfielders are pulled back. With Tottenham using two strikers in the last line, the opponent's back 4 are occupied due to the Tottenham strikers positioning between the central defenders and fullbacks.

Pochettino is giving the opponent a tactical problem, Eriksen dropping deep now finds space due to the Tottenham midfield 3 staying compact. With all of this in mind, we will now look at methods Tottenham use to break down the opponent.

Tottenham utilise the long switch options they have shown a strong tendency for, to break the last line.



Eriksen moves into the last line creating a good angle for the long diagonal. The aim with this longer pass is to break the last line and create a goal scoring opportunity.

Tottenham with this goal again switch the ball through the compact midfield with Rose taking the width. Rose receives and takes on the defender, squaring the ball for Janssen.

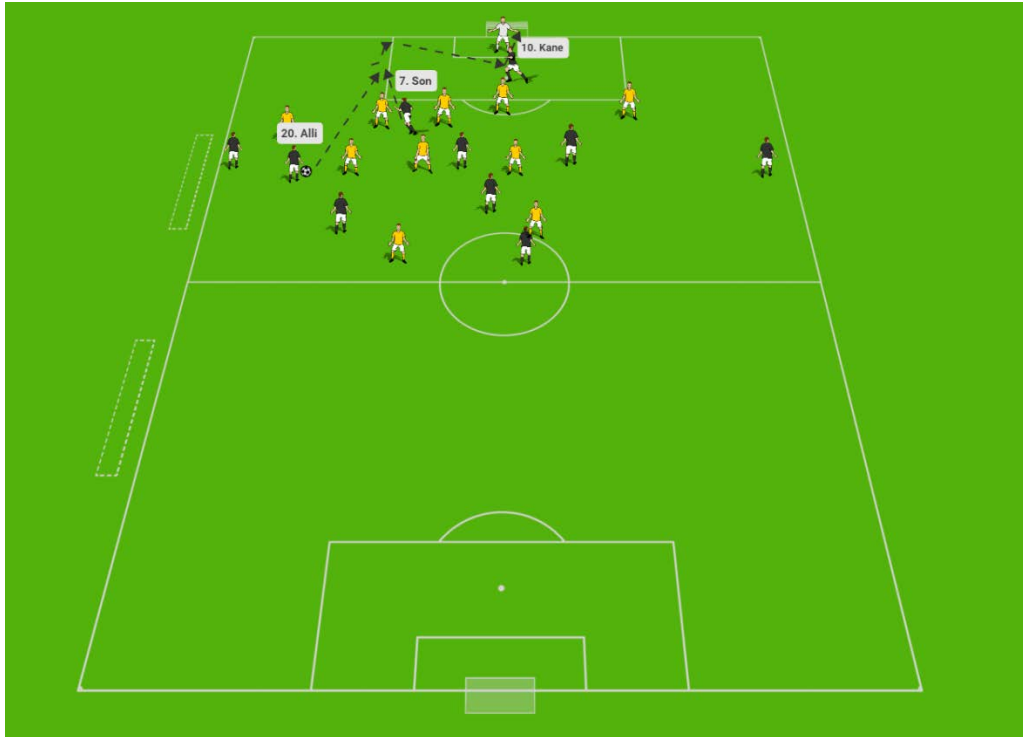


Janssen gets his shot away which is parried by the goalkeeper into the path of Winks.



Winks reacts to the rebound to finish

Tottenham even in tight spaces are looking for opportunities to break the last line, Alli works the ball with a 1-2 to shift the defender to try and find a forward pass.



Son positions himself between defenders on the half turn looking to break the line. Son positioning does not allow him to see the goal but it does create the opportunity for a cut back for Kane.

Tottenham really do push themselves to try and get the positive result. A throw in on the left side in a very congested area still allows them to create an opportunity. Son is excellent in tight areas, Alli in a position to receive, moves out of the space for Son to enter.



7. Son

Son takes a first touch and passes forwards to Winks, then breaks the last line with an explosive run. Using his skill he attempts to cut back on his right foot, the defender fouls him for a penalty.

Key coaching areas to look at are

- Throw ins, players rotating in and out of the space to receive
- Players reading combination play opportunities
- Positive runs to break the last line
- Entering 1v1 situations in the penalty box.

1-4-2-3-1 Build-up patterns

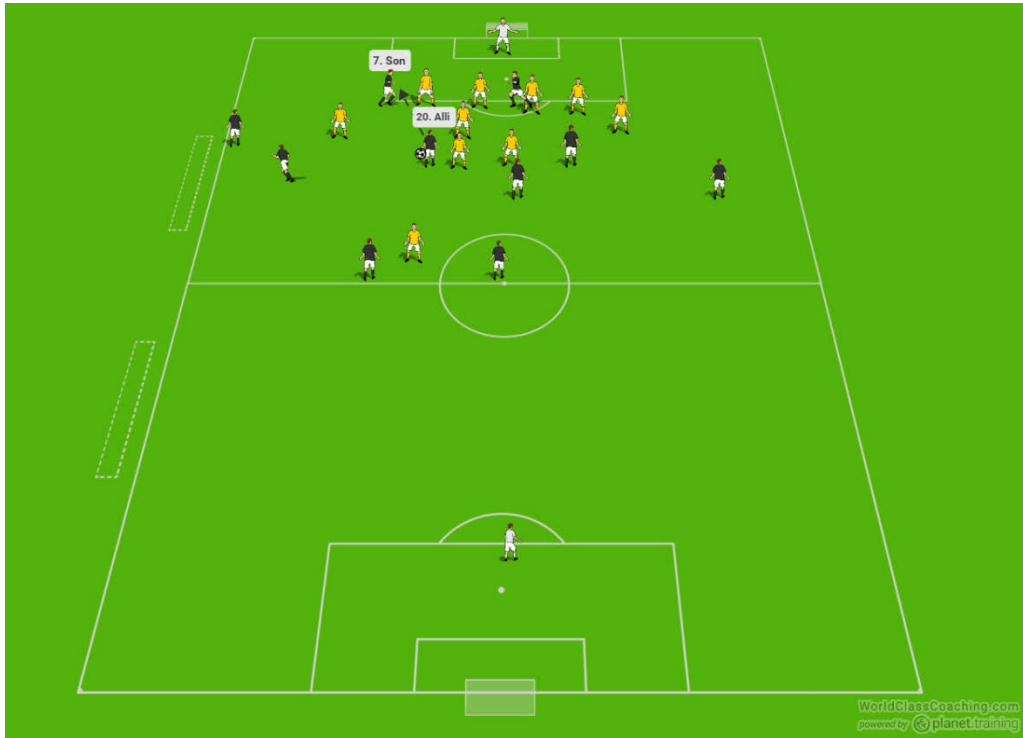
When using a 1-4-2-3-1 Tottenham do allow rotations in the front third, with Walker and Rose always happy to take the width, wide players come inside to overload the central area.



Son on the left tends to stay as a winger with the right side having more flexibility, often Eriksen or Winks are used in this position rather than an out and out winger. Walker is always available to move forward and take the width.

Wanyama continues to screen and Dembele steps forward to support, with Alli, Eriksen or Winks playing centrally behind Kane.

When Tottenham are in the front third all systems and methods used are similar. Again Son sits in the last line looking for a forward pass into his body or in behind. Son is tremendous in tight areas, finding small pockets of space, the dangers are once he enters the penalty box, defenders may have to commit.



Son stands level on the outside of the opponents right back, Alli passes to his far foot and Son breaks into the penalty box. Son, like in the previous penalty he created, cuts back and the defender fouls him.

Tottenham's rotation of positions and collective attacking is very difficult for the opponents to read.



Kane is used to screen and suck in the central defender, Son times a run from the right hand side to support the drop pass then finishes.

Chapter 3 - Ball Possession to Ball Possession Opposition

This is an impressive area of Tottenham's game, the intensity and energy put into winning the ball back instantly is very impressive. Rarely do Tottenham get caught out and they do leave themselves open when attacking at times.

The individual defending qualities of Wanyama, Vertonghen, Alderweireld and Dier allow Tottenham to play man for man at the back. When the ball breaks, Wanyama attempts to slow the counter down while the defenders track runners. The work rate of the more technical players is also very impressive with all players retreating quickly behind the ball with just Kane left forwards.



The image above shows a quick break from the opponents, Vertonghen objective is to delay. Vertonghen forces the opponent into the wide area and

jockeys. This delay gives the hard working Tottenham team to time to retreat and the counter is restricted to a normal build up.

Tottenham attack with high numbers often leaving two defenders back, with a screener in front when using a 4-2-3-1. When the opponents have been forced back Tottenham keep their lines tight so they can pounce on any losses of possession.



A pass is intercepted by the opponent and cleared in the air, although the opponents midfielder stills needs to bring down the ball, Dembele and Wanyama are quick to ambush the midfielder. A foul is given but the moment of a possible counter against disappears. The qualities of the two central midfielders in this moment allow Tottenham to take risk in attack.

When Tottenham play with a 4-2-3-1 Dembele and Wanyama sit together and screen. This allows both fullbacks to attack and open the field while the Creative players play more centrally.



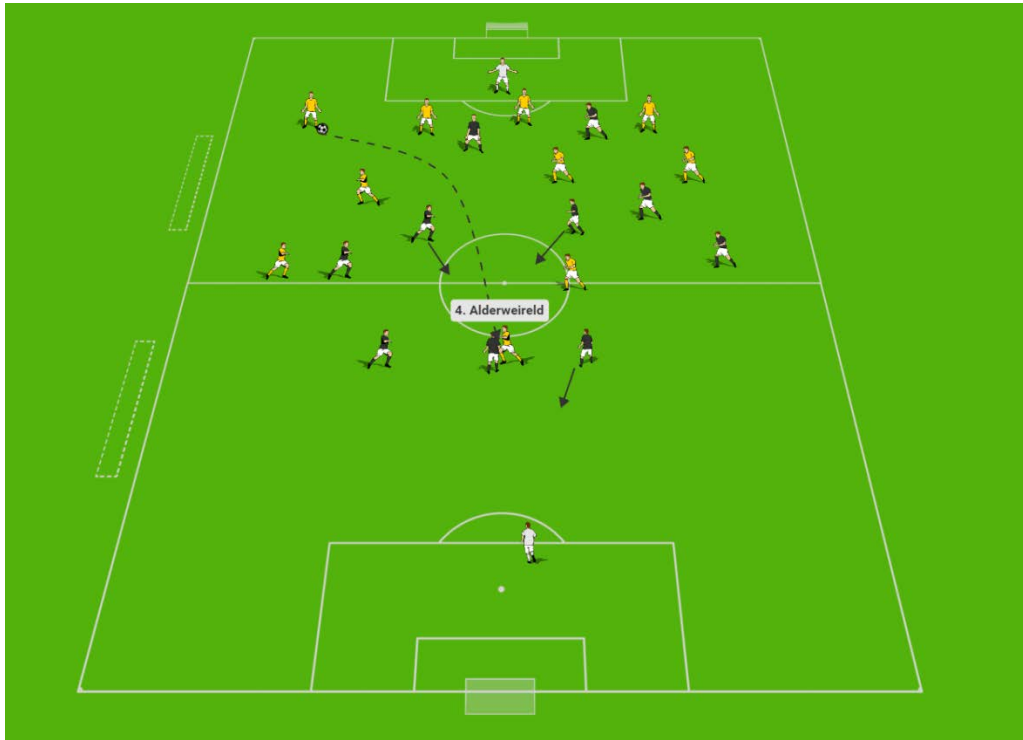
With less numbers in the last line to defend, Dembele and Wanyama need to be in position to delay the counter attack. The image above shows Dembele moving over to slow down the counter attack while the rest of the team retreat.

Tottenham at times attack quickly with just the 3 forwards making runs, although they're outnumbered their pro-active movement can still create goal scoring opportunities.



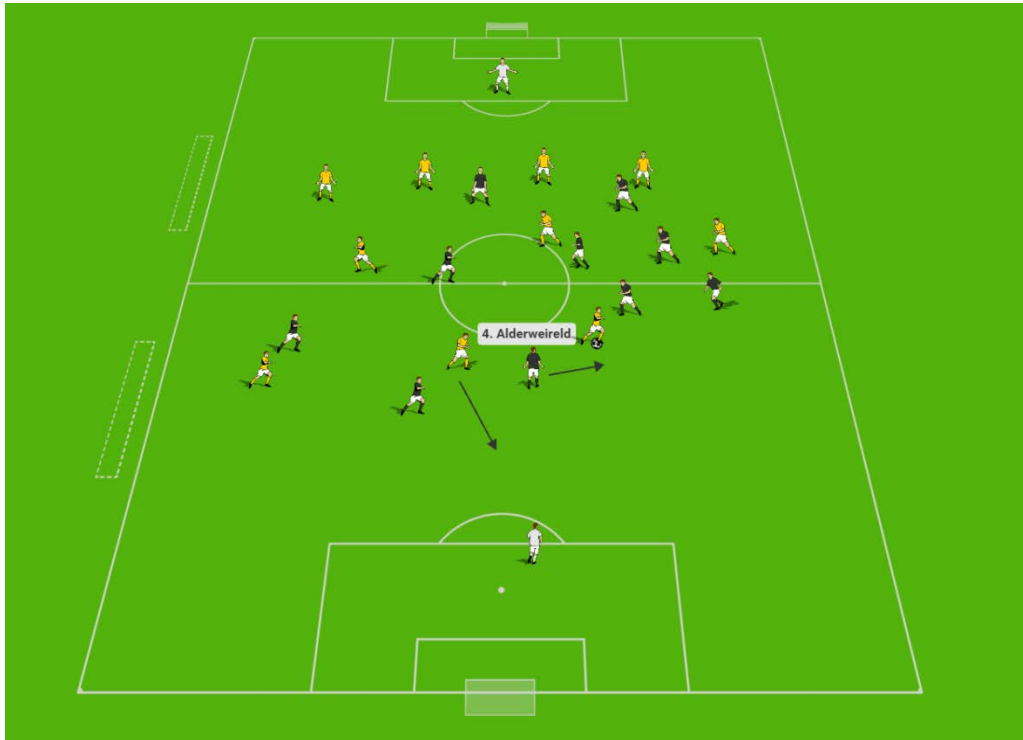
If the ball is lost, the midfield unit of Rose, Walker and Wanyama and Dembele quickly react to win the ball in the middle third. The image shows Wanyama winning the ball and breaking forwards.

Defending the long ball counter is an area Tottenham are very strong at. The first defender challenges to disturb the first ball, in the EPL most strikers are strong, good at screening and winning long balls.



In this situation Tottenham always have a player covering the possible flick on. All Tottenham defenders are mobile and quick so an on running player can be delayed. The other area to cover is if the ball is dropped back to on running midfielders, again Tottenham have two midfielders who recognise the risk and are ready to disturb or intercept this pass.

When counter attacks develop and delaying is not possible defenders may have to commit to try and stop the danger. Tottenham central defenders and central midfielders have very good defensive skills and can read the dangers of these moments very well.

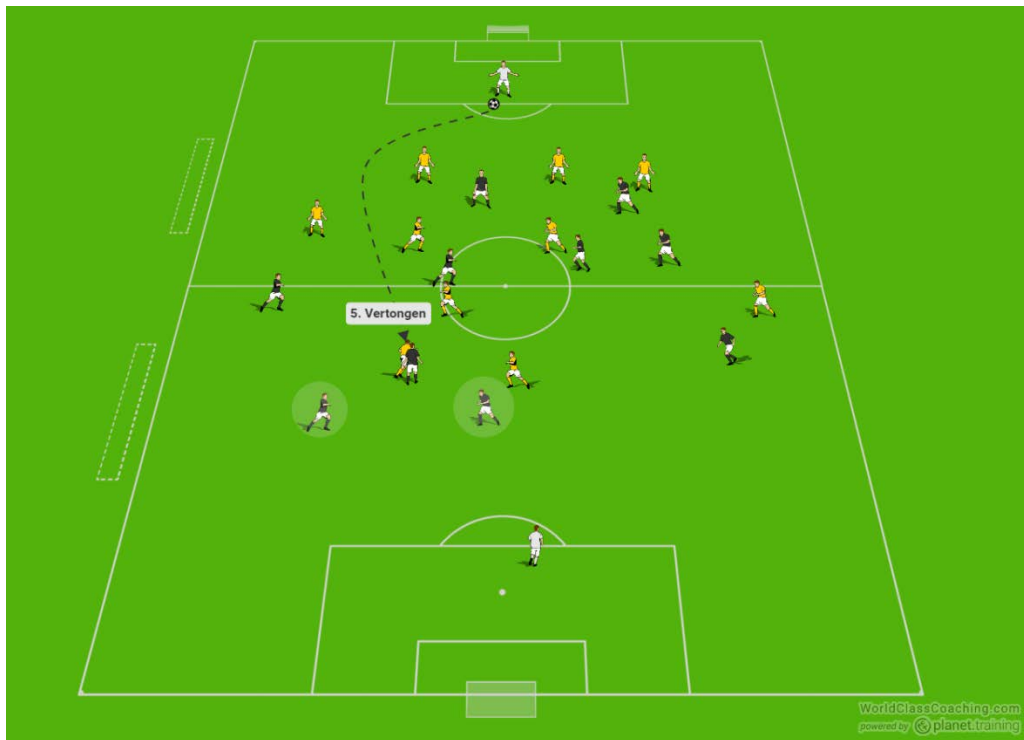


Alderweireld is in a situation that if the opponent breaks past him, a goal scoring opportunity may develop. The striker attempts to flick the ball past but Alderweireld blocks the ball and it is deflected out.

While the game is end to end key moments happen that a coach needs to work on. Firstly Tottenham have selected players that fit the profile of their many playing styles, the coach then enforces tactics and works on them in training.

Chapter 4 - Ball Possession Opposition

Defending the longer ball is an important area, the EPL is an high tempo league that varies in methods of attack. Without organized shape, a simple long ball forward can give lesser opponents an opportunity at goal.



The image above shows Tottenham playing with a back four with Dier and Rose covering Vertongen who is challenging for the ball. Considerations for the first defender are the trajectory of the ball.

Can the ball be won?

Regardless of the answer it is important the covering defenders anticipate the possible flick on.

Can we cover the flick on if the ball is not won?



Midfielders on the other side of the defenders need to anticipate and disturb the opponents if the ball is won by their central defender. The opponents have the advantage because they can attack the ball and play forwards.



Can we disturb or stop the opponents if our central defender wins the ball?

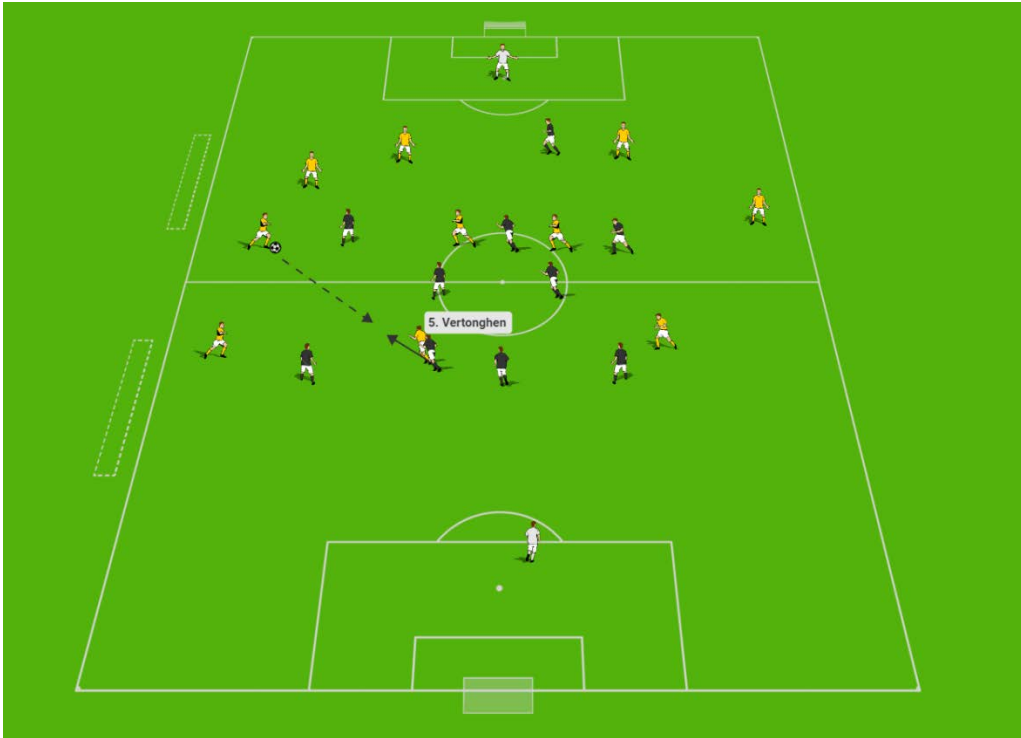
Often teams will clip balls forwards to the chest, so the opponent's defender attacking the ball cannot win it or intercept it. The ball is then dropped off to a player who times his run to meet the ball. It is critical that the defending team's midfielders react quickly to this type of attack.

Tottenham use a 1-4-2-3-1 Mid-block with just Kane in front trying to force and disturb the defenders.

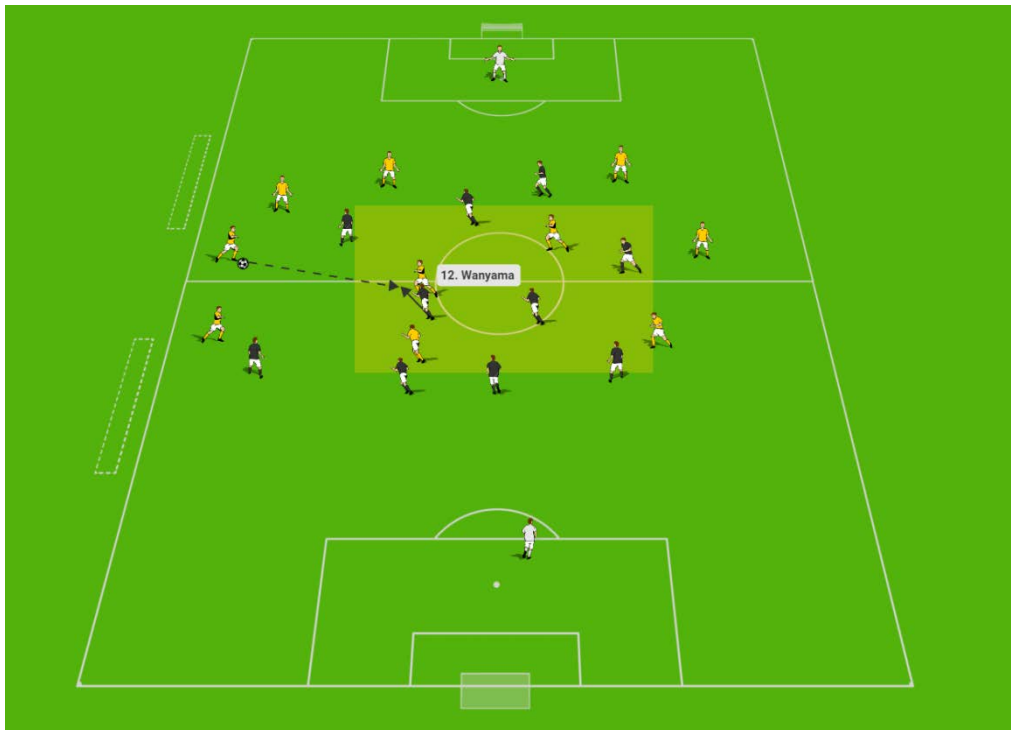


When the ball is played forwards, especially on the ground in the middle to back-third, Tottenham's defenders defend in anticipation.

With flat balls between the lines Tottenham defenders look to steal the ball by attempting to get in front of the opponent.



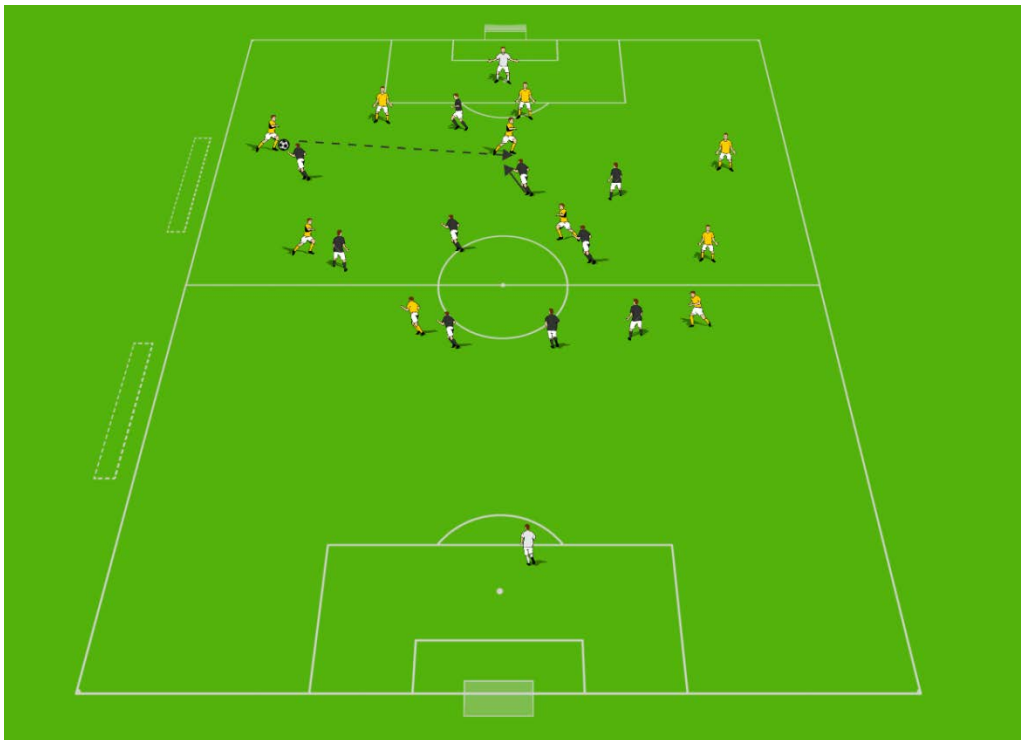
If the ball breaks into the central zone of the middle third, it sets Tottenham up well to win the ball with Wanyama waiting to attack the ball carrier.



It is clear that Tottenham work on individual pressure on the opponent's ball carrier

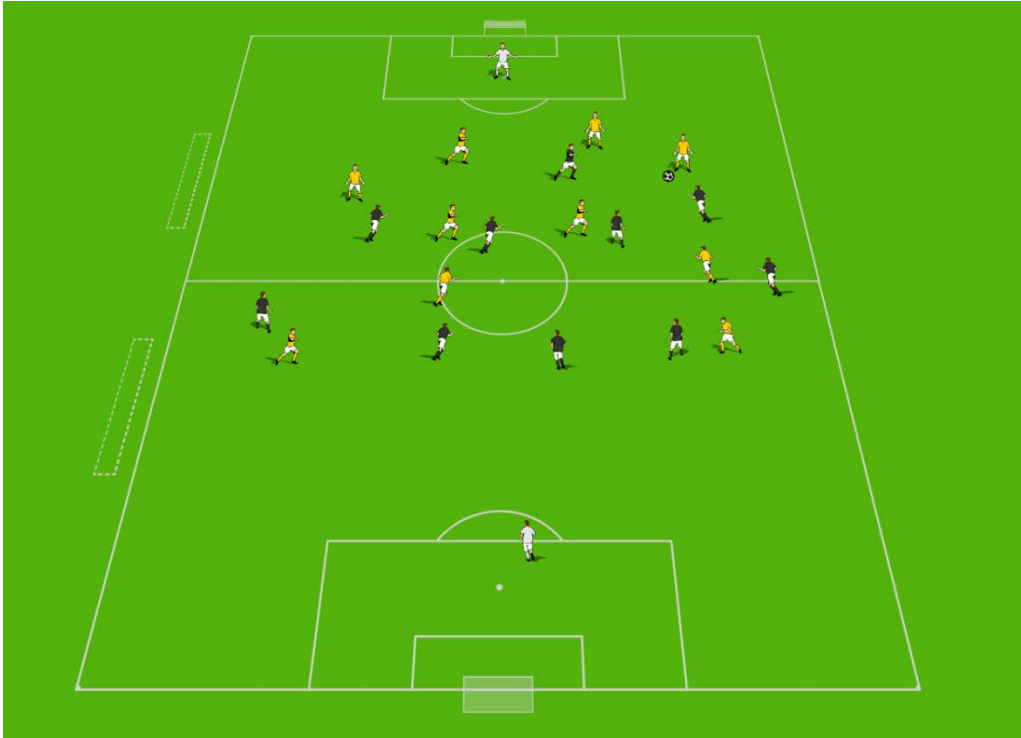
All of the Tottenham players show hard work and good discipline to quickly move towards the ball carrier and slow to jockey, never diving in. This is something that needs to be worked on in every training session, and seems to be a part of Pochettino agenda.

When Tottenham play teams that are playing out from the back, and allow them to press high, they form a shape of a 1-3-4-3.



Tottenham's front third work hard with high tempo pressing, Kane forces one way with Alli, Son or Eriksen are ready to join in. The middle four of Rose, Dembele, Wanyama and Walker wait to see if they are needed to pounce on any forward passes.

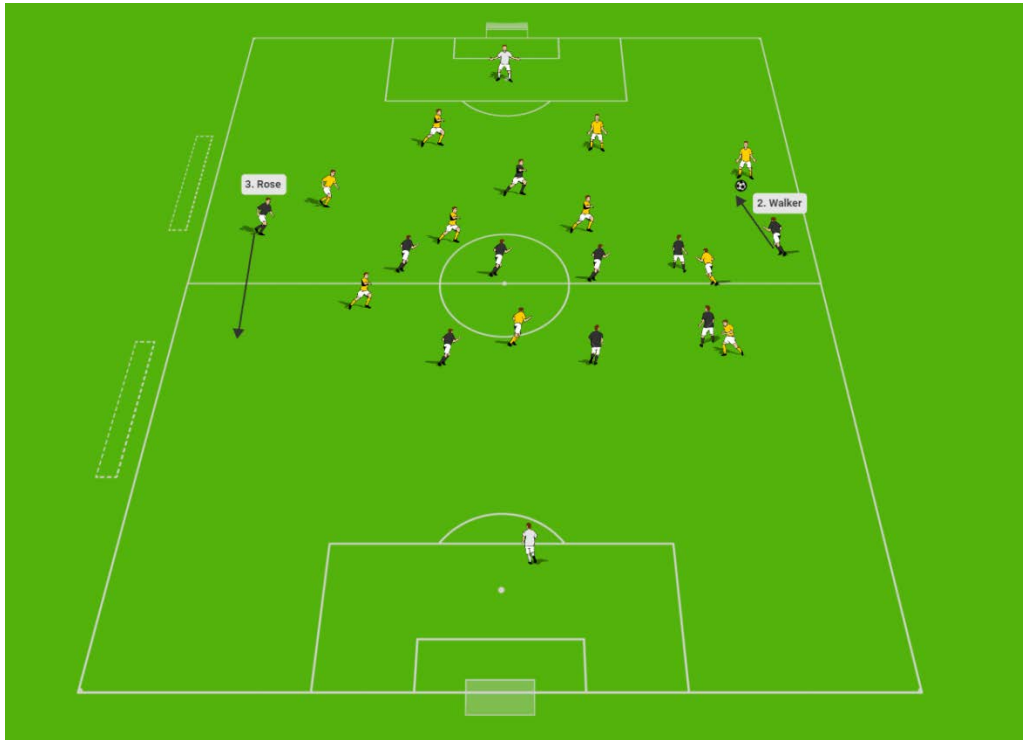
When defending in a Mid block Tottenham shape is a 1-5-4-1 with Rose and Walker dropping deeper to join the back three. The two players behind Kane now drop and create a compact line with Dembele and Wanyama.



This shape is difficult for the opponent to play through, with a tight four stopping forwards passes, and the 5 man back line negating long switch balls.

All of the Tottenham players are waiting for a loose pass so they can explode and intercept.

At times while transitioning to the BPO shape Walker may press forwards while Rose heads back to join the back three. This normally happens when the opponent have circulated around the Tottenham's front three. Walker moves in to stop the forward ball.



At this point the two players behind Kane start to retreat to form the deeper defending shape. Dembele and Wanyama also slide over to screen, and are ready for any balls that enter their zone.

Chapter 5 - Ball Possession Opposition to Ball Possession

Tottenham are very measured and safe in transition to Attack, they don't force the ball forward aimlessly. The best way to look at Tottenham in the moment of the counter attack is to look at the area they win the ball.

In the back third Tottenham wait for a moment to play forwards, they often circulate so if the ball is played forwards, it is done so in a controlled manner.



Kane always stays high, he is an outlet for the Tottenham quick break. The passes to him are controlled and into a space that he can get to the ball. In the example above the ball is played into the channel so it favours Kane who can protect the ball and wait for support. It is important the ball is not punted aimlessly forward because if the opponent win the ball this can be a very dangerous situation for Tottenham.

Kane runs tirelessly with the aim of offering himself for the team, screening the ball and waiting for support.



Kane runs the channels and attempts to get to the ball first in order to delay and wait for support. Kane is strong and mobile so the opponent's central defenders can only move across and stop him facing forwards.



Controlled passes into Kane or Janssen are valuable, the strikers screen the ball and drop off to the midfielders. When Tottenham play with two forwards this option works well because both execute this action well.

When Tottenham win the ball in the back third often only Kane is high, playing a rushed inaccurate pass forwards will mean Kane is fighting to win the ball. Tottenham would rather move the ball in order to see a more controlled pass and give supporting players time to push forward.



Even when Tottenham enter the middle third they still do not rush forwards, every attack is measured for higher chances of success. Tottenham prefer to get their team into an attacking shape so they can run through more recognised patterns. When a team plays with a back 3 often the ball needs to be circulated in order for the wingbacks to move forward. Every player except for Kane gets behind the ball, so it is critical the game does not become too end to end.

When Son plays for Tottenham they do have better opportunities to counter quickly. Son is very quick and breaks forward at pace, he is strong at making forward runs and running with the ball.



Son waits until the ball becomes free and his Tottenham team mates can face forwards. Once he sees this he breaks forward at pace encouraging the possible through ball.



Son breaks the last line and enters a 1v1 with the Goalkeeper, once in this situation Son is composed and is a very good finisher.

Walker and Rose's energy and commitment to drop back, defend and break quickly must take tremendous planning from Tottenham's support staff.



Rose wins the ball deep and runs with the ball inverting, a few players dive in which brings over the central defender, freeing Alli to break the last line.



Alli, who is a very good finisher, sets himself before striking low to the far corner.

Chapter 6 – Finishing Actions

How Tottenham score goals, who are their main providers?

PLAYER	ASSISTS	GOALS
KANE	3	19
ALLI	3	13
SON	3	11
ERIKSEN	11	7
JANSSEN	3	4
LAMELA	6	3
WALKER	5	0
ROSE	3	2
WANYAMA	2	2
DEMBELE	1	0

All Competitions 21st February 2017

Kane clearly finishes many actions the team creates, Eriksen is consistent in creating and finishing. Son and Alli chip in with regular goals and other players in the team also get goals from time to time.

Dembele numbers are low but based on analysis he often starts moves and quickens the tempo. While Dembele does not score or provide assists, he is often one pass short of the final action and is very important to Tottenham's overall game plan.

Harry Kane is the main Goal scorer for Tottenham with a variety of finishes but mostly finishing regular developed Tottenham moves.



Kane positions himself behind the defenders in a perfect position to finish the cutback from Sun. With cutbacks defenders tend to focus on the ball at the crucial moment of delivery, Kane waits for the ball and side foots it in the far corner.

Tottenham play a diagonal ball over the compact defence looking for a third man movement in behind. This is a useful pass because it is away from the goalkeeper and is a good cue for the striker to anticipate the first time pass in behind.



Kane again attacks the same position on the far post using the pace of the ball to side foot into the goal.

A ball whipped in behind by fullback Trippier is very difficult for the defenders to attack. Again they tend to get over focused on attacking the ball and do not track the movement of Kane.



Kane attacks the ball in between the defenders getting his right boot onto the ball to deflect into the goal.

Kane is also very effective inside the box, with very good feet he can quickly receive and get a shot away.



Kane sits level on the outside of the defender in a very small pocket with his body on the half turn waiting for the pass. With a quick first touch Kane set himself up for a shot into the top corner.

Kane is the main finisher of Tottenham team attacks and his always ready to attack these balls. Most of Kane's goals come from Tottenham constructed attacking patterns. Nearly all of Kane's goals come inside the penalty box apart from a few free kicks, Kane also chips in with penalties.

Kane tends to use his right foot but with one touch finishes he strikes the ball well also with his left foot. Kane also can strike the ball with his instep with tremendous accuracy and power.

Kane is a very good team player that is instrumental in all of Tottenham's build up. Kane works very hard on and off the ball and his always in the penalty box ready to finish opportunities the team create.

Alli has scored some very important goals this season, many coming against the top 5 teams in the league. Alli is excellent at making timed runs and positioning himself to meet crosses.



Alli positions himself between the central defender and the fullback to meet the diagonal ball from Eriksen. Alli is developing into a very good finisher.



From a standing jump Alli headers in to the top corner

In the same game again Alli positions himself between the Central defender and the fullback.



Assist King Eriksen, delivers a diagonal ball over the far central defender for Alli to head home.



The goals look easy but it requires high quality build up to get to the moment, a fantastic delivery and a player who can position himself in the right area and finish.

Another method to deliver the ball to Alli, is by stretching the opponent and delivering in behind the last defender from the wide area. Many teams use this method because the forward players have an advantage over the defenders as they are running towards the ball.



In conclusion, a high quality build up is required to provide the moment for the fullback to delivery. Another timed run by Alli between the central defender and the fullback.

Chapter 7 – Training Sessions

To develop training sessions based on Tottenham's playing style we use the Constraints Led Coaching Approach.

WHAT – Take a technique, skill or tactic from the analysis and isolate it into a small Sided Game

- Improve player behaviour
- Competitive Games
- Enjoyable games
- Players find their own solutions
- Very specific

Individual Constraints

- Pressure
- Decision making
- Fatigue

Environmental Constraints

- Weather
- Field surface type

Tasks Constraints

- Rules
- Equipment
- Field size
- Different Zones
- Player numbers
- Time limits

Training session – Ball Possession - Early Build up



Description

To improve opportunities to move the opponents defensive block and switch the ball to Wingbacks.

Key Points to work on

- Finding a play with time and space in the back third
- Distribution the longer switch
- Receiving the long switch and delivering early behind

Rules

6 v 4 in the middle third, Tottenham circulate to find space for the side central defender to deliver a longer switch to the Wing backs. If the opponents win the ball they can score in one of four goals within 10 seconds.

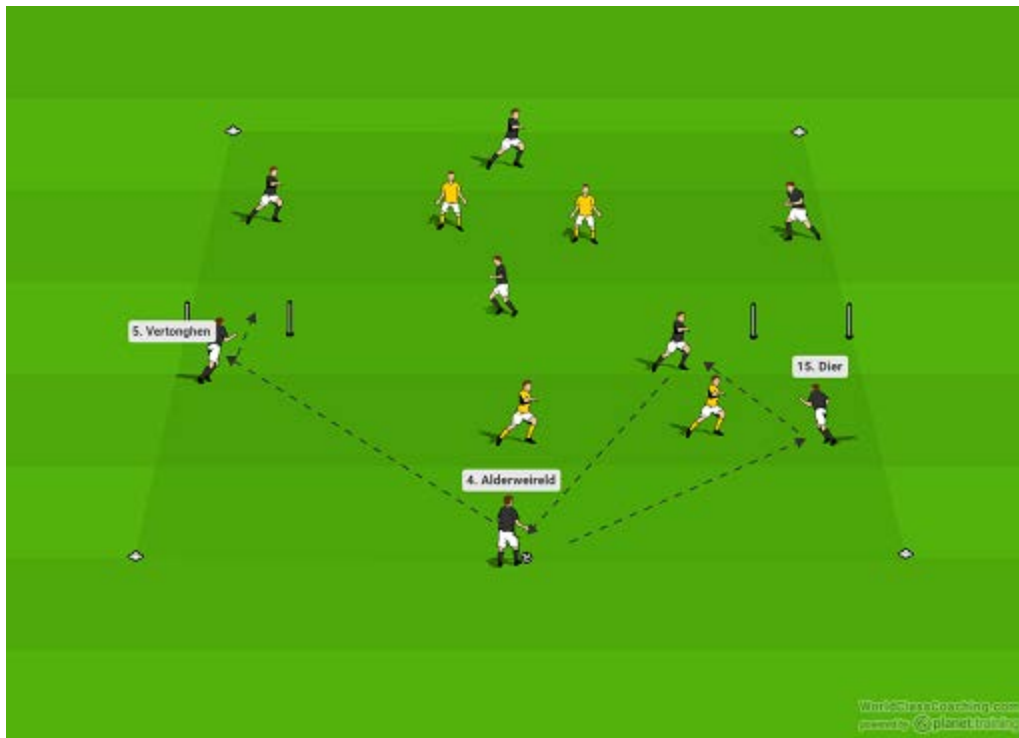
Team Task Attacking Team

Can we move the ball to create time and space for the side central defender to deliver the longer ball switch to the Wing backs.

Team Task Attacking Team Front Third

Can the fullbacks receive and deliver a pass in behind

Training session – BP - Early Build up Rondo



Description

To improve ball circulation to find a free player

Key Points to work on

- Collective possession
- First touch
- Striking the ball - Passing

Rules

4 v 2 in each zone, Tottenham circulate the ball looking to get a free player with one touch through the gates.

Defender changes position with attacker if he wins the ball

Team Task Attacking Team

Can we move the ball to create time and space for the side central defender to break through the gates

Team Task Defenders

Can you work together to lock up one side to and put pressure on the possession team players first touch

Training session – BP – Playing through Kane



Description

To improve the teams ability to play through and combine with Kane early in the build-up.

Key Points to work on

- Possession teams ability to move the ball to find a player who can play forwards in a controlled manner
- Delivery over distance accurate to Kane movement and to allow him to receive and protect
- Delivery on the ground to be firm and into Kane's movement
- Attackers to support Kane at the right moment
- Kane to receive and screen the ball looking for support

Rules

3 teams rotate and play possession football looking to score off Kane.

1. Score via the longer ball and drop off
2. Score through the ball on the ground and combine

Progression

1. Bonus goal for a third man run off Kane's drop back to the midfielder
2. Bonus goal for Kane to combine and break in behind

Training session–BP–Attacking through the central Midfield



Description

To improve the central midfields ability to start Attacks from deep, through travelling with the ball.

Rules

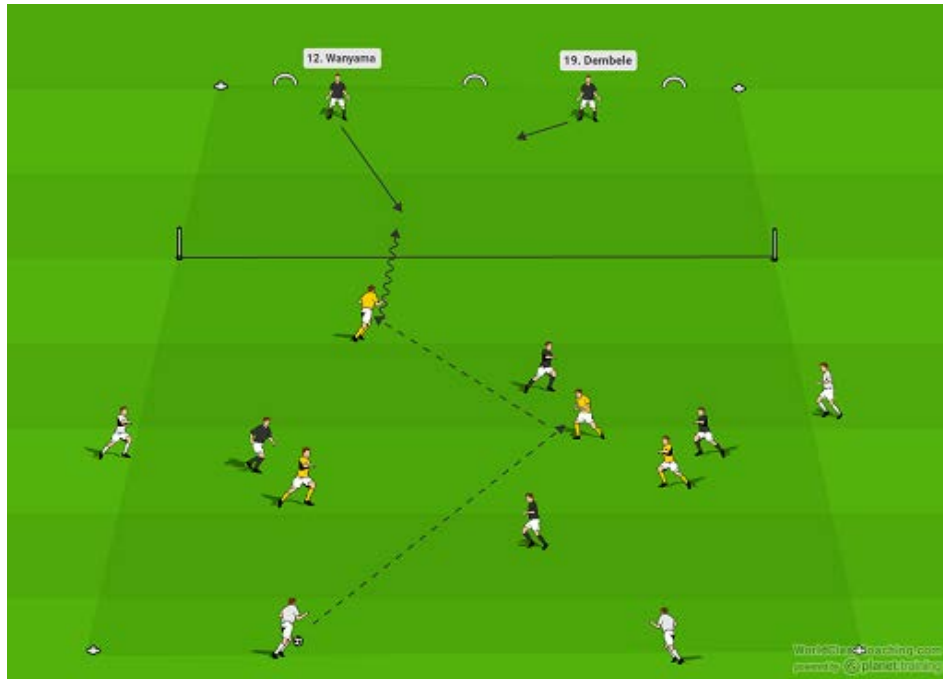
Game starts with 6-10

8-10 must sit at the base circulating the ball. One of them must play move forwards with the ball looking to start attacking opportunities.

The other midfielder should move centrally to give the team deep balance.

If they move forward and unsuccessfully they should move back to their base Position.

Training session – BP to BPO – Midfielders Defending



Description

To improve the central midfielders ability to read the game and look for moments to intercept or pressure the opponent when they enter their zone.

Key Points to work on

- Intensity to close down
- Discipline to slow to jockey and delay
- Cover and anticipate passes to try and intercept.

Rules

2 teams play possession with one team on the outside creating a 8 v 4 in favour of the possession team. Team in possession must play to the base player before they can attack the 2 small goals.

2 attackers are allowed in the end zone with a 10 second time limit to score.

Midfielder should look to work together to pressure, cover and delay the opponents.

Delay to stop them scoring within 10 seconds

Training session – BPO – Defending the Longer ball



Description

To improve the central defenders ability to read the game and collective defend the longer ball

Key Points to work on

- Positioning of the last line of 3 defenders
- Anticipation of the longer ball
- First man marking
- Covering positioning of remaining defenders

Rules

8 v 7 in favour of the attacking team, defending team are give 10 seconds to score if they win the ball.

Attacking team circulate the ball looking to bring the last line high and play over the top.

Summary

Tottenham used different systems to change the type of early build up required. Each system poses different problems to the opponent but in the front third Tottenham excel at creating actions to break the opponents down. Combination plays, rotation of positions, through balls, all suck the opponents in centrally.

In wide areas Rose and Walker are always taking the width and often have space due to the rest of the Tottenham team playing centrally in tight areas.

Tottenham are not predictable in attack, they have no issues with playing the longer ball, but they ensure every ball is sent with a message. With Kane and Walker in the last line, Tottenham play longer balls for the knock down. The reaction to these balls is instant, with Tottenham more often than not, winning the second ball and starting a fresh attack.

The opponent would find it difficult to assess Tottenham's game, do they press or do they drop off?

When Tottenham lose the ball their reaction is excellent. Players quickly move to delay forward passes and this pressure is very collective. Pochettino has clearly tried to build a team that is flexible, however players still fit the necessary profiles required.

Team conditioning is fantastic considering Tottenham rarely make big changes to their first team.

When Tottenham counter, it is in a very controlled manner. They don't force passes, & tend to move the ball in order to pass the ball forward in a controlled manner.

When the opponent start from their goal keeper, Tottenham look to ambush. The front 3 try to disturb the opponent with the middle 4 players waiting to pressure any forward passes. Tottenham's back 3 will defend in anticipation, They wait for forward passes on the ground and accelerate to intercept these passes.

Tottenham's back 3 handle the direct game comfortably. They defend in an organised manner always providing cover to the defender attacking the ball. Within the middle third, centrally Tottenham are very aggressive and win many balls deep in midfield.

Pochettino is very impressive, he develops players while playing in the most competitive league in the world. This is because he knows his game principles. If a player fits the profile required then he can play regardless of experience or age.

Pochettino's brand fits well within the English culture. A mix of controlled build up, quick high tempo passing and at times longer balls to break the last line.

Pochettino's methods could be the future of the game. Tottenham use many playing systems and the main core of the team play in all of these systems.

The game is evolving with many top coaches showing us new ways. The future of the game is exciting.