

Marcelo Bielsa Tactics

Borussia Dortmund are a very successful team that focus on high tempo pressing, preventing through balls and preparing for the transition from attack to defence. Jurgen Klopp has led his Borussia Dortmund team to two Bundesliga titles, one German cup and the Champions League final in 2013. Athanasios Terzis is a UEFA 'B' licence coach and has provided a full and extensive analysis of Jurgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund team. This tactical blueprint is explained clearly with supporting diagrams, notes and detailed descriptions. This analysis has been used to produce 14 sessions (53 practices) including functional practices, opposed/unopposed zone play, game situations and small sided games.

Every Saturday afternoon, 5.8 million people around the world settle down to see how their team will get on. But this isn't the team they support. It's THEIR team. They have spent hour after hour assessing injuries, swapping subs and tweaking formations. Because when the day is done and the scores are in, they want to be able to look in the mirror and say, 'THAT TRIPLE CAPTAIN CALL WAS AN ACT OF GENIUS!' Welcome to the obsessive world of Fantasy Football, where managers will do anything to succeed. David Wardale – writer for the UK's number one Fantasy Football site, Fantasy Football Scout – meets previous winners to discover how they beat millions to the crown. He reveals the leagues where failure involves outright humiliation and

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discovers just how low some managers will go to claim a psychological advantage. Along the way, he finds Saudi sheikhs, stats professors, most of Norway and a member of one of the biggest pop bands of all time, all of them united by their unflinching desire for Fantasy Football greatness.

This book is a comprehensive resource for coaching the 3-5-2 formation at all levels. The level of detail and tactical solutions included will help you emulate how top coaches, such as Antonio Conte (Inter) and Nuno Espírito Santo (Wolverhampton Wanderers), use the 3-5-2 to great success. This book goes into great detail to show the movement of all players within the 3-5-2 system of play in various tactical situations and against different formations, in the attacking and defensive phase. This will enable you to optimise your team's tactical awareness and performance. Tactical solutions are provided for all game situations, in relation to how to counteract the opponent's positioning, organisation and decision making. This book will teach you to coordinate and solve specific game situations in a flexible way with many different options and tactical solutions. As a coach, you can train these patterns of play repetitively, so that the players' reading of the game becomes automatic and the team is quickly able to recognise and find the best solutions to solve every conceivable tactical situation. This book includes: Tactical Strengths and Weaknesses of the 3-5-2 Formation 3-5-2 Tactics Against Different Formations (4-4-2, 4-2-3-1, 4-3-3, 4-3-1-2, 3-5-2 and 3-4-3) Overcoming the First Line of Pressing (Build-up Play from the Back) Moving the Ball in

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Between the Opposition's Midfield and Defensive Lines Playing in Behind the Opposition's Defensive Line Defensive Organisation and Pressing Organisation of the Defensive Line 41 Practices and Variations to Apply Tactical Solutions with the 3-5-2 Renato Montagnolo has a UEFA 'B' Coaching Licence and a Patentino Match Analyst Licence. He has been working as a First Team Assistant Manager and Match Analyst for the past few years in Serie C in Italy. With experience of writing books and articles, speaking and teaching, Renato is a respected football tactics expert.

World Cups throw up unique tactical variations. Countries and football cultures from around the globe converge, in one place, to battle it out for world soccer supremacy. The 2014 World Cup in Brazil was no different, arguably throwing up tactical differences like never seen at a competition in modern times. Contests are not just won by strong work ethics and technical brilliance, but by tactical discipline, fluidity, effective strategies, and (even) unique national traits. Soccer Tactics 2014 analyses the intricacies of modern international systems, through the lens of matches in Brazil. Covering formations, game plans, key playing positions, and individuals who bring football tactics to life - the book offers analysis and insights for soccer coaches, football players, and fans the world over. Whether it is Tiki-Taka, counter-attacking, or David defending heroically to defeat Goliath - this book sheds light on where football tactics currently stand... and where they are going. This colour title includes analysis of group matches, the knock out stages, and the final.

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In this book, you'll learn how to use Tactical Periodization to train your players at the correct intensity for each day of the week, making sure they are always prepared tactically, mentally and physically for competitive matches. Your players (and team) will react quicker, be sharper, and make better decisions in all tactical situations.

This book provides a full tactical analysis of Diego Simeone's 4-4-2 Defending Tactics (123 Tactical Situations) for you the coach to learn from one of the best defensive coaches in the world. Learn to how to Defend "from one of the best coaches in the world" with 47 Practices & Variations based on 123 Tactical Situations from Atlético Madrid's 4-4-2 Athanasios Terzis is a UEFA 'A' Licence Coach and has used this analysis of Atlético Madrid's tactics to produce 47 Practices and Variations. You can use these ready-made sessions to practice Diego Simeone's defending tactics and implement them into your training sessions. Tactical organisation is the key to Atlético Madrid's success during Diego Simeone's reign. He has built a winning culture of commitment, passion, aggressiveness and commitment, and a winning game plan based on excellent defensive organisation. They are extremely difficult to break down, even by the top attacking sides, like Barcelona, Real Madrid and Liverpool, and have consistently been one of the toughest teams to play against in the whole of Europe. Diego Simeone's Atlético Madrid have used these defending tactics to achieve great success when competing against teams with far greater resources. These are some examples of their incredible success against all odds: La Liga Winners (2014) UEFA

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Champions League Runners-up (2014 + 2016) UEFA Europa League Winners (2012 + 2014) UEFA Super Cup Winners (2012 + 2018) Copa Del Rey (2013) Fewest Goals Conceded in La Liga (2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019) Most Clean Sheets in La Liga (2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019) Tactical Analysis and Session/Practice Topic Examples: How the Centre Backs Defend the Forwards' Movements Rear Block's Positioning and Movements to Control Wide Areas Pressing High Up the Pitch (from the Goalkeeper) Positioning of the Forwards to Prepare for Counter Attacks Counter-Pressing After Losing Possession During Combination Play Practice Examples: Defensive Line Controlling Gaps Between Centre Backs and Full Backs Rear Block's Defensive Reactions After Wide Players Receive Controlling Wide Areas with the Rear Block in a Functional Practice Compact Midfield Line Blocking Through Passes in a Functional Game Negative Transition After Losing Possession in a Conditioned Game You've never seen football formations and tactic explored like they are in Total Football ever before. A must-have for football experts! A goalkeeper, two defenders and eight attackers – it's no surprise that in the 1950s under this popular formation scores like 9-3 were common. So what changed? Total Football tells the evolution of football tactics: from the birth of Total Football in the Netherlands to the dominance of tiki taka in Spain and Brazil, each chapter explores an iconic tactic. Innovative graphics alongside expert text guide you through the manager decisions that developed new

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formations, the pure talent of players that defined each playing style and the matches that propelled the winning tactic to legendary status. Sanjeev Shetty explores how each tactic works, how they came to dominate and how opponents worked to find a way to beat them. From Pele to Messi, Cruyff to Mourinho, Total Football explores the tactics that made the legends, giving you a new understanding of how the beautiful game is played.

A detailed tactical overview and analysis of the popular 4-3-3 system of play. This book is your guide to implementing the 4-3-3, from selecting your players through coaching and teaching every phase of play. Main topics include tactical principles, attacking schemes, transition and counterattack, and build up and finishing. Also includes several game situation exercises to reinforce these concepts.

With *Attacking Soccer- Mastering the Modern Game* every coach can set up training plans according to their needs with the help of numerous training modules compiled in a book with many illustrations.

This book provides a tactical analysis of Jürgen Klopp Liverpool's 4-3-3 Attacking Tactics (70 Tactical Examples) + 15 Training Sessions (72 Practices) for you the coach to learn from one of the best coaches in the world.

In June 2018 Leeds United made an appointment that shocked the footballing world. Despite being stuck in the second tier of English football and tagged the

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Championship's perennial chokers, they attracted one of the most revered coaches in world football. What followed captivated the hearts and minds of Leeds United's legion of passionate supporters worldwide. Marcelo Bielsa has crafted a team in his image, a team that plays in an almost bewildering attacking style with fluidity across the pitch. Leeds have become synonymous with exciting, attacking, vertical football and this style has seen them promoted back to the Premier League. Professional football analyst Lee Scott explains how, breaking down the tactics that have made Leeds so successful during Bielsa's time. He shows just how they occupy spaces and overload defences; how they press and cut off passing lanes to deny the opposition space to attack in the defensive phase; and more than that, he delves into Bielsa's mindset, to explain what makes the Argentine mastermind tick.

A soccer player is more than the sum of his parts: endurance, speed, shooting technique, passing technique, and many more. All of these factors need to be turned into one system to create good players. Traditional training theory doesn't achieve that because each skill is trained individually. This is why the concept of Tactical Periodization has become the preferred training theory for many of the current most successful soccer coaches: Pep Guardiola, José Mourinho, Diego Simeone, André Villas-Boas, and many others train according to these principles.

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By creating match-like situations in practice, players learn to link their technical, tactical, and athletic abilities to match intelligence. They will learn to transfer their skills to soccer matches and they can improve endurance, technique, and tactics all at the same time while enjoying the practice sessions more. For this book, the author has evaluated and analyzed hundreds of training sessions and has tailored exercises to specific demands. All exercises are performed with a ball so that players learn to apply each skill to the game. Every coach will find numerous exercises in this book to help them create better and more efficient practice sessions so they can improve their players' and the team's performance. With Tactical Periodization, your team will become better and be successful on the next match day!

This book is a comprehensive resource for coaching the 4-3-3 formation at all levels. The level of detail will help you emulate how top coaches, such as Pep Guardiola, Maurizio Sarri and Jürgen Klopp use the 4-3-3 to great success. It will enable you to see all the solutions, in order to optimise your team's tactical awareness and performance.

“An outstanding work ... the [soccer] book of the decade.” —Sunday Business Post
Inverting the Pyramid is a pioneering soccer book that chronicles the evolution of soccer tactics and the lives of the itinerant coaching geniuses who

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have spread their distinctive styles across the globe. Through Jonathan Wilson's brilliant historical detective work we learn how the South Americans shrugged off the British colonial order to add their own finesse to the game; how the Europeans harnessed individual technique and built it into a team structure; how the game once featured five forwards up front, while now a lone striker is not uncommon. Inverting the Pyramid provides a definitive understanding of the tactical genius of modern-day Barcelona, for the first time showing how their style of play developed from Dutch "Total Football," which itself was an evolution of the Scottish passing game invented by Queens Park in the 1870s and taken on by Tottenham Hotspur in the 1930s. Inverting the Pyramid has been called the "Big Daddy" (Zonal Marking) of soccer tactics books; it is essential for any coach, fan, player, or fantasy manager of the beautiful game

Marcelo Bielsa is one of football's greatest eccentrics and greatest enigmas. This will be the first English biography of one of football's most contradictory characters. He has coached some of the greatest names in world football - Gabriel Batistuta, Carlos Tevez, Javier Mascherano, Juan Sebastian Veron and Ander Herrera. He has been cited as a mentor by Pep Guardiola, Mauricio Pochettino and Diego Simeone. Yet Marcelo Bielsa remains one of the great enigmas of world football - a fabulously innovative and obsessive coach, who has

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transformed Leeds United, Marseille and Athletic Bilbao. He also lasted two days at Lazio and led Argentina to their greatest footballing disaster. Featuring interviews from across South America, Europe and Yorkshire, *The Quality of Madness* is a comprehensive and compelling biography, tracing Bielsa's story from growing up as a member of one of Argentina's most remarkable families to his revival of Leeds. Bielsa has long been known as "El Loco" - the Madman - and yet as Tim Rich's revelatory study reveals, there is mercurial method and audacious logic to the madness.

THE INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES TOP TEN BESTSELLER The behind-the-scenes story of the Marcelo Bielsa revolution at Leeds United and their first season back in the Premier League after sixteen years of hurt. FEATURING FRESH PERSONAL INSIGHT FROM MARCELO BIELSA When Marcelo Bielsa was appointed head coach of Leeds United in the summer of 2018, the club had just finished 13th in the Championship - their 15th consecutive season outside the top flight - and were defined as much by their excesses and disasters off the pitch as their lack of success on it. Bielsa changed everything. In guiding Leeds back to the promised land of the Premier League, he has transformed the club into a vastly more dynamic, entertaining and professional outfit, fully endearing himself to the Leeds faithful and capturing the imaginations of football fans

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around the world. With his unique tactical approach, strict diet and body fat controls and a gruelling training schedule - including his infamous 'murderball' sessions - Bielsa has shaped a gang of Championship misfits and journeymen into a team that plays breathtakingly relentless attacking football and is more than capable of going toe-to-toe with the game's established heavyweights. In *And it was Beautiful*, Phil Hay documents the fortunes of Leeds United under Marcelo Bielsa during their return to the Premier League for the 2020/21 season. By weaving in stories of crises from the club's purgatory in the English Football League, he presents a comprehensive and compelling portrait of an enigmatic manager whose values are the antithesis of everything that has previously gone wrong at Leeds during the dark days of Ken Bates, Massimo Cellino and GFH. Phil pulls back the curtain on Bielsa's innovative tactical methods, his unconventional yet highly productive relationship with owner Andrea Radrizzani and Director of Football Victor Orta, his intensely loyal backroom team and the extraordinary cultural impact Bielsa has had on the city of Leeds - from murals and songs to cult fanbases in the provinces of Argentina. The result is a unique and beautiful love affair that has made dreams come true.

The book includes Marcelo Bielsa's tactics (and playing philosophy) for building up play from the back against high pressing teams with a full analysis of his 4-2-3-1, 3-3-3-1 and 3-4-3

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formations with extensive analysis of Marcelo Bielsa in 9 different tactical situations, supported with 9 full training sessions (35 practices).

This book provides analysis of Simeone, Guardiola, Klopp, Mourinho and Ranieri's tactics. Michail Tsokaktsidis is a UEFA 'A' licence coach and has used this analysis to produce 23 full sessions (98 practices) including transition games, game situations and small sided games. King Klopp: Rebuilding the Liverpool Dynasty is the story behind Jurgen Klopp's success at Liverpool. Since Klopp's appointment as head coach in October 2015, the club has grown exponentially, swiftly becoming the dominant force in English and European football. But how was the team's rebirth achieved in just a few short years? Experienced football scout and opposition analyst Lee Scott takes an in-depth look at the tactical concepts underpinning Liverpool's success - revealing who does what, how and why. Discover the secrets of the game model developed by Klopp as well as the roles of key players in realising his master plan. Never afraid to experiment, Klopp has refined his game model year on year to the point where Liverpool dominate through their control of space as much as through their pressing and intensity. It's been some ride for Liverpool fans, but beyond the silverware and marquee wins lies an even more intriguing story - the story of a tactical evolution.

Learn the tactics of several of the world's top coaches with analysis of Antonio Conte, Massimiliano Allegri, Diego Simeone, Jose Mourinho, Jurgen Klopp and Arsene Wenger with the 4-2-3-1, 4-4-2, 4-3-3 and 3-5-2 formations. This analysis has been used to produce 6 full training sessions (42 practices & variations) ready for you to use.

Build a successful team around the strengths of your players! In Soccer Systems and Strategies, two coaches of the Danish national team provide a practical guide to implementing

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the world's top styles of play into your game plan. They present soccer's four primary systems of play--defined by the number of players at each position and their alignment on the field--and then break down the different strategies, tactics, and styles of play that can be used within these systems. First, learn the basics of the four primary systems of play: the 4-3-3, the 4-4-2, the 3-5-2, and the 3-4-3. Second, choose a style of play that can be used within some or all of these systems. These include different attacking styles, various defensive styles, and styles that are characteristic of international soccer powers, including the Latin, British, Norwegian, South American, and African styles of play. After you determine the optimal system and style for your team, you learn how to counter opponents' tactics and how to teach your system, style, and tactics through practice instruction and drills. Detailed diagrams and plans of action for implementing the systems are included, along with insights on how to make adjustments during the game. Top coaches throughout the world have proven that adapting your system to match your players' strengths and your opponents' weaknesses is the key to developing teams that are competitive year in and year out. With Soccer Systems and Strategies, you have all the information you need to implement the ideal system for your team.

An Amazon #1 Best-Seller! Named the #1 Soccer Book by Football.com. Named a Top 5 Book of the Year by the NSCAA Soccer Journal! Soccer iQ is the first book for soccer PLAYERS! In a world saturated with books about how to coach soccer, Dan Blank finally gives players a book on how to think it. Standing on two decades of collegiate coaching experience, Blank has catalogued soccer's most common mistakes and provides simple, connect-the-dots solutions to help players solve their soccer problems. Soccer IQ is soccer's first text book for players; an almanac of smarter soccer decisions intended to flatten out the learning curve. It covers

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everything from hunting rebounds to the value of the toe-ball; from playing in the rain to the world's dumbest foul. Blank tells his story from the familiar and humorous voice of a coach who has endured years of stress at the hands of his players. Written in plain-spoken language, Soccer IQ is an easy read and a quick-fix to the most common yet critically important soccer problems. Includes a bonus chapter on the college recruiting process. " Finally someone wrote this book! If every soccer player read Soccer IQ, every coach would be a lot happier." Mark Francis - Head Coach University of Kansas "Dan Blank has just written soccer's first definitive text book." Colin Carmichael - Head Coach Oklahoma State University "This book has immediately become required reading for my team. I'll take 30 copies." Steve Nugent - Head Coach UNC-Greensboro "Soccer IQ may be the best practical soccer book I have ever read. There's no fluff. Just nuts and bolts principles that we teach every day. It'll solve a lot of your soccer problems." Steve Holeman - Head Coach University of Georgia

This book provides a tactical analysis of Pep Guardiola's 4-3-3 Attacking Tactics (56 Tactical Situations) which has been used to produce 12 Full Training Sessions (70 Practices and Variations). You can use these ready-made sessions to practice Pep Guardiola's attacking tactics and implement them into your training sessions.

Juventus are the most successful team using the 3-5-2 formation in modern football. Juve have won 4 consecutive Serie A league titles including an unbeaten run of 49 games, 1 Coppa Italia and reached the Champions League final in 2014. Juventus are a very successful attacking team that focus on exploiting their numerical advantage at the back, patient build up play, pushing many players into advanced positions and finally creating and exploiting space in behind the defensive line. Athanasios Terzis is a successful author of some of the best-selling

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Football Coaching books, most notably with 'Jurgen Klopp's Attacking and Defending Tactics' and 'FC Barcelona Training Sessions' which won the Italian FA Award for "Best Coaching Book" in 2014. In this book the popular author presents a full and extensive analysis of the Juventus 3-5-2 formation during the 2013-14 season. This tactical blueprint is clearly presented with supporting diagrams and detailed descriptions of the attacking phase, the transition from attack to defence and the transition from defence to attack which enable you to discover exactly how Juventus played in these phases of the game, providing the positioning and movement of the players in all possible game situations. This detailed analysis has been used to produce 21 full training sessions (60 practices) including functional practices, opposed/unopposed zone play, transition games, game situations and small sided games. This will enable you to coach your team to attack like one of the most successful teams in Europe. This special book in full colour features 34 game situations of Pep Guardiola's Barcelona team, often described as the best ever. These 34 game situations (analysis) has been used to produce 34 sessions (160 practices) including quick passing functional practices, patterns of play, possession games, transition games, opposed/unopposed zone play, game situations and small sided games. In short, this book will help you coach your team 'The Barca Way.'

The 3-3-1-3 is not an entirely new concept, though it has become more popular in recent years due to its dynamic attacking nature. In particular, former Chile National Team coach Marcelo Bielsa and former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola have implemented this system with great success. This book explores, in

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detail, the strengths and weaknesses of the system, the roles and responsibilities of each player in both attack and defense and the permutations of the team shape against different formations and in varying situations. Depending on the circumstances at any one moment of the match in terms of the score, the opponent's tactics, time remaining etc., the formation could become a 1-3-4-3, a 1-2-3-2-3, or even a 1-5-4-1 in an ultimate defensive setup. This adaptability, the FLEX, is made possible by teaching players to recognize the rotations required "on the fly" by presenting them with very specific game situations in training. In this book, Harrison takes you through his training sessions geared toward developing in players the tactical and spatial awareness necessary to run the FLEX 1-3-3-1-3 successfully.

The exclusive behind-the-scenes story of the Mauricio Pochettino revolution at Spurs, told in his own words The Sunday Times Bestseller 'An unparalleled insight into one of the most exciting managers currently working in football' Independent Since joining the club in 2014, Mauricio Pochettino has transformed Tottenham from underachievers into genuine title contenders. In the process, he has marked himself out as one of the best young managers in the world, more than holding his own against the Premier League's established heavyweights. He has done so by promoting an attacking, pressing style of football and by nurturing home-grown talent, fully endearing himself to the Spurs faithful along the way. Guillem Balagué was granted unprecedented access to Pochettino and his backroom staff for the duration of the 2016-17 season, and he has therefore been

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able to draw on extensive interview material with Pochettino, his family, his closest assistants, players such as Dele Alli and Harry Kane, and even a very rare conversation with Daniel Levy to tell the manager's story in his own words. From Pochettino's early years as a player and coach to his transformation of Tottenham into one of the best teams in England, the book uniquely reveals the inner workings of the man and of his footballing philosophy. It also lays bare what it takes to run a modern-day football team competing at the highest level over the course of a single campaign. The result is the most comprehensive and compelling portrait of a manager and of a club in the Premier League era.

Mastering the Premier League offers an in-depth look at the tactical concepts underlying a sports superpower--revealing who does what, how and why. Discover the secrets of the game model developed by Pep Guardiola that sets Manchester City apart from the rest. When Guardiola joined Manchester City in 2016 there were doubts that he could replicate his successful model in the English game. But after a single season of acclimatization we saw those doubts shattered as City won the Premier League in 2017/18 with a record 100 points. Beyond the trophies and the records, however, lies a yet more intriguing story--of how Guardiola adapted and perfected the tactical principles that had made him so successful at Barcelona and Bayern Munich, who played the key roles on the field, enabling Manchester City's successes of 2017-19, and why the other Premier League sides were unable to stop the City juggernaut sweeping aside all in its

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path.

All About Pressing in Soccer provides a detailed look at the history, theory, and practice of pressing in soccer. With this comprehensive resource, the coach and player will improve their understanding of the game, making them stronger and more successful as a coach or player. Beginning with a look at the history of pressing, the reader will gain background knowledge crucial for understanding the theory behind pressing, which is presented in the following section. Once the reader understands the why and the how of pressing, he will be able to use the practical techniques presented in the third section. With this book, the reader, whether a coach or a player, will have all the tools necessary to implement a strong pressing tactic in the game, giving them that necessary edge over their opponents.

It started with a question, "What are the fundamentals of soccer?" Whilst there are hundreds of books that look into the specific principles of coaches like Jurgen Klopp, Pep Guardiola, and Marco Bielsa, there is no core, distilled text on the key principles of the game. Until now. Join best-selling author and coach - Peter Prickett - as he puts soccer under the microscope and breaks it down into its constituent parts. By addressing the two primary phases - in-possession and out-of-possession - the book examines the five attacking and five defending principles, plus the transitions between each phase, to reveal the underlying heart of the beautiful game. These principles have underpinned coach education for decades and largely been unchallenged. When

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examining them, other deeper values emerge to support the one true principle - to score. Designed for coaches and soccer fans interested in the theory of soccer, this handbook is a must-read for anyone looking to understand the foundations that soccer is built on.

'A wonderful overview of tactical development in European football' Matthew Syed, The Times
'A fascinating assessment of football in 2019' Observer

This book gives you a rare opportunity to use Pep Guardiola's Practices and learn from one of the best coaches in the history of football. The 88 Attacking Combinations and Attacking Positional Patterns of Play included are taken direct from Pep Guardiola's training sessions at Manchester City, Bayern Munich and FC Barcelona.

After the hugely popular Volume 1, Volume 2 gives you another rare opportunity into Pep Guardiola's Training Sessions with 85 Practices taken directly from Pep's training sessions including: Technical Circuits, Passing, Rondos, Positional and Possession Games, Small to Large Sided Games at Manchester City, Bayern Munich and FC Barcelona.

This fully updated edition of the international bestseller includes Pep Guardiola's Bayern years and his decision to join Manchester City Pep Guardiola is the most successful and sought after football coach in the world. After being appointed first-team manager in 2008, he transformed Barcelona into arguably the greatest club side of all time, winning an unprecedented thirteen trophies in four years. Following a shock

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sabbatical from the game, he replaced Jupp Heynckes at the helm of Bayern Munich at the start of the 2013-14 season, twice winning the Double in his three years in charge. He then announced that he would be joining Manchester City for the 2016-17 season, thereby beginning what could prove to be his greatest challenge yet: turning them into a team that consistently wins in the most difficult of leagues and a regular challenger in the Champions League . . . and doing it the Guardiola way. Guillem Balagué has followed Pep's career from the outset and has had direct access to the man and his inner circle. This then is the definitive portrait of Pep Guardiola and his relentless pursuit of footballing perfection.

In order to achieve the result you're aiming for, you have to have a plan. In soccer, you need a match plan. Some of the most successful soccer coaches devise match plans for every one of their team's matches. A match plan describes a strategy that is used to be ideally prepared for the next match and be able to react to shifts in tactics or to particular match situations. This book aims to provide every soccer aficionado with a practical insight into the topics of match ideas, tactics, match systems and match plans using easy-to-understand language. On that basis, the author identifies advantages and disadvantages of various formations utilized by top teams and then uses match plans to analyze how those formations can be defeated in play.

Gerard Houllier the former Liverpool, PSG and Lyon Manager said, "The important moment in the game today is when the ball is won or lost." Gegenpressing means to

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pressure the ball the instant possession is lost, with the intent of launching a quick counter attack when possession is regained. It is different then ordinary pressing where play is always directed into pre-determined pressing areas of the field. Gegenpressing is literally a swarm of intense high-energy players immediately trying to win the ball back after possession is lost, in most cases this is carried out high up the field. The idea behind this type of counter pressing is to force the opposition into hurried decisions and inaccurate passes, coupled with a heavy psychological pressure on the player in possession. This book provides insight into Jurgen Klopps Gegenpressing tactics along with training exercises that teach Gegenpressing.

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