



Analyzing the Game

Here are a few things that make the individual player successful in the game of soccer. This explains how things come together to make a better all-round better player.

Attitude

Observe the attitude of the players in terms of:

- * Competitiveness
- * Desire to play
- * Concentration (particularly when the ball is won or lost)
- * Confidence
- * Mental toughness
- * Work Rate
- * Commitment to high standards
- * Imagination (Creativity)

Fitness

Players should display speed, agility and quickness, strength and stamina, which are all major parts of the game.

Passing

Is the player's technique successful.

What is the quality of the pass in terms of?

- * Accuracy- Pass to a player where they want it to be.
- * Weight- how hard or soft the pass should be
- * Timing- To the player where and when they want it
- * Disguise- fakes to somebody and goes somewhere else
- * Angle- (not a straight pass, target man moves off defender at an angle)

Is the choice of the pass appropriate:

- * Short or long
- * Penetration or possession
- * One channel attack or switch of play
- * Pass to feet or to space

Finishing

- * Is there a positive and resilient attitude to finishing
- * Do the players accept the responsibility for finishing
- * Is the players failure to finish successfully due to bad technique, lack of vision, poor timing of the run, fear of physical challenge, unrealistic ambition or lack of speed (action or thought)

Supporting Players

- * Observe the player's movement off the ball- angles and penetrating runs
- * Are the players different in the skill of losing a game
- * Are the distances between players appropriate
- * Do the players know when to play in front of the ball and when to play behind it
- * Do the players recognize the obvious tactical signals and successfully execute the required tactical behavior
- * Is their clear precise communication among the players
- * Are the supporting runs timed correctly
- * Decision Making (no pressure / under pressure)
- * Do the players play with their head up
- * Does each player view the whole field
- * Do the players read the game situations
- * Do the players implement the solutions quickly

Defending as an Individual

When defending, do the players try to:

- * Immediately think defensively when the ball is lost
- * Be first to the ball
- * Avoid clumsy tackles
- * Stay on their feet
- * Display composure and discipline
- * Force opponents down the line or across the field
- * Keep the play in front of them
- * Stop opponents turning -

Individual Ball Skills

- * Do players have a good first touch?
- * Do players immediately open up new attacking possibilities?
- * Are the players comfortable on the ball?
- * Do the players display close control when running with the ball?

Group Play

Observe the level of awareness and the ability to execute basic combined movement

How does the team in possession achieve penetration:

- * 1-2 variations (Give & Go)
- * Overlaps
- * Take-overs
- * Fake-overs
- * Crossovers
- * Does the team create width, depth and mobility (Interchangeable of players)
- * Defending Team
- * In Defending do the player's combine the basic principles of concentration and balance

Team Play

- * Does the team play as a unit
- * Is the strategy effective
- * Is the tempo of the game varied and under control
- * Does the team have internal guidance, i.e., leadership
- * Are key players taking responsibility for the flow of the game

Six Ways to Score

- * Rebounds
- * Set plays, i.e., Free kicks
- * Crosses
- * 1-2 variations i.e., passing movements
- * Dribbling & shooting

Team Analysis

- * The team formation
- * Style of Play
- * Report on each individual
- * Strength and weaknesses in defense and attack
- * Set Plays
- * Fitness
- * Attitude & Responsibility
- * Other: Environment - weather conditions, size of field.