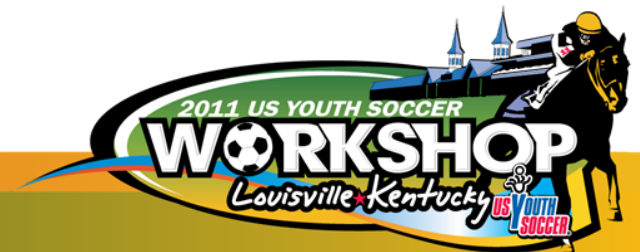


READING THE GAME

Adrian Parrish
Kentucky Youth Soccer Association
Director of Coaching



Reasons For Watching

- **Scouting**
- **Analysis**
- **Enjoyment**

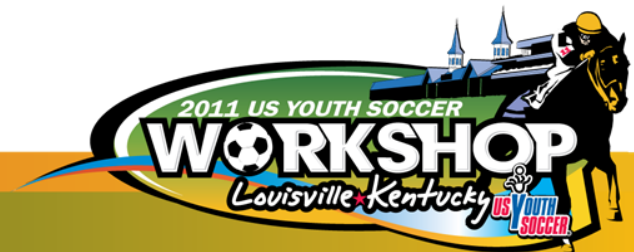
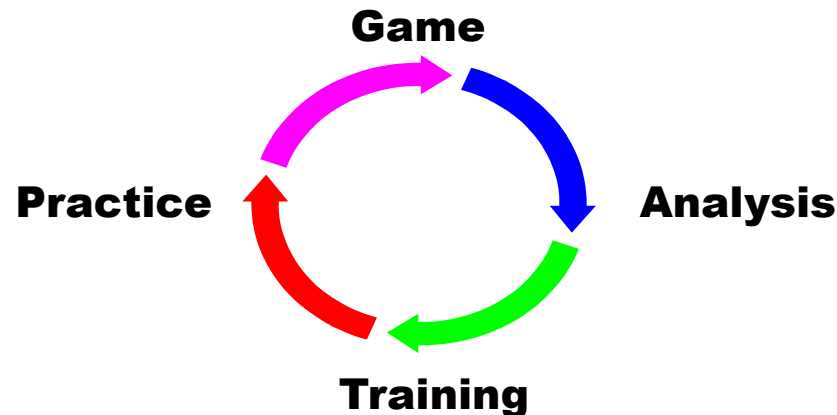


“Problems Are Obviously There To Be Solved”

Johan Cruyff

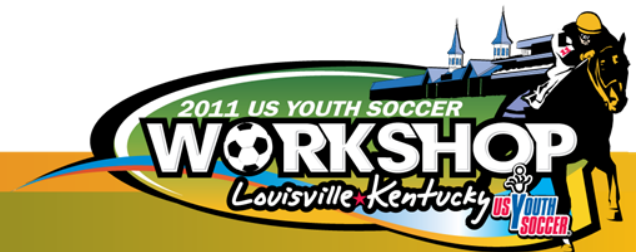
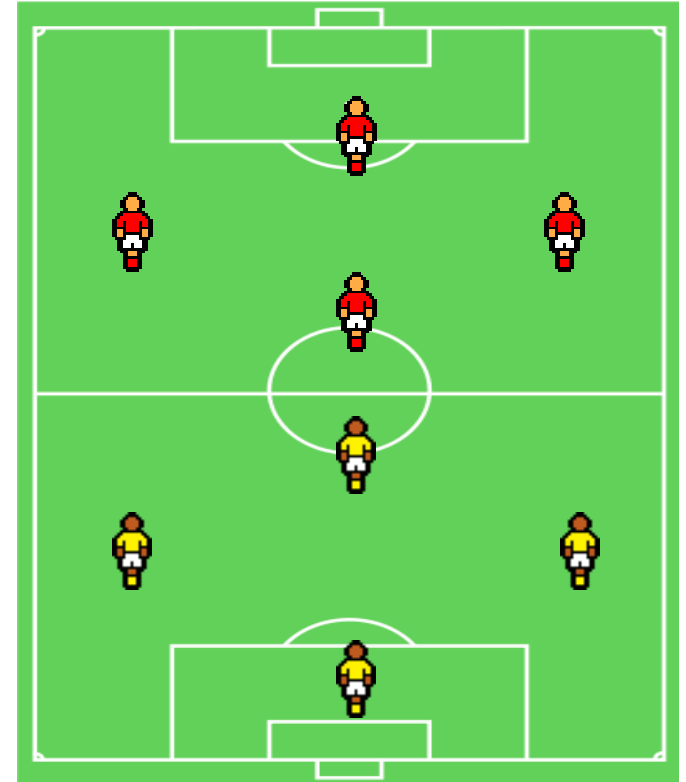
- **The Games exposes “Puzzles” to be solved. These puzzles are to be solved by both coaches and players.**

Cycle of Development



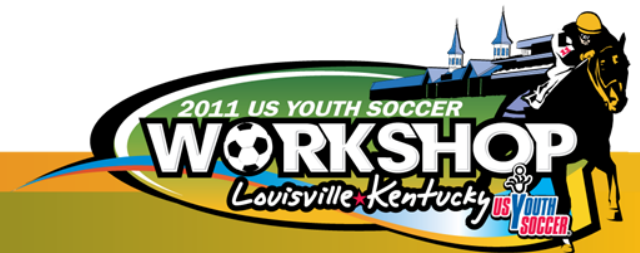
Finding the Problem

- **Eliminate a large number of problems**
- **How do you eliminate problems before the season has even started**
- **Prioritize**
- **When does the problem occur?**
- **Who owns the problem?**

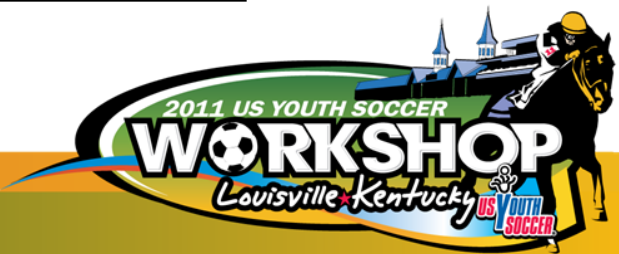
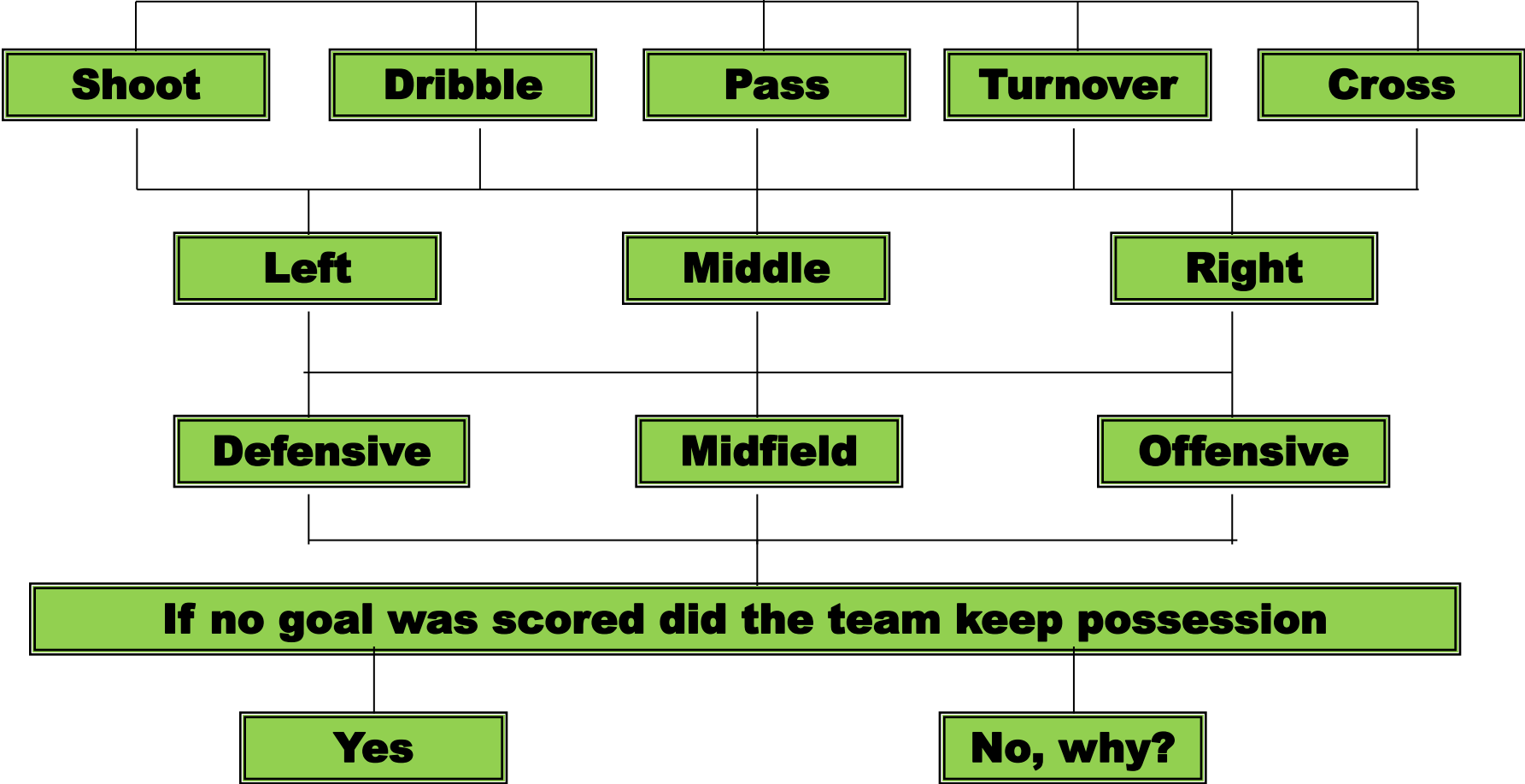


Finding the Problem

- **What is going wrong?**
- **Where does the problem occur?**
- **Why does the problem occur?**
- **Can the team pass and receive the ball under pressure ?**
- **Can the team create goal scoring opportunities?**



Score Goals



FIFA 2010 World Cup

Other Nations compared to US Men's National Team

Goals Scored

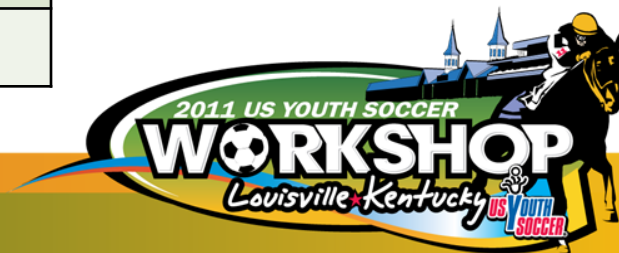
| Team | Games | Goals |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Germany | 7 | 16 |
| Netherlands | 7 | 12 |
| Uruguay | 7 | 11 |
| USA | 4 | 5 |

Goal Attempts

| Team | Games | Shots |
|---------|-------|-------|
| Spain | 7 | 121 |
| Uruguay | 7 | 102 |
| Germany | 7 | 102 |
| USA | 4 | 69 |

Shots on Goal

| Team | Games | Shots |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Spain | 7 | 46 |
| Uruguay | 7 | 46 |
| Netherlands | 7 | 46 |
| USA | 4 | 26 |

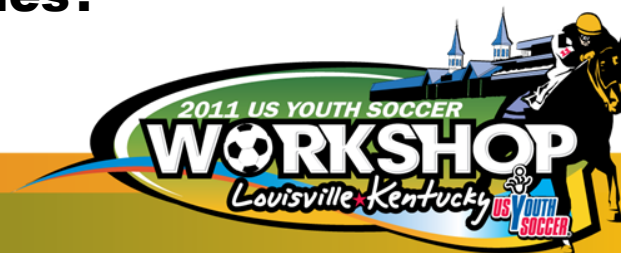


FIFA 2010 World Cup

Attacking Plays

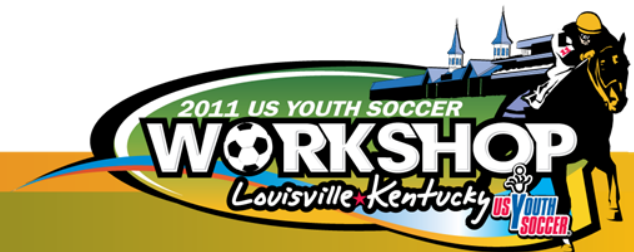
| Team | Games | Attacks | Right | Center | Left |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| Spain | 7 | 107 | 38 | 38 | 31 |
| Germany | 7 | 91 | 38 | 24 | 29 |
| Brazil | 5 | 72 | 29 | 23 | 20 |
| USA | 4 | 35 | 17 | 10 | 8 |

- **US averaged 17.25 goal attempts per game. 6.5 attempts per game were on target.**
- **Spain averaged 17.28 goal attempts per game. 6.6 attempts per game were on target.**
- **Using the tables and statics above what can the US Men's National Team do to improve their attacking principles?**



Analyzing Possession

- **Teams establishing control of the game**
 - **Territorial Advantage**
 - **Ball Possession**
- **Is time with the ball productive?**
- **Does it lead to increased goal scoring opportunities?**
- **Does the teams tactics affect it?**



Principles Of Play

Are they being Played or Ignored?

Defending

Depth

Support

Transition

Retreating

Zonal versus Man to Man



Attacking

Variety

Run's

Feeders & Receivers

Penetration

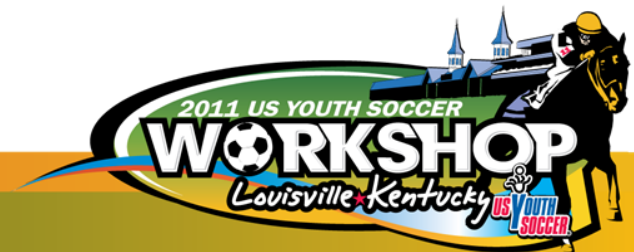
Direct versus Indirect



Rhythm & Effort

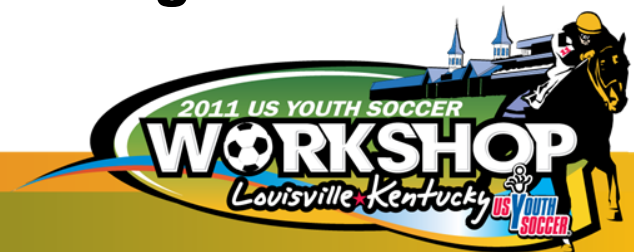
Analyzing the Strengths & Weaknesses of Teams & Individuals

- **How can you disturb the opponents' rhythm?**
 - **Higher Pressure**
 - **Higher Offside Line**
 - **More Depth**
 - **Immediate Pressure**
- **Are you utilizing your players correctly?**
- **Positioning of your players**



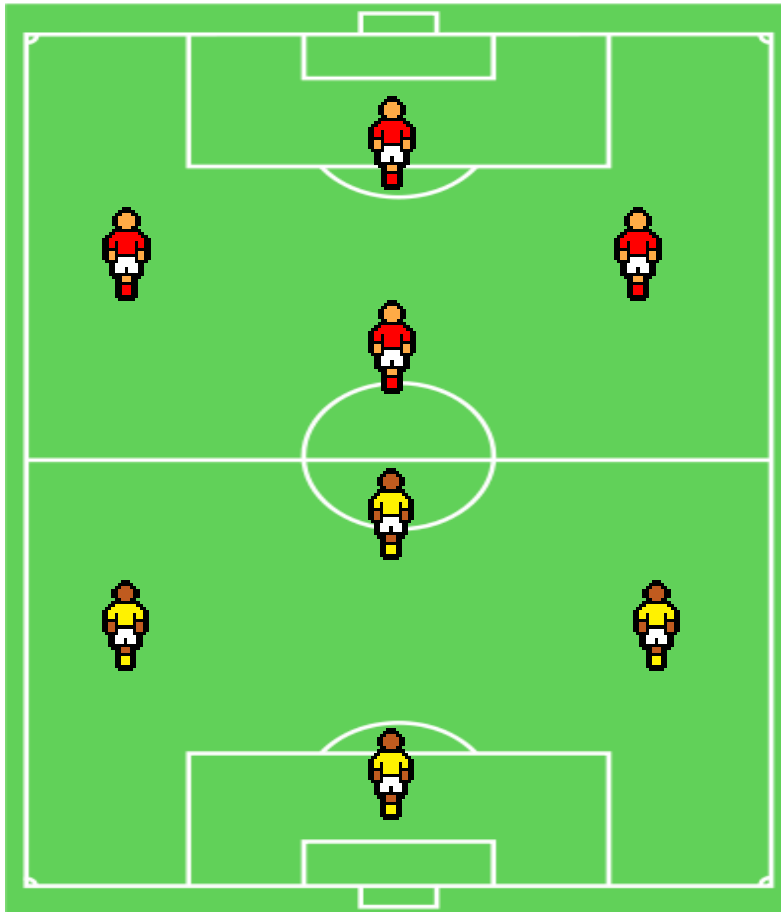
Players Reading the Game

- **Joy sticking players causes an inability for them to read and interpret the situations.**
- **Most Players are critical of**
 - **Playing with their head down**
 - **Ball Watching**
 - **Wait for someone else to make the play**
 - **Chase the ball like a Jack Russell Puppy**
- **Coaches' expectations are unrealistic**
 - **Maturation of a player is 24-26 years old**
 - **We talk tactics to 9 & 10 year olds**
 - **Learning curve is too complex**
- **Players don't concentrate on the learning environment**



Players Solving the Problems

“Playing with Insight”



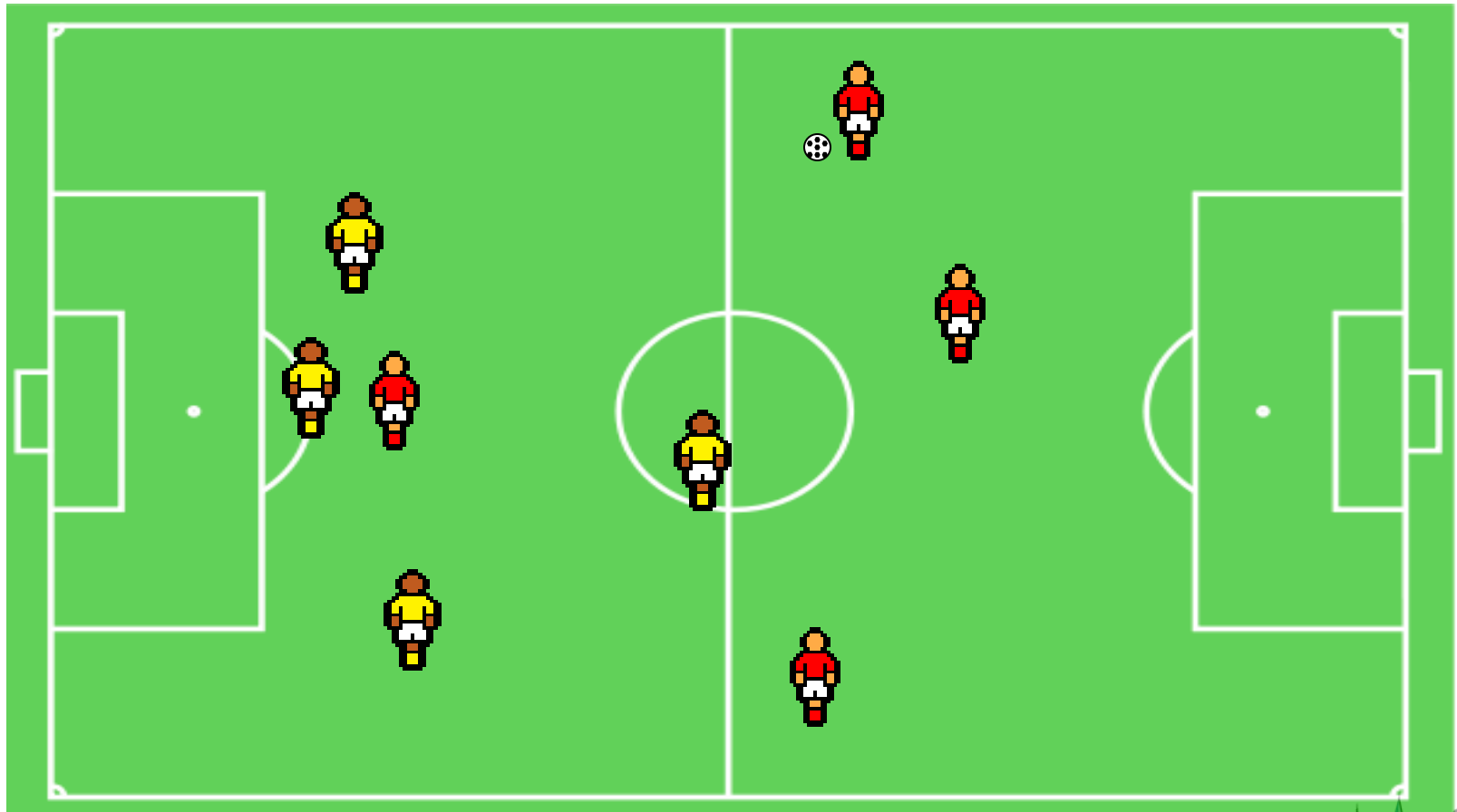
Players position on the field in relationship to others and how it relates to the flow of the game.

It is difficult because players don't watch or think about the game.

Understand the decisions there is no black or white

Formulas Within The Game

**Scenarios depend on the Thirds of the Field,
Phase of Play, Rhythm, Small Group Tactics**





Warnings



- **Should not be used as a tool to belittle players.**
- **The way your team plays at any given moment, depends greatly on the opponents.**
- **Do not evaluate in a hurried or emotional manner.**
- **Players need to reflect on the why they played the way they played, involve them in the process.**

