

Support Players –Helping the Person With the Ball

This was written to shed some light on the importance of supporting players. The success or failure of a team begins with supporting players. Properly supporting players with the ball requires early support from teammates without the ball. This early support comes from anticipating the play, reading the field, and knowing your teammates.

Possession is a very important principle, which often determines the success or failure of a team. Properly supporting players with the ball requires early support from teammates without the ball. This early support comes from anticipating the play, reading the field, and knowing your teammates. One misconception among players is that when their team is in possession, and they are not in control of the ball, that they are not affecting the team's possession. The exact opposite is true. Every player on the field determines whether the team is successful at holding possession.

As we said, supporting the player with the ball is an important key factor that should not be overlooked. Teams must keep possession for long periods to be successful. Often, the length of the possession is directly related to the number of passes and the quality of the passes as well as the support. The supporting player (player off the ball) is very important and determines how well the player with the ball plays.

Supporting players shape determines options. Players without the ball should position themselves at an angle so that there is a clear pathway for the ball to travel without a chance of interception. If a supporting player is too flat, they may be hiding behind a defender and not giving the player with the ball a good passing lane. The player with the ball should have 3 options at all times at any given moment to pass to.

Supporting players must work hard to quickly position themselves in a way that they keep/create as much space as possible in front of them. The player with the ball should concentrate on passing the ball so that the player who receives the ball can control it very quickly and easily. Once the ball is passed, the supporting players should move quickly off the ball and reposition themselves in order to support again. It's very important to keep space in front of you when you are supporting the player with the ball so that you will have time to play the next pass when you get the ball.

If a player cannot play forward, or receives the ball facing their own goal, then they must have support from their teammates coming towards them. The best position is at a slight angle and about 10-15 yards away. This allows for a fair degree of error for the forward in playing the ball back. The supporting player has space and time to use the ball in the area directly in front of them. The key to success is to learn to anticipate play when you are not immediately concerned.

Remember, good balls become bad balls when they are unsupported, and good players can look bad if they are not supported when in possession.