

TACTICAL SITUATION 6



The "False 9" Attacking Movements of the Forward

Content from Tactical Analysis of Luis Enrique's Paris Saint-Germain team in Ligue 1 and Champions League matches.

The analysis is based on recurring patterns of play observed within Luis Enrique's PSG team. Once the same phase of play is observed multiple times across many matches, the tactics are seen as a pattern. The analysis included is built from examples of the team's tactics being used effectively, taken from specific matches.

Each action, pass, individual movement with or without the ball, and the positioning of each player on the pitch including their body shape, are presented.

The analysis is then used to create a full progressive session to coach this specific tactical situation.

"False 9" Dropping Between Lines to Create Numerical Superiority in Centre



The forward (**F - Dembélé**) plays a key role in PSG's attacking play, creating numerical superiority in the central channel through his movement. **He drops and leaves the 2 opposing centre backs without a player to mark directly. Dembélé receives the ball in the space between the lines and then looks for a final pass in behind.**

The 2 central midfielders (**LCM** and **RCM**) drop to open up a channel to **Dembélé**. This also helps create a numerical equality or superiority in the midfield area.

Dembélé is PSG's primary player in the "False 9" role and his movement allows him to receive from the centre back (**CB**) or full back (**LB** or **RB**).

Dembélé's vacated centre forward position is filled by **Doué (RW)** in the diagram example, but can also be filled by one of the central midfielders (**LCM** or **RCM**) or left winger (**LW**) in other similar situations.

The defensive midfielder (**DM**) typically stays back to provide support.

SESSION 6 BASED ON THE TACTICS OF LUIS ENRIQUE

The "False 9" Attacking Movements of the Forward



2. Build-Up with "False 9" Creating 3v2 Overload in Attacking Zone



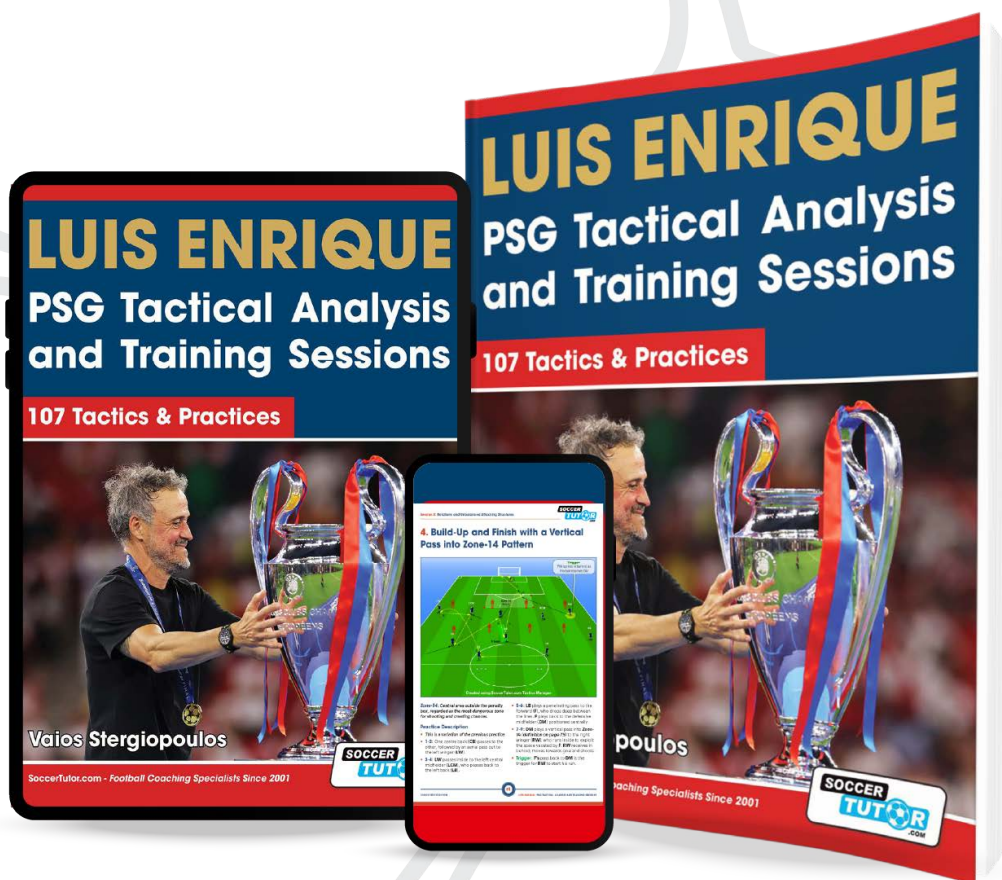
Practice Description

- The blue team play in a 4-3-3 formation and the whites in a 2-4-2. Beyond the halfway line, there are 3 blue attackers and 2 white centre backs (3v2).
- The blues build from the back and at the right moment, **the forward (F) is allowed to drop into the main playing area to receive.**
- **Once F receives, he dribbles or passes into the attacking zone, where the blues exploit the 3v2 situation to score.**

- The white team defend in an organised shape. If they win the ball, they counter-attack to score past the goalkeeper.

Coaching Points

1. **Both central midfielders move wide to create space for the forward to receive (see analysis page 86 for details).**
2. Good timing of the forward's movement.
3. Forward: Attack as soon as the ball is received and help exploit the extra player advantage in the attacking zone.



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