

OPPOSITES

Soccer is a continuous game of opposites. The obvious opposite is when one team attacks, their opponents have to defend. Under the skin of the 11v11 game there are other opposites at work just like a pulse beat. Therefore, players need to be aware of some of the major opposites in order to make good decisions throughout the game.

ATTACK VS. DEFENSE

The opposites listed below are to help players and coaches recognize what is happening from both sides of the ball.

(When we have possession)

VISION UP VS.

Good players do their “Soccer homework” before they receive the ball. They look, plan and act ahead of the next play. We win.

FIRST TOUCH CONTROL VS.

Good players need instant, first control to create space, to access their next move. We win.

FLOW PASSING VS.

Accurate, simple and quick passing is the fastest way to create scoring chances and unlock defenses. We win.

MAKING ANGLES VS.

Creating passing angles and constant passing options makes attacking play flow. We win.

SPREAD SPACE VS.

By spreading out, both in length and width, creates large holes of space to penetrate. This movement “stretches” defenses out to be exposed. We win.

SHOOT EARLY VS.

When a scoring opportunity is created-Take it! Shoot low, on target and goals will come. We win.

WINNERS VS.

Good teams talk – “Talk”, Man-on”, etc. They encourage, demand and organize all the time. It enhances team spirit. We win.

(When they have the ball)

VISION DOWN

Vision down on the ball means “lights out” on the game. They cannot see the surrounding play, so cannot make good decisions. They lose.

WORST TOUCH CONTROL

Poor control is self inflicted pressure and helps the defense to buy time to threaten the ball. They lose.

SLOW PASSING

Allows the defense time to close down the move. Often it sets up interceptions. They lose.

KILLING ANGLES

No passing angles or teammates to pass to, often means “turnover time”. They lose.

KEEP SPACE

By making the field smaller and narrower, their attacks have less time and space to operate in. They lose.

SHOOT LATE

To delay or to elect not to take a scoring chance is a soccer crime-Chances never come back! They lose.

LOSERS

Silent teams – tend to lack enthusiasm and like playing poorly. They lose.

If you and your team understand “the opposite game” you can dictate and be aware what is happening during a game. Remember, soccer is made up of 100’s of mini-duels like 1v1, 4v4, etc. The object is to win as many of these duels as possible, and then it favors your team winning the game. By getting “soccer savvy”, by knowing these and other “opposites” will help you to win games.