

How Italy won the 2006 FIFA World Cup

- Best organized , safe compact zonal back 4
- Strategy was to eliminate any attack build up in the middle 1/3, Gattuso's sole function was to steal and pass usually to Pirlo or force the ball outside
- The defense forced and redirected the ball outside into the dead zone corners, they handled almost every 50/50 cross with numbers back, became compact
- Cannavaro won many headers, and resolved most plays with sideways on patient pressure
- Pirlo was a defensive playmaker and initiated quick transitioning attacks
- These two defensive midfielders (Pirlo/Gattuso) had dual roles, both in patient defending and quick attack building, as a result this became the turning point area for many games
- These midfielders form a link between offense and defense, and must be tactically sound, in top physical condition, very smart defender and able to find space
- The outside fullbacks rarely joined in attack
- Totti Center Mid constantly looked for penetrating passes to Toni either through or run on passes or wall
- Italy, France and Portugal all played 4-2-3-1
- Therefore the challenge that lies before everyone is how to develop new ideas for attacking play!



How do we breakdown such a good defense?

- **Fast paced play:** Faster Striker than Fullbacks, 1-2 combination wall pass, run on through pass, Open shape ready to pass immediately, know potential receivers before the ball arrives

High Speed Dribbling: beat defenders with 1v1 moves and penetrate space

Strong Wing or Flank Play: Overlapping runs are essential to today's game, must pass to runner, use all of the field to spread the defense out, attack with outside backs making overlapping runs to midfield

Long Range Shooting: These usually occurs from overlapping runs and through passes into open space

Italy utilized both the 4-4-2 Diamond and 4-4-1-1 system

