

Argentina FIFA U-20 World Champions



FIFA U-20 World Cup
Canada 2007



Written and Produced by Kelly Cross

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Football Federation Australia

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Argentina

FIFA U-20
World Champions 2007

By Kelly Cross
National Coach Education Manager
FFA



REPRESENTATION

UEFA

Czech Republic	2nd
Austria	4th
Spain	6th
Poland	14th
Portugal	15th
Scotland	23rd



REPRESENTATION

CONMEBOL

Argentina	1st
Chile	3rd
Uruguay	12th
Brazil	16th



REPRESENTATION

CONCACAF

Mexico	5th
USA	7th
Costa Rica	17th
Panama	21st
Canada	24th



REPRESENTATION

CAF

Nigeria	8th
Gambia	10th
Zambia	11th
Congo	13th



REPRESENTATION

AFC

Japan	9th
Korea Republic	18th
Korea DPR	19th
Jordan	20th



REPRESENTATION

OFC

New Zealand 22nd



Argentina





Coach



HUGO TOCALLI

21.01.48

International Sides:

1994-2002 Argentina U-17 and U-20

Assistant Coach

2002- Argentina U-17 and U-20

Head Coach

1986-1993 Various club sides









6 defenders for 4 positions (2 CBs, 2 WBs)

Main 4 used in 5 of 7 games. In other 2 games, 3 of those 4 played.

NO.	NAME	CLUB	POSITION	DOB	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	GAMES	MINUTES PLAYED
1	ROMERO Sergio	RACING CLUB	Goalkeeper	22-Feb-87	191	86	7	630
2	FAZIO Federico	SEVILLA (ESP)	Defender	17-Mar-87	194	88	7	630
3	INSUA Emiliano	LIVERPOOL (ENG)	Defender	7-Jan-89	173	82	7	630
4	MERCADO Gabriel	RACING CLUB	Defender	18-Mar-87	182	83	6	540
5	BANEGA Ever	BOCA JUNIORS	Midfielder	29-Jun-88	173	71	7	604
6	CAHAIS Matias	BOCA JUNIORS	Defender	24-Dec-87	183	79	5	450
7	YACOB Claudio	RACING CLUB	Midfielder	18-Jul-87	182	73	5	450
8	SANCHEZ Matias	RACING CLUB	Midfielder	18-Aug-87	175	76	5	310
9	ZARATE Mauro	VELEZ SARFIELD	Forward	18-Mar-87	172	78	5	332
10	AGUERO Sergio	ATLETICO MADRID (ESP)	Forward	2-Jun-88	170	69	7	605
11	ESCUDERO Damian	VELEZ SARFIELD	Midfielder	20-Apr-87	174	79	0	0
12	GARCIA Javier	BOCA JUNIORS	Goalkeeper	29-Jan-87	180	75	0	0
13	VOBORIL German	SAN LORENZO	Defender	5-May-87	176	71	1	90
14	SIGALI Leonardo	NUEVA CHICAGO	Defender	29-May-87	179	70	1	90
15	CABRAL Alejandro	VELEZ SARFIELD	Midfielder	11-Sep-87	186	81	6	132
16	GOMEZ Alejandro	ARSENAL DI SARANDI	Midfielder	15-Feb-88	161	55	2	18
17	MORALEZ Maximiliano	RACING CLUB	Midfielder	27-Feb-87	160	54	7	602
18	DI MARIA Angel	ROSARIO CENTRAL	Forward	14-Feb-88	167	55	5	255
19	PIATTI Pablo	ESTUDIANTES	Forward	31-Mar-89	165	55	6	430
20	ACOSTA Lautaro	LANUS	Forward	14-Mar-88	170	72	6	121
21	CENTENO Bruno	SAN LORENZO	Goalkeeper	8-Aug-88	181	85	0	0



Group Phase

Kick-off	Match		Result	
30 Jun 19:15	4	Argentina 	0-0	 Czech Republic
03 Jul 19:45	16	Panama 	0-6	 Argentina
06 Jul 17:00	26	* Argentina 	1-0	 Korea DPR



Group: E


#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	 Argentina	3	2	1	0	7	0	7	7
2	 Czech Republic	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
3	 Korea DPR	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
4	 Panama	3	0	1	2	1	8	-7	1





Round of 16

Kick-off	Match		Result	
12 Jul 16:45	43	* Argentina 	3-1	 Poland



Quarter-finals

Kick-off	Match		Result	
15 Jul 19:45	48	* Argentina 	1-0	 Mexico

Semi-finals

Kick-off	Match		Result	
19 Jul 19:45	50	Chile 	0-3	 Argentina *

Final

Kick-off	Match		Result	
22 Jul 15:15	52	Czech Republic 	1-2	 Argentina *



Argentina - Czech Republic

0:0

Match	Date	Venue / Stadium / Country	Time	Att.
4	30 JUN 2007	Ottawa / Frank Clair Stadium / CAN	19:15	26500 sold out

Argentina (ARG)	Statistics	Czech Republic (CZE)
29	Shots	3
6	Shots on Goal	0
16	Fouls	14
10	Corner Kicks	5
0	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
0	Offsides	1
0	Own Goals	0
2	Cautions	3
0	Expulsions	0
59%	Ball Possession	41%
29	Actual Playing Time	20



Panama - Argentina

0:6 (0:4)

Match 16 Date 3 JUL 2007 Venue / Stadium / Country Ottawa / Frank Clair Stadium / CAN Time 19:45 Att. 23,500

Panama (PAN)	Statistics	Argentina (ARG)
10	Shots	14
4	Shots on Goal	8
8	Fouls	15
4	Corner Kicks	1
1	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
3	Offsides	8
0	Own Goals	0
1	Cautions	1
0	Expulsions	0
42%	Ball Possession	58%
24	Actual Playing Time	33



Argentina - Korea DPR

1:0 (1:0)

Match 26 Date 6 JUL 2007 Venue / Stadium / Country Ottawa / Frank Clair Stadium / CAN Time 17:00 Att. 28500 sold out

Argentina (ARG)	Statistics	Korea DPR (PRK)
16	Shots	17
9	Shots on Goal	5
18	Fouls	16
4	Corner Kicks	5
3	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	3
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
0	Offsides	1
0	Own Goals	0
2	Cautions	2
0	Expulsions	0
55%	Ball Possession	45%
32	Actual Playing Time	26



Argentina - Poland

Round of 16

3:1 (1:1)

Match 43 Date 12 JUL 2007 Venue / Stadium / Country Toronto / National Soccer Stadium / CAN Time 16:45 Att. 19526 sold out

Argentina (ARG)	Statistics	Poland (POL)
22	Shots	6
14	Shots on Goal	3
22	Fouls	21
6	Corner Kicks	3
1	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	2
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
1	Offsides	0
0	Own Goals	0
2	Cautions	3
0	Expulsions	1
60%	Ball Possession	40%
35	Actual Playing Time	23



Argentina - Mexico

Quarter-final

1:0 (1:0)

Match 48 Date 15 JUL 2007 Venue / Stadium / Country Ottawa / Frank Clair Stadium / CAN Time 19:45 Att. 26569 sold out

Argentina (ARG)	Statistics	Mexico (MEX)
12	Shots	13
8	Shots on Goal	4
26	Fouls	18
6	Corner Kicks	4
0	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	2
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
2	Offsides	2
0	Own Goals	0
3	Cautions	3
0	Expulsions	0
50%	Ball Possession	50%
25	Actual Playing Time	25



Chile - Argentina

Semi-final

0:3 (0:1)

Match	Date	Venue / Stadium / Country	Time	Att.
50	19 JUL 2007	Toronto / National Soccer Stadium / CAN	19:45	19526 sold out

Chile (CHI)	Statistics	Argentina (ARG)
5	Shots	15
3	Shots on Goal	9
30	Fouls	23
4	Corner Kicks	4
0	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	3
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
0	Offsides	2
0	Own Goals	0
6	Cautions	2
2	Expulsions	0
47%	Ball Possession	53%
20	Actual Playing Time	23



Czech Republic - Argentina

Final

1:2 (0:0)

Match	Date	Venue / Stadium / Country	Time	Att.
52	22 JUL 2007	Toronto / National Soccer Stadium / CAN	15:15	19526 sold out

Czech Republic (CZE)	Statistics	Argentina (ARG)
11	Shots	14
5	Shots on Goal	8
23	Fouls	26
3	Corner Kicks	11
2	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	3
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
1	Offsides	1
0	Own Goals	0
6	Cautions	4
0	Expulsions	0
37%	Ball Possession	63%
14	Actual Playing Time	24



Sergio Aguero (Atletico Madrid)
Golden Ball winner
Golden Shoe winner



Not obsessed with tall players
(‘We’re not a tall race’, Jose Malleo, Boca Juniors)





Height order

NO.	NAME	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
17	MORALEZ Maximiliano	160	54
16	GOMEZ Alejandro	161	55
19	PIATTI Pablo	165	55
18	DI MARIA Angel	167	55
10	AGUERO Sergio	170	69
20	ACOSTA Lautaro	170	72
9	ZARATE Mauro	172	78
3	INSUA Emiliano	173	82
5	BANEGA Ever	173	71
8	SANCHEZ Matias	175	76
13	VOBORIL German	176	71
14	SIGALI Leonardo	179	70
4	MERCADO Gabriel	182	83
7	YACOB Claudio	182	73
6	CAHAIS Matias	183	79
15	CABRAL Alejandro	186	81
1	ROMERO Sergio	191	86
2	FAZIO Federico	194	88

Striker
Midfielder
Striker
Striker
Striker
Striker
Striker



Height Comparison

ARGENTINA	MEXICO	CHILE	AUSTRIA	POLAND	CZECH REP
Height	Height	Height	Height	Height	Height
160	165	166	170	170	171
161	165	168	173	170	176
165	170	169	175	172	176
167	170	169	176	176	178
170	172	170	176	176	180
170	172	170	177	176	180
172	173	171	178	178	180
173	173	175	178	179	180
173	174	175	179	180	182
174	175	178	180	180	182
175	178	178	181	181	183
176	178	179	182	182	184
179	178	180	183	183	185
180	179	181	183	186	186
181	180	181	185	186	187
182	180	181	185	187	188
182	180	181	185	190	188
183	183	181	188	194	190
186	185	181	190	194	190
191	185	183	190	195	190
194	185	184	192	195	190
AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
175.9	176.19	176.23	181.23	182.38	183.14



Maximiliano Moralez (5 feet 2 inches!)
FIFA Silver Ball award and 3rd top scorer



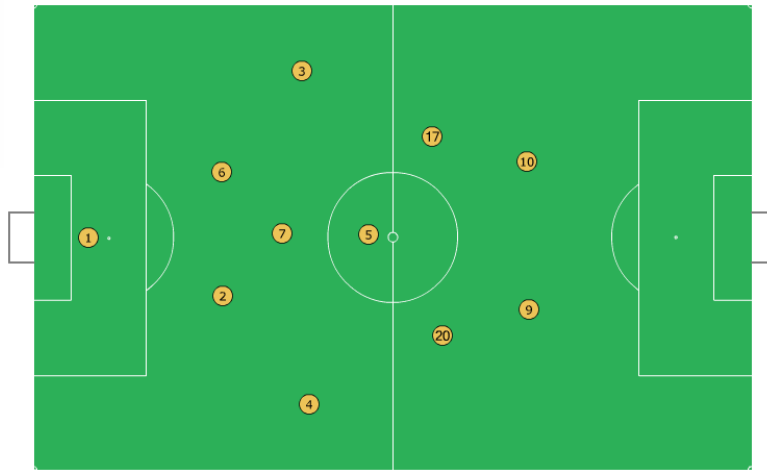
Basic Formation



- 2 centre-backs (2,6)
- 1 screen (7)
- 2 wing-backs (3,4)
- 1 playmaker (5)
- 2 advanced midfielders
- 2 strikers



Another view, giving a better impression of spaces



Best Eleven?



(Please note that some of the points made in the remainder of this handout are illustrated by movies in the face-to-face version of the presentation. These obviously cannot be reproduced in print.)



Defending



Defending 1

Attacking philosophy,
which affects defending
principles



Defending 2

Man-to-man approach,
rather than compact,
zonal approach



Defending 3

Defend with the minimum number of players (man-to-man with sweeper behind or with screen in front)



Not compact, 2v2 at back with screen in front; left wing-back is just leaving the wide right PRK player; right wing-back is near halfway, close to wide left PRK player.





PRK throw-in. ARG more concerned with players than space. 4 attackers, so only 5 defenders.



Shape determined by opponents positions (man-to-man approach). 4 players in a vertical line, rather than the typical horizontal back-four, or midfield zone. Balance in defence?





Defending 4

Do not allow opponents
time and space to
construct attacks



Man-to-man approach leads to effective pressing. Here Banega, a central midfielder, is tight on PRK playmaker who has gone deep to get the ball. As he plays the ball back, Banega and other Argentine players press



Banega



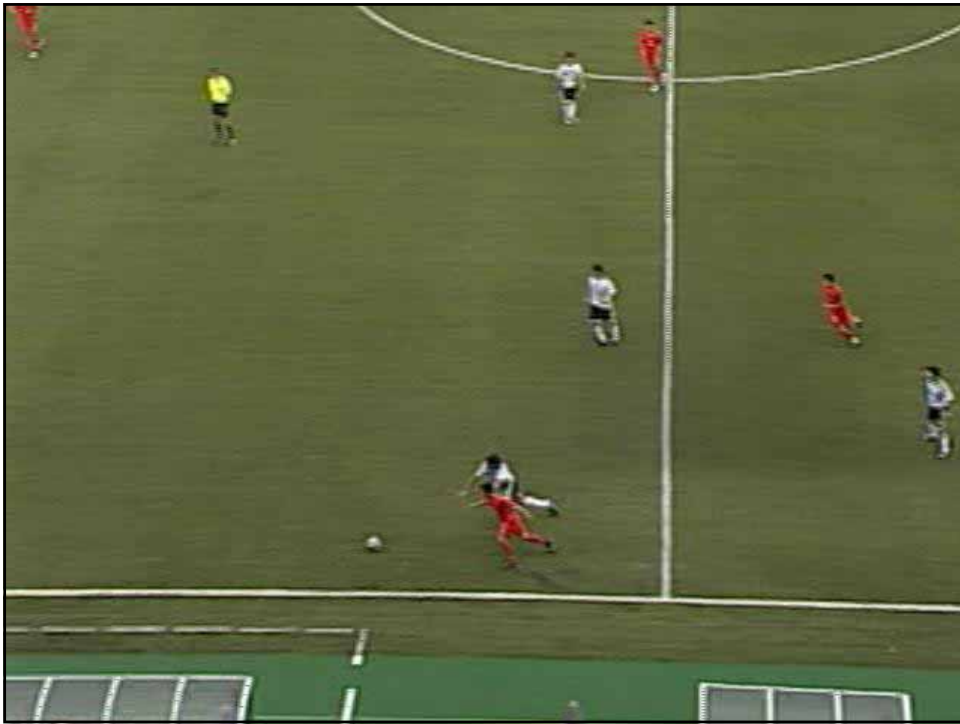
(continued from previous slide) 3 attackers and Banega press, forcing a long ball by PRK



Defending 5

In middle third and own back third, opponents always under pressure as they receive it ('man-to-man' approach')







Defending 6

In front third,
try to press



Defending 7

Excellent 1v1
defenders.

Aggressive, tough



Defending 8

Quick
recognition
and solution
of defensive
problems



Defending 9

Excellent
goalkeeper



Sergio Romero



Specific Defending Points

Two strikers

- Press opposing defenders whenever possible
- Stop other team settling / building
- Avoid dropping back into own half, stay mostly in front third if possible
- If necessary, perform advanced midfielder's role if he is caught further upfield



Specific Defending Points

Two advanced midfielders

- First priority, assist two strikers in pressing opposition
- If ball is won, there should be four Argentina players in fairly close proximity to launch serious attack
- As opposition get forward (or ball is kicked long) track back, but only as far as necessary (depends on position of opponents)



Specific Defending Points

Playmaker

- Tries to stay tight on opposition playmaker, even if he is deep in his own half
- Does not just drop off in front of centre-backs to 'zone up'
- The further the opposition attack progresses, the further back he goes



Specific Defending Points

Screen

- Defends in front of the 2 centre-backs
- If opposition play with 1 striker and 1 behind, picks up the one behind
- If opposition play with 2 strikers, picks up one of them, but when the ball is far away will leave 2v2 behind him and sit in the space in front



Specific Defending Points

Wing-backs

- Mark the opposing wide players
- Stay tight on them: if opponent receives the ball, they are close (as opposed to 'as the ball travels, close him down'). From this position, much better-positioned to intercept or punish a bad first touch
- This means they have to forget about 'balance the defence', 'mark dangerous space', 'stay compact'



Specific Defending Points

Centre-backs

- If opponents play with one central striker, one centre-back picks up, one sweeps behind. If striker runs to left, Cahais marks him, Fazio sweeps; and vice-versa
- If opponents play with two central strikers, they are prepared to mark man-to-man with screen in front; the closer the ball comes to Argentina's goal, the screen starts to pick one striker up so one centre-back can sweep

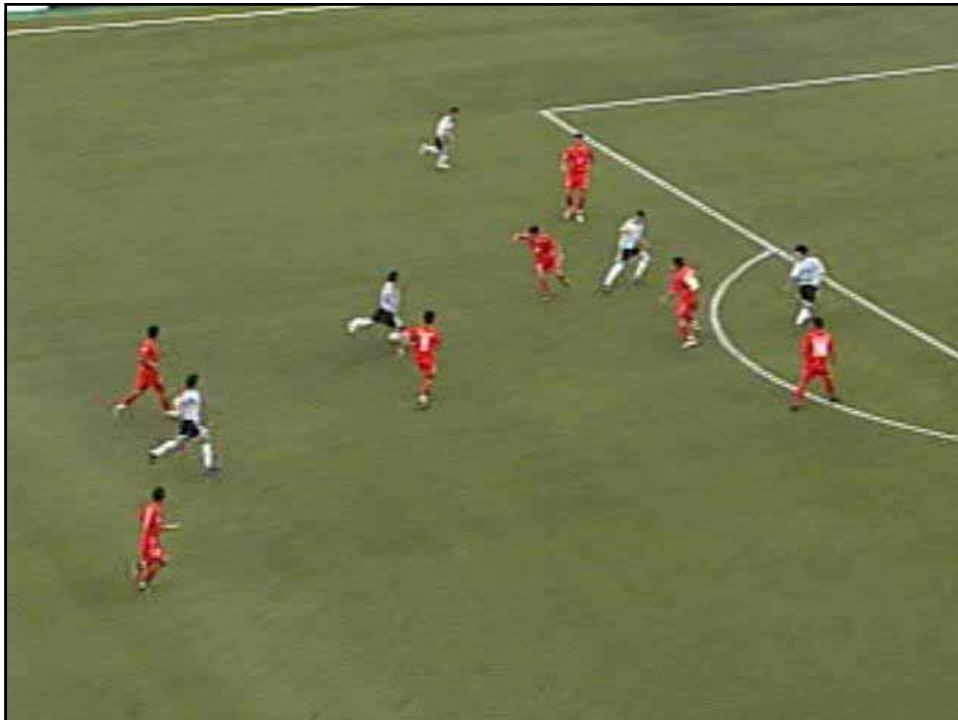


Attacking



Attacking 1

Attacking philosophy,
which affects
positioning of
players

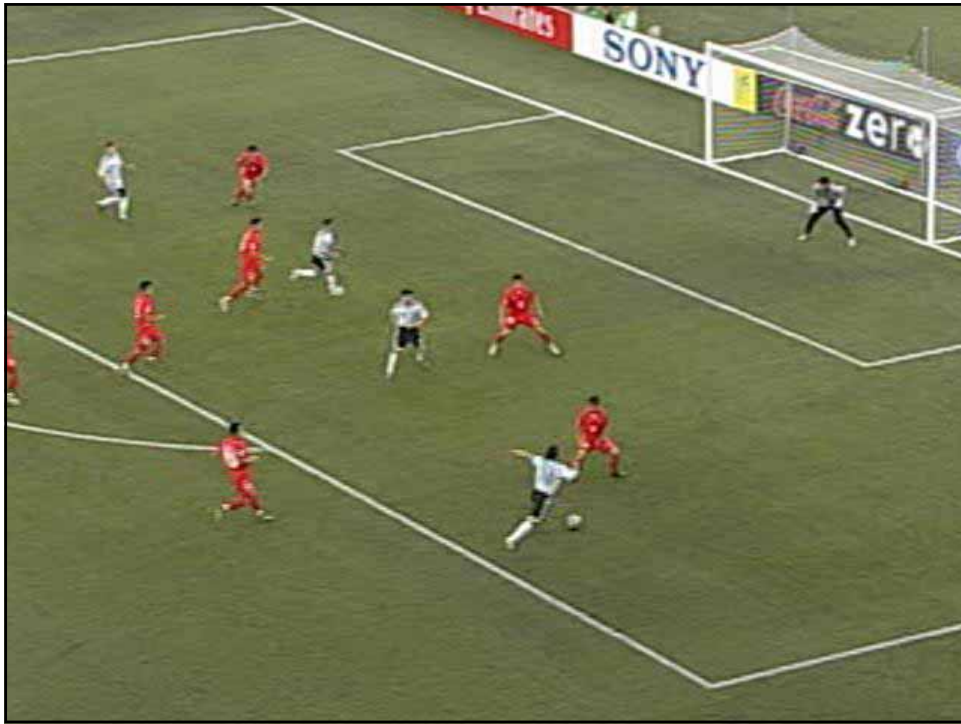




Attacking 2

'Front 4', playing close to each other (often in 'box' formation) Width often sacrificed for close support.











Attacking 3

Pass the ball to feet, mostly short



Attacking 4

Excellent playmaker
Ever Banega, Boca Juniors
1st team debut at 16





Attacking 5

Clever
combinations



Attacking 6

Close control in
tight areas



Attacking 7

1v1

skill



Attacking 8

Several goalscorers
(Aguero 6, Moralez 4,
Di Maria 3, Zarate 2)



Attacking 9

Try to go through
the middle,
avoid going
wide



Attacking 10

Rarely cross
the ball:
'pass the ball
and the goal
will appear'



Specific Attacking Points

Two strikers

- Hold positions on the front-line
- Try to stay close to each other
- Combine/interchange with 2 advanced midfielders to make a front 4
- If necessary, peel wide into channel to receive ball in space, but prefer to stay central
- Check in to midfield to receive ball, offering positions for ball to feet



Specific Attacking Points

Two advanced midfielders

- As much as possible, operate with 2 strikers to make a flexible front 4; sometimes formed a flat frontline of 4
- Freedom to roam to find space and make it difficult to be picked up
- Look for close combinations
- Prepared to receive the ball in tight areas
- Try to receive ball 'between the lines' of midfield and back four, to challenge opponents' marking
- Often check in between midfielders from their blindside to receive ball



Specific Attacking Points

Playmaker

- Main outlet for centre-backs, wing-backs and screen. Goes very deep to get ball
- Creates space by passing the ball short and getting it back, even going straight to the receiver and taking it off him!
- Prefers to pass ball into 'the block' rather than wide, to allow 'front 4' to combine and create
- Tends to sit behind the 'front 4' as support, but is also prepared to give-and-go to get himself forward



Specific Attacking Points

Screen

- Involved in build-up from the back, using simple, short passes
- Often simply gives ball to playmaker
- Holds a central, deep position in the build-up (aware of his screening role, but not scared to move forward). If opposition stack the back-third defensively, he gets further forward, supporting behind the block



Specific Attacking Points

Wing-backs

- Contribution to attack varies depending on how opposition plays: got forward against PRK and PANAMA; less adventurous against MEX, who used a front 3
- Support from deep. Join in when the play is on their side, usually from behind the ball
- Argentina don't rely on crosses, so not so much need for 'width' in the traditional sense



Specific Attacking Points

Centre-backs

- Given the way the team plays, and the limited numbers assigned to purely defensive roles, it is obviously crucial that these two rarely push forward
- However, on a couple of occasions Fazio won the ball on halfway and pushed forward into space, ending up near the corner flag trying to cross the ball
- Cahais also played a role, using his sweet left foot to dink balls into space when necessary



v CZECH REPUBLIC (1st Group Game)

Compare shots



FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007

Game Statistics



Group E

Argentina - Czech Republic

0:0

Match	Date	Venue / Stadium / Country	Time	Att.
4	30 JUN 2007	Ottawa / Frank Clair Stadium / CAN	19:15	26500 sold out

Argentina (ARG)	Statistics	Czech Republic (CZE)
29	Shots	3
6	Shots on Goal	0
16	Fouls	14
10	Corner Kicks	5
0	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
0	Offsides	1
0	Own Goals	0
2	Cautions	3
0	Expulsions	0
59%	Ball Possession	41%
29	Actual Playing Time	20



v CZECH REPUBLIC (Final)

Compare possession



FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007

Game Statistics



Final

Czech Republic - Argentina

1:2 (0:0)

Match	Date	Venue / Stadium / Country	Time	Att.
52	22 JUL 2007	Toronto / National Soccer Stadium / CAN	15:15	19526 sold out

Czech Republic (CZE)	Statistics	Argentina (ARG)
11	Shots	14
5	Shots on Goal	8
23	Fouls	26
4	Corner Kicks	11
2	Direct Free Kicks to Goal	3
0	Indirect Free Kicks to Goal	0
0	Penalty Kicks	0
1	Offsides	1
0	Own Goals	0
6	Cautions	4
0	Expulsions	0
37%	Ball Possession	63%
14	Actual Playing Time	24



Depth in squad

In Final, played without:

Cahais (6) centre-back, captain
Yakob (7) screen

**(both had played 5 full games out
of previous 6)**

Sigali (14) makes **debut in Final!**



Questions / Implications

Many of the questions raised by
Argentina's approach to defending are
covered in a separate presentation:

'FIFA U-20 World Cup 2007 - Comparison
of defending styles'



Questions / Implications

Do Argentina ever have to change their defensive system to counter their opponents?

Obviously not, but coach has to accept that his team's shape will not always look the same.

The 'man-to-man' approach means that their defensive shape is dictated by the opposition.

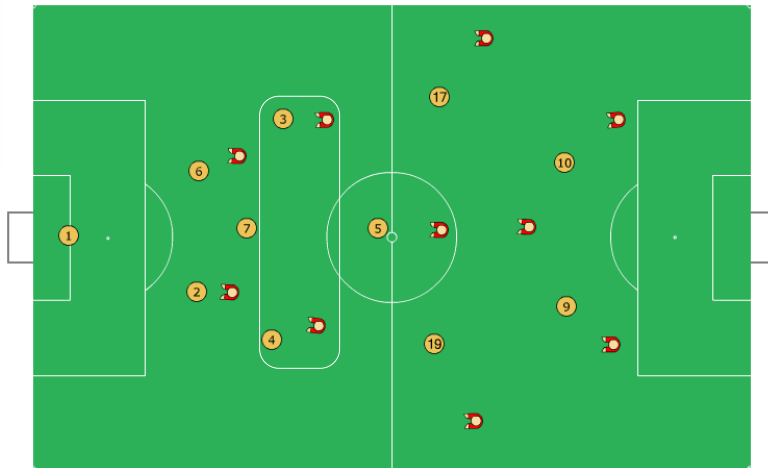


Questions / Implications

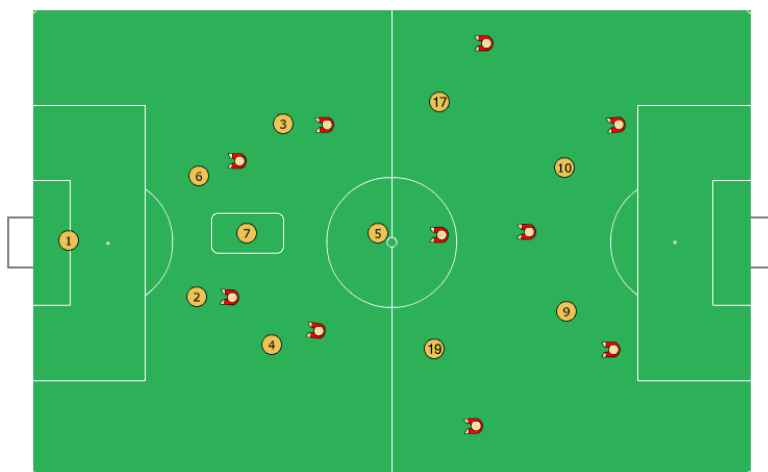
What would Argentina do against a team who played the same attacking formation?



Perhaps the 2 wing-backs (3 and 4) would come in and pick up the 2 advanced midfielders, as they did with Mexico's 2nd and 3rd strikers

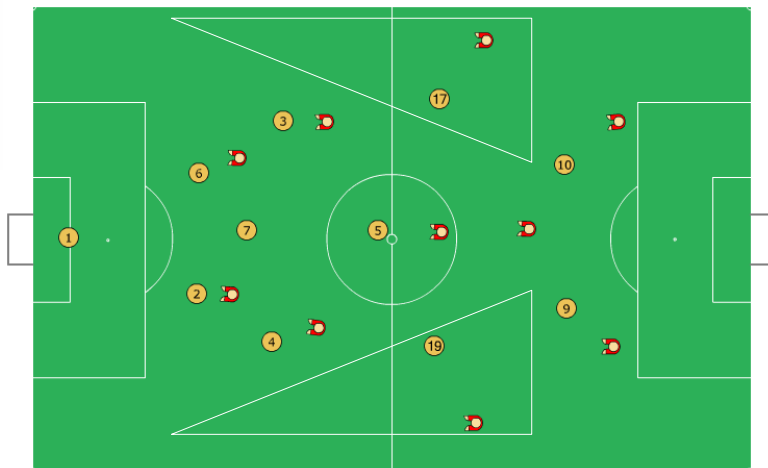


The screen (7) would probably do his usual job, assisting centre-backs (2 and 6)





The key area would then be wide: would the advanced midfielders (17 and 19) be dragged back by the opposing wing-backs? This would affect their usual attacking style.



Questions / Implications

Are Argentina the ultimate 'World' team?

South American qualities:

Flair, streetwise, attacking philosophy, jogo bonito

European qualities:

Hard work, strikers prepared to run for team, respect the importance of defence



THANK YOU

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