

PIVO: PLAYING THE BALL INTO THE TARGET

A shooting opportunity is created when the ball is played forward by a back line player, ALA or FIXO, into the target player, PIVO who positions himself in front of the opponents goal.

To create separation from his mark the PIVO drives into his defender forcing him to move (1) then 'checks' back to his teammate (2) who is in the process of delivering the ball. Now, possessing the ball under the sole of his foot, with his back to the goal the PIVO shields the ball (3), assesses the situation and decides what option will be most successful.

The ALA or FIXO, who played the ball in, (4) makes a sharp, diagonal, forward 'cut' for only a few steps (5) taking the defender out of his intended line of movement. Then, with another sharp movement he diverts back to a line directly toward the PIVO (6). This creates separation from his defender and allows ALA and PIVO to face each other (7), read the play and make a shot attempt on goal.

Options for the shot include but are not limited to: laying the ball directly back to the shooter (8), laying the ball off to either side, lifting the ball to the shooter or if the PIVO can 'feel' the defender and decides he has an advantage he can 'turn' on him rolling the ball into a shooting position.

This situation can also be created from goalkeeper distributions, free-kicks or kick-ins and involve 2, 3 or even four teammates in the play. The choice to shoot on goal or make a 'shooting-pass' for a teammate at the 2nd post is dependent on all players being active, aware and engaged in the play.

Practiced properly for efficient use in games this principle will produce a multitude of dangerous shooting options for any team. As the complexity of patterns and the quality of defenses increase, recognition, timing and 'verbal' and 'non-verbal' communication between players is demanded for consistent execution.

