



## 4-3-3 (3-5-2)

### STRATEGY

The formation Bartolomé plays is often set out like a 4-3-3 but quickly switches to a 3-2-5 when the team is in possession with the central midfielder moving alongside centre backs.

- Encourages playing out from the back (standard passes)
- Encourages ball retention (play back or wide when unable to play first time or standard pass)
- Likes to play with width across the pitch
- Demands pressing in numbers to win the ball back

### ATTACKING STYLE

Goalkeeper plays short from the back, no long balls. Once one of the back three collects the ball from the goalkeeper, the two full-backs are to be positioned high and wide, making the pitch as large as possible. Once they receive the ball, they are expected to pass forwards to one of the attacking five and then tuck in as two central midfield players. The five attacking players are given the freedom to provide the creative flair. The two wide players must keep their width to make the pitch as big as possible, creating space for the attacking midfield players to pick up the ball in the pockets of space between the defence and midfield of the opposition. They can do this by slipping in clever first time passes to the striker or their attacking wingers who can now leave their wide positions, or by going for goal themselves.

### DEFENSIVE STYLE

Defensively, the team uses an offensive tactic to win the ball back, rather than dropping back to defend their lines. Once the team loses the ball there must be an instant reaction regain it. The front players start this reaction and their aim is to pressure and hassle their opponents to win possession back as quickly as possible.

Once they regain the ball it is a matter of drawing out the opponent again, keeping the ball circulating until the gaps start to appear once again in the opposition's defensive shape.



- **STANDARD PASSING**
- **FIRST TIME PASSING**
- **KEEP POSSESSION**
- **PRESS IN NUMBERS**



## 4-3-1-2

### STRATEGY

The formation is a 4-3-1-2 with a midfield diamond. The central midfielder sits and screens the back four.

- Play on the Counter-attack (long balls from the back or midfield dribbles)
- Once possession is won, play direct and get the opposition on the back foot quickly (long balls and high passes)
- Disciplined and compact when defending
- Two units – Defence (rigid and structured) and Attack (freedom on the ball)

### ATTACKING STYLE

The team's midfield three play strictly in concert with each other and with the back four. They remain horizontally and vertically compact, seeking to create a difficult-to-play-through midfield block that win possession back and transition it quickly and directly to the attacking trio. The flanking midfielders are also tasked with carrying the ball forwards in transition. Width comes from the full backs but to cover their defensive duties, only one goes forward at a time. Once the ball has been played forwards, the attacking trio take over, supported by one of the flanking midfielders and a full-back to provide width and a high pass option if needed. A playmaker sits behind the two strikers, capable of dribbling and playing first time passes through. The strikers combine direct running off the ball with good positional awareness to make the most of balls through or the width provided by the full-backs.

### DEFENSIVE STYLE

The team plays with a high line to facilitate this midfield block, and they also press as a 7 player unit. Once the ball is won back, the two main options for transition are the carrying runs of the midfield, or long passes from the centre-backs. The aim is to get the opposition on the back-foot quickly, especially if they had over-committed players to the attack. The aim is always to create space for the front three by sucking in the opposition, winning the ball, and then transitioning directly.



- **PLAY ON THE COUNTER**
- **DIRECT LONG & HIGH BALLS**
- **DEFEND AS A UNIT**



## 4-4-2

### STRATEGY

Sordi plays a narrow and compact 4-4-2 in which every players has to contribute defensively and play according to the situation.

**NOTE: BECAUSE OF SORDI'S WIN AT ALL COSTS MENTALITY, ALL TACKLES ON A DICE ROLL OF 2 (IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL ROLL OF 1) ARE CONSIDERED FOULS ON THE OPPOSITION.**

- The team allow the opposition to have the ball freely in the final third, only closing down in the middle of the pitch and their own half
- The team play as two banks of four and attack on the counter, launching long balls to the lone striker with the other striker dropping off
- The team operates an aggressive press but only when the ball is played wide – the entire team shift across the pitch with this press. Sordi believes the opposition player with the ball on the wings has limited options

### ATTACKING STYLE

Sordi demands that the team play quick and aggressively on the counter attack. Driving forward both full backs and wingers with dribbling runs to play in the strikers with standard passes into space for the strikers to run on to. The risk is high of a turnover but because the ball is already in the opposite half, the team will have the time to get back in shape.

### DEFENSIVE STYLE

The team choose particular moments to press and when the situation is perfect, they press really hard. These moments are generally low-risk/high-reward when the opposition player has a minimal chance to escape the press and the chance of a counter is high. They generally allow the opposition to play in central areas and away from the penalty box. The fanatical pressing starts when the ball switches to the wings. Because of the team's narrow shape which leads to congestion in the middle, the opposition is naturally drawn to the wings where the team presses in a pack.



- LONG BALLS INTO STRIKER
- AGGRESSIVE PRESS IN OWN HALF
- WIDE PLAYERS DRIBBLE



## 4-4-1-1 (4-4-2)

### STRATEGY

The formation is a 4-4-1-1 that becomes a 4-4-2 when balls are out wide. Raeburn believes that regardless of the context of the game being played his team should always play to win, pass the ball, impose their football and play an attacking style.

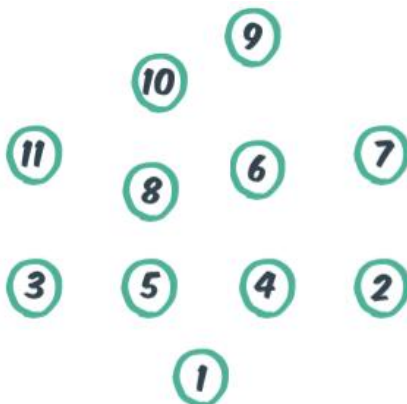
- Play on the front foot, dictate the game and force the opposition to react
- The wingers should have pace and dribbling ability, able to rampage down the wing and either cut inside or play high balls and passes into the box
- Raeburn encourages the team to press only in their own two thirds of the pitch and capitalise on opponent's high ball mistakes or passes into space
- Raeburn admires the individual and relies on individuals to tackle alone and intercept passes

### ATTACKING STYLE

Raeburn demands an attacking, direct style. Balls to feet where individual brilliance will conquer the opposition or balls into space for players to counter attack quickly and catch the opponents off-guard. The central midfielders play very different roles, one drops deep and screens the back four. The other receives balls from deep and dictates play, playing raking passes to the wings or into the box and driving forward when there is space. The wingers and forwards are relied upon to be individually brilliant, the second striker is expected to push forward and overwhelm the opposition when attacking, turning the shape into a 4-4-2.

### DEFENSIVE STYLE

The GK will always play to the wings where the team can get on the attack quickly and drive into the opposition. The back four stay in line until they are broken by runners when they track their man individually. The back four's job is to win the ball and send it forward quickly, launching a counter attack. When defending the second striker is expected to drop back and forage for the ball. The team never plays unnecessary passes at the back, always direct and always pushing forward.



- PLAY ON FRONT FOOT
- USE INDIVIDUAL PLAYER SKILLS
- ATTACKING AND DIRECT