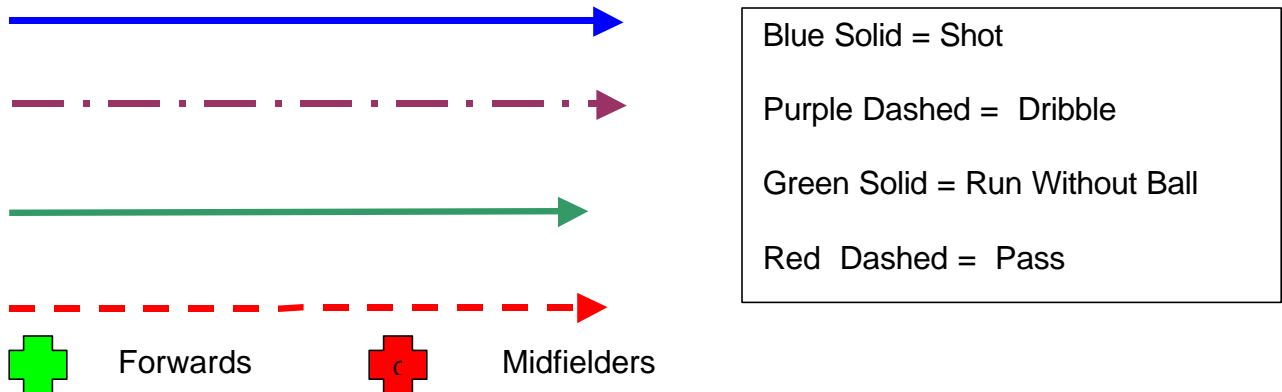


Three Man Front Passing Patterns-Options

Here are a couple of the attacking tactical setups used by the US Women three man front and the options off these setups as described by Gary Rue , a high school coach from Frankfort, Kentucky.


The following convention is made.



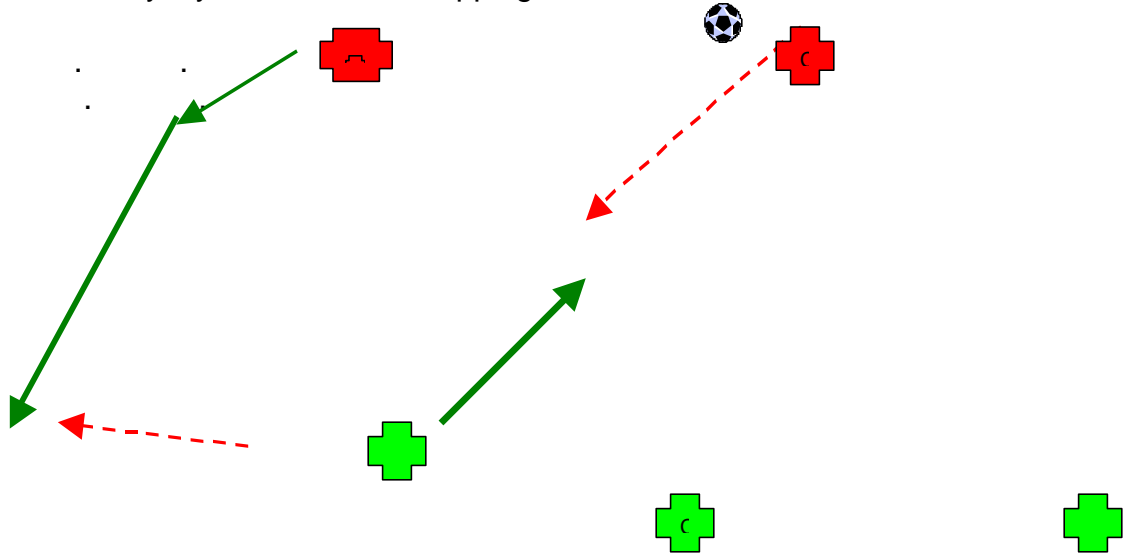
General Coaching Notes About a Three Man Front

- For the 3 man front to be effective, it is their movement that is critical. For instance, as the wing forward checks and receives, the center forward should be diagonaling into his space. The other wing forward can either diagonal across to the center or look to open up with a C run wide.
- In general, the 3 man front should constantly be looking to check one man into the "hole" and send the other two on wide runs or diagonals across the middle.
- There should be at least one forward stretching out the defense forward with at least one checking back. As with the two man system, the forwards should work off of, and with, one another.
- The biggest problem with a three man front is the tendency to stay in one spot and moving vertically instead of laterally.

Option 1 Ball in Central Midfield

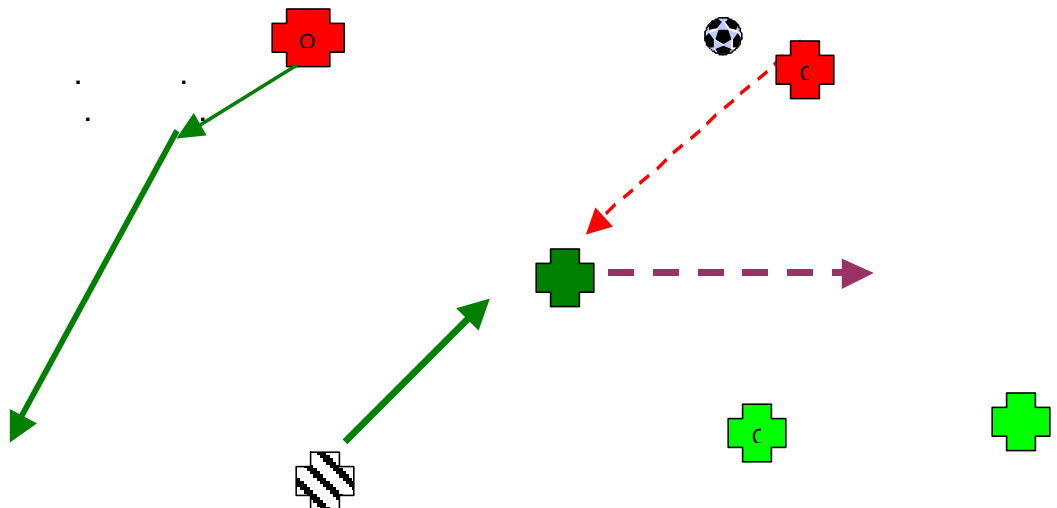
When ball is in the central midfield, a wing forward  checks to the ball

The forward immediately lays off to the overlapping Outside Mid



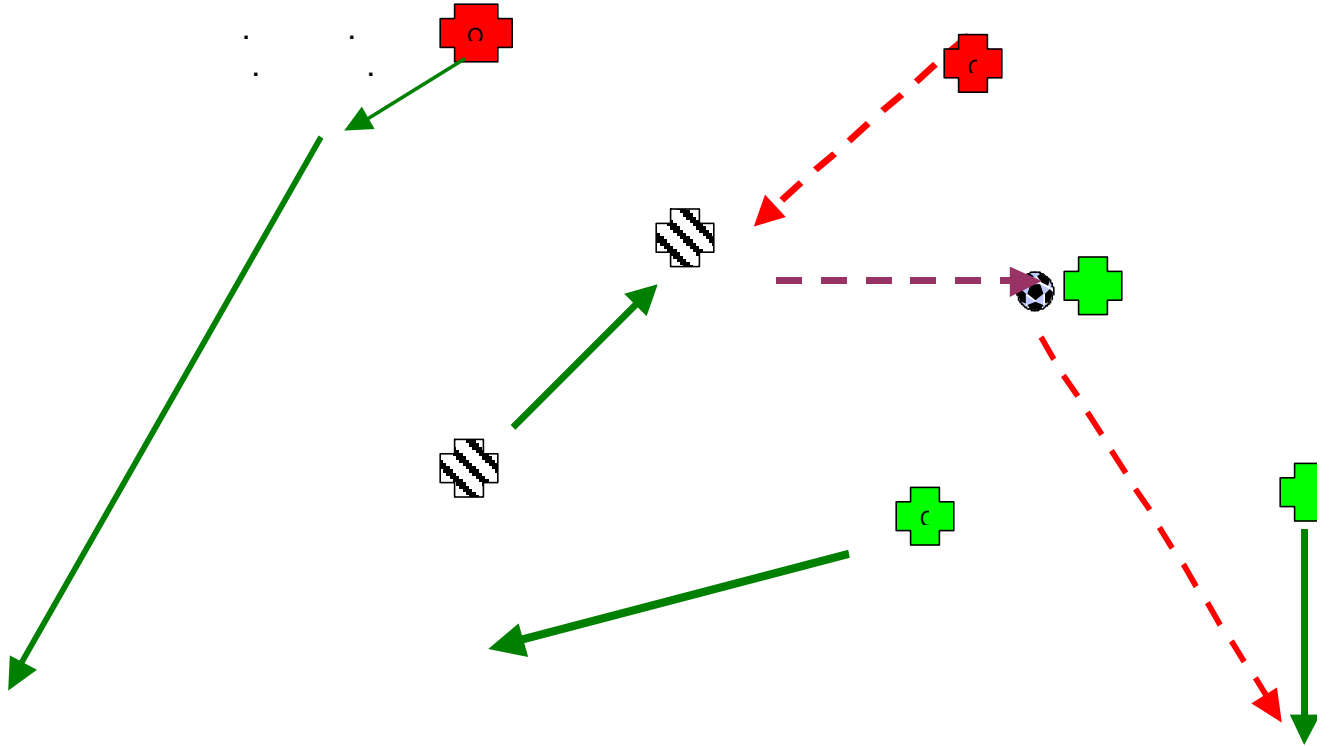
Option 2: Wing Forward Carries the Ball

Alternatively the wing forward could carry the ball toward the middle of the field

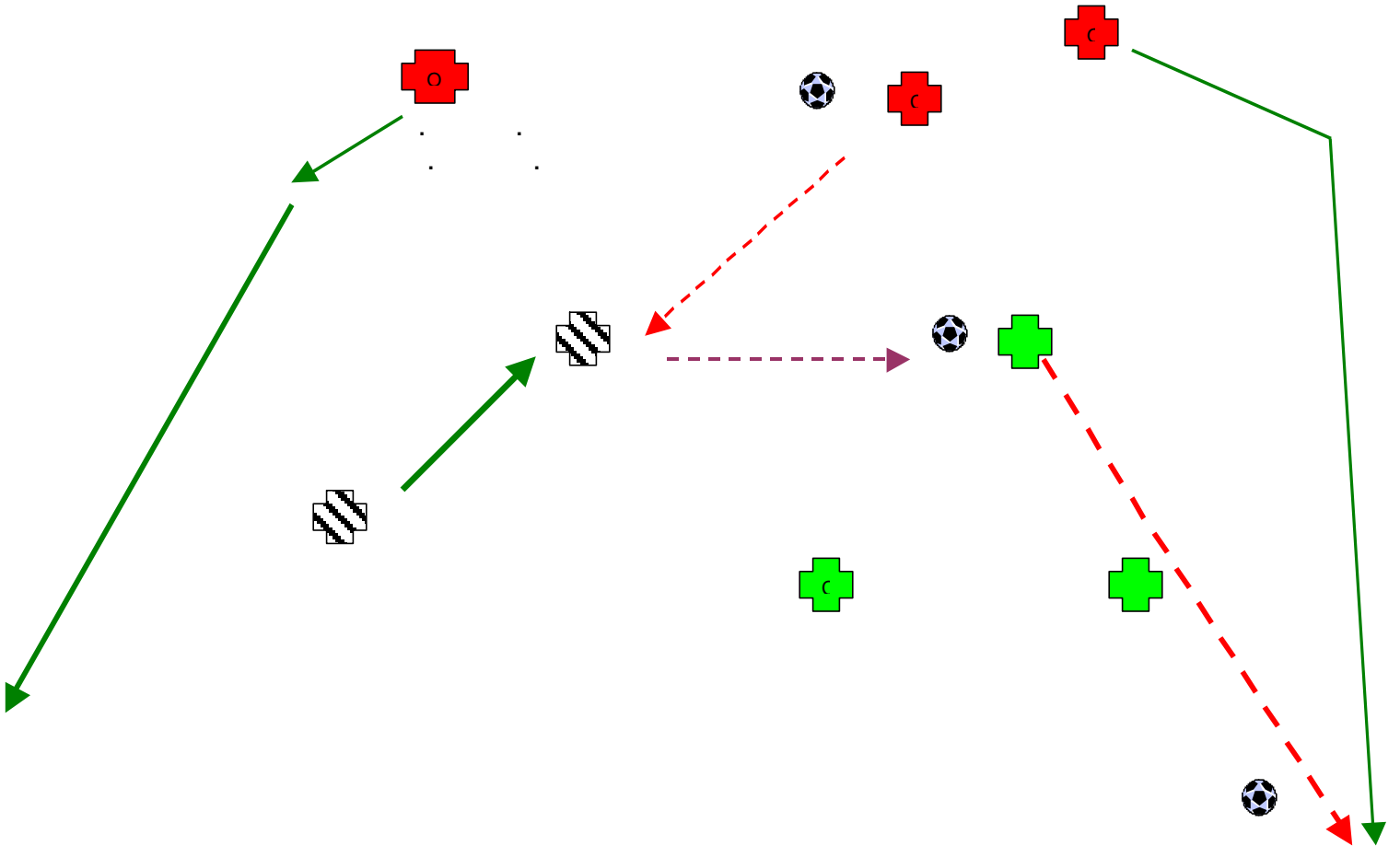


If the forward carries the ball, the options are:

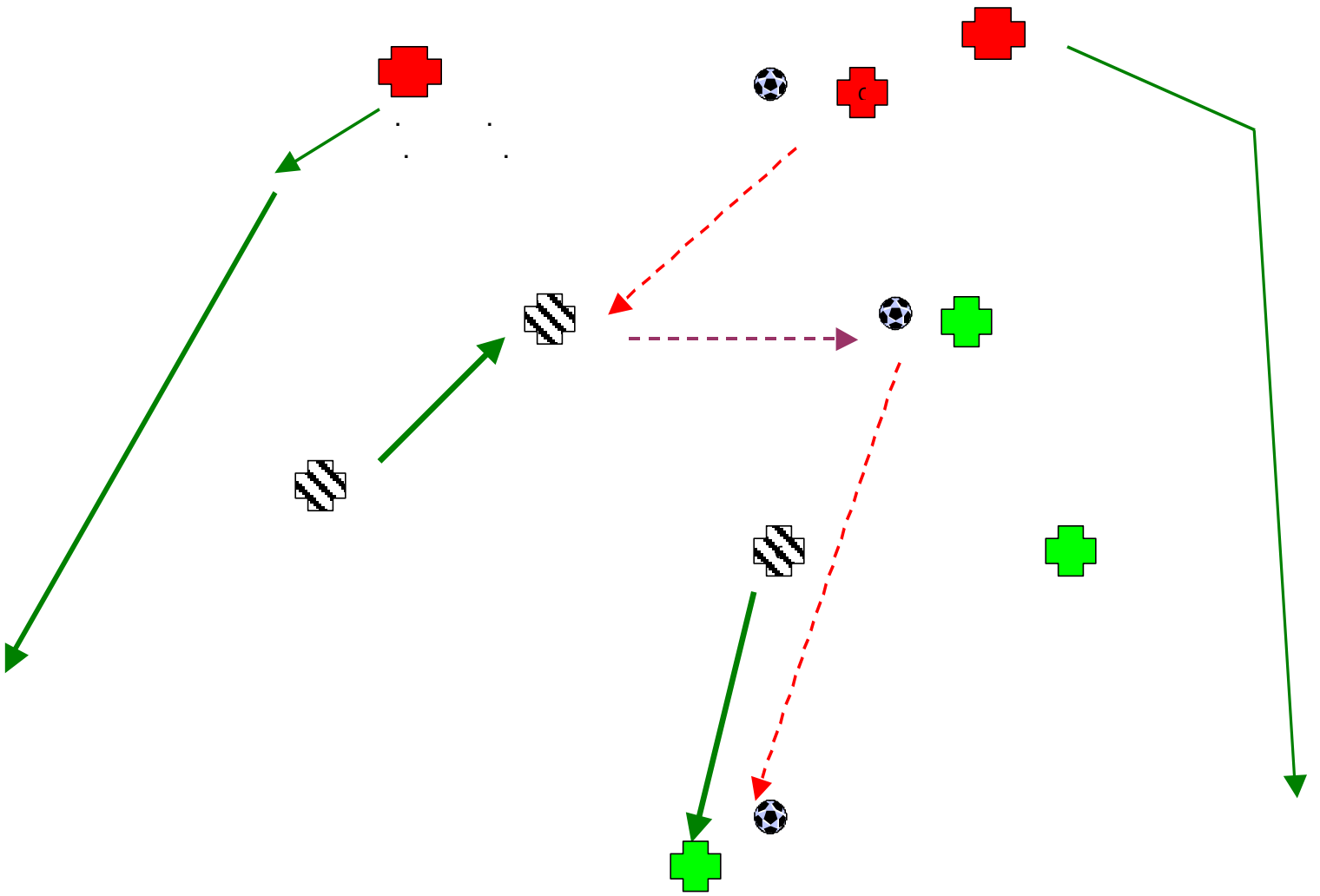
➤ **A Forward Pass To The Overlapping Player**



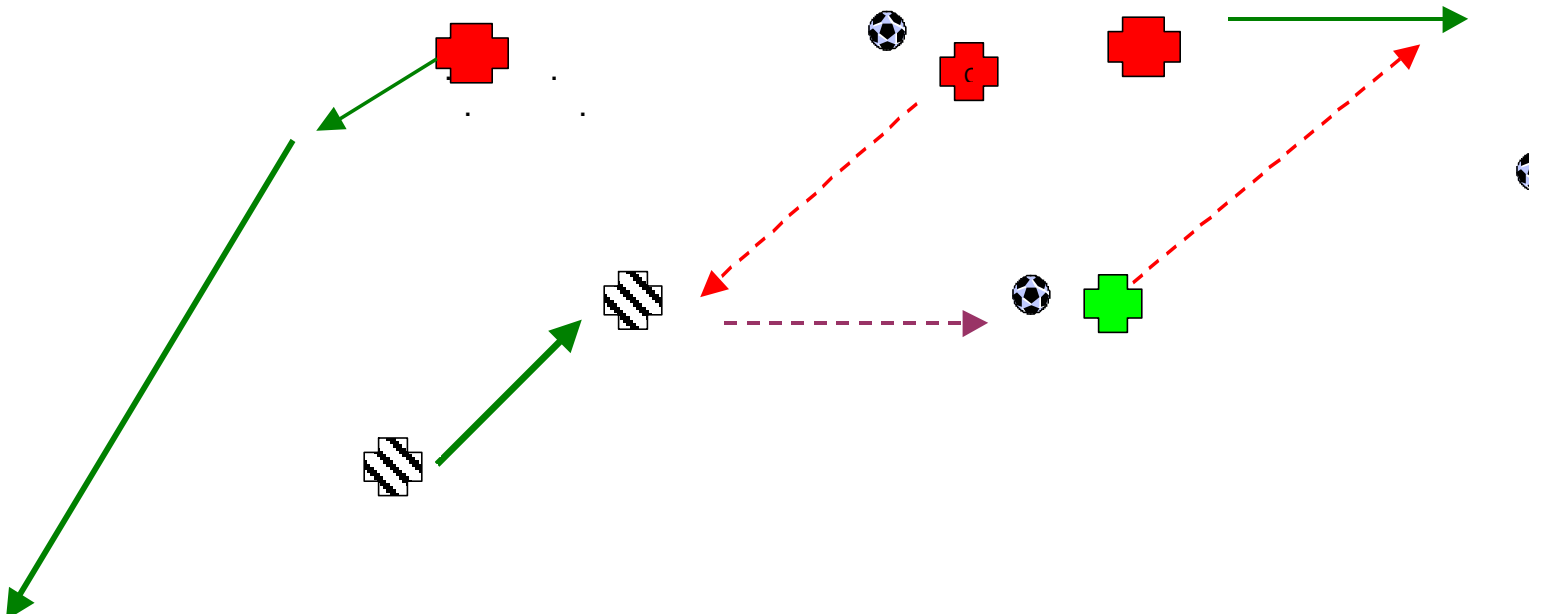
➤ **A Cross To An Overlapping Outside Mid To The Far Corner**



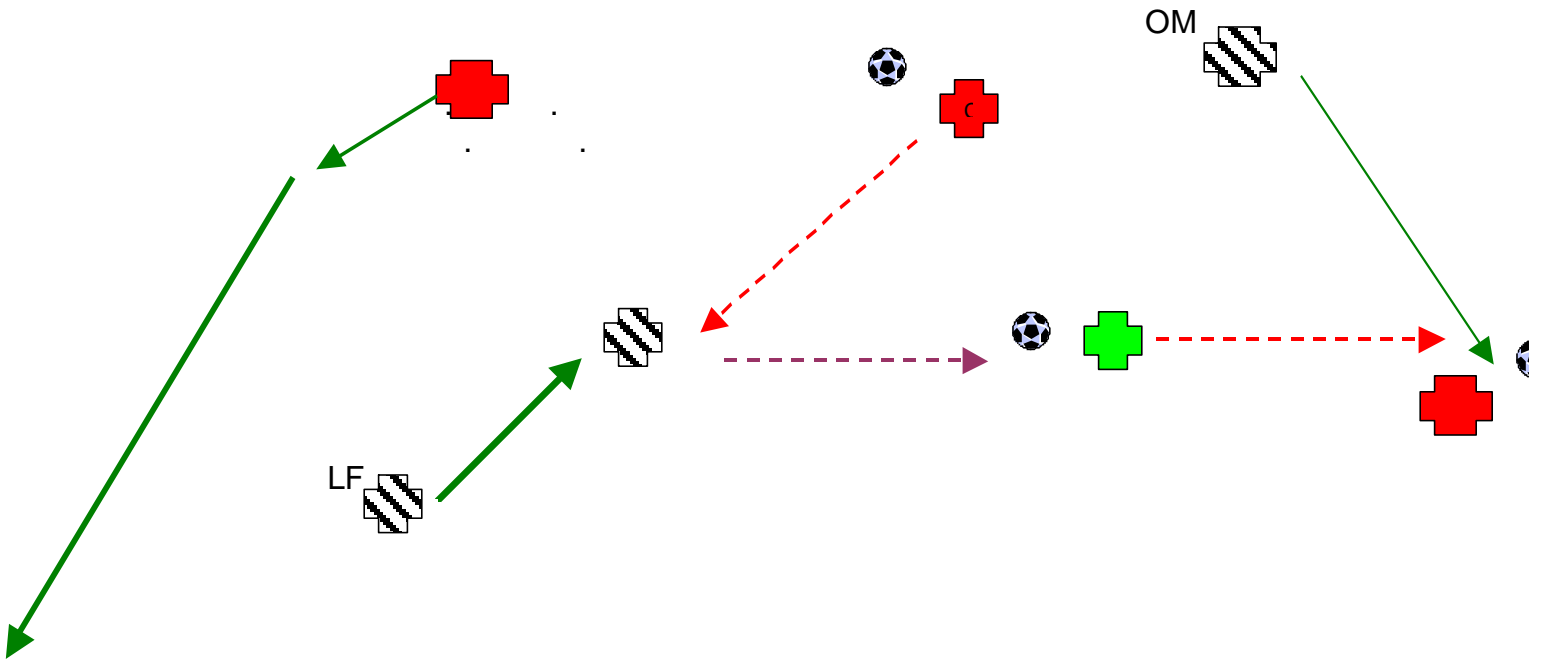
➤ **A Ball Into A Central Player Forward**



➤ **A Drop To A Supporting Back**

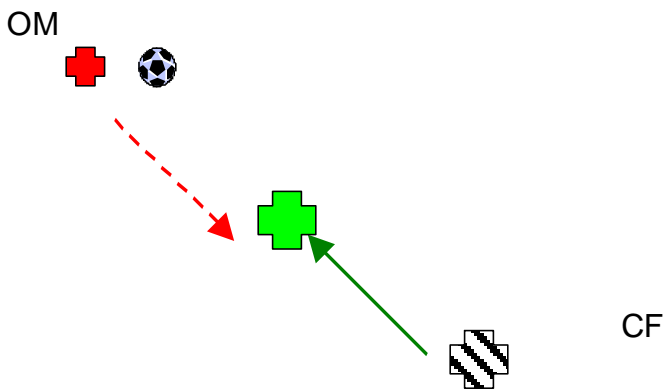


➤ Or A Long Square Ball To A Back Coming Forward Into Space.



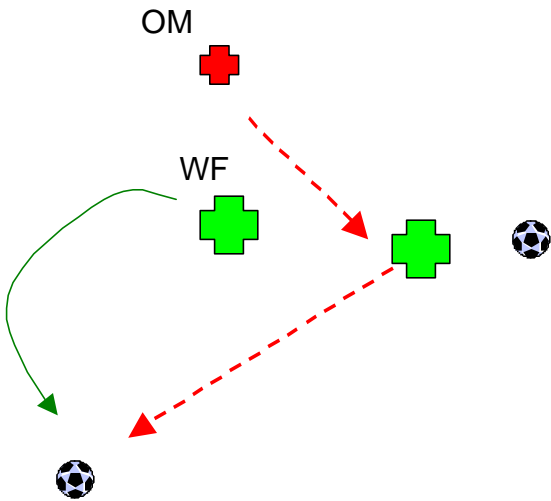
When The Ball Starts At The Outside Mid

When the ball is at the outside mid, the center forward checks to ball.

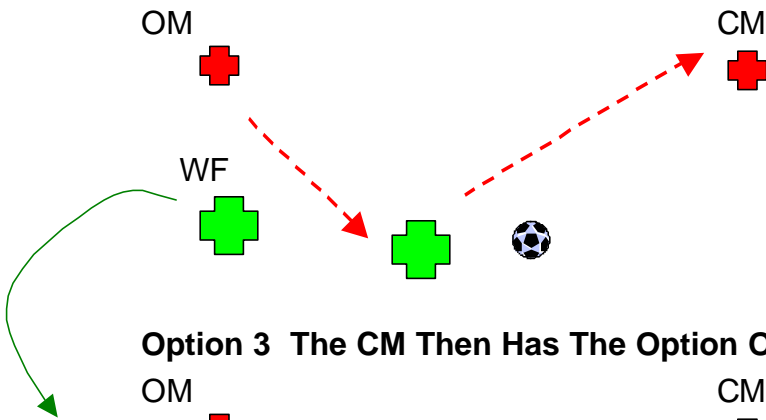


Option 1: Hit the Outside Forward

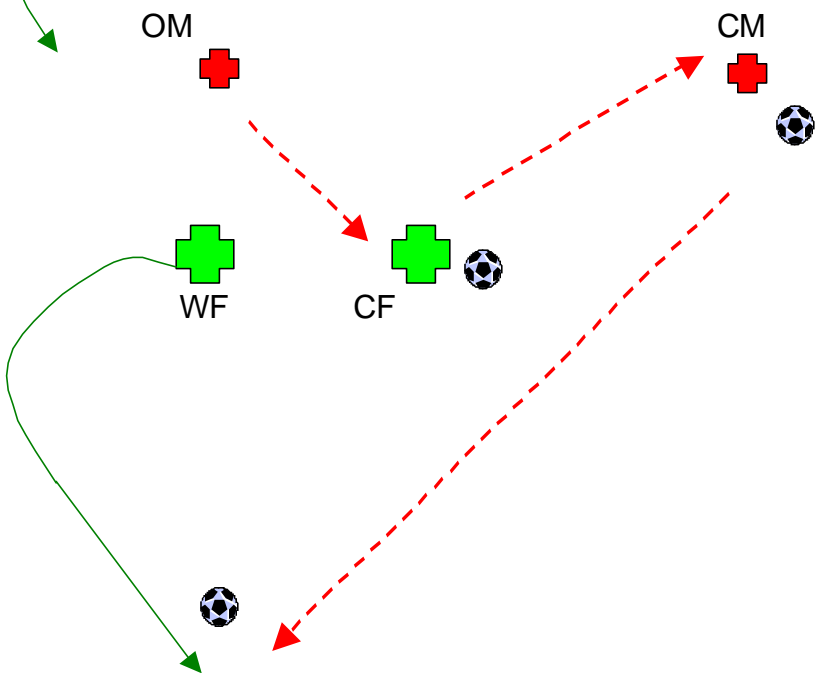
The key option is the forward ball to wing forward C-ing out to the touch.



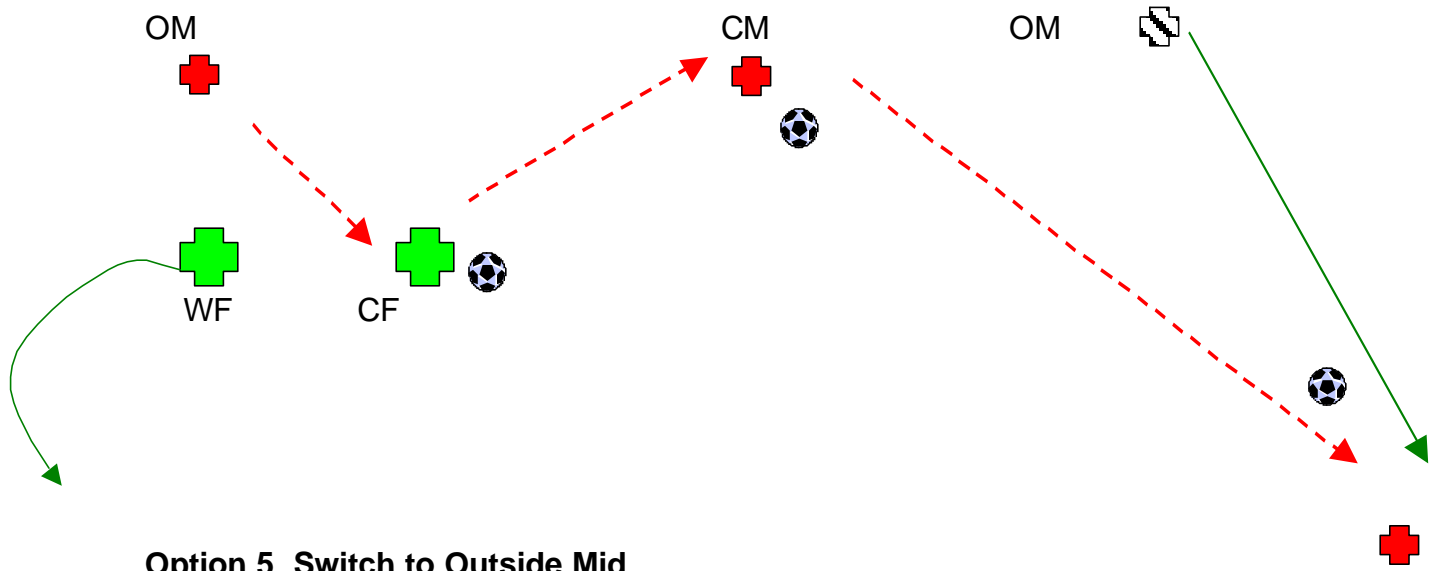
Option 2 The CM Moves To A Short Drop



Option 3 The CM Then Has The Option Of A Through Ball To The WF

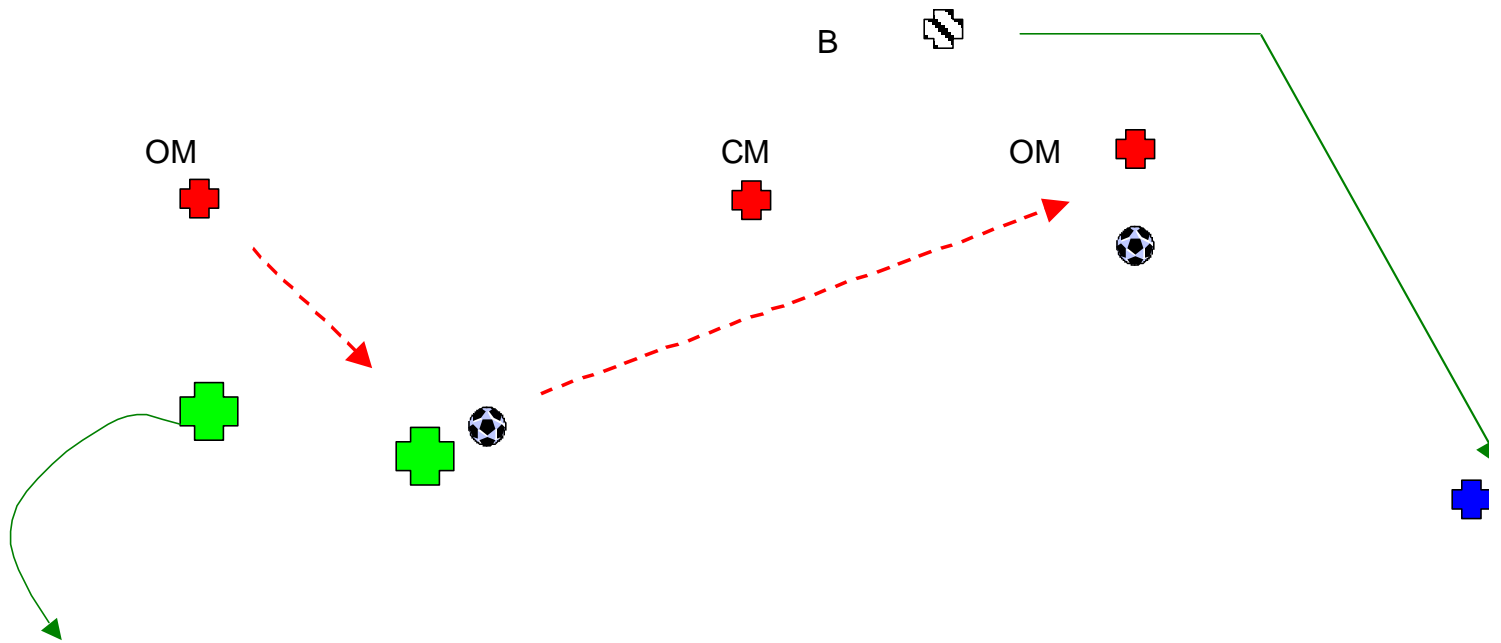


Option 4 Or A Ball To OM In The Opposite Corner

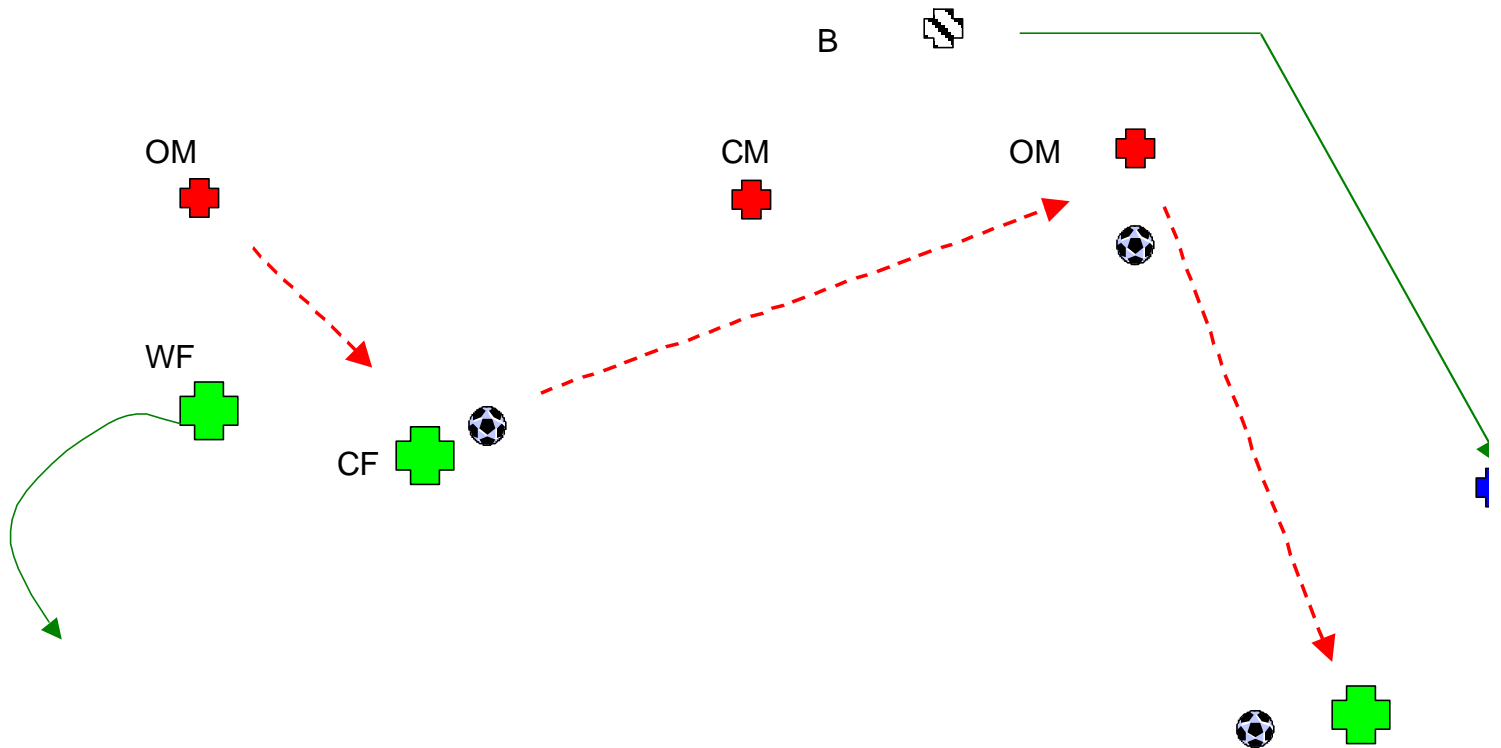


Option 5 Switch to Outside Mid

The CF can also drop to the OM who stays in drop position. Her initial options are to play to an overlapping B



Option 6 Or Forward To The Near Side Wf



Obviously, the possibilities and options are more numerous than what is noted above; however, all of these options were used in the final of the Gold Cup. The two setups are basic patterns for 3 forward play.

In summary, when the ball is on the wing, the center forward checks to ball; when the ball is in the middle, one of the wing forwards check to the ball.

The US utilized its width much better in the final than it did in the preliminary match with Brazil. Once the ball was on the wing, the cross was on. Interestingly, the runners often went into a horizontal line across the face of the goal. Their setup was based on ball position, varying between 6 and 14 yards out.

What this provides is depth variation for the crosser along the horizontal line (parallel with goalline), but requires the accuracy along the vertical plane. Actually, the crosser does not have to pick out one player, but can just play the ball along that horizontal line and someone should be there to pick it up.

Zidane's two corner kick headers in the WC 98 final came off a similar player setup along the 6 yard line.