

# Moleskine Six

## ----- Part A -----



## Marking on crosses

**Coach and players are talking about " marking on crosses"**

**COACH:** winning the battle to be first to the ball, when dealing with crosses, depends on good positioning on the part of the defender. If the defender's position is correct before the cross arrives, and he attacks the ball, it will make it extremely hard for the attacker to get a shot on goal.

**PLAYERS:** what's the first thing to do?

**COACH:** the starting position for the defending players is vital: you should mark goal area and in front of the attackers. You must be able to see the ball and your respective attackers.

**PLAYERS:** what must we do when the attacker run across us?

**COACH:** it is important for you not to allow the attacker to run across you and attack the ball. The aim of the defender is always to be first to the ball.

**PLAYERS:** if our team gives too many goals away from crosses, it means there are some causes, what are they?

**COACH:**

- a) our fullbacks do not do enough to stop the crosses from the opponent's wide players;
- b) Our wingers let the opposition fullbacks get forwards allowing attacking 2 v 1 situation to arise;

- c) Our centre backs do not attack the ball as it is crossed and are poor at marking;
- d) Our goalkeeper is staying on his line and not coming for the crosses.

**PLAYERS:** What are your solutions?

**COACH:** We have to improve:

- a) our fullbacks' closing down and jockeying;
- b) our wingers going with runners (the opposition's fullbacks);
- c) our centre backs' starting position and heading;
- d) our goalkeeper's coming for the crosses; coach his technique and confidence, the level and quality of communication with his team mates.

## GLOSSARY

Dealing with = Si tratta di	To arise = Presentarsi, sorgere, venirsi a creare
It will make it extremely hard=Diventerà estremamente dura	Get forward = Andare avanti
To allow = Permettere, consentire	Centre backs = Centrali di difesa
The aim = Lo scopo	Poor at = Scarso a, scadente a
Gives too many goals away = Concede, regala troppi goal	Not coming for = Non esce sul/i
Wide players = Giocatori di fascia	Jockeying = Temporeggiamento
Fullback = Terzino	Runners = Portatori di palla

**Ex. 1** Translate into Italian:

### THE " CAUSES"

- a) I nostri terzini non fanno abbastanza per fermare I cross provenienti dai giocatori di fascia avversari.
- b) Le nostre ali lasciano venire in avanti I terzini avversari consentendo il nascere di situazioni d'attacco 2 v 1.
- c) I nostri centrali di difesa non attaccano la palla quando viene crossata e sono deboli/scadenti nella marcatura.
- d) Il nostro portiere rimane sulla linea di porta e non esce sui cross.

### THE "SOLUTIONS"

**Coach:** Dobbiamo migliorare:

- a) La chiusura e il temporeggiamento dei nostri terzini
- b) Il modo di seguire I portatori di palla(I terzini avversari) da parte delle nostre ali.
- c) La posizione di partenza e il colpo di testa dei nostri centrali di difesa.
- d) L'uscita sui cross del nostro portiere; Allenare la sua tecnica e sicurezza. Il livello e la qualità della comunicazione con i suoi compagni.

**Ex. 2** True or False

	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
a. Winning the battle to be first to the ball doesn't depend on good positioning of the defenders	....	<b>X</b>
b. If the defender's positioning is correct, it will be hard for a striker to score	<b>X</b>	....
c. The starting position of the defender is vital	<b>X</b>	....
d. You must be able to see the ball and referee	....	<b>X</b>
e. It is important for you to allow the attacker to run across you and attack the ball	....	<b>X</b>
f. The aim of the defender is always to be first to the ball	<b>X</b>	....
g. There are some causes when our team gives too many goals away from crosses	<b>X</b>	....

**Ex. 3** Answer these questions

- a. When will it make it hard for the attacker to get a shot on goal?  
**When the defender's position is correct before the cross arrives and he attacks the ball**
- b. What is it vital for the defending players?  
**The starting position.**
- c. What is the aim of the defender?  
**To be first to the ball**

----- Part B -----

**AC Milan 2 Barcelona 0**



## **BARCELONA were underdone by the two Portsmouth old-boys.**

The Spanish giants are chasing their third Champions League Cup in five years.

But they were destroyed by two guys who never played so well this year and were set to quit Milan's training ground in the January transfer window. Unfortunately, for Barca, they remained and now the Catalans will have to carry out a stunning performance in the second leg if they want to grab the quarter finals.

Boateng, 25, best-remembered at Portsmouth for his penalty miss against Chelsea in the 2010 FA Cup final, scored a controversial opener.

On 57 minutes Riccardo Montolivo shot at goal, there were two deflections, the second on the raised arm of Milan's Cristian Zapata, according to Barca players, before Boateng fired past Barca keeper Victor Valdes. However, Sky TV showed that Zapata hit the ball with his head.

Muntari, 28, who played 28 games for Pompey between 2007-08, grabbed the Rossoneri's second nine minutes from time.

He volleyed home after great interplay between sub M'Baye Niang and Stephan El Shaarawy to give Milan a huge advantage ahead of the second leg on March 12.

Muntari, celebrating his first-ever Champions League goal, said: "Barcelona have amazing players and if you don't concentrate they will make you suffer.

"But we were very disciplined and played as a team. And while it won't be easy in the Nou Camp, a two-goal advantage gives us a fantastic chance."

Barca central defender Gerard Pique admitted: "It's very bad. We have to improve and turn things around at the Nou Camp. There is no excuse from the pitch or the referee.

## **MARIO BALOTELLI party at the Meazza.**

AC Milan stunned Barcelona as they won 2-0 against the Catalans and Balotelli certainly enjoyed it.

The Italy striker, 22, was cup-tied after playing for Manchester City in the Champions League earlier this season.

But that did not stop him and former City star Robinho dancing in the stands.

With Milan leading after goals from Kevin-Prince Boateng and Sulley Muntari during the last-16 first-leg clash at the San Siro, Balotelli and Robinho were spotted jumping around in the stands with pals.

They looked to be having a great time with new Mario's girlfriend Fanny Neguesha .

## Glossary

<b><u>Former = Ex</u></b>	Deflections = Deviazioni
Chasing = A caccia	Raised arm = Il braccio alzato
<b><u>Set = Pronto/i</u></b>	<b><u>Fired past = Esplose un tiro che superò</u></b>
Undone = Distrutto	<b><u>Hit = Colpì</u></b>
<b><u>Training ground = Campo d'allenamento</u></b>	Volleyed home = insaccò a volo
Carry out = tirar fuori	Interplay = Serie di scambi
Stunning = Straordinaria	Sub/Substitute = Proveniente dalla panchina
Miss = Mancato	Huge = Grosso
<b><u>Second leg = Gara di ritorno</u></b>	Ahead of = Prima di
To grab = Agguantare	<b><u>Improve = Migliorare</u></b>
<b><u>Grabbed=Agguantò</u></b>	Cup-tied = Iscritto nelle liste della Champions ( Con il City)
Opener = Goal d'apertura	<b><u>Spotted = Individuato</u></b>
Shot at goal = Tiro in porta	Stands = Spalti

**Ex. 1** Use the underlined words in the glossary to fill in the gaps in these sentences.

- a. Juventus **grabbed** a fantastic win in Glasgow two weeks ago
- b. Balotelli **fired past** Inter keeper Handanovic in the derby
- c. My brother was **spotted** among a lot of young people in a disco
- d. We are at **the training ground** because we have to meet the new coach
- e. Chiellini is **set** to play after recovering from a long absence
- f. Zapata didn't **hit** the ball with his hand
- g. You have to **improve** your heading, you are too poor at it
- h. In the **second leg** you have to score two goals to go through the finals
- i. Robinho, the **former** City player jumped in the stands
- j. Boateng scored the **opener** In the Champions League Clash Milan-Barca

**Ex. 2** Answer

1. Where did Muntari and Boateng play in England?  
**At Portsmouth**

2. What are the Spanish Giants chasing?  
**Their third Champions League Cup in five years**
3. Were Muntari and Boateng set to quit Milanello last January?  
**Yes, they were**
4. What will the Catalans have to do if they want to grab the quarter finals?  
**They will have to carry out a stunning performance in the second leg**
5. What did Boateng miss at Portsmouth?  
**A penalty against Chelsea in the 2010 FA Cup Final**
6. Did Zapata hit the ball with his arm?  
**No, he didn't**
7. How did Muntari score his goal?  
**He volleyed home after great interplay between sub M'Baye Niang and Stephan El Shaarawy**
8. How are Barca players according to Muntari?  
**Amazing**
9. What does the advantage give them, in Muntari's point of view?  
**A fantastic chance**
10. Did Balo enjoy at the Meazza?  
**Yes, he did**
11. Why was Balo cup-tied?  
**Because he played for Manchester City in the Champions League earlier this season**
12. Were Balo and Robinho spotted in the stands?  
**Yes, they did**
13. Were they alone or with their friends?  
**They were with their friends**
14. Who was the girl spotted in the stands with them?  
**Fanny Neguesha. Balotelli's girl friend**