

# Moleskine Twelve

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



## TURNING THE DEFENSIVE LINE

*Imparare a fruttare lo spazio che a volte si crea dietro la linea difensiva può rivelarsi un modo efficace per arrivare in porta e segnare.*

*Vediamo come un allenatore presenta questo aspetto del gioco d'attacco ai suoi giocatori.*

**COACH:** We have to learn to exploit the space behind the opponent's defensive line, creating uncertainty in the minds of defenders.

**PLAYERS:** How can we work that?

**COACH:** There are several ways. One of them may be: come short and spin or set up and run in behind.

**PLAYERS:** Better if you show us some examples.

**COACH:** OK, let's see. Some players are passing the ball square, one of our attackers tries to lose the marking of the defender, he comes short towards the team mate with the ball, then spins away calling where he wants the ball, behind and to the outside of the defender (to his right or left), running into the box to shoot at goal.

The drill should be performed at a good tempo with excellent communication between the players, who should demonstrate good awareness as play develops and

show a lot of enthusiasm. They have to look for speed of movement and passes need to be accurate. All players have to maintain a good flow and tempo throughout the drill. Remember, creating space and goal scoring opportunities in and around the penalty box is difficult, it is the most defended and contested area of the pitch. Skilful use of feints, dummies and sleight of foot can create openings and unlock the defense. During these drills try to experiment and have fun, and to keep up a good tempo.

## GLOSSARY

To learn=imparare	Awareness=consapevolezza
To exploit=sfruttare	Flow=fluidità
Uncertainty=incertezza	Skilful=sicura
Work that=realizzare ciò	Feints=finte
Come short and spin=venire corto e girarsi	Dummies=veli
Set up and run in behind=impostare e tagliare dietro	Sleight=gioco di gambe
Passing the ball square=facendo girare palla	Unlock=scardinare
To lose the marking=smarcarsi	To keep up=mantenere
Tempo=ritmo	

**Ex. 1** In each of the sentences below there is one mistake. Find the mistakes and correct them

- a. He **don't exploit** the space behind the defensive line  
..... **doesn't**.....
- b. They are very good at **come** short and **spin**  
..... **coming**..... **spinning**.....
- c. Our attackers **tries** to lose the marking of the defenders  
..... **try**.....
- d. Messi runs into the box to shoot **in** goal  
..... **at**.....
- e. She has to **tries** to maintain a good flow and tempo  
..... **try**.....
- f. If you **will create** space in and around the box, you will have a lot of goal scoring opportunities  
..... **create**.....

## Ex. 2 Answer

1. What do we have to learn to exploit behind the opponent's defensive line?

**The space**

2. How are some players passing the ball?

**They are passing the ball square**

3. What does one of our attackers try to lose?

**He tries to lose the marking**

4. How should the drill be performed?

5. **It should be performed at a good tempo with excellent communication between the players**

6. What do they have to look for?

**They have to look for speed of movement**

What can skilful use of feints, dummies and sleight of foot create?

**They can create openings and unlock the defence**

## ----- Part B -----

# Totti, a "chav" who makes getting the job done an art form



Roma has defined Francesco Totti's career.

Few men in the history of the game have combined quality and quantity the way he has. Twenty seasons at Roma have created a natural dichotomy. He is adored by the yellow-and-red "romanisti", loathed by most of the rest. He had a nickname when was young "Pupone" given to him by his fans.

The metaphysical, yet no less palpable, distance he placed between himself and the rest of the world, wasn't the gulf of the superstar, erecting barriers between himself and the mere mortal. It was an elaborate self-defence mechanism in the often inflamed world of Italian football. Irony was his calling card.

"When I am with my family I remove my public mask and I'm a different guy." He claimed one day. "I'm not two-faced, rather, it's a way to be conscientious and responsible. I feel the responsibility to be a role model to kids, because I know I idolized players when I was a child." He added.

The Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung wrote about the "social masks" we wear and the way they conceal our true identity.

Totti usually leads parallel lives. There is so much of him that goes unnoticed. He is seen as a good guy, but on the pitch, he is a sort of "a son of a bitch". He will do anything to win. Then he goes home and melts away into his family. He always protects his private life and in his own sphere can be himself.

After the initial success, came the maturity and acceptance. He married Ilary Blasi, a show girl and started his family. On the pitch he became a leader of a different kind. He felt the responsibility to carry the side but he discovered new ways of doing it.

Nobody in Italian football has scored more goals for one club across all competitions. Nobody has scored more free kicks.

He said: "I am fortunate, not because of the money ... but because I was able to make a living out of my passion."

Now we are going to ask him some questions.

### **Francesco, these 20 years have slipped by.....**

He said: "Yes, they have flown. Everything began on March 28<sup>th</sup> 1993 in Brescia. I was on the bench, the coach Boskov called me, but I didn't understand, I thought he was calling my team mate Muzzi. Boskov called me again and said - I want you to play, just you- I was only 16."

### **How many goals would you have scored if you had played as a striker?**

"Say, about 300. I hope not to have problems and go on this way in the future, even if my contract expires next year."

### **They say you want to play till you are 40, then you need a two or three year contract.....**

He said: "Next week our chairman will come back from USA, I'll have a talk with him. Anyway, I'm very happy 'cause my club have confidence in me."

### **Is there an Italian player you reckon to be stronger than you?**

He said: "Nobody, because the numbers speak for me."

### **Who is the best coach in the world? And.... who would you like to work for?**

He said: "The best is Marcello Lippi for his charisma. I would like to work for Mourinho."

**You never won the Ballon d'Or. Do you think you deserved it?**

"Yes, in 2000. Unfortunately we failed to win the European Cup with Italy in Portugal. It penalized me."

**When did you kiss a girl for the first time?**

He said: "I kissed a girl when I was ten and made love with a 17 year old girl at Tropea, Calabria, at the age of 12."

**Let's talk about your sons. What do you expect from them?**

"I expect they will be respected for what they are and not because they are Totti's sons. Christian plays football at Roma Academy, but I know it's too difficult with a name like this. I hope he will play tennis and when I am older I would like to be his agent."

All of us hope Prandelli will take you to Brazil next year and you will be able to score your 300<sup>th</sup> goal before hanging up your boots.

## Glossary

Chav=coatto	A son of a bitch=figlio di p***
Getting=diventare	Melts away=si scioglie
Loathed= detestato	Slipped by=scivolati via
Gulf=distacco	Flown=volati
Calling card=biglietto da visita	Expires=termina
Mask=maschera	You reckon=tu ritieni
Role model=modello di comportamento	Deserved=meritavi
Conceal=nascondono	Hanging up your boots=appendere le scarpe al chiodo
Leads=conduce	

**Ex. 1** Look at the context in which the words below occur in the article and match them to the explanations 1 – 9 which follow

- a. CHAV **3**
- b. DICHOTOMY **5**
- c. LOATHED **9**
- d. NICKNAME **2**
- e. CALLING CARD **4**
- f. LEADER **6**

g. BENCH	<b>1</b>
h. TO EXPIRE	<b>8</b>
i. TO EXPECT	<b>7</b>

1. The seat where players sit when they are not playing in the game
2. A name given to someone, especially by his family, friends, fans
3. A word used to talk about a young man who is rude with a low level of education
4. A small card with a name and an address printed on it
5. The difference between two things or ideas that are completely opposite
6. The person who controls or directs a group
7. To think something will happen
8. When a contract runs out
9. Detested very much

#### **Ex. 2** Answer

1. Who adores Totti and who detests him?  
**Totti is adored by the yellow-and-red romanisti, loathed by most of the rest**
2. What was his calling card?  
**Irony**
3. What does he remove when he is with his family?  
**His public mask**
4. Did he discover a new way of carrying the side?  
**Yes, he did**
5. When did everything begin?  
**Everything began on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1993 in Brescia**
6. Does his contract expire this year?  
**No, it doesn't. It expires next year**
7. Who is the best coach in the world in his opinion?  
**Marcello Lippi for his charisma**
8. Why didn't he win the Balloon d'Or in 2000?  
**Because Italy failed to win the European Cup and he was penalized by this failure**

9. What does he expect from his sons?

**He expects they will be respected for what they are and not because they are his sons.**