



# Tech Corner

2012 Men's Olympic Tournament

Croatia – Denmark



## Croatia's defence key to success

Croatia have showed a brilliant team performance in their four matches to date that is mainly based on the following key factors:

1. In contrast to tournaments in the past, Croatia relies on consequent fast-paced play!
2. Ivano Balic is an integral part of the team and was used exclusively in defence in the match against Denmark for example!
3. Croatia configures in a powerful basic 5:1 defence including a flexible strategy tailored to the respective opponent.

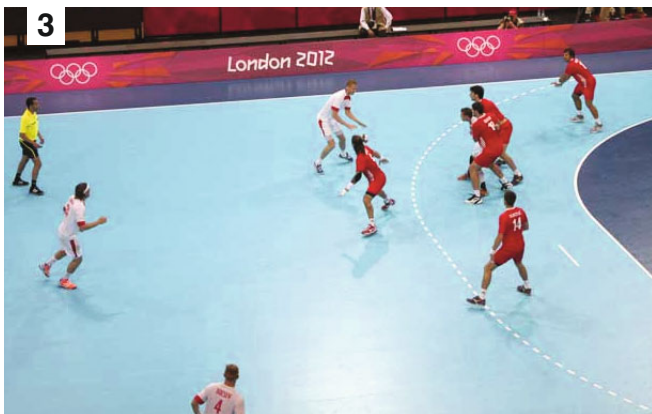
Croatia configured in a 5:1 defence to start their match against Denmark. After 11 minutes they switched to 5:0 + 1 to face Denmark's main goal scorer Hansen. Ivano Balic did not play man-on-man against Hansen. Thanks to flexible defence play he managed to disrupt Denmark's attack play again and again.



Balic acts in a diagonal position in depth to generally allow a pass to Hansen, who is acting in depth.



That play mainly urges the left back and the right back to act. The left back starts 2-on-2 on his side.



Pictures 3 and 4: Balic slightly retreats and just pretends attacking the left back in order to return into Hansen's direction immediately.





# Tech Corner

## 2012 Men's Olympic Tournament

### Croatia – Denmark



5 The right half and the back centre defender move the pivot forward in order to spoil blocking/moving away.



6 Pictures 6 to 8: The defenders' blocking in cooperation with the goalkeeper is successful to spoil the left back's jump shot.

