

Sarajevo, 23. 07. 2013.



EIGHTH'S FINAL SRB-NED

The good Netherlands defence against the association Dekic-Pesic, a crucial aspect of the victory in the eighth's final match

By Juan L. Antón-García

(Photos: Stéphane Pillaud)

Many games in the eighth-finals have been a major surprise for spectators. One of these matches was NED-SRB, where the Netherlands have been able to beat the favorite Serbia. One of the most important reasons was undoubtedly the extraordinary defensive work done by NED, especially in the control of the couple Dekic-Pesic. This in the preliminary phase almost relentless association has had great difficulties in developing their usual great tactical job, since NED put special attention to them and managed to control this great danger of Serbia's team. In the following images we can see an example of the great defensive activity of NED.



Picture row 1. CB Dekic is in possession of the ball while the two centre defenders control and close the space for Pesic's movements.



Picture row 2. Dekic attacks towards the goal with the intention to shoot without forgetting the possibilities of Pesic, who is trying to find a good position while the centre defenders are still controlling the L.



Picture row 3. Dekic, who does not have great power in long distance shots, has managed to reach 8 meters to be able to throw at the goal, but the centre defenders with their elevated position of arms make it difficult to shoot at the goal. Meanwhile, Pesic raises his right arm trying to receive the ball, but LCD placed his left arm in the line pass from CB to the L.



Picture row 4. The LCD manages to intercept the pass from CB to the L, deflecting the ball from its initial trajectory towards his fellow defender, the LHD.



Picture row 5. The LHD manages to grab the ball and immediately sets out to start a counterattack. The LOD has already begun his offensive running.



Picture row 6. The counterattack is already started with both wings clearly advanced and ready to receive the ball.