



The great association between Dekic-Pesic (Serbia's centre back-line player)

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(Photos: Stéphane Pillaud)

One of the most important and decisive tactical aspects in the matches of the Serbian team has been the excellent association between the Serbian CB Dekic (number 8) and the line player Pesic (number 26). Dekic's great vision of collective play, together with his quality in passing, and the tireless and effective work of the line player Pesic, supported by his good anthropometric and physical quality, created a symbiosis of critical collaboration in their team. This cooperation created many problems to the French defence and also to other teams, which can be identified in the following points:

- Line player Pesic was able to receive all passes in very difficult conditions - being seized, pushed by the defender, enclosed between two defenders, etc., mainly receiving the passes with one hand.
- He has a very high effectiveness, with very varied and precise shots. The difficulty of the passes was remarkable in many cases because the opponent's team defence was aware of the danger he produces.
- Dekic made many passes almost without receiving the ball, just with a touch of volleyball, with one hand slightly deviating the ball from his path in the right direction to Pesic.
- At other times the passes were made with defenders well-placed online pass and above them using parabolic trajectories.
- To the mentioned facts has to be added that Dekic also gives great assistances to the wings, especially to Radivojevic, also with good efficiency.

The following picture rows are a good example of the before mentioned cooperation:



Picture row 1. Dekic (CB number 8) is in possession of the ball, while Pesic (number 26) only has to make a block to the RHD. Dekic has seen the position of the L, but he is well marked by his opponent.



Picture row 2. Dekic tries to fake to his direct opponent making a direction change, while behind the RCD a free space has been opened that Pesic surely saw and is going to occupy.



Picture row 3 Dekic has changed his direction and tries to penetrate for his left side and Pesic is waiting for the result of Dekic's faint.



Picture row 4. As Dekic's defender has obtained good control of him, after dribbling, the CB changes again his direction and tries to choose another solution. Meanwhile, Pesic is trying to go to the free space, with his opponent closing the path.



Picture row 5. Despite the defensive difficulties, LP Pesic is able to get a small space to be unmarked, and ready for receiving the ball with his right hand up, while Dekic is capable of passing the ball with his body orientation towards the lateral side of the playing field.



Picture row 6. Pesic receives the ball and immediately is ready for shooting and score.