



Coaching Department Study Visit

UEFA Under 21 Championships

Sweden 2009

Sweden v Belarus

16th June 2009

Malmö 18:15 KO

Report on Sweden

Squad	Name	D.O.B.	Club
1	Johan Dahlin	08.09.86	Lyn
2	Mikael Lustig	13.12.86	Rosenborg
3	Mattias Bjarsmyr	03.01.86	IFK Goteborg
4	Rasmus Bengtsson	26.06.86	Trelleborgs FF
5	Emil Johansson	11.08.86	Hammarby IF
7	Ola Toivonen	03.07.86	PSV Eindhoven
9	Marcus Berg	17.08.86	Groningen
13	Gustav Svensson	09.02.87	IFK Goteborg
18	Rasmus Elm	17.03.88	Kalmar FF
19	Pontus Wernbloom	25.06.86	IFK Goteborg
20	Emir Bajrami	07.03.88	IF Elfsborg

Subs			
14	Guillermo Molins	26.09.88	Malmo FF
15	Labinot Harbuzi	04.04.86	Malmo FF
8	Andreas Landgren	17.03.89	Helsingborg IF

Attacking Strategy

Sweden's attacking strategy was organized and at times very slick. They played a 4-4-2 formation with the forward Ola Toivonen (7) playing a little deeper off Marcus Berg (9). These two players showed real imagination in their play often linking up well together with exciting combination play and good forward movement. Berg offered himself as the target man but was willing to run in behind the Belarus defence when required. Toivonen looked to get the second ball but also came short to receive to feet as well. Berg was the focal point for all of Sweden's attacks showing a good understanding of the game.

Rasmus Elm (18) and Emir Bajrami (20) were the wide midfield players who linked up well with their full backs coming off the line allowing them to overlap and join the attacks with good understanding.

As an attacking strategy Sweden mixed their play. Sometimes the ball was played long to the strikers and sometimes into their feet to play combinations. On other occasions it was played down the channels, so they offered a variety of different attacking plays for Belarus to cope with. There was a good balance to Sweden's play with the players equally adept at going down the left or right side.

Sweden's set plays were very consistent throughout the game. They always had two inside the six yard box, three attacking the ball, two players on the edge of the box and two at the back.

Defensive Strategy

Sweden lined up as a traditional 4 – 4 – 2 with Gustav Svensson (13) playing as the holding midfielder player. Both he and Pontus Wernbloom (19) slid across midfield and protected and screened the back four. This allowed the central defenders to stay in the back four never having to go with the Belarus centre forward who occasionally dropped into the space. Svensson even dropped into the back four at goal kicks and long free kicks to contest the ball so both central defenders retreated to allow no space in behind for the flick on.

Both Swedish full backs, Mikael Lustig (2) and Emil Johansson (5) played slightly in front of the central defenders allowing them to play off side if needed. Lustig and Johansson closed down the Belarus wide players at every opportunity on the pitch always showing the line. At times the Swedes doubled up on the wingers but in the last defending third they regularly went one v one and everyone took their position off that.

As a team the Swedes allowed Belarus to have the ball at the back however when they approached just inside the middle third they pressed. They didn't press individually but went as pairs or as a unit again always forcing Belarus wide if possible.

For defending corners, the Swedes, had a player on each of the posts and three players situated across the six yard line spreading the width of the goal. These players never picked up they marked space (zonal marking) and if any one went into the spaces between them one of the four man to man markers had to track in there as well. The rest picked up and went height for height.

The three substitutions did not change the defensive strategy. Moreover, in the last ten minutes they started pressing Belarus in the attacking third.

Sweden Starting Formation



