Twitter Thread by Tayyab Khan

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■■ THREAD

AL SADD 20-21 TEAM REPORT■■

At the time of writing Al Sadd are at the top of the Qatar Stars League with 7 points clear of Al Gharaya on 2nd

Key Assets-B.Bounedjah/CF, A.Afif/LW, Pedro/RB

Coach-Xavi Hernandez
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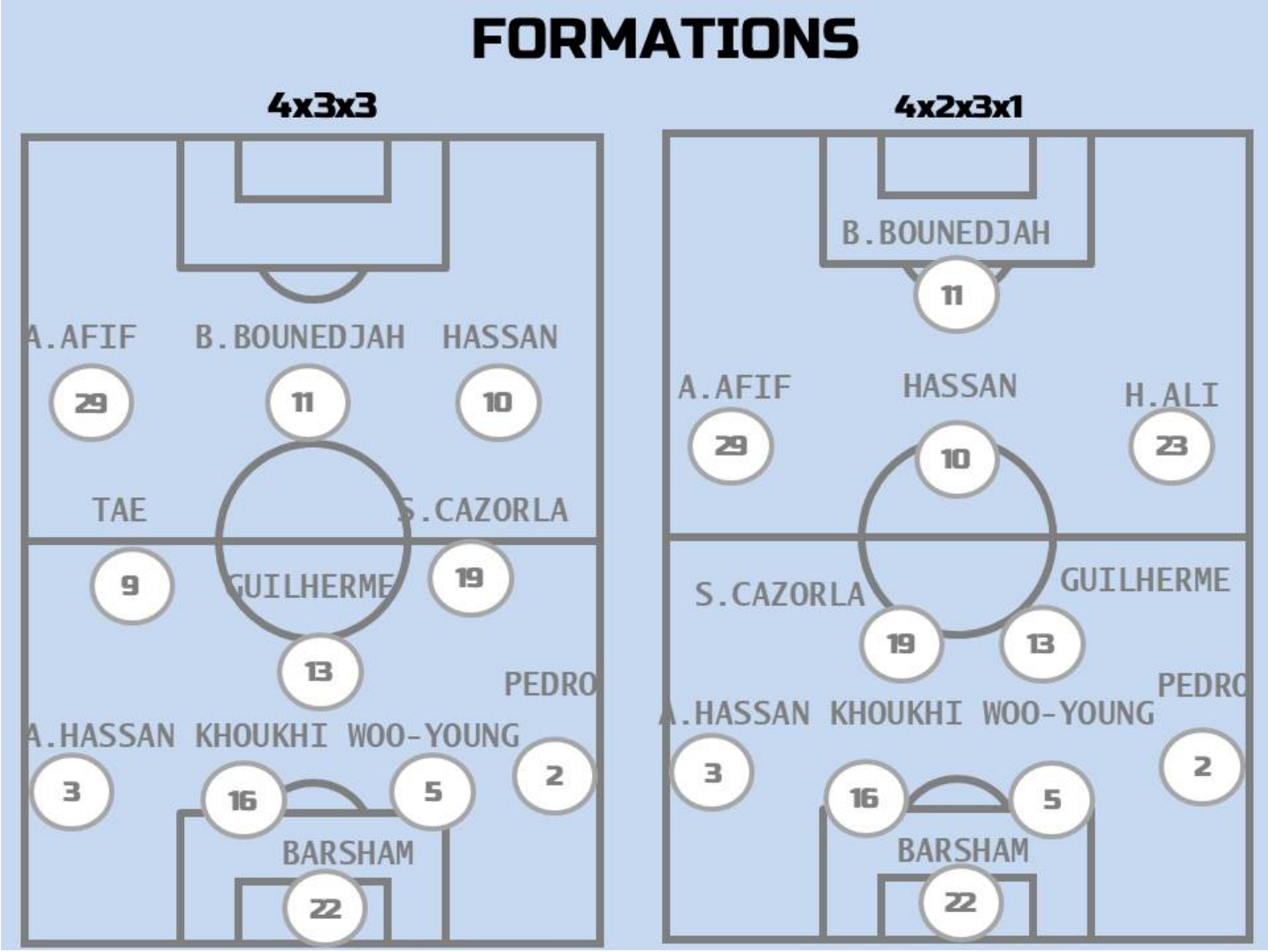
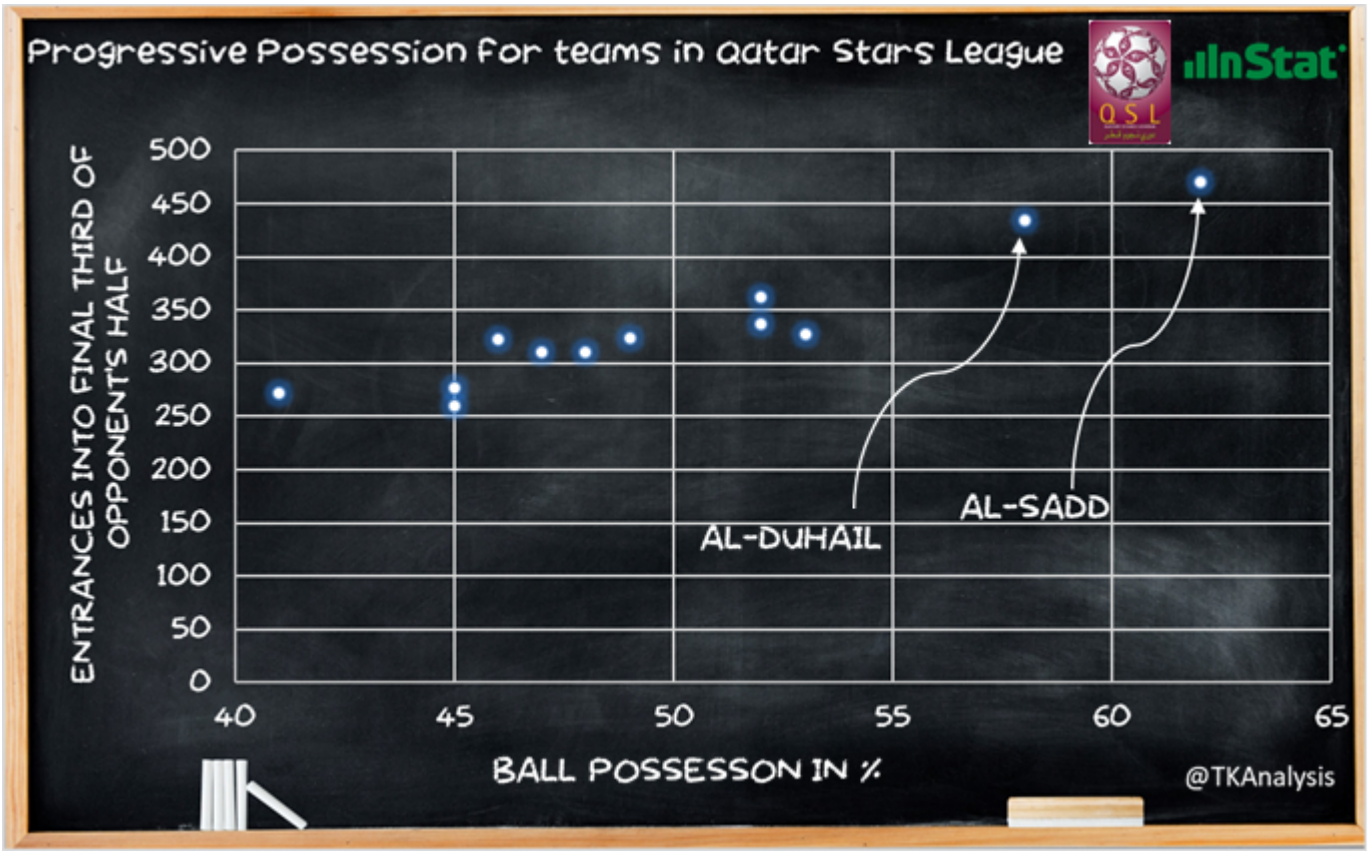
= 4x3x3 fluid system which at times changes to 4x1x4x1 and 3x4x3.
= A 4x2x3x1 system



IN POSSESSION

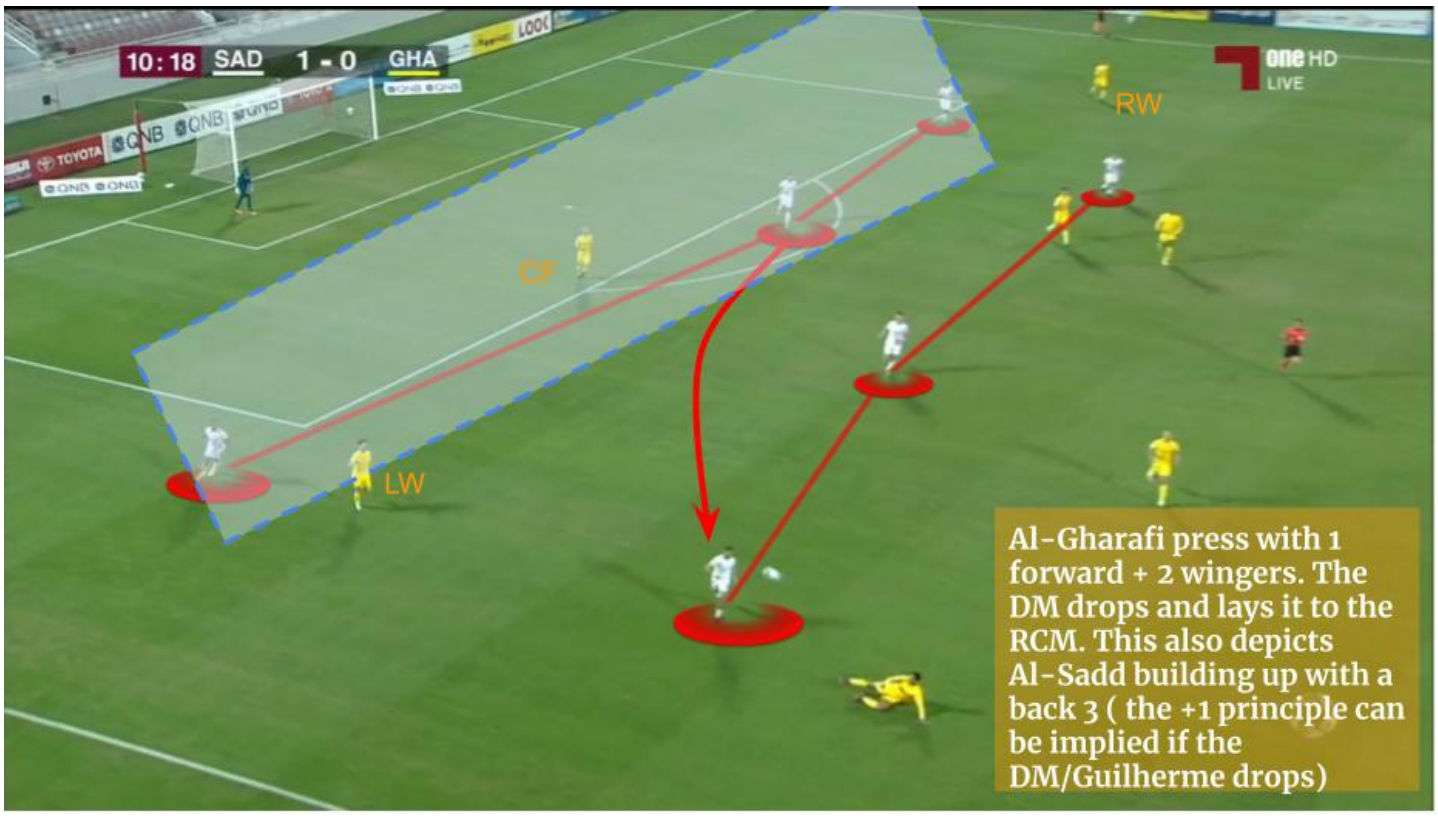
= Al Sadd record an average of 62% possession in the 9 games played.

= 470 entrances into the opponent's half,



BUILDING UP

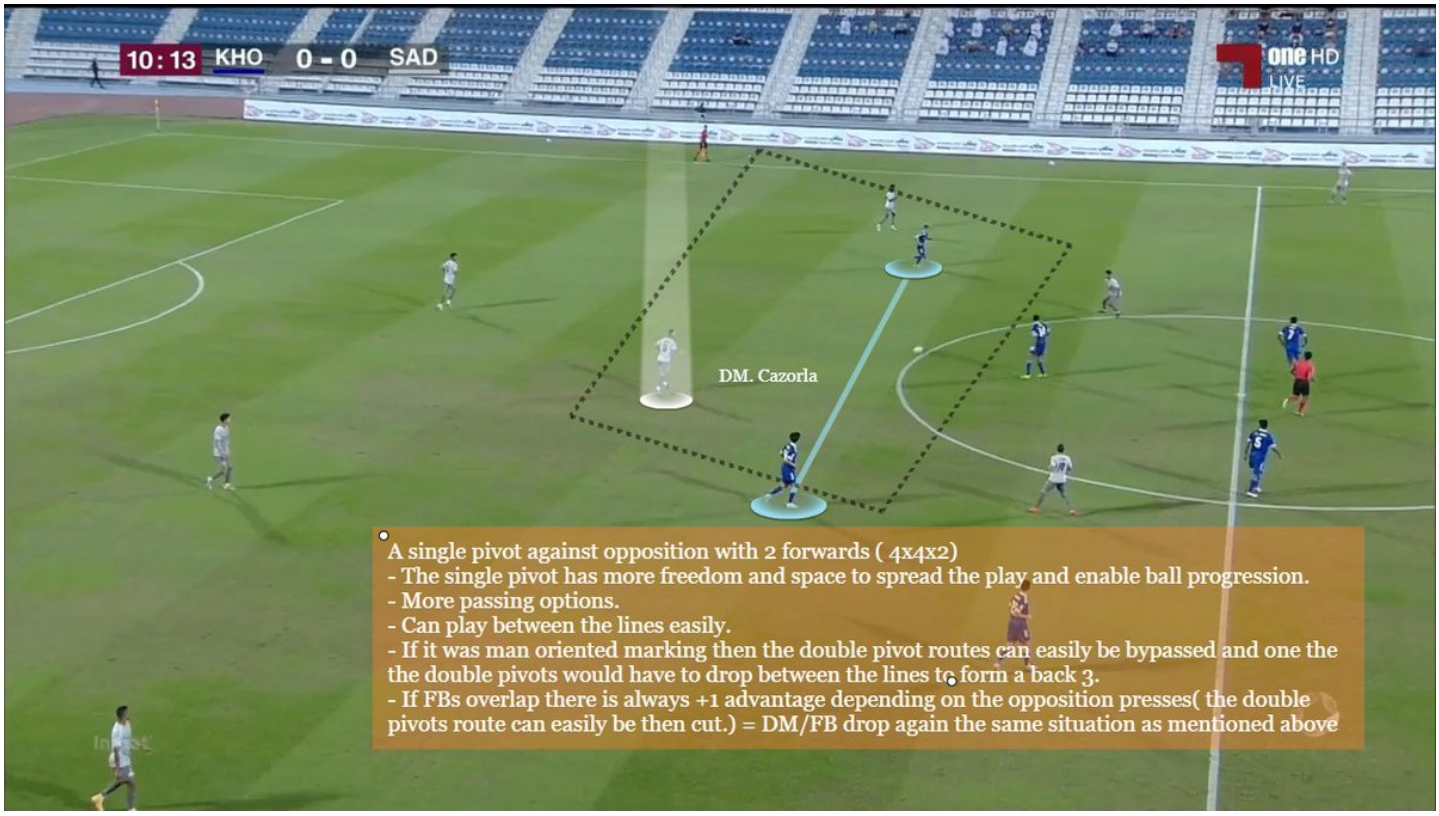
- Xavi likes to build up from the back with the +1 principle.
- When it is a 4x3x3, the DM drops to create a numerical advantage and look to progress the game.



Single Pivot and the Double Pivot against 2 pressing forwards

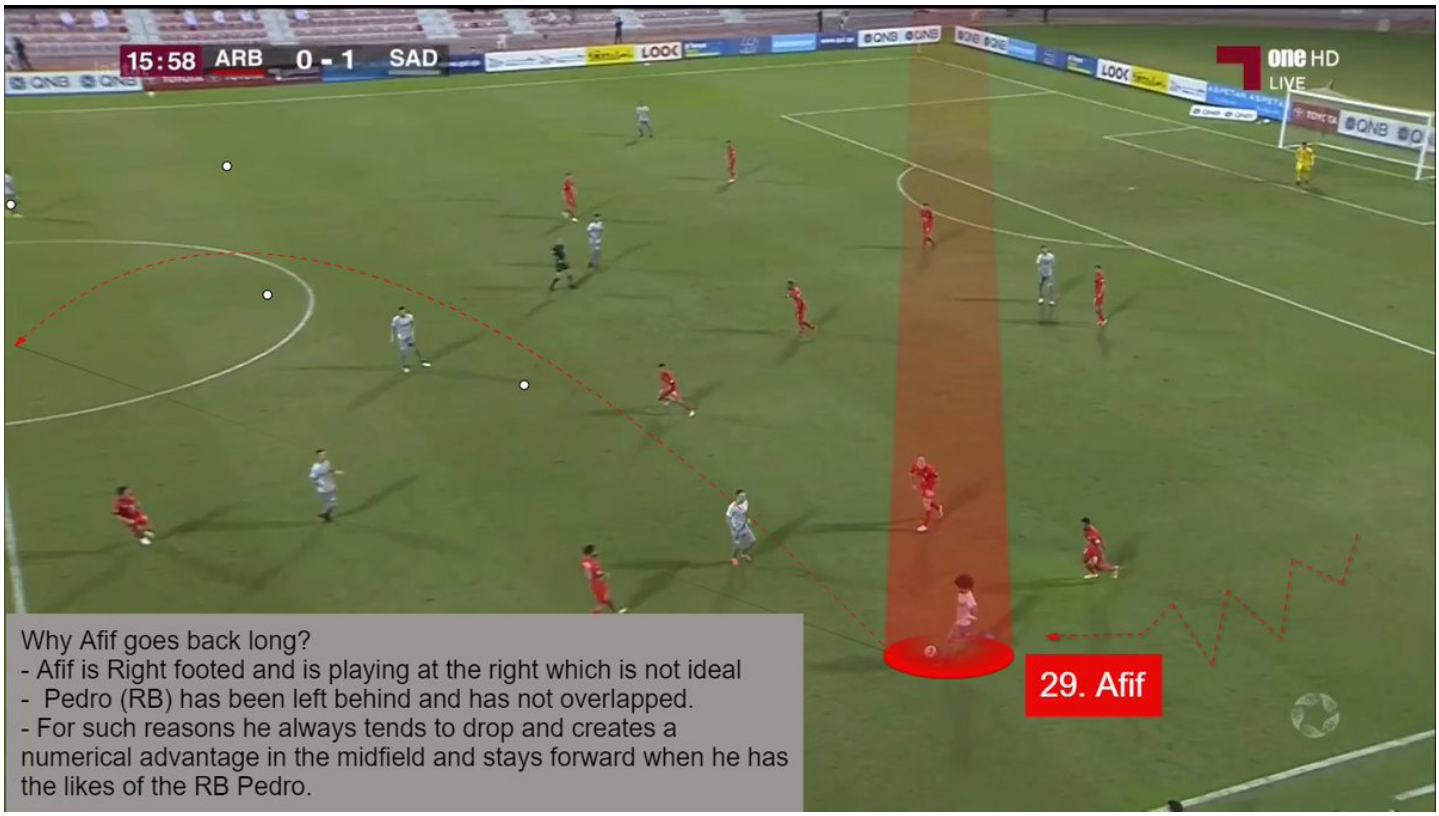
- More/Better passing angles+options for a single pivot

- The route to the double pivot can be cut by use of cover shadows and the the DM has to drop thereby wasting important seconds of the buildup phase.



So when does Xavi uses the 4x2x3x1?

■■ Afif and Hassan are both right footed and like to play on the left. To fit Afif and Hassan in their preferred positions Xavi opts the 4x2x3x1. Hassan plays as a 10 behind Bounedjah. What happens when they play together?■



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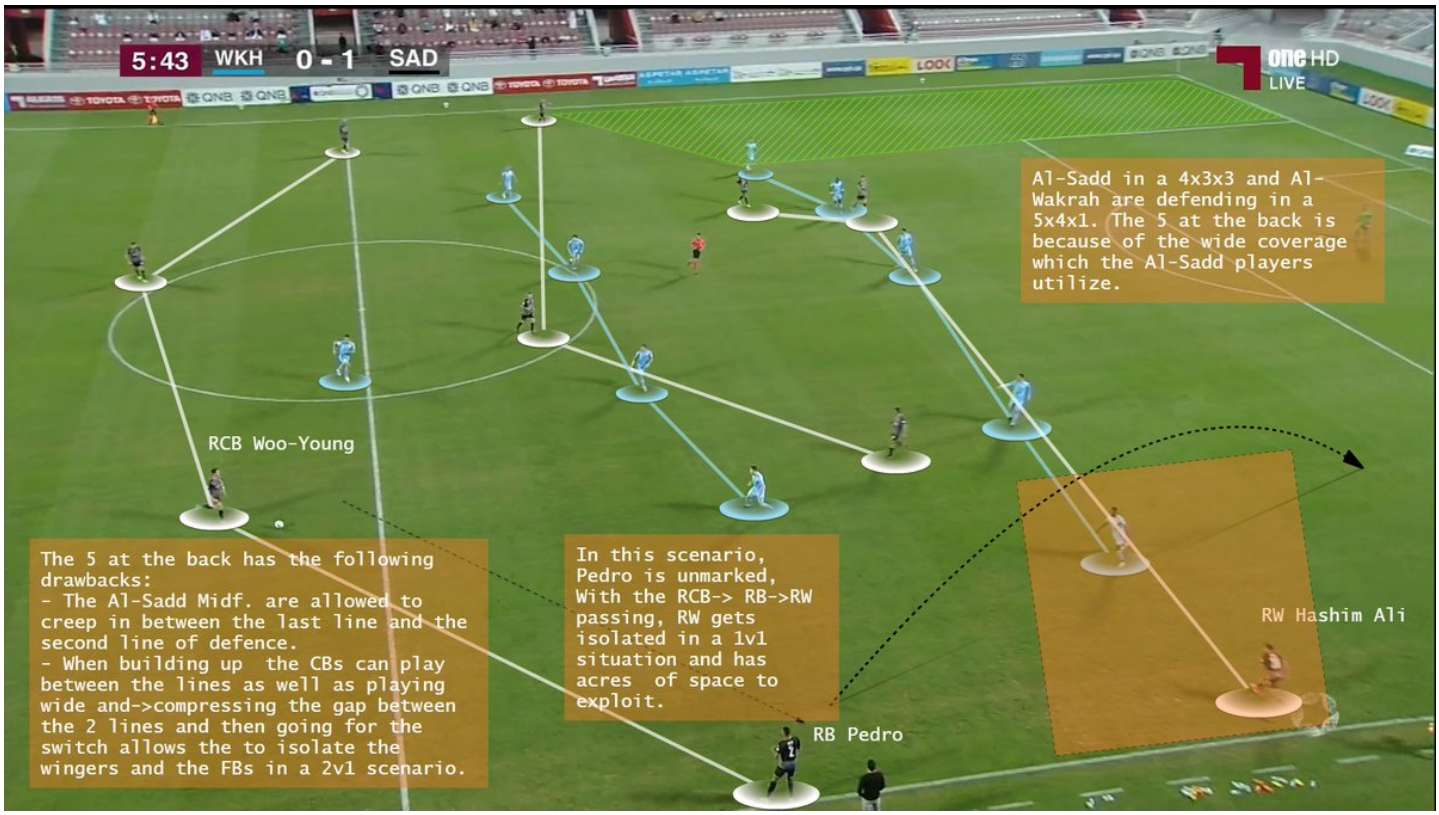
■ During offensive phases, wingers stay wide.

■ Wide triangles are created between the corresponding CM, W and FB.

■ Triangles trigger third man runs via opening the gap between the opp. last line



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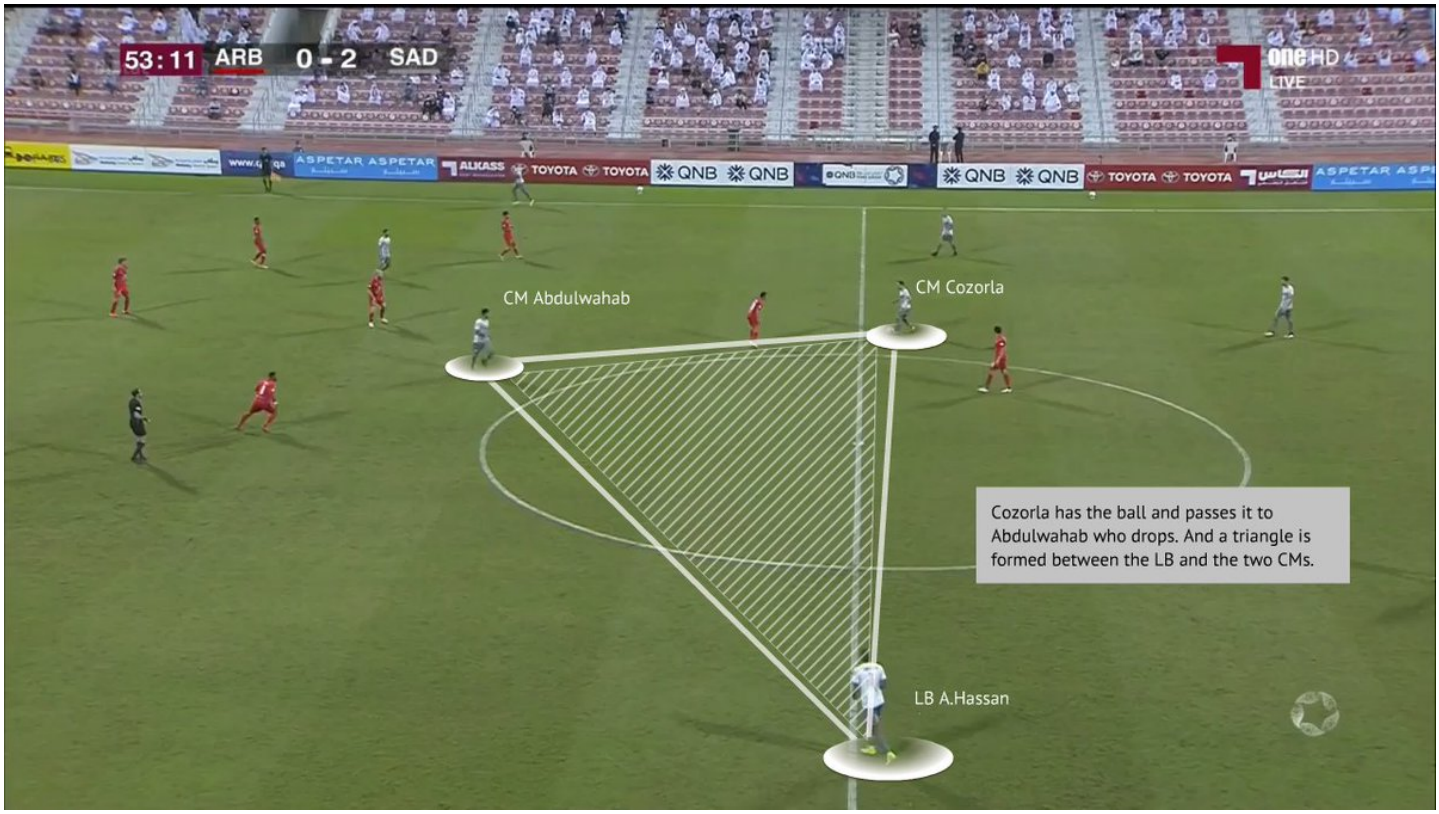
■ Wingers contribute to staying wide. The idea is to stretch the last line=which means the switch of play is always an option in such scenarios.

(correction- it is left instead of right halfspace)



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➢ Total 5144 passes completed of which 71 were accurate key passes. To add context look at the gap between Al Sadd and other teams.

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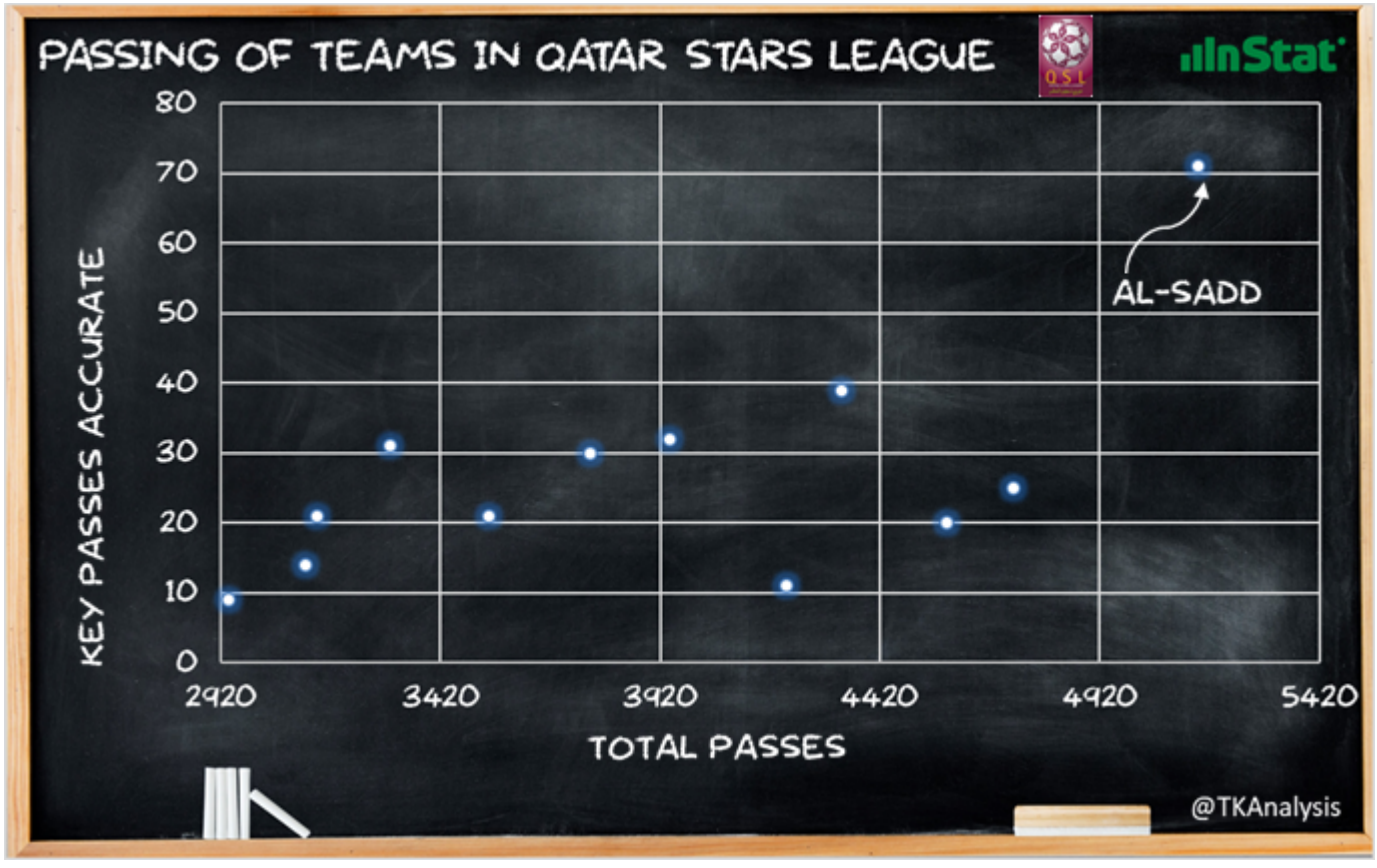
➢ Total 187 shots taken. Al Duhail took 136 yet.



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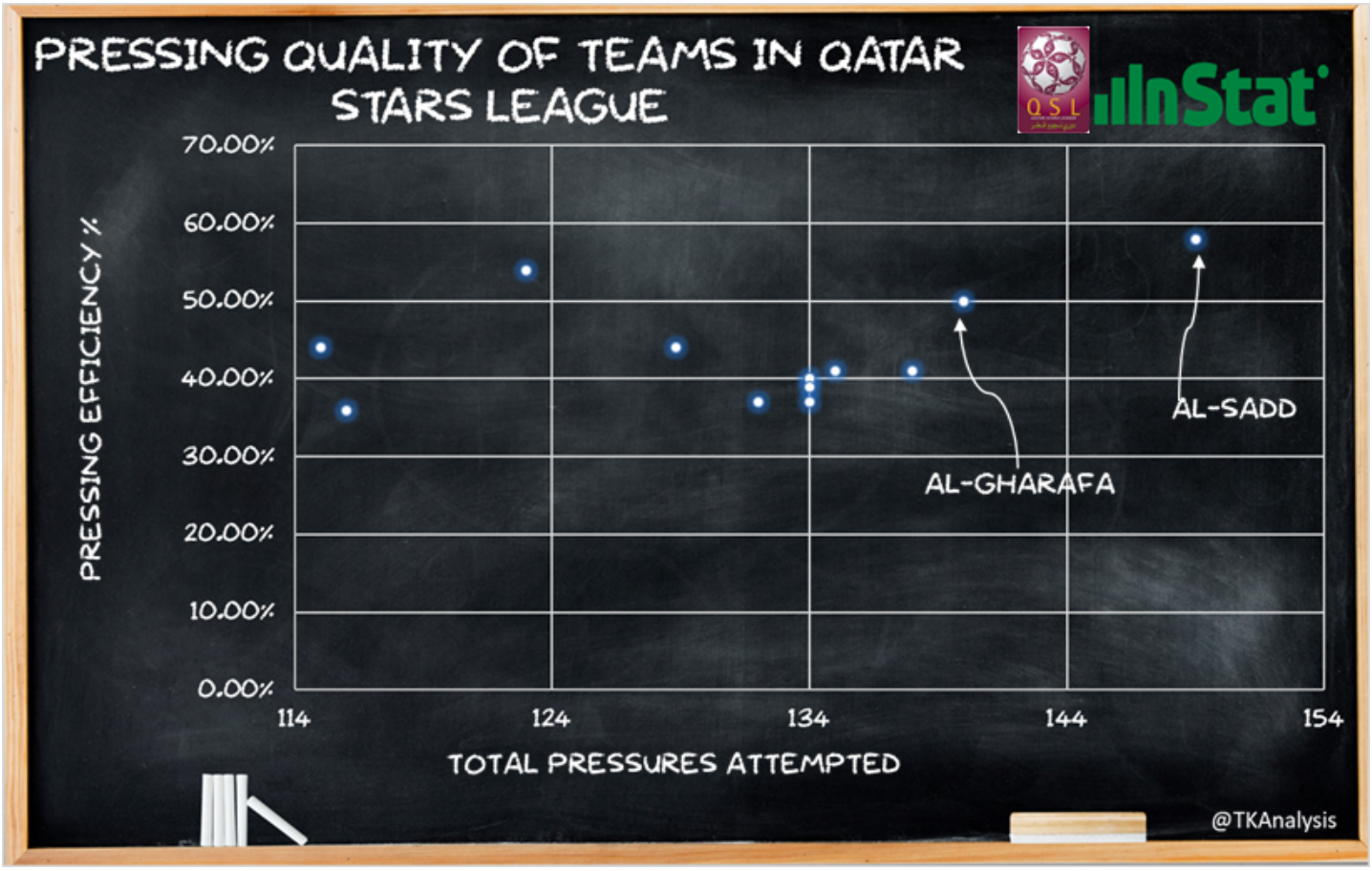
➢The first phase is their pressing and counter pressing.

➢ Total 149 pressures successful of which 58% were successful.



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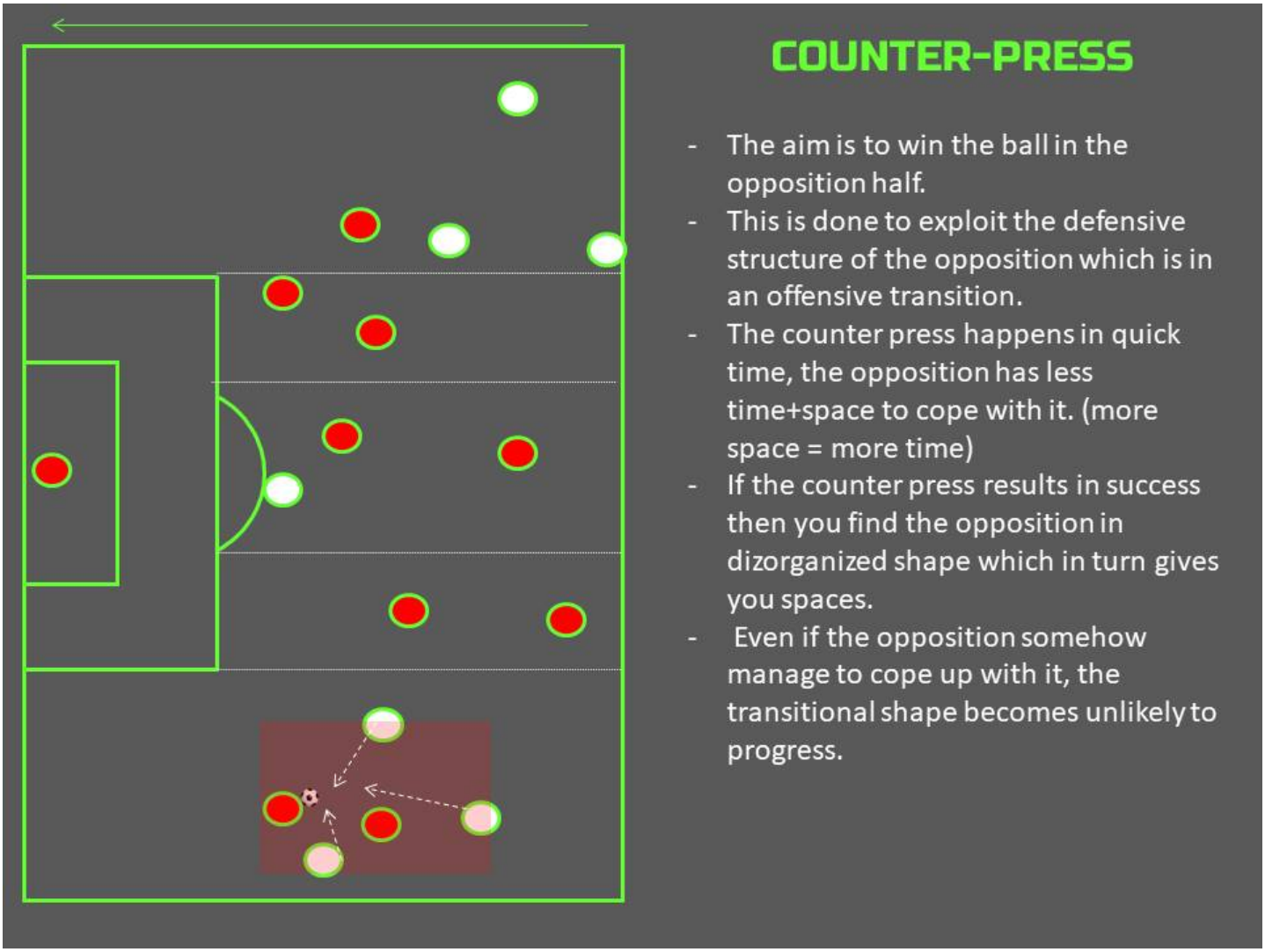
■Players gather around the opposite man on the ball and other cut the passing options to the central.

■Mostly the Counter press/ Press is made on wide region than the central. WHY?

= There are less passing options+difficult angles+more area to cover



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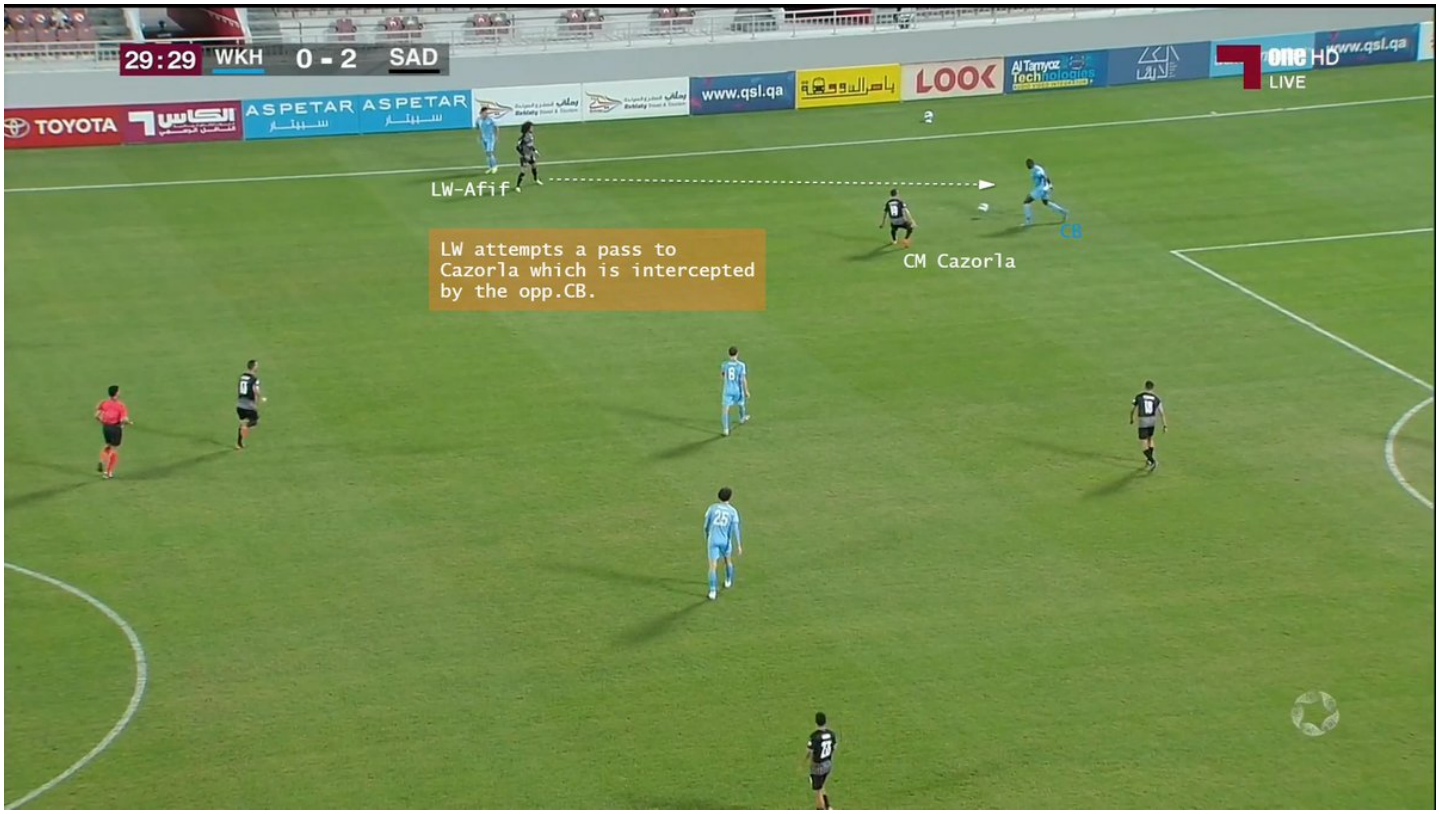
- Start the press from the side
- Creating difficult passing angles for the opposition
- Win the ball and the opposition is not in their preferred shape.



https://t.co/jh00TxKnT8

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\U0001f50dForce the opposition by cutting central passing options via cover shadows and a fusion of space and man oriented marking.
\U0001f50d Try win the ball there and look for the counter. pic.twitter.com/fp7XaijCDH

— Tayyab Khan (@TKAnalysis) December 28, 2020