



Match Report

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE















The Hawthorn

13-12-2014

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WBA's SITUATION

-  **WBA** are now 16 , with 13 points , scored 14 goals & conceded 20 .
-  **Home games** : 1 Win , 3 Draw , 4 Lose .
-  **Away games** : 2 Win , 2 Draw , 3 Lose .
-  **5 game series** : 1 Draw , 4 Lose .
-  **Forthcoming games** : Aston Villa (H) , QPR (H) , Manchester City (A) .
-  **Last 3 home game** : 3 Loses (Newcastle 0-2 / Arsenal 0-1 / West Ham 1-2) ,
-  **Last game** : WBA drawing against Hull city 0-0 .
-  **Injuries** : Brunt is doubtful .
-  **Suspension** : no one .
-  **Appearance** :
 - 15 appearance : Berahino , Dorrans
 - 13 appearance : Dawson , Gardner , Foster , Sessegnon , Wisdom , Brunt .
 - 12 appearance : Pocognoli
 - 11 appearance : Morrison , Lescott .
 - 10 appearance : Anichebe .
 - 9 appearance : Mulumbu ,
 - 8 appearance : Gamboa .
 - 5 appearance : Samaras , Ideye .
 - 4 appearance : Olsson , Yacob .
 - 3 appearance : Blanco , Baird .
 - 2 appearance : Davidson , Varela .
 - 1 appearance : Myhill .
 - 0 appearance : Macauly .
-  **Top scorer** :
 - 7 goals : Berahino .
 - 2 goals : Dawson .
 - 1 goal : Dorrans , Morrison , Sessegnon , Anichebe .
-  **Top assist** :
 - 4 assists : Brunt .
 - 3 assists : Dorrans .
 - 1 assist : Sessegnon , Wisdom , Gardner , Gamboa
-  **Goals scored type** :
 - 5 goals : Open play .
 - 5 goals : Set plays .
 - 3 goals : Penalty .
 - 1 own goal .
-  **Goals conceded type** :

- 15 goals : Open play .
- 4 goals : Set plays .
- 1 goal : Penalty .



Discipline :

- 5 yellow cards : Gardner .
- 4 yellow cards : Dorrans .
- 3 yellow cards : Sessegnon .
- 2 yellow cards : Brunt , Dawson .
- 1 yellow card : Morrison , Lescott , Foster , Blanco , Olsson , Gamboa , Mulumbu ,
- 1 red card : Yacob .

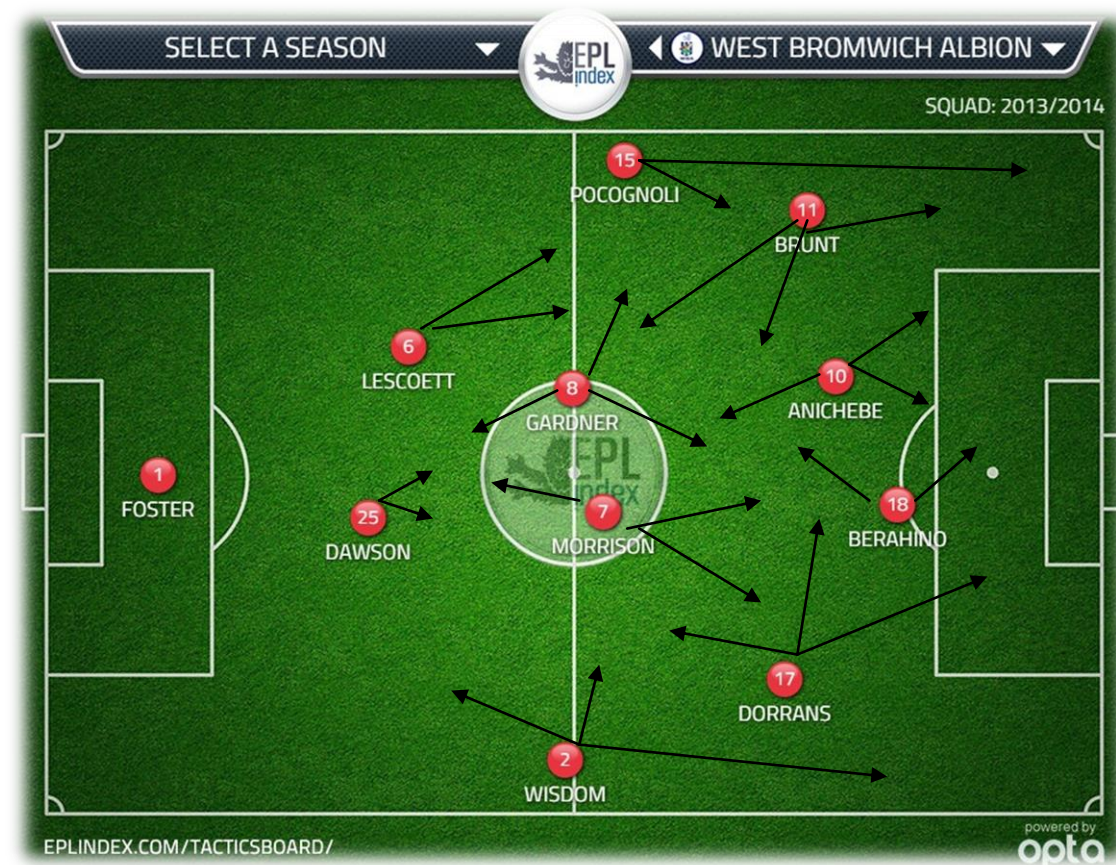
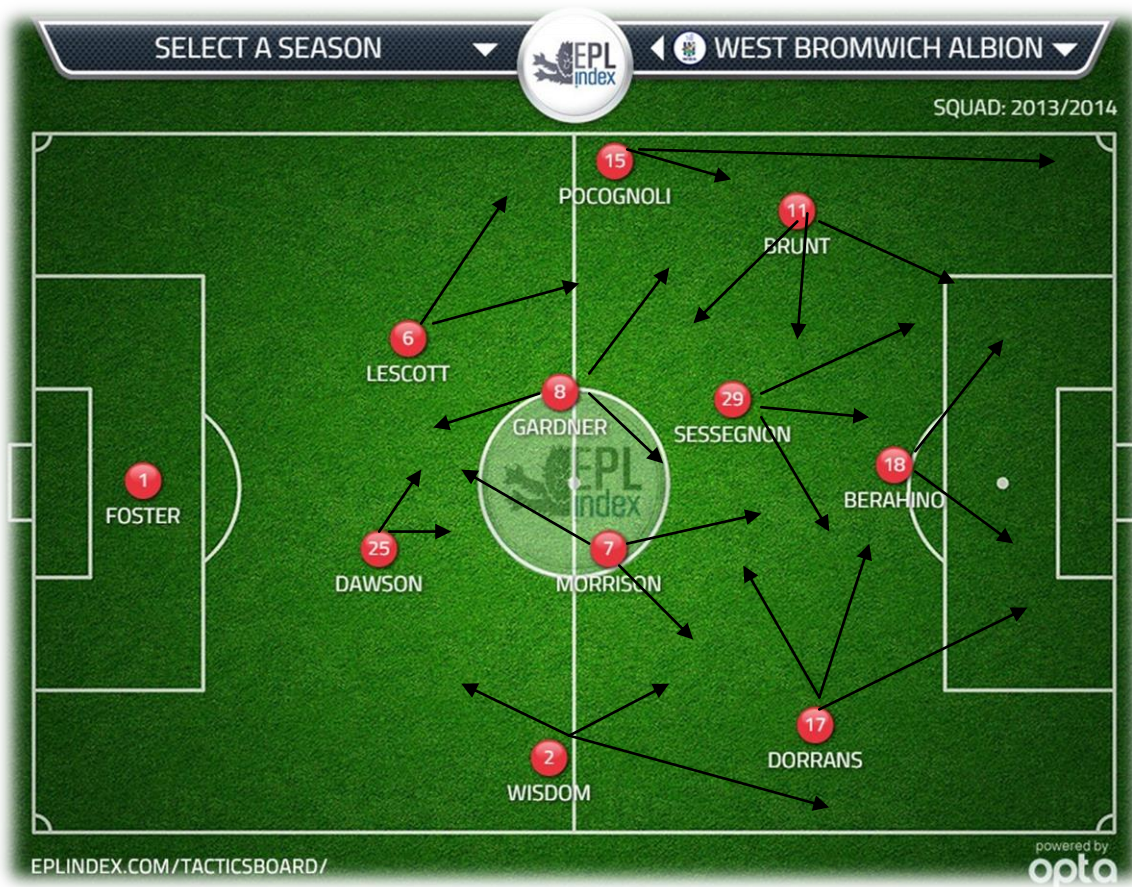


WBA fans : Generally , Good home support , they are in a bad run of results but the game is so important .



Atmosphere : Alan Irvine & his players face harsh criticisms .

System of play used :



OFFENSIVE ORGANISATION :

WBA :

Set up in a 4/2/3/1 or 4/4/2 (Anichebe alongside Berahino with Sessegnon on the bench , a system used particularly during the game , but can also be an option at the beginning if he need a a more direct approach) .

Short Build up :

1st pass to central defenders , slow tempo from Lescott & Dawson
horizontal circulating of the ball until a progression up the field can be found .
The two are comfortable with the ball , especially Lescott who is important for their short build up. If vertical pass can't be found , they use two patterns :

- ✓ Morrison (Gardner) drop deep between defensive & midfield line to create a central space for Gardner & Dorrans.
- ✓ Wisdom turn into 3rd central defender, to give Lescott width (normally left –centre zone) .
- ✓ If Olsson is on the field , he had the same instruction as Lescott .

Long Build up :

Depend on the system used by Alan Irvine , Foster poor distribution .

- ✓ 4/2/3/1 : Their objective is to find Brunt (left side) or Berahino (in front) , Normally they will lost the 1st aerial ball , Midfield (aggressive) chasing the 2nd ball .
- ✓ 4/4/2 : Anichebe's Flick-on into the space (Berahino & Dorrans movement)

2nd & 3rd & 4th phase :

A direct approach with some interesting patterns , mixed with a short possession . Progression from 2nd to 3rd phase depend on the system used .

- ✓ Full backs :

1. *Using the right side* : With the fact that Wisdom is lacking the ability to dribble , they try to pulling out fully wide on the left then orient the ball quickly to Wisdom exploiting the space (Usually a good diagonal pass from Gardner) .
 2. *Using the left side* : Is a threat , Pocognoli combine well with the attacking players , overlapping runs & good crosses (to the 2nd post) , lot of 1-2 between him & Brunt & Sessegnon .
- ✓ If the space is tight , Berahino (in both systems) will move to the wing to receive the ball (left side & expect combination with Pocognoli) , Anichebe (4/4/2) will move to the right . They change other positions more often .
 - ✓ Dorrans , Brunt , Morrison have a great vision , especially to found Berahino in deep other positions (Immediate & successful pass , pay attention !) .
 - ✓ If the opponent use a man-marking on WBA's central midfield , Lescott move forward in possession (Important to press him) . Also , Lescott & Dawson can deliver both some interesting diagonal pass in the space (to Berahino or Dorrans) .
 - ✓ Midfield :
 1. *Gardner & Morrison* : The probable partnership in the middle will be used by Irvine , Gardner is more defensive , keeping the possession , orienting the ball from side to side . Morrison play more offensively , running with the ball , link up with Sessegnon & Anichebe (4/4/2) , given verticality as soon as possible .
 2. *Gardner & Mulumbu* : Mulumbu will be in a position more defensive (Same instruction as Gardner with incapability to orient the play but will link up well with the right back) , Gardner with a offensive position (Same instruction as Morrison with less risky pass & lot of runs into the box) . Used early in the season .
 3. *Mulumbu & Morrisson* : The same instruction above.

4. **Yacob & Gardner** : More defensive & strict approach , with Yacob incapable to attack , but very comfortable defensively (Yacob had received a red card against Chelsea) .

✓ **Sessegnon , Brunt , Dorrans** :

1. **Brunt & Dorrans** : With the fact that they are not natural wingers , they aren't able to give width to the team , they drop into the middle & creating space for the full backs . **Brunt** is used as a 3rd midfield between the lines , link up play between central midfield & attacking players . When he get the ball , he will release Berahino (straight pass) or Pocognoli on the left side , also both have a pattern to exploit Brunt's quality of cross (Asking for the ball in the back of right back) . **As for Dorrans** , also plays between the lines , trying to give a second option & destabilize opponent organization , very good vision of depth & immediate release to Berahino , Using the half space & combine well with the attacking midfield & Wisdom . Pay attention to his diagonal pass (to Berahino in the space)
- 2 **Sessegnon** : is the creative players in the attacking third , used his technique , pace , dribbling's quality to create opportunity , he is the reference player in the zone 14 , combining well with Brunt & Pocognoli (Pocognoli immediate cross when he receive the ball) on the left side (when space is tight , he like to move there) , lot of interchanges with Dorrans on the rightside . When he move to the flanks , he create a space for Morrison (attention !) .

- ✓ Berahino (4/2/.3/1) : He is more productive when he play alone , lot off dangerous runs off the ball , with a good lay-offs , creating space to Brunt (also penetration inside the box) , Dorrans , Morrison to shoot , Sessegnon to dribble , shields the ball well & lot of runs behind defenders .
Immediate shoot (left foot , good ability)after wining the one on one situation , attack the cross diagonally (normally 1st post) with Dorrans or Brunt , Sessegnon (outside the box) supporting him .
- ✓ Anichebe & Berahino : If Irvine used a 4/4/2 , Berahino play around Anichebe , exploit the space created with Anichebe's good lay-off . Two option in the box , Berahino attack the cross diagonally (1st post) therefore , Anichebe waiting it in the 2nd post (using his strength) . Anichebe protect the ball very well , his movement in the box (with the ball) is dangerous (winning 2 penalty this season with the same action) .
- ✓ Creating dangerous opportunities with their very good long range shoot (Dorrans , Brunt , Gardner , Morrison & even Pocognoli) .
- ✓ Pay attention to Brunt's penetration into the box (always create danger) .
- ✓ Lescott , Brunt , Gardner usually communicate in different phase.

Key Moment :

- ✓ Lescott is so important to their short & long build up , Important to always pressing him for :
 - Forcing him to use long balls (Probably Anichebe will be in the bench , that mean a lot of lost balls) & getting him under a constant pressure (Surely will make mistakes) .

- Making Dawson the responsible of the build-up phase (an unusual situation during a big & away game with a lot of pressure) .
 - Using Foster more than often (poor distribution) .
 - Forcing full backs & the two central midfield to come back in their 3rd half (so , less danger & important to press with waves to cut the ball) .
 - If Olsson is on the field , he will have the same instructions as Lescott , Important to press (high success rate due to his lack of technical ability & poor long ball) .
- ✓ Players must be determinate & aggressive to win the 2nd balls .
- ✓ Always anticipate & block long range shoot .
- ✓ They are vulnerable against team that reduce the space between the lines , marking tight Berahino & Sessegnon , forcing them to use wide options .
- Defending with a two close lines of 4 , reducing the space between the lines .
 - Always marking tight Berahnio when he get the ball , in one – on – one situation he change quickly direction & shoot with the left foot (Central defender must be constant) . he usually plays at the limit of the offside (concentration & organization from defenders during the game) , if he move to the flanks , no player will be inside the box (unless they play 4/4/2) .
 - Sessegnon : To being able to contain him , players must isolating him , blocking angles of pass & forcing him into the middle to have the ball or using the flanks (Important to gets tight to him in both situation) .
 - Brunt & Dorrans : They will be unable to use their passing quality in depth with less movement in the attacking third . Both lacking the ability of natural wingers .
 - Gardner & Morrison : Switching play from side to side without effect . Gardner will move higher in the field to offer an other option (lot of space behind him) ,

Morrison with less straight dangerous pass (more running with the ball) .

- **Full backs** : Wisdom lacking the technical & dribbling ability, had one option (one opportunity to exploit) : **When the opponent is pressing the right side he will run into the middle with the ball to make a pass to Morrison or Dawson , very nervous with ball , important to press him & block the angle of his pass** (Usually with bad decision & timing) . Pocognoli will be used in a more attacking position (space to exploit in counter attack) . If both are higher in the field Gardner will be covering (lot of space) .
- **Mulumbu** : If Irvine used him , Important to press him when he get the ball , he lose possession more often & can make fouls in dangerous zones .
- **Anichebe** : Expect Irvine using him in the second half . Important to be comfortable & to not lose organization . When he flick-on onto Berahino & Dorrans , Wisdom will in a more offensive position (use the right side to counter attack) . Keep concentration , he will always frustrate defenders , less movement but more direct approach .

OFFENSIVE TRANSITION :

Attitude :

Change of attitude , they became more aggressive & fast , They immediately track Berahino's movement & release him in depth (threat especially when he is alone) , Dorrans , Sessegnon (both are dynamic & have pace) , Brunt (or Morrison) are in support , If quick transition isn't possible , they will maintain possession (Lescott & Gardner) . If they play 4/4/2 , Anichebe will be a another option .

Winning the ball in the defensive third :

Trying to found Dorrans in depth (important to press him) . In a 4/2/3/1, Sessegnon & Berahino are dangerous & give different options , in a 4/4/2 , Dorrans running with ball in the space , with Berahino & Anichebe opening 2 option in the wing , with a possible long range shoot , Brunt can use some good long pass in the space (because he is lacking pace) . Important to have the determination & the aggressiveness to kill their transition in their 3rd half , they make lot of mistakes , bad decisions , choose risky options .

Winning the ball in the midfield third :

Generally two situations : Immediate pass in depth to Berahino (Usually Morrison in charge) , or patter between Sessegnon & Berahino. Dorrans & Brunt will be in support , Morrison can run with the ball if the space is too big .

Winning the ball in the attacking third :

Depend on situation , If Anichebe is on the field it is a threat , they find him quickly inside the box , & always making defense in trouble using his strength (keep focus & concentration) .

Foster's transition :

A quick short pass outside the box to Morrison & Dorrans (Important to disturb them) but generally he will try to keep possession .

DEFENSIVE ORGANISATION :

WBA :

The team use a 4/4/2 (flat line became 4/5/1 when Sessegnon drop to midfield) , medium defensive organization , with a mix of zonal & man marking , trying to give initiative to the opponent but are able to change their attitude . Gardner is organizing the midfield line , Lescott in charged to conduct his defenders . Defensive organization don't change but can be influenced (positively or negatively) by the players qualities .

Sessegnon (Anichebe) & Berahino :

- ✓ **1st phase** : Generally passive (especially if Sessegnon is alongside Berahino) but can use some interesting high press to break opponent self confidence . If Anichebe is on the field expect more aggressive pressure situations .
- ✓ **2nd phase** : Berahino will be moving from side to side , Sessegnon will press opponent's midfield (if he had the ball) , if not he will get tight to him (forcing defenders to use another options) .
- ✓ **3rd phase** : Sessegnon return to the midfield , Berahino waiting for long balls to the flanks (counter attack) . If Anichebe is on the field , he will be waiting for counter attack , alongside Berahino (2 wing options) .
- ✓ **4th phase** : Sessegnon outside the box (but in lot of situations will not do it) . 4/4/2 Anichebe & Berahino (both) in the half line .

Midfield :

- ✓ **1st phase** : Generally they will be waiting opponent , in high pressure situations (not often) Dorrans & one of central midfield will support Berahino & Sessegnon .
- ✓ **2nd phase** : 2 ways : If the opponent is facing his own goal , they will try an aggressive press to force mistakes , if opponent is facing the play they will maintain a solid block & wait the chance to kill them .

- ✓ **3rd phase** : Reducing the space between the lines & pressing opponent's players , wingers covering well their full backs & contribute defensively .
- ✓ **4th phase** : In crosses , it's important that one or two players asking for the ball outside the box . wingers will back to form a 6 defensive line.

Defense :

- ✓ **1st phase** : Medium block in normal situations , high block when Berahino & Sessegnon press the opponent (important to break their offside with long pass & interchanges) .
- ✓ **2nd phase** : Medium block with Lescott organizing the offside line , they rarely reducing space with midfield . Important to use quick passing link-up , when opponent's players exploit the space between the lines , they will keep their block compactness .
- ✓ **3rd & 4th phase** : Low block , Highly inconsistent due to the incardination line , concentration , individual errors to lacking concentration . **Wisdom** make some vulnerable mistakes with his incapability to read the game properly which leaves him a favorable option in opponent's progress . **Pocognoli** is inconsistent in 1 vs 1 situation against skillful players with fast changing of directions (make fouls in dangerous area). No specific instructions to **Dawson & Lescott** (following opponent striker that create misunderstanding situations) long pass in the space behind them can be successful with their offside broke up more often . Important to have mobility with lot of movement off the ball & quick passing link up to create space . They are vulnerable in the box (inconsistent against crossing situations).

Long build up :

Can be successful using the flanks , **Wisdom** , **Dorrans** , **Pocognoli weak in aerial duels** (win the 1st ball) , **Brunt is unbalanced** . Centrally , **Gardner & Morrison lost lot of duels** (zone to exploit , usually get them nervous) , **important to do in it shorter than the both defenders** (especially Dawson , very dominant) .

Foster :

Inconsistent in crosses & shoots , **always have the determination to chase 2nd balls** , **more often had misunderstanding situations with defensive line** (especially with Wisdom when Foster get out outside the 6 yards box to catch the anticipate the ball , both rarely communicate) .

Key Moment :

- ✓ **Due to Sessegnon's weakness** (inconsistently & work rate) , **he will be abandoning his defensive instructions** , both in 2nd & 4th phase .
- ✓ Important to move the ball from side to side more often , **Berahino & Sessegnon will be too slow to get back across to close the opponent** .
- ✓ **Expect bad judgment** when midfield press opponent players facing their own goal .
- ✓ **Lot of space between the lines (2nd phase)** , important to use it with quick pass link-up .
- ✓ **Morrison & Gardner lacking tackles quality** + expect Mulumbu's losing concentration .
- ✓ **Usually failed to win the 2nd balls (after crosses)** .
- ✓ In normal situations , **they rarely block shots from outside the box** .
- ✓ **Poor clearance** . important to get their players under constant pressure after losing the ball .
- ✓ **Lescott & Dawson have misunderstanding situations** (after long balls in the space behind them) .
- ✓ Dorrans & Morrison **like to run with the ball** (in dangerous situations) **after winning 2nd ball** (important to troubling them).
- ✓ **Bad decisions** when they play the ball out of defense . (Normally to Berahino in the wing) .
- ✓ After winning the ball (long pass in the space behind defenders) , **exploit the space uncovered by full backs** .
- ✓ To let **Pocognoli facing a 1vs1 situation** , taken Brunt away to the middle + movement from the striker around Lescott (can't cover him) .

DEFENSIVE TRANSITION :

Attitude :

Aggressive (especially in the attacking third) but very broken & disorganized , **unbalanced with lot of players incapable to cover** (Brunt , Sessegnon) **or inconsistent** (Morrison , Dorrans , Wisdom , Pocognoli) .

Losing the ball in the defensive third :

Unbalanced with lot of players out of position , long range shoot is a possible option to kill them .

Losing the ball in the midfield third :

Broken with a 3vs3 situation (Dawson & Lescott & one of the full backs) , Gardner (good recovery) , Morrison & the other full back will try to cover or delay quickly . Defensive **line will use offside** , if opponent pass the ball to wide players , left & right central defenders will get tight to him (transition broken) , **important to use space behind them with passing link-up + movement off the ball , using pace** .

Losing the ball in the attacking third :

Trying to counter press the opponent (aggressive) , forcing to mistake or playing long . Full backs also participate , Gardner will try to delay (too big space for him) , **defenders are high in the field with lot of space behind them (using offside)** . **Important to use the wing** (especially the right side , Wisdom slow recovery) or the space behind defenders with pace . Morrison & full back return to cover .

SET PLAYS FOR :

Kick off combination :

Short pass to Gardner who will find Brunt on the left side (long ball) , normally it would be going to a throw-in .

Corners:

Are taken by Brunt , Morrison & Dorrans . Wisdom & Pocognoli don't participate , Gardner outside the box (attention , very good shoot !) , Sessegnon will offer a short option , Lescott & Dawson (threat !) & Dorrans & Brunt or Morrison will do different runs in the box Dorrans & Gardner chasing the 2nd ball . Lescott conduct his teammates . . They have 3 combination :

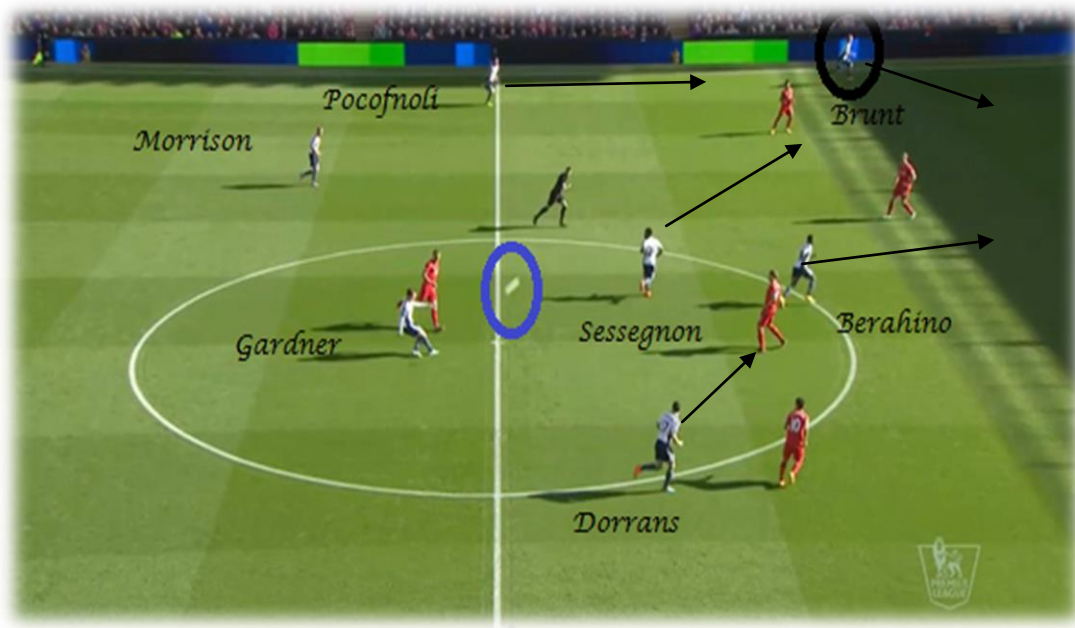
- ✓ Brunt's corner kick : the objective is to find Dawson (or Morrison) in the 2nd post . Berahino troubles the GK but can anticipate on the 1st post . Lescott diagonal run in 1st post . Both using the space created by Dorrans's drops outside the 6 yard . Morrison & Dawson spinning to arrive in 2nd post . Brunt had a good ability of crossing .
- ✓ Morrison's corner kick : Inswinging to the near post . Diagonal runs from Dorrans & Lescott (1st post) , Dawson spinning to arrive in 2nd post , Brunt outside the 6 yards box .
- ✓ Short option (both) : The aim is to pass the ball to Gardner (outside the box very good shoot !). One – Two between Sessegnon & Brunt (Morrison) important to anticipate .
- ✓ Anichebe : If he is on the field , He will be a free player in the 6 yards box (another option for WBA) , Diagonal runs from Dawson & Dorrans (1st post) , Lescott spinning to arrive in the 2nd & Berahino also waiting in the 2nd post (flick-on). Morrison & Gardner for the 2nd ball (both with a good ability to shoot).

Free kicks :

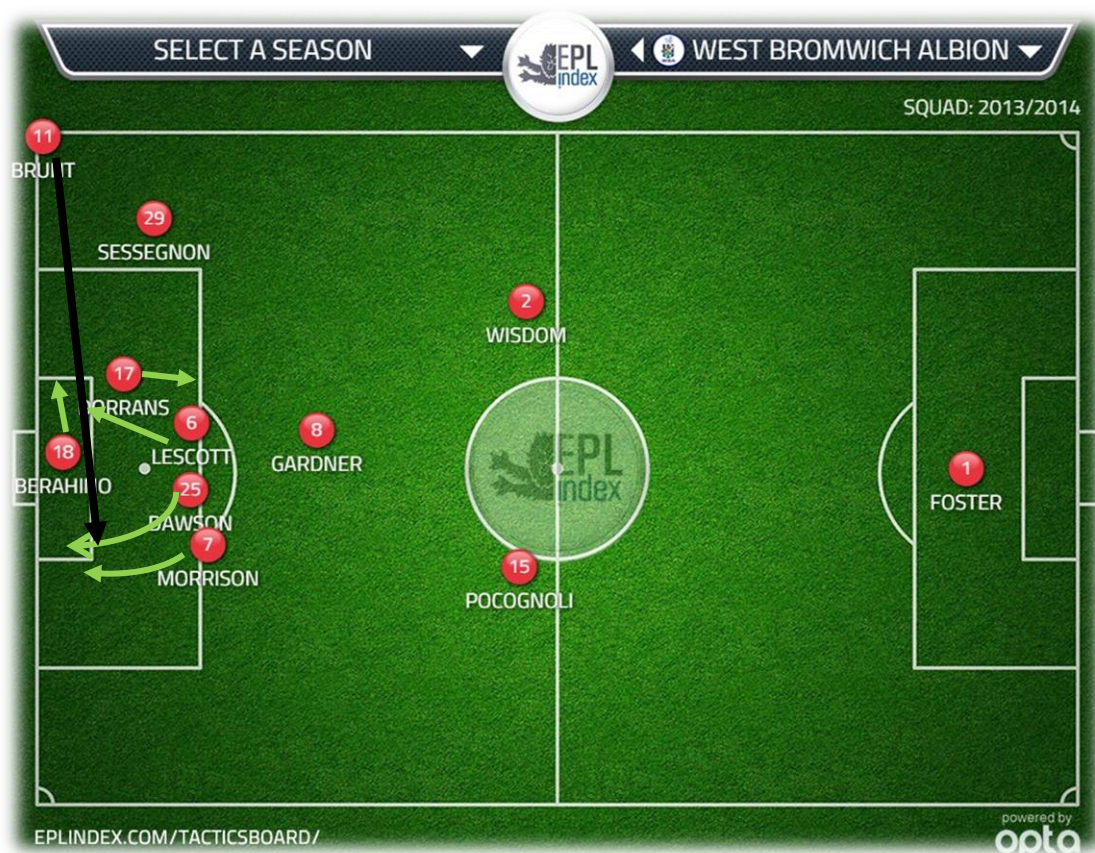
Are taken by Brunt & Gardner & Morrison , Wisdom & Pocognoli don't participate . Lescott organize his teammates .

- ✓ Lateral free kick : Outswinging and Inswinging Are taken by Brunt (especially with a good ability to cross) Morrison & Gardner . 3 players attack diagonally (Berahino / Dawson / Dorrans) , Lescott spinning to arrive in the 2nd post (their attractive option) Morrison with a late run & Gardner stay outside the box (immediate shot after winning the 2nd ball) . If Anichebe is on the field , expect another good option for WBA .
- ✓ Frontal free kick : Direct ones are take by Gardner (powerful shoot) & Brunt , Indirect ones with some combination , Dawson & Lescott can curl round to further away post from GK , with possible touch to Gardner (surprising the opponent) , Morrison & Dorrans chasing the 2nd balls .

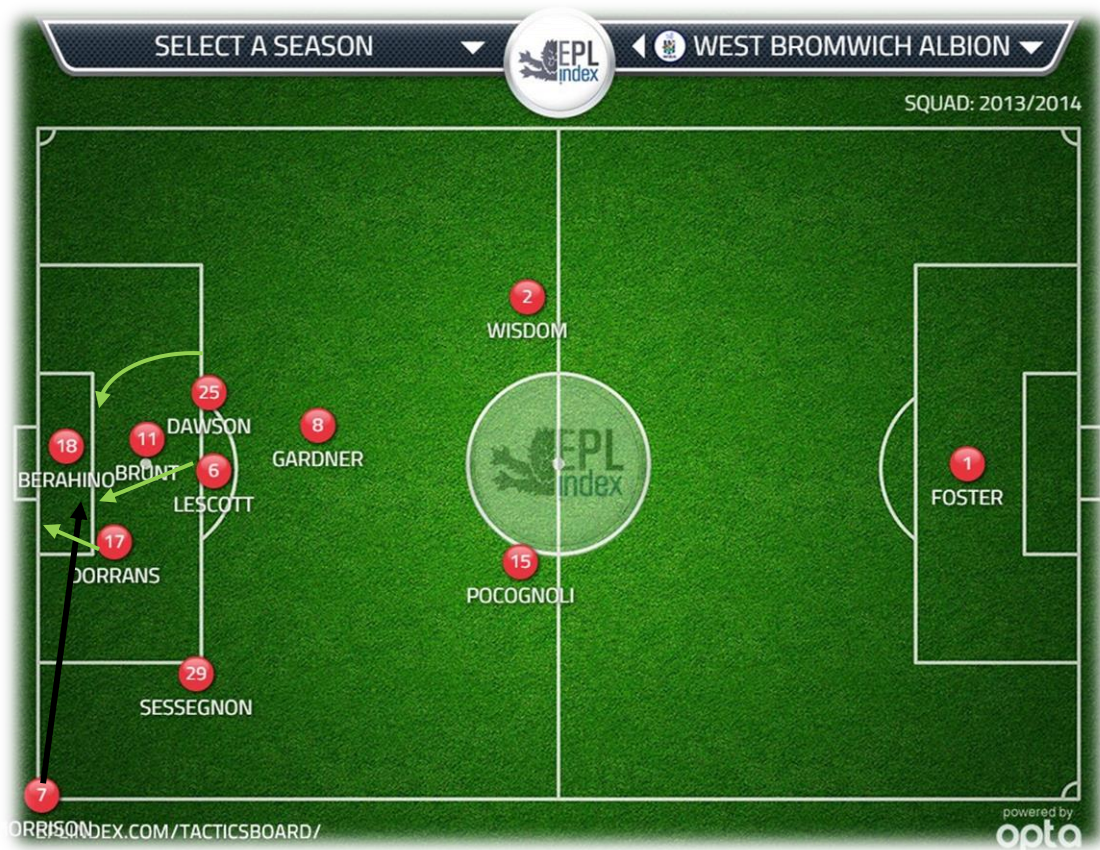
Kick off combination :



Brunt's corner :



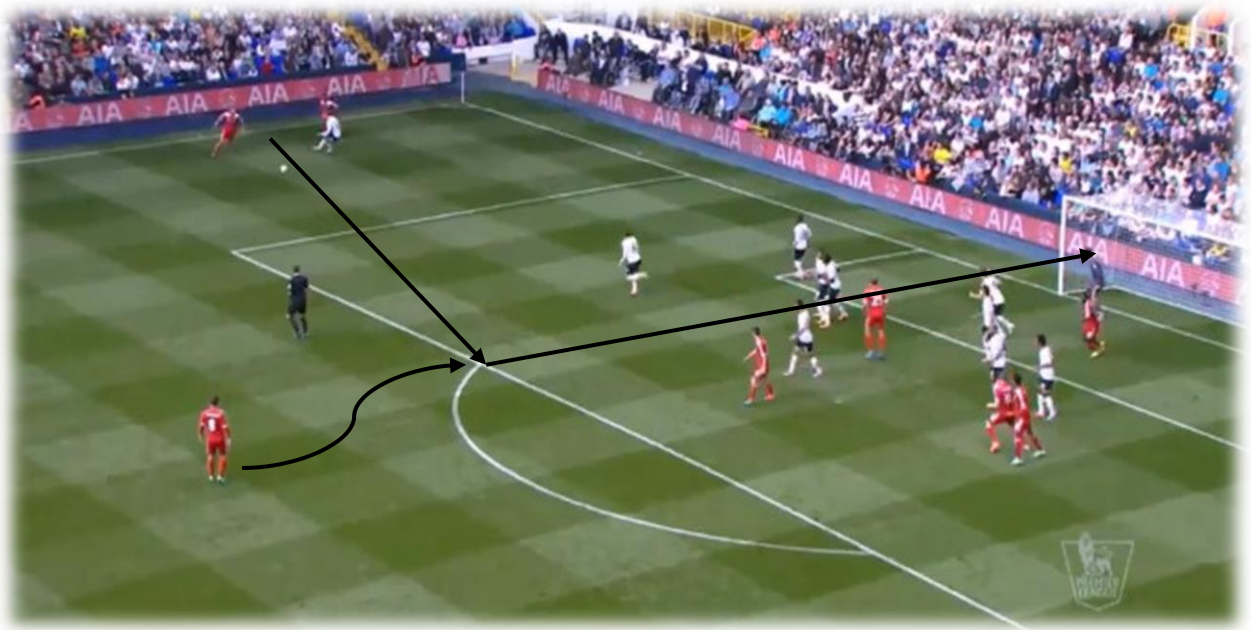
Morrison's corner :



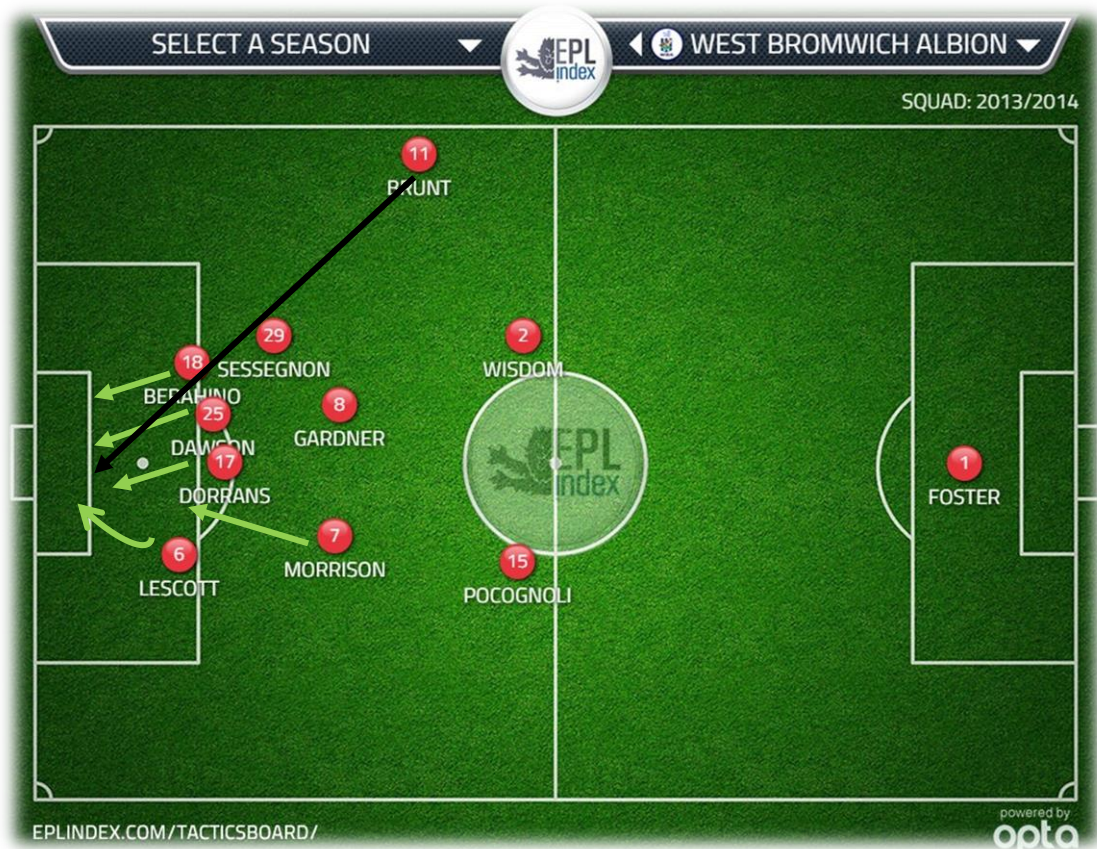
Corner with Anichebe :



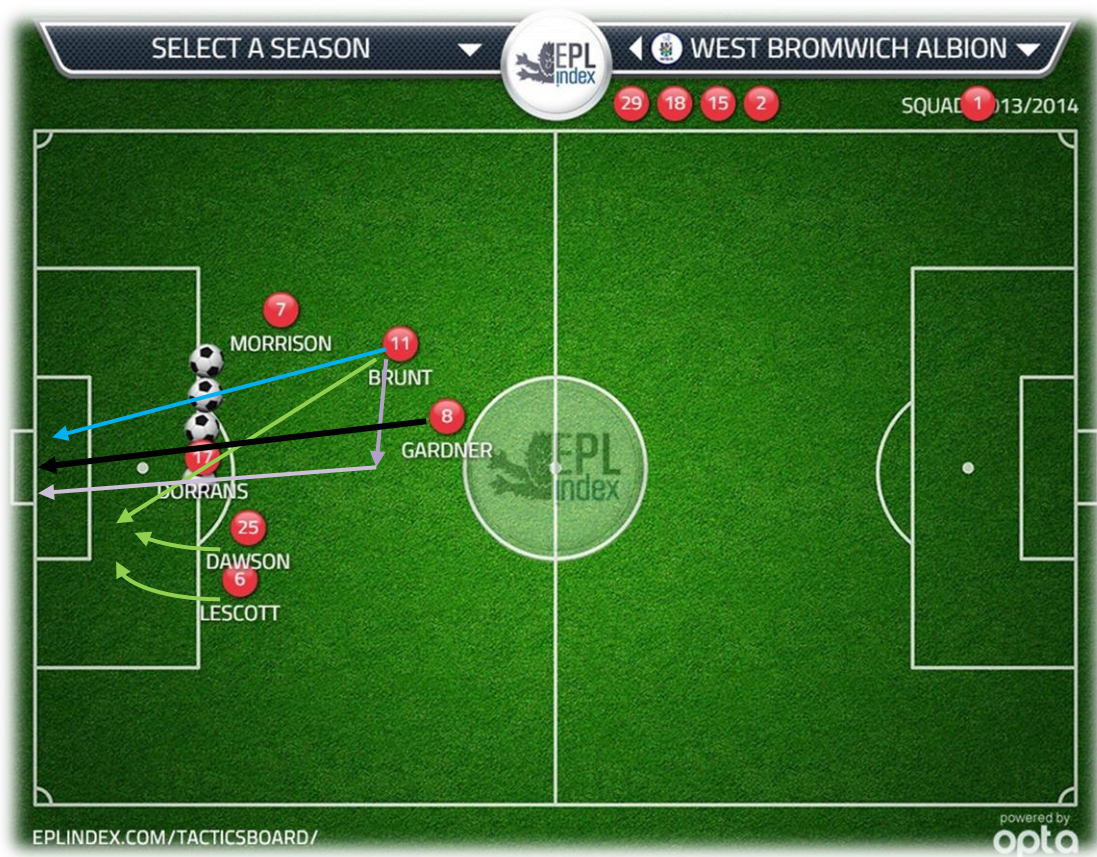
Short option :



Lateral free kick :



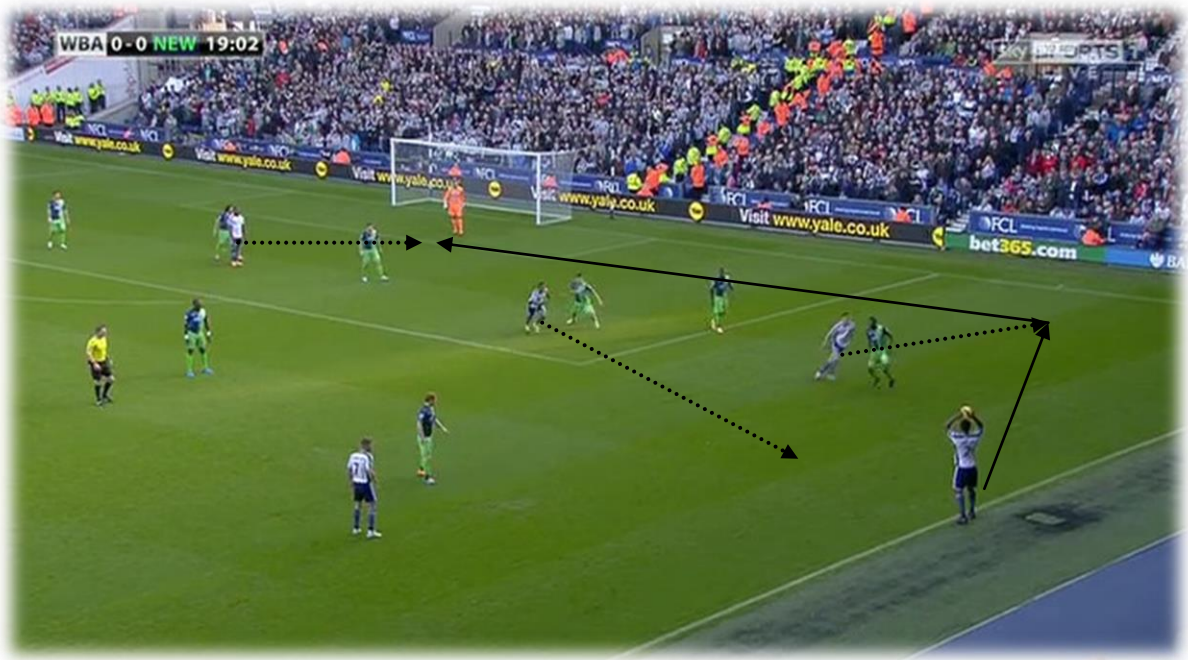
Frontal free kick :



Pocognoli throw ins :



Wisdom throw ins :



SET PLAYS AGAINST :

 Kick off : Below .

 Corners :

They put [Dorrans in the 2nd post](#) . [Gardner in the space between 1st post & 6 yard box](#) . [Sessegnon outside & other players using a man-marking](#) . Berahino for counter attacks . Lescott organize his teammates .

Key moment :

1. Wisdom fail often to mark tight his opponent .
2. A flick-on from a player (1st post) to win 2nd ball in the (space uncovered , 2nd post) .
3. Important to have 2-3 players around Foster in the 6 yards box to trouble him (inconsistent in crosses) .
4. Quick corner combination with a player show up & cross into the box (disorganized & space uncovered in the 2nd post) .
5. If Anichebe is on the field , expect one more tall player .

 Free kicks :

- ✓ [Lateral free kick](#) : Dorrans & Sessegnon in the wall (don't jump) . They put Morrison in the space & leave Berahino in front . Flat line just inside the box with zonal marking . Lescott organize his teammates .

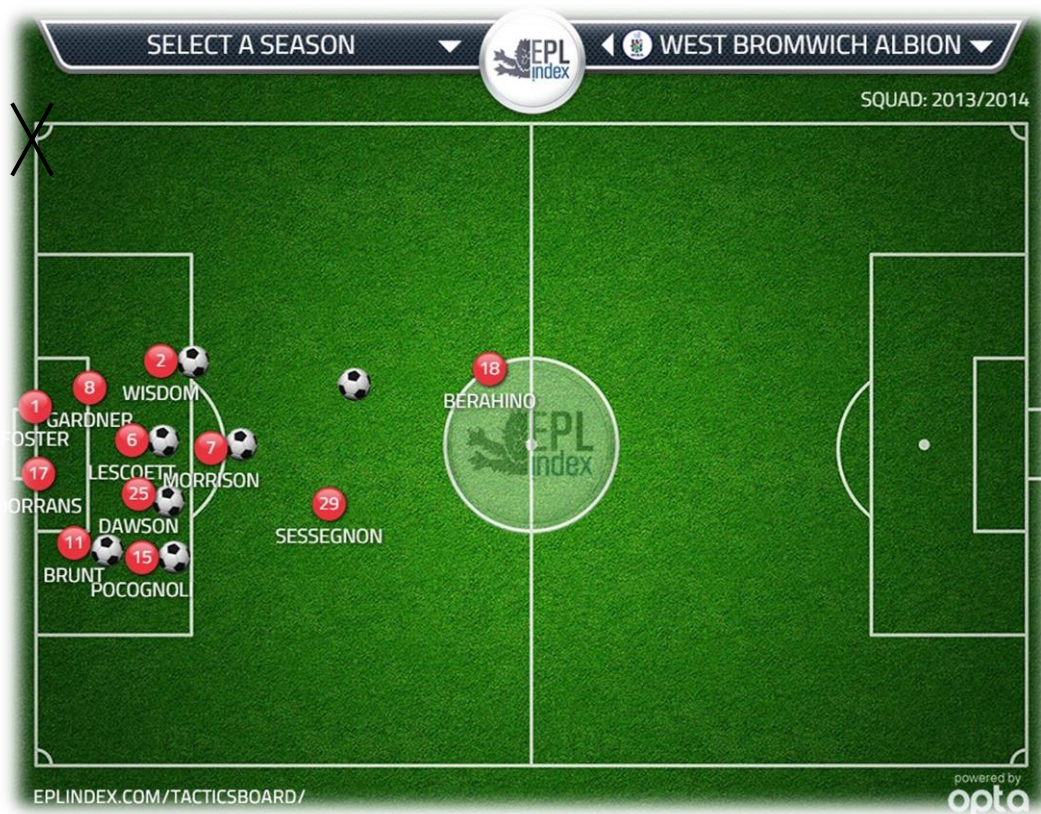
Key moments :

- (1) Wisdom & Pocognoli's zone .
 - (2) Poor clearance , Players must have determination to win the 2nd ball .
 - (3) A good shooter outside the box .
- ✓ Frontal free kick : They put 5 players In the wall (Pocognoli & Brunt & Gardner & Lescott or Dawson & Sessegnon) . Dorrans outside to cut any combination , Berahino in front (but can return , depend on situation) . Other players use man-marking .

Kick off :



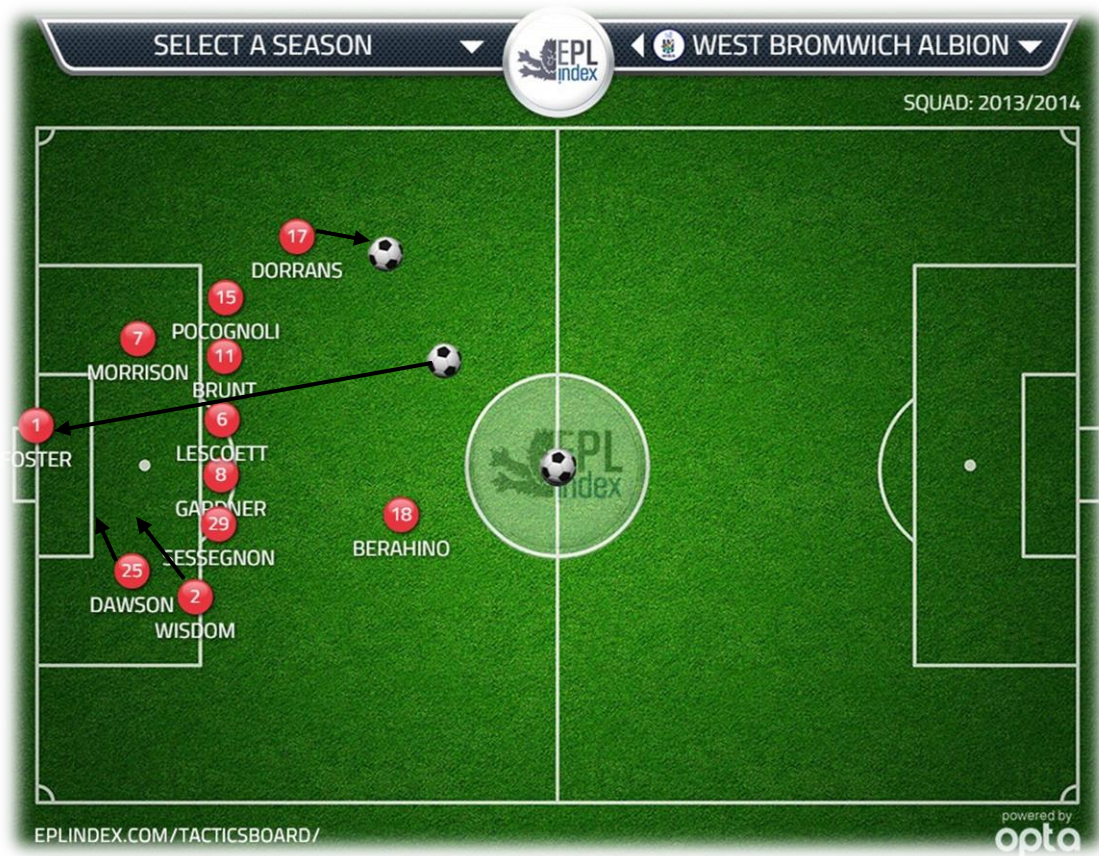
Corner :



Lateral free kick :



Frontal free kick :



INDIVIDUEL ASSESSEMENT :

Probable XI :



#1 Ben Foster (31 Years / English / 89 Kg / 1.93 m / Left) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's Goalkeeper .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Forcing him to use his right foot .
 - Troubling him in set up plays .
 - Exploit misunderstanding situations with defense .
 - Players must have determination to win 2nd balls (after shoot or cross) .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Calm & rarely communicates with defenders .
 - Current situation : Fans doubt about his quality .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 1260 Min .



#2 Andre Wisdom (21 Years / English / 78 Kg / 1.86m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's right back (his natural position is central defender) was loaned from Liverpool . His offensive isn't good & influenced (cross are powerful – 1st post) , makes lot of mistakes defensively .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Intense pressure & block passes angles in possession phase (important) .
 - Forcing him to use his left foot .

- Press him when he won the ball (always bad decision) .
- Poor in reading the game .
- Poor 1st touch (in normal situation & under pressure)
- Use his zone in set up plays .

✓ **Character :**

- Nervous with & without a ball , lose concentration more often .
- Current situation : Face some harsh criticism after poor performance during last games .

✓ **Other positions :** Centre back / Left back .

✓ **Minutes played :** 1260 Min .



#25 Craig Dawson (24 Years / English / 84 Kg / 1.88m / Right):

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's central defender . After inconsistent seasons & a possible move this summer , Irvine give him the chance . Good defender with an excellent ability to win aerial duels , have good offensive contribution (another reason why McAuley dropped from the team) . He seems playing with more confidence alongside Lescott . Had some constant performance from the start of the season) .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Use the space behind him . (with long pass) .
- Get tight to him in set plays .
- Face problems against physical strikers .

✓ **Character :**

- Serene , Determination , Confident .
- Current situation : Interesting progression this season , fans are happy with his performance . had signed a new deal a few weeks ago .

- ✓ **Other positions :** Right back .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 1260 Min .



#6 Joleon Lescott (32 Years / English / 82 Kg / 1.87m / Left) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's central defender , a new signing that give some confidence both on & off the field .
- ✓ **Key Moment :**
 - Under constant pressure during possession phase , he will make mistakes .
 - Use the space behind him . (with long pass) .
 - Expect vulnerable mistakes in crucial moment .
 - He organize players in offside / set plays .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Leader in the field , feel more comfortable .
 - Current situation : have a full confident from teammates in different phases . Fans appreciate his contribution .

- ✓ **Other positions :** Left back .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 990 Min .



#15 Sébastien Pocognoli (27 Years / Belgian / 73 Kg / 1.81 m / Left) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's left back . Bought this summer from Bundesliga . Had a good offensive contribution , can dribble and give some interesting crosses & runs (2nd post – pay

attention if Anichebe is on the field) , combine well with Brunt & Sessegnon & Berahino . Suffered from physical problems .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Harsh tackles in dangerous zones .
- Troubled by skillful wingers with explosive change of directions .
- Poor 1st touch .
- Slow recovery after losing the ball .
- Use his zone for long build up .

✓ **Character :**

- Hard working , Determination , fighting spirit.
- Current situation : Integrated well in the team, had shown good performance .

✓ **Other positions :** Left midfield .

✓ **Minutes played :** 965 Min .



#7 James Morrison (28 Years / Scottish / 75 Kg / 1.80 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's midfield . Explosive with a good vision to see depth , lacking constant in his defensive contribution , experience with good attitude . Useful in transitions phase + good long range shoot .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Lacking tackling ability .
- Had good runs with the balls .
- Poor 1st touch with his left foot .
- Bad decisions under pressure (can lost the ball in dangerous situations) .
- When the opponent dribble him , he will lost interest in following him .

✓ **Character :**

- Explosive , dynamic .

- Current situation : One of the experienced players in the team .

- ✓ **Other positions** : Attacking midfield / Right & Left wing.
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 826 Min .



#8 Craig Gardner (27 Years / English / 81 Kg / 1.76m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's midfield bought this season .
Good offensive & defensive contribution , one of the constant performance this season , good work rate & long range shoot , showing a great spirit on the field .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - When they lose the ball , space too big for him.
 - If they play a 4/4/2 he will penetrate more often into the box .
 - Intelligent pass (do not prefer risky ones , just the right one) .
 - Lot of yellow cards & protestation .
 - Combine well with Berahino & Anichebe .
 - Take frontal free kicks (powerful shoot) .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Back at home (Midlands) , fighting spirit , determination .
 - Current situation : One of the best performance in the team , admired by the fans & his teammates .
- ✓ **Other positions** : Right back / Right midfield .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 1212 Min .



#17 Graham Dorrans (27 Years / Scottish / 77 Kg / 1.79 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's right winger , he is versatile .
After a difficult last season with an intention to leave the club , but Irvine give him the support & trust . Good defensive effort , like to play between the lines , great vision with a long range shoot .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Poor 1st touch .
 - Like to dribble in dangerous zones .
 - Got tired after 60 minutes & became less efficient both defensively & offensively .
 - Incapable to support Wisdom in transition .
 - Win 2nd balls .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Explosive , work rate , determination .
 - Current situation : Returning into Scotland's squad , benefit from Irvine's trust .
- ✓ **Other positions** : Attacking midfield / Left & Right winger / Centre midfield .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 1156 Min .



#29 Stéphane Sessègnon (30 Years / Benin / 74 Kg / 1.68 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's attacking midfield . He is the most creative player in the team , give pace & the ability to kill in transition very good ability to dribble .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Poor defensive contribution .
- Poor attitude .
- Lacking concentration .
- Very good movement off the ball .

✓ **Character :**

- Inconsistent performance .
- Current situation : Nothing special .

✓ **Other positions :** Right & Left winger / Secondary striker.

✓ **Minutes played :** 865 Min .



#11 Chris Brunt (29 Years / Northern Irish / 85 Kg / 1.87 m / Left) :

✓ **General information :** WBA's left winger & Team captain versatile & have a great vision & very good left foot , returning to his national team's squad , acceptable defensive effort . Set plays taker .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Got tired .
- Good work rate .
- Weak in aerial duels .
- Poor clearance .
- Inefficient in width zones (he can't dribble) .
- Great timing of penetration into the box (always danger)

✓ **Character :**

- Leader team captain , experiment .
- Current situation : Was booing by fans , face some harsh criticism about his bad attitude (fans view) .

- ✓ **Other positions :** Left & Right midfield / Left & Right winger / Attacking & centre midfield .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 1156 Min .




#18 Saido Berahino (21 Years / English / 82 Kg / 1.79 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's young striker . Called up for the 1st time to the England squad . Mobile player with great movement in depth, can be a threat in transition . Penalty's are taken by him .
- ✓ **Key Moment :**
 - Poor defensive contribution .
 - Weak in aerial duels .
 - Combine well with attacking players .
 - Can be lost if the space is tight & defenders get close to him .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Confident , Ambitious .
 - Current situation : Face a drink driving investigation .
- ✓ **Other positions :** Right & Left winger .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 1260 Min .

Substitutes :



 #16 Chris Gamboa (25 Years / Costa Rican / 67 Kg / 1.75 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's right back bought this season , very good offensive contribution with pace & remarkable acceleration . Not good enough defensive contribution .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Use pace to deal with one – on – one situations .
 - Weak against skillful wingers with incredible dynamic .
 - Use a 1-2 to progress with the ball .
 - Good crosses .
 - Intense pressure after losing the ball .
 - Good recovery .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Facing some integration's problems but takes confidence in the recent weeks , determination.
 - Current situation : /
- ✓ **Other positions** : Right midfield .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 216 Min .



#21 Yousouf Mulumbu (27 Years / Congolese / 75 Kg / 1.74 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's defensive midfield . Give to his team a more physical approach in the middle . good tackler .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Lost often possession in dangerous situations .
 - Fouls in dangerous situations .
 - Can't pass the ball quickly or using long ones .
 - Limited technically .
 - Believes in bad timing of pressure .
 - No creativity in the middle .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Lacking concentration & motivation .
 - Current situation : Had intention is to leave for a new challenge , it seems like he lost interest .
- ✓ **Other positions** : Centre midfield .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 557 Min .



#10 Victor Anichebe (26 Years / Nigerian / 79 Kg / 1.85 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's striker . Strong with a very good protection of the ball , dominating in aerial duels . Give a direct option in front of the defense .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Efficient as a sub .
 - Lacking agility .
 - Lacking mobility .

- Can make some problems inside the box .
- Get close to him in set plays .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Determination , fight spirit .
 - Current situation : Nothing special .
- ✓ **Other positions :** /
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 418 Min .



#5 Claudio Jacob (27 Years / Argentinean / 73 Kg / 1.81 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's defensive midfield , lost his position this season . Very good defensively , have good shoot outside the box , gives more freedom & confidence to his teammates in offensive phases .
- ✓ **Key Moment :**
 - Incapable to attack .
 - but Irvine can start the game with him alongside with Gardner to give a more defensive approach .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Fight spirit .
 - Current situation : Facing some personal issues (back from Argentina few weeks ago) . Lacking match fitness .
- ✓ **Other positions :** /
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 50 Min .



#3 Jonas Olsson (31 Years / Swedish / 84 Kg / 1.93 m Left) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's central defender . He is a confirmed player with experience & constant performance in the previous seasons . Good offensive contribution ,
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Lacking technical ability .
 - Silly mistakes of clearance and judgment .
 - Poor organization of his teammates .
 - Under pressure , he will make vulnerable passes .
 - Lost his balance in one-on-one situations .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Lacking concentration , an important player on & off the field with experience .
 - Current situation : Lacking match fitness , After being constant over the past years , he had a poor start of the season .
- ✓ **Other positions** : /
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 320 Min .



#28 Sebastián Blanco (26 Years / Argentinean / 64Kg / 1.68 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : A versatile attacking midfield bought this season . Fast with a good technique & a good vision .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Give dynamic to the team .

- Frail .
- Poor defensive contribution .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Facing some integration's problems .
 - Current situation : Lacking match fitness .
- ✓ **Other positions :** Right & Left winger .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 39 Min .



#30 Georgios Samaras (29 Years / Greek / 86 Kg / 1.92 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information :** WBA's striker bought this season .
- ✓ **Key Moment :**
 - Give another option to maintain possession & penetration from the middle .
 - Lot of movement off the ball .
 - Aerial option .
- ✓ **Character :**
 - Facing some integration's problems .
 - Current situation : Lacking match fitness, dropped from Greece squad .
- ✓ **Other positions :** Attacking midfield / Left winger .
- ✓ **Minutes played :** 72 Min .



#9 Brown Ideye (26 Years / Nigerian / 70 Kg / 1.80m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's striker (most expansive signing) , he is good technically also a good mobility , isn't an interesting finisher , can missed lot of chances .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Due to the similar characteristics with Berahino , they are ineffective together .
 - Isn't dominating in the air .
 - Isn't decisive .
 - Poor defensive contribution .
- ✓ **Character** :
 - Facing some integration's problems , timid & lacking concentration .
 - Current situation : Lacking match fitness .
- ✓ **Other positions** : Right & Left winger .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 217 Min .



#14 Jason Davidson (23 Years / Australian / 72 Kg / 1.80 m / Left) :

- ✓ **General information** : WBA's Left back bought this season , like to be in more offensive position, usually cross to the 1st post . Poor defensive contribution .
- ✓ **Key Moment** :
 - Use the space behind him .
 - Weak in one-on-one situations .

- Poor tackling .
- Slow recovery .

✓ **Character :**

- Facing some integration's problems .
- Current situation : Lacking confidence & match fitness , Irvine & fans don't trust him after a poor start .

✓ **Other positions :** Left midfield .

✓ **Minutes played :** 120 Min .



#26 Silvestre Varela (29 Years / Portuguese / 75 Kg / 1,80 m / Right) :

✓ **General information :** WBA's winger . Another new player , the only natural winger WBA dispose . Versatile with pace , gives width .

✓ **Key Moment :**

- Probably will used by Irvine as a surprise during the game (on the right) .
- Penetration into the box with great timing .
- More effective as a sub .

✓ **Character :**

- Facing some integration's problems especially after his long term injury .
- Current situation : Lacking match fitness .

✓ **Other positions :** Right winger .

✓ **Minutes played :** 50 Min .



#13 Boaz Myhill (32 Years / Welsh / 91 Kg / 1.91 m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : Foster's substitution , poor clearance & long build up , rarely communicates with defenders .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 90 Min .



#5 Gareth McAuley (34 Years / Northern Irish / 89 Kg / 1.95 m / Right) :


- ✓ **General information** : Good communicator , leads the players in set up plays , very good in the aerial duels , experiment , vulnerable in possession phase , 4th choice , not happy with his current situation & want to leave . Pay attention to him in set plays (dominating in the offensive one , good organization in defensive)
- ✓ **Other positions** : /
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 90 Min .




4 Chris Baird (32 Years / Northern Irish / 73 Kg / 1.85m / Right) :

- ✓ **General information** : Defensive midfield ,versatile , used in one game (last 15 minute)
- ✓ **Other positions** : Centre & full back .
- ✓ **Minutes played** : 163 Min .


GENERAL OBSERVATIONS :

 If Pocognoli isn't fit for the game , Alan Irvine have 5 options (ranking by expect scenario) :

1. Gamboa as right back , Wisdom (can't use his left foot) on the other side .
2. Chris Baird (defensive midfield) as left back , Wisdom on the right .
3. Chris Baird (defensive midfield) as right back , Wisdom on the left .
4. Jason Davidson (poor debut in the EPL , lacking confidence from the coach , tired) on the left .
5. Gardner as a right back (but they will lose an important player in the middle) Wisdom on the left .
6. Brunt as left back (can be a threat offensively) .

 Alan Irvine (Scotland) :

Signed one-year deal with WBA this season . He is a calm coach , implicated in his game . Face some harsh criticism , fans are in doubt about his quality & want him out .

 Set plays :

- ✓ **Offensive Transition** : Quick reaction when they get the ball especially with Morrison & Dorrans , Berahino & Sessegnon are a threat in the space but their reaction to the 2nd balls are too slow , space is big outside the box (shoot or orient the ball to the right side + cross to the space in 2nd post) .
- ✓ **Defensive Transition** : Weak with only Pocognoli & Wisdom in the back , their reaction is too slow , possible to kill them by using the flanks (with pace) .

Stadium :

- ✓ [The Hawthorns](#) .
- ✓ [Capacity](#) : 26 484 .
- ✓ [Size of playing field](#) : 105 m x 68 m .
- ✓ [Fans](#) : Good support .
- ✓ [Whether](#) : Cloudy .
 - [Prob. Temperature](#) : 3 ° .
 - [Prob. Wind Speed](#) : 14 Km / h .
 - [Prob. Wind Gusts](#) : 21 Km / h .
 - [Prob. Humidity](#) : 92 % .
 - [Prob. Precipitation](#) : 0 %

 Penalty : Is taken by Berahino (Brunt & Gardner are potential players) :

[Last 5 penalty's \(Berahino \) in all competitions :](#)



GAME PLAN :

✓ 1st half :

Generally , they will keep the same system whatever the result is , with one possible change of players other positions between Dorrans & Brunt (for 10 – 13 minute) to destabilize opponent's organization (A good moment to won aerial duels on the left side used between 15 – 30 & 50-65).

✓ Half time :

- **Losing** : Expect a sub (generally between Sessegnon & Anichebe – changing the system – due to the poor performance) + Motivation .
- **Winning / Drawing** : Keeping the same organization .

✓ 45 – 60 :

- **Losing** : Probably will not bring any substitute , the objective is to find Anichebe (between the lines or with long balls) as soon as possible , with Gardner going forward & link up with the two strikers .
- **Winning / Drawing** : Keeping the same organization .

✓ 60 – 75 :

- **Losing** : Full backs going forward more often , Gardner & Morrison & Dorrans outside the box using their shoot (attention !) . Samaras , Blanco can be used to keep high intensity & give different options .
- **Winning / Drawing** : Keeping the same organization , but can use Blanco (dynamic) for Dorrans , with Brunt as right winger .

✓ 75 – 85 :

- **Losing** : Brunt can move in the middle to became a central midfield (pass's quality) , Pocognoli as a wing back to let more players penetrate inside the box . As for subs , Blanco for pace , Samaras & Varela (gives width)

too . Possible apparition of Gamboa (offensive & dynamic right side) .

- **Winning / Drawing** : Keeping the same organization , but he can try 4 strategies : Mulumbu for physical challenges in the middle , Yacob to give defensive support (due to the game nature) , Samaras to maintain possession & give an aerial option , Varela to counter attack . All generally for Dorrans & Sessegnon , probably Brunt . Morrison can be used as right winger .

✓ 85 – 90 :

- **Losing** : Use an aerial option (Samaras) ,
- **Winning / Drawing** : Keeping the same organization , probable 2 changes to waste time or give defensive contribution , or no subs during all the game .

✓ Offensive subs :

- **Anichebe** : Give a direct & aerial option .
- **Sessegnon** : Give creativity & pace .
- **Blanco** : Dynamic , keeping high intensity (left winger)
- **Samaras** : Used as secondary striker , lot of movement off the ball , aerial option , maintain possession .
- **Gamboa** : Pace & more offensive contribution on the rightside .
- **Ideye** : Probably will not be used but use the space , moving off the ball , technical ability .
- **Varela** : Give width & pace .

✓ Defensive subs :

- **Mulumbu** : Physical impact in the middle .
- **Yacob** : Defensive contribution .

✓ Injuries :

- Central Defenders : Olsson or McAuley .
- Full backs : Gamboa (the only full back in the bench) .

- Midfield : Yacob & Mulumbu but players are versatile , Brunt, Dorrans , Morrison can play in different other positions .
- Strikers : Ideye & Samaras for Anicheb & Berahino .

✓ Red Card :

- **Foster** : Sessegnon (or Anichebe) off , Myhill in .
- **Full back** : An attacking player off , Gamboa in .
- **Centre back** : An attacking player off , McCauley in .
- **Centre midfield** : Brunt or Dorrans as central midfield , Sessegnon will became a right / left winger . if the situation need a defensive player (Sessegnon off , Mulumbu / Baird in) .
- **Wingers** : If Berahino is alone , Sessegnon will move to the wing . If Berahino is alongside Anichebe , he will move to the wing (normally right) .
- **Sessegnon / Berahino / Anichebe** : No substitute .

✓ Team attitude :

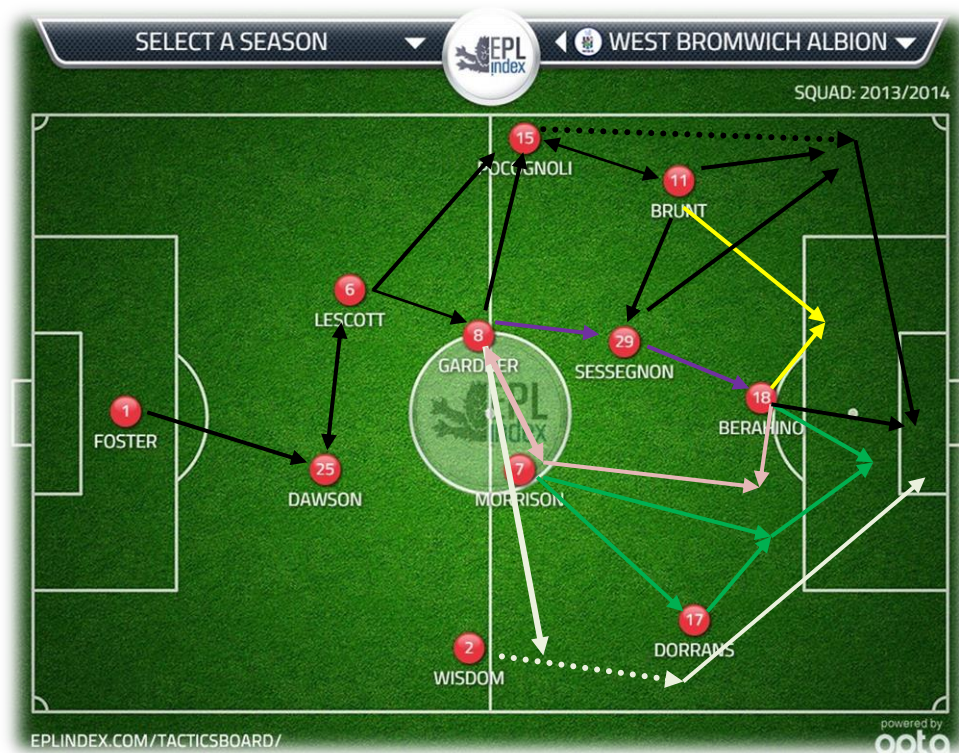
- **Provocation** :
 1. **Gardner** : 1st physically , 2nd verbally , trouble him when he take set plays , his team is losing .
 2. **Dorrans** : Physically .
 3. **Berahino** : Physically .
 4. **Pocognoli** : Physically & verbally .
 5. **Morrison** : 1st Verbally , 2nd physically .
- **Team spirit** : Gardner , Lescott , Olsson always encouraging players .
- Brunt , Gardner , Lescott , Dorrans are **the players protesting & influencing referee** .
- **Last 15 minutes** : Whatever the result is they are lacking concentration , leaving space & being nervous with the ball.
- **First 10 minutes** : If they scored or conceded a goal , it seems like they don't know what to do in the next step .

✓ Key moments :

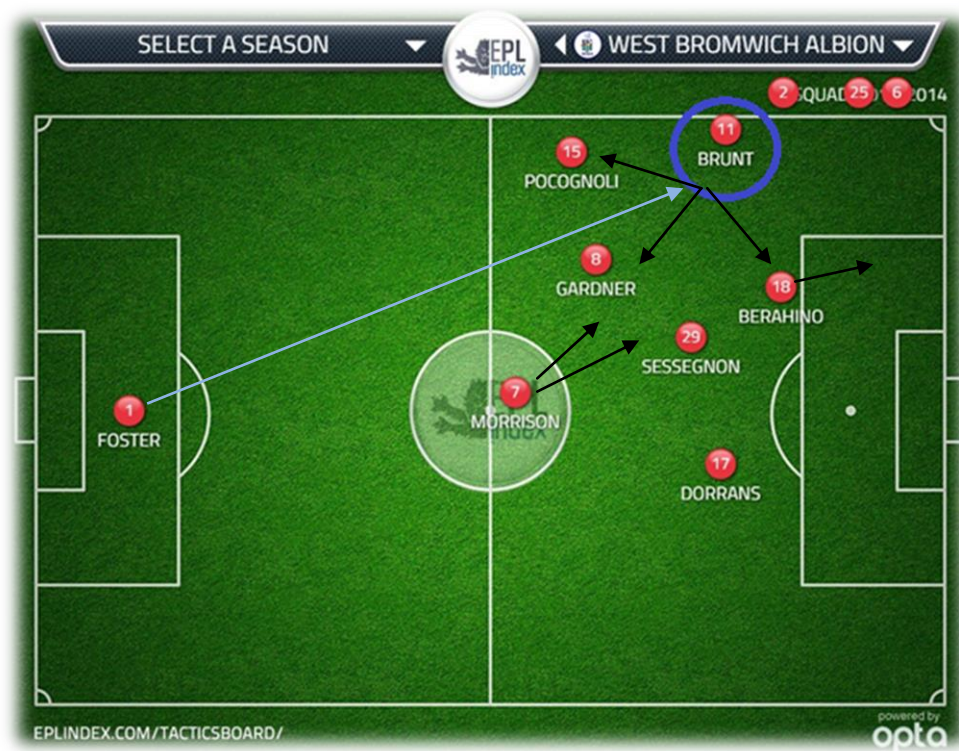
- Important to get them under constant pressure in the 1st 8 minutes .
- Expect motivated players after half time with intensity in their football (Use slow tempo for the 1st 10 minutes) .
- Expect Irvine making changes just After conceding a goal (especially between 65 – 80 minutes) .
- Irvine can start the game with Yacob alongside Gardner to give a more defensive support .

PATTERN PLAY & OFFENSIVE COMBINATION :

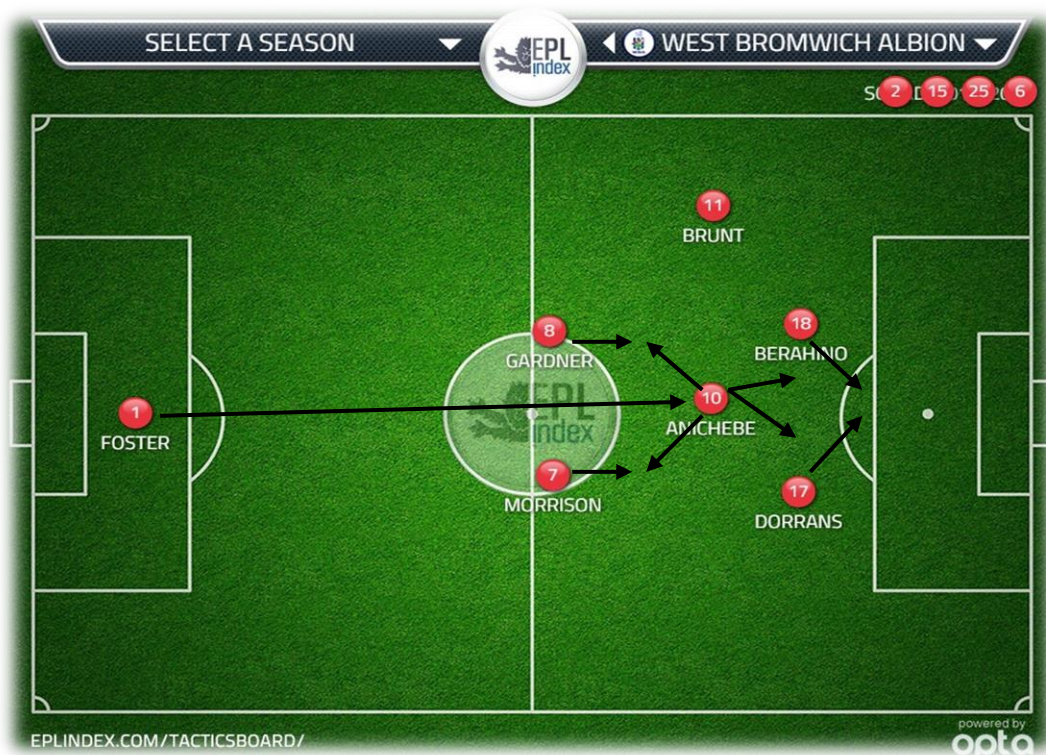
Short build up from Foster :



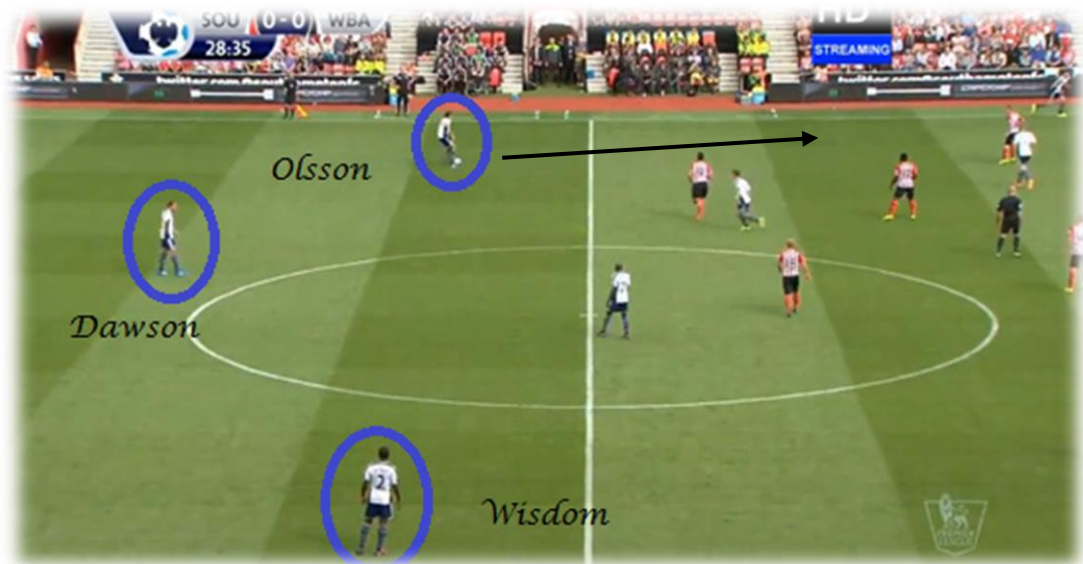
Long build up from Foster (with Brunt) :



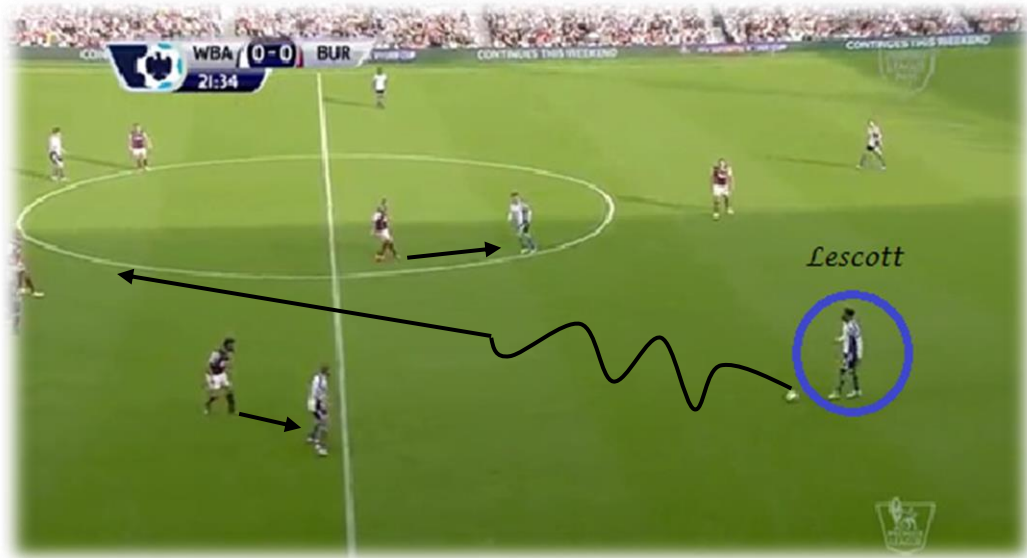
Long build up (with Anichebe) :



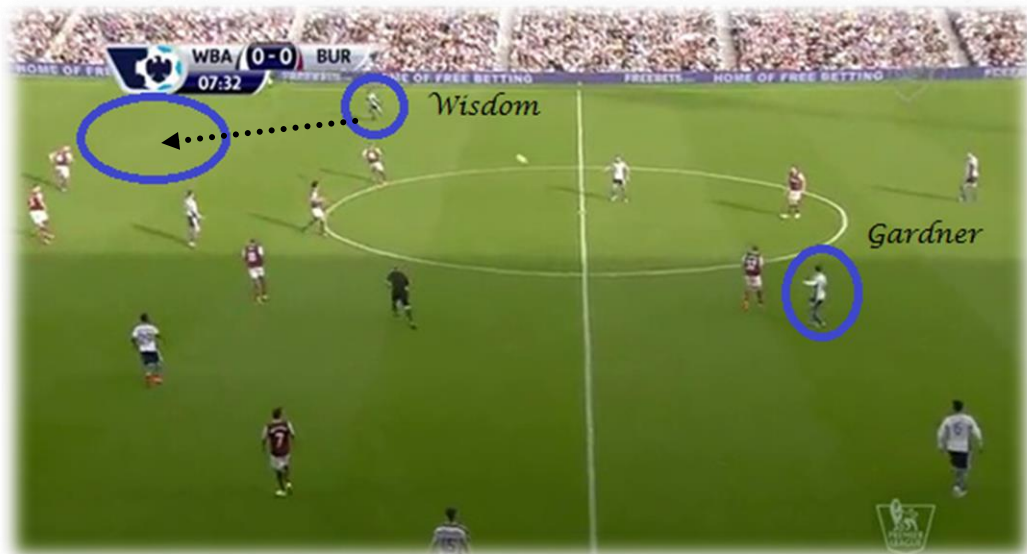
Wisdom as 3rd defender to give Lescott (Olsson) the possibility to move with the ball :



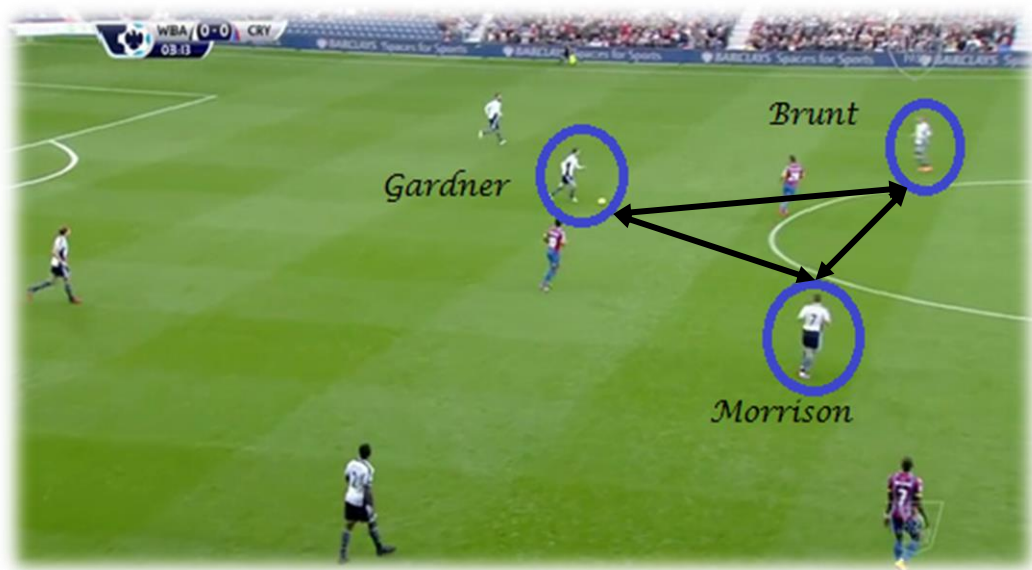
Lescott move forward in possession (Find options between the lines) :



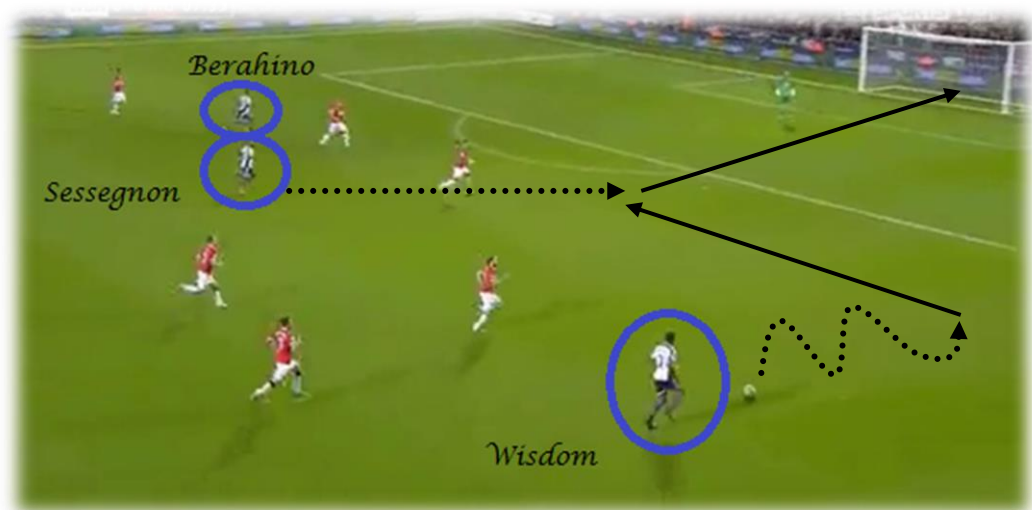
Gardner long diagonal pass to Wisdom (perfect way to use his ability) :



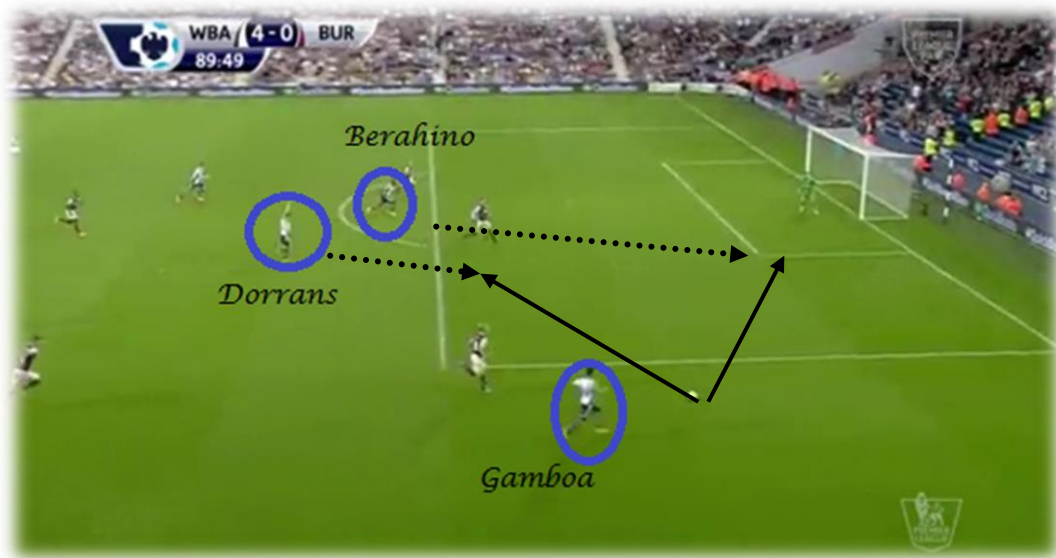
Brunt acting as 3 midfield to give more options :



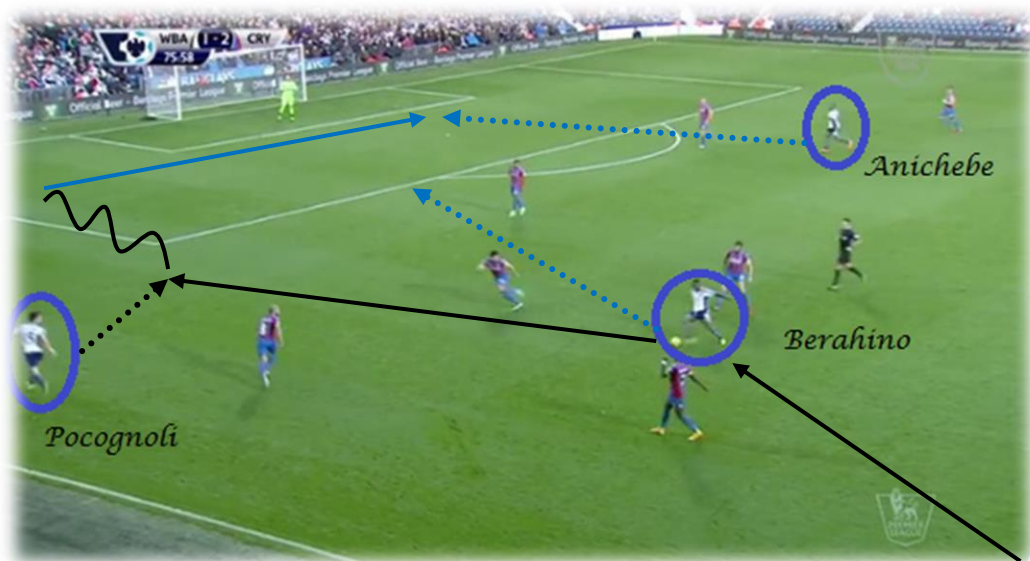
Wisdom using the space (Not a good crosser but the movement of his teammates is a threat important to get close to them) :



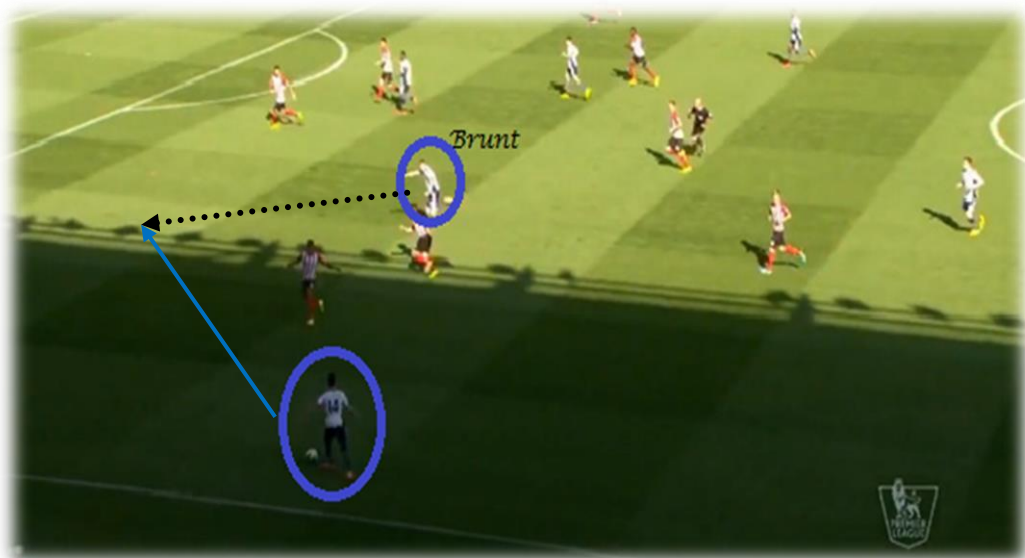
Always expect 2 options when they cross especially from the right side
Berahino's run inside the box , Dorrans / Sessegnon outside for shooting) :



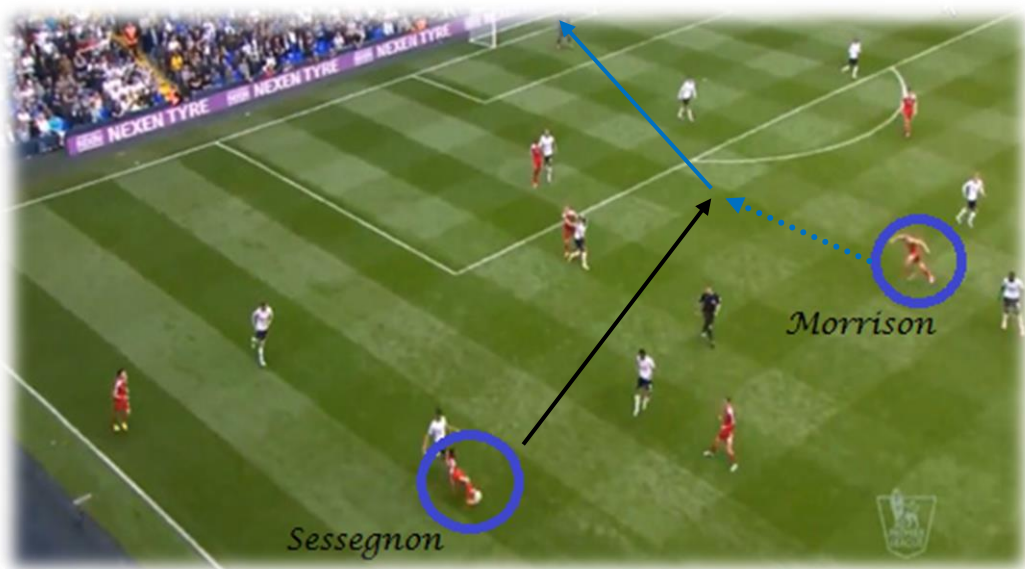
Berahino & Pocognoli combination to progress on the left side (Cross to Anichebe , 2nd post) , in other situations with Brunt & Sessegnon :



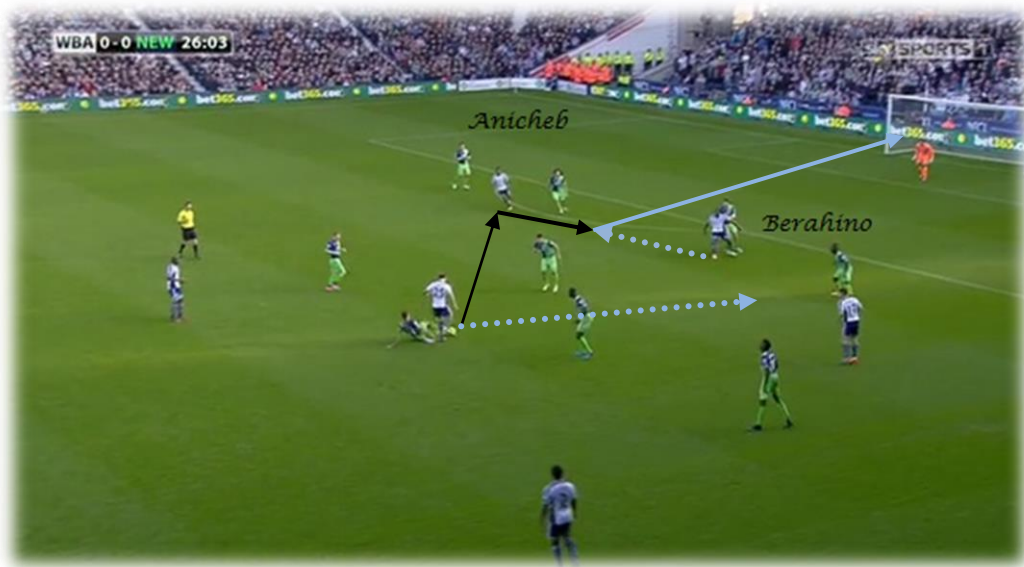
Brunt using the space behind the full backs , Very good crosses :



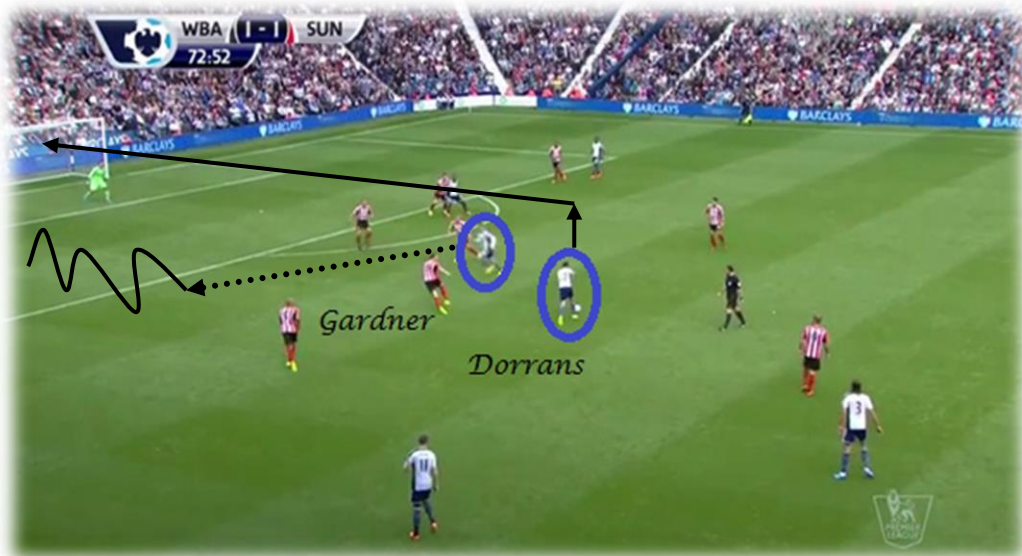
Sessegnon using the flanks to create space (Usually Morrison , attention immediate shoot) :



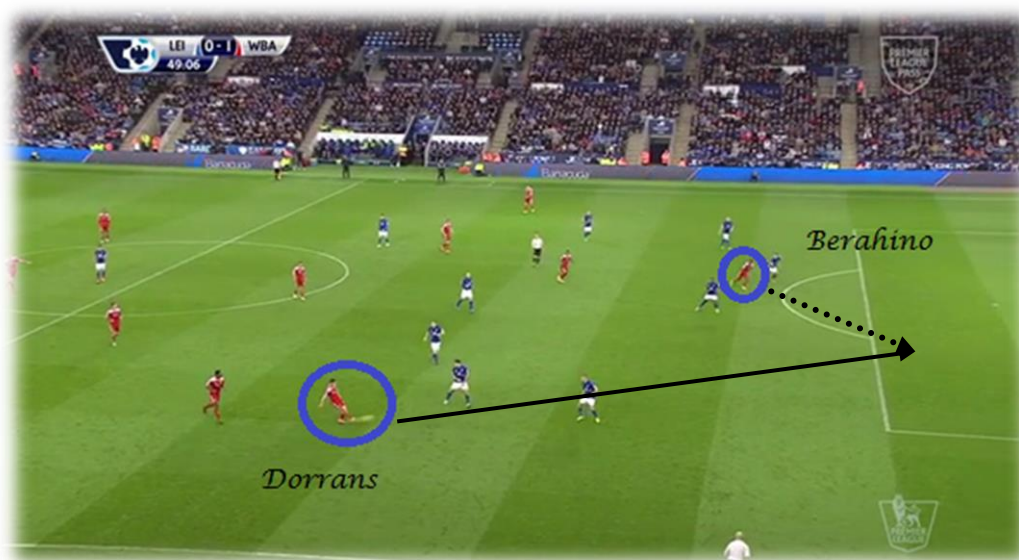
Gardner (Morrison) & Berahino & Anichebe combination :



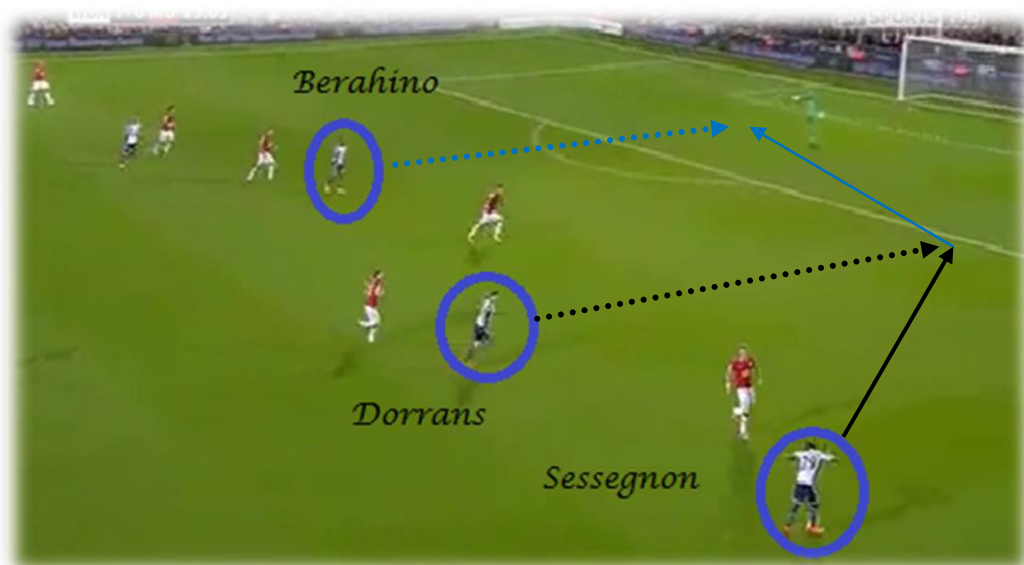
Gardner in offensive position , creating space & chasing 2nd balls :



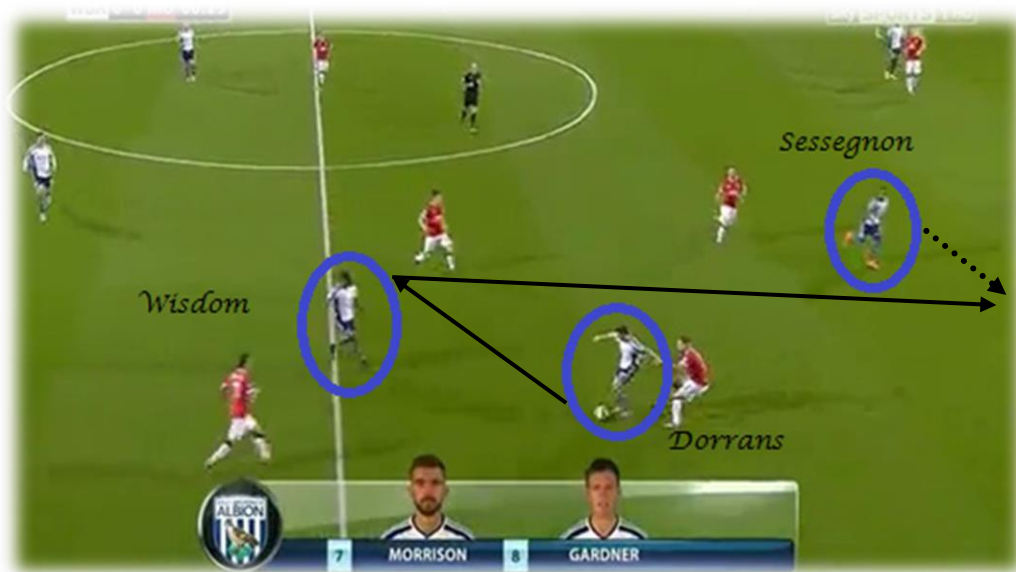
Dorrans great vision to see depth (pay attention always finding Berahino) :



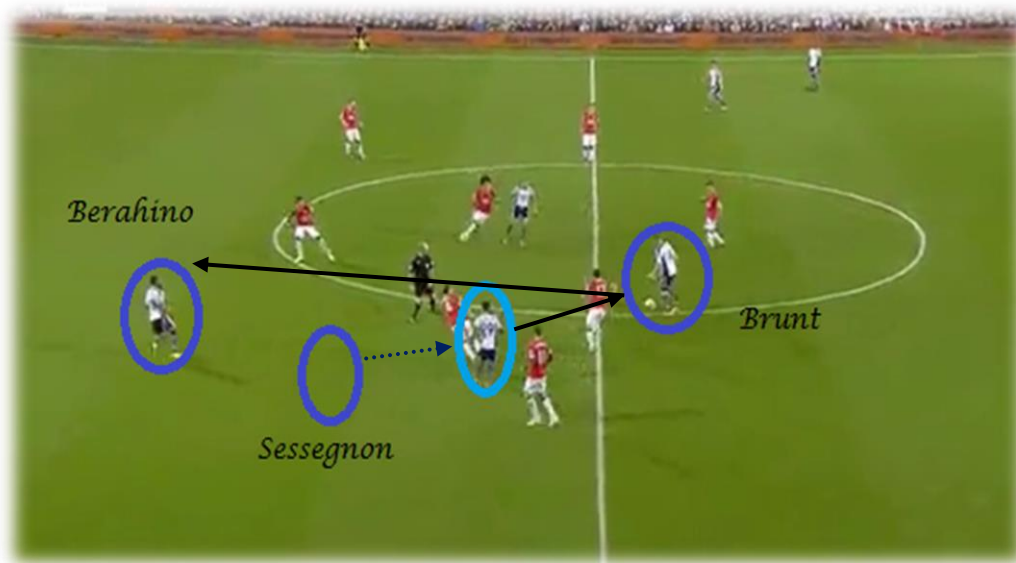
Dorrans using the half space to penetrate (Pay attention to Berahino's movement) :



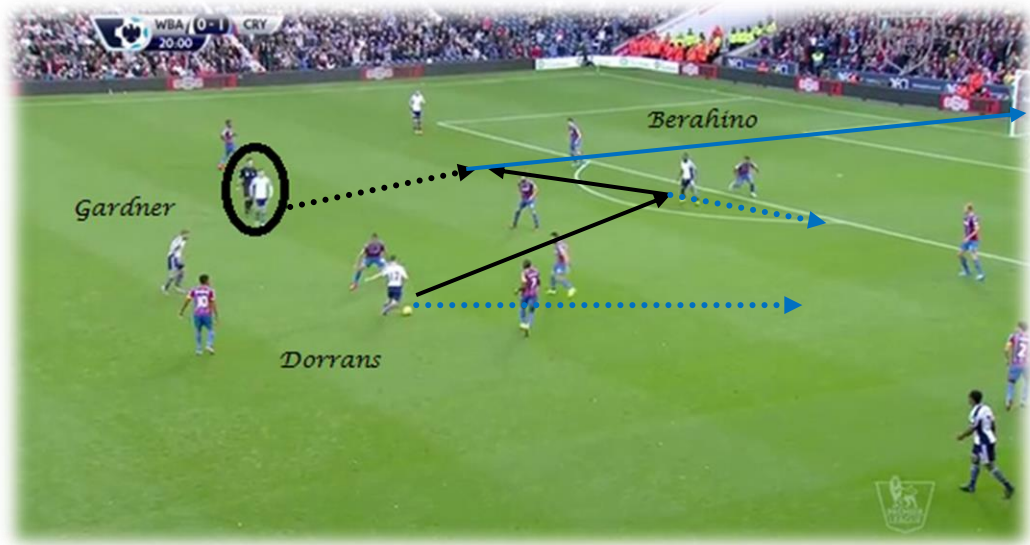
Dorrans creating space to Sessegnon :



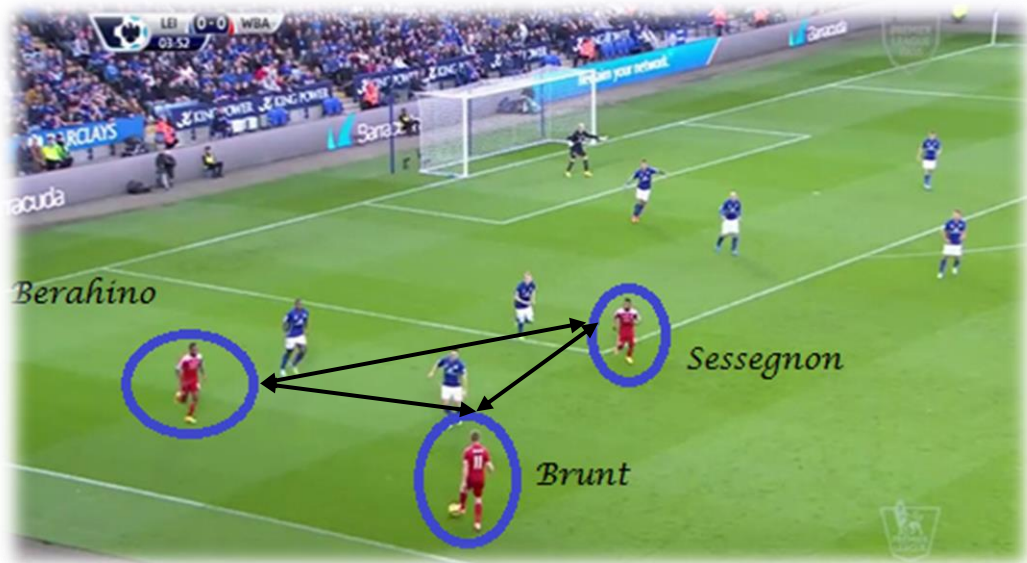
Sessegnon creating space to Berahino , Brunt great timing :



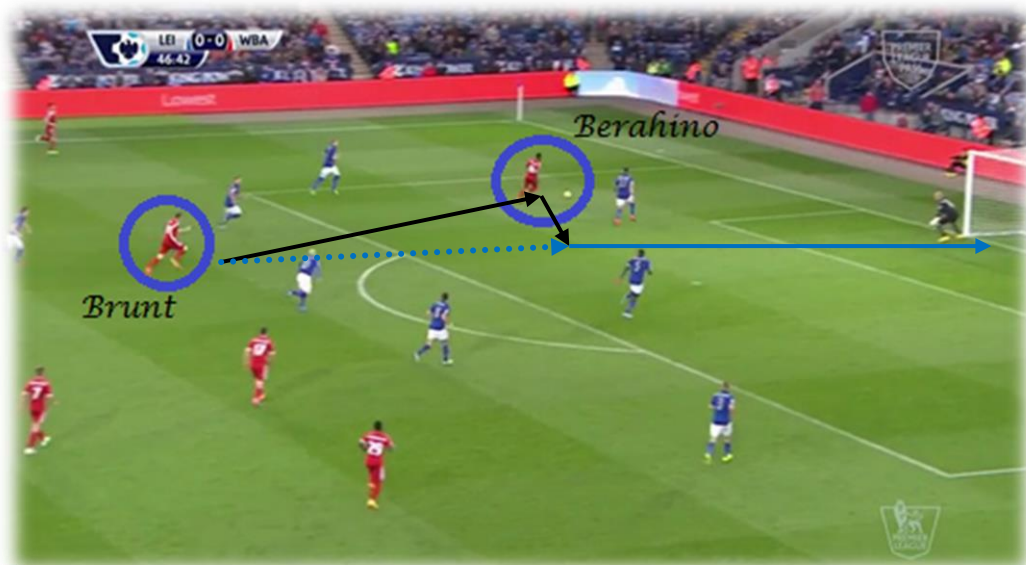
Berahino & Gardner & Dorrans combination (Berahino good 1st touch distribution , Gardner very good shoot) :



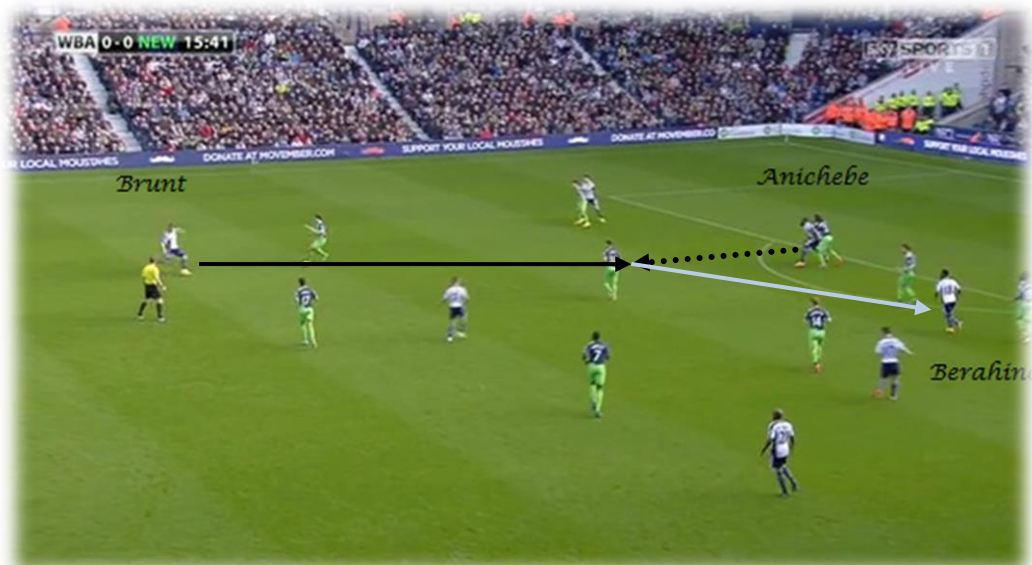
Berahino move to the flanks (normally left side – especially when Brunt keep position) , no player troubling the defense in the box (4/2/3/1) :



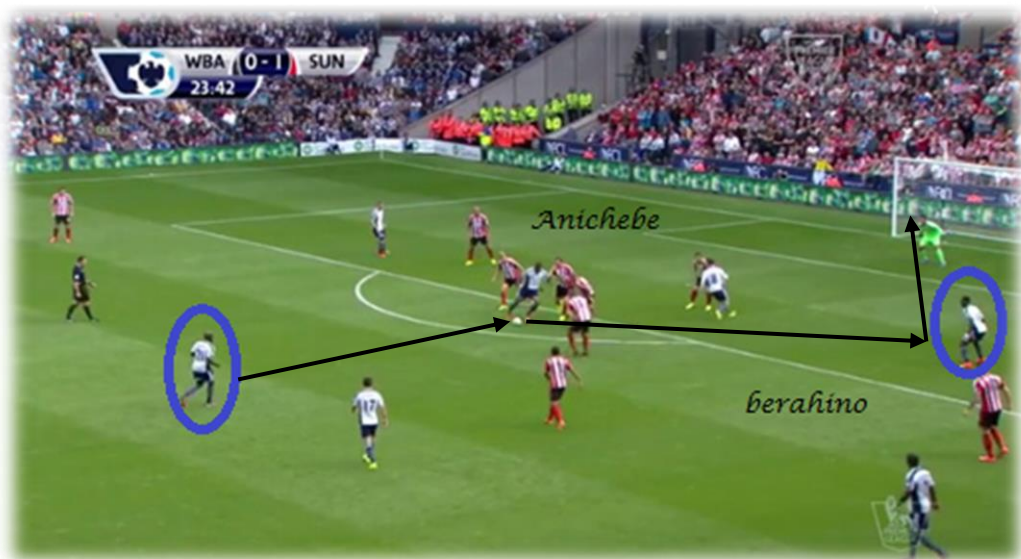
Brunt's penetration into the box is a threat (in other situations : Brunt attack Dorrans's crosses diagonally) :



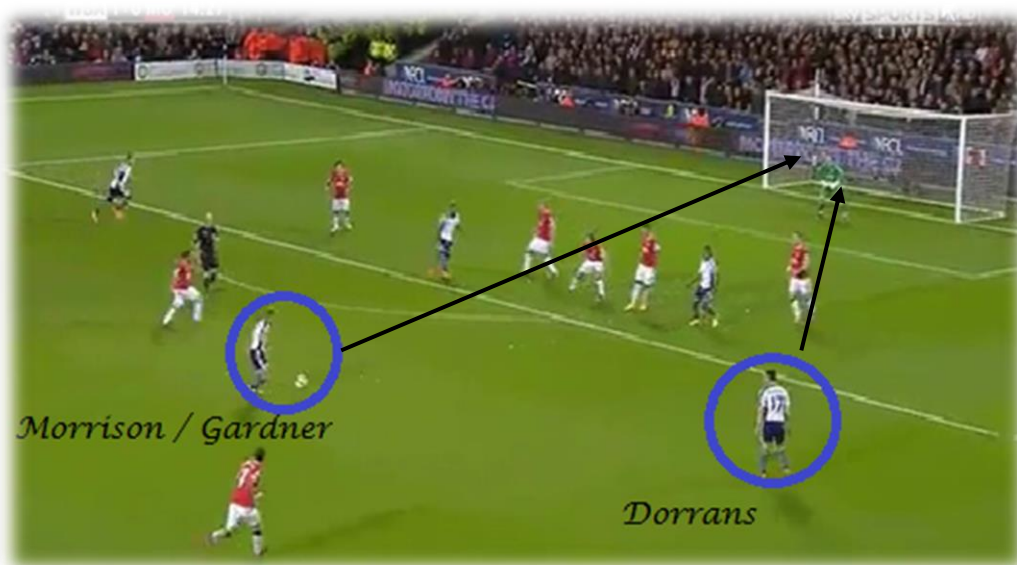
Brunt finding Anichebe (Their reference option when the system used 4/4/2) :



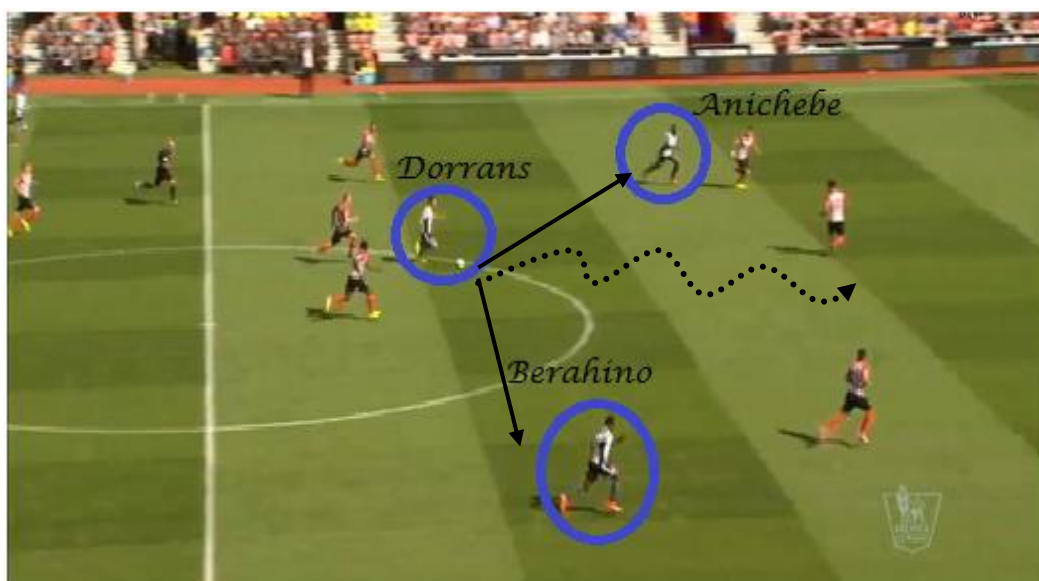
Two strikers combination (In other situations , Berahino's immediate shoot with his left foot after receiving the ball) .



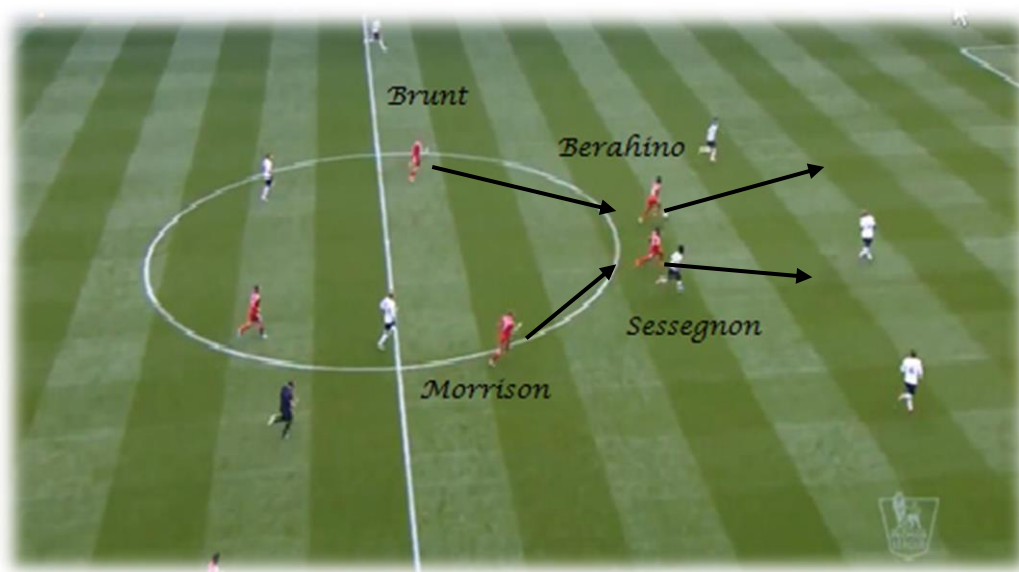
2nd balls (immediate shoot by Morrison or Gardner , Dorrans too) :



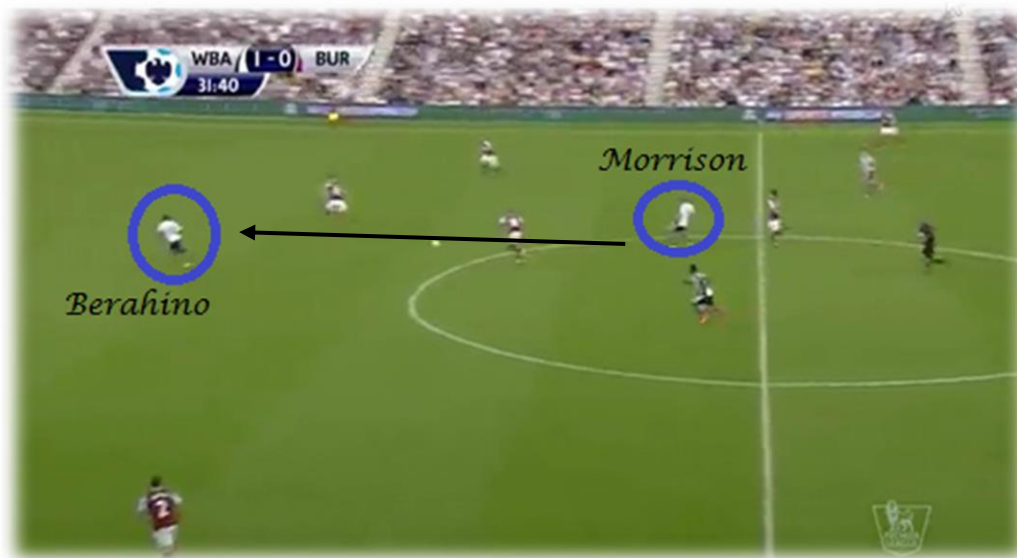
Transition : After winning the ball in the defending third (Dorrans running with the ball from the defensive third , always finding 2 options , more dangerous with Sessegnon's pace) :



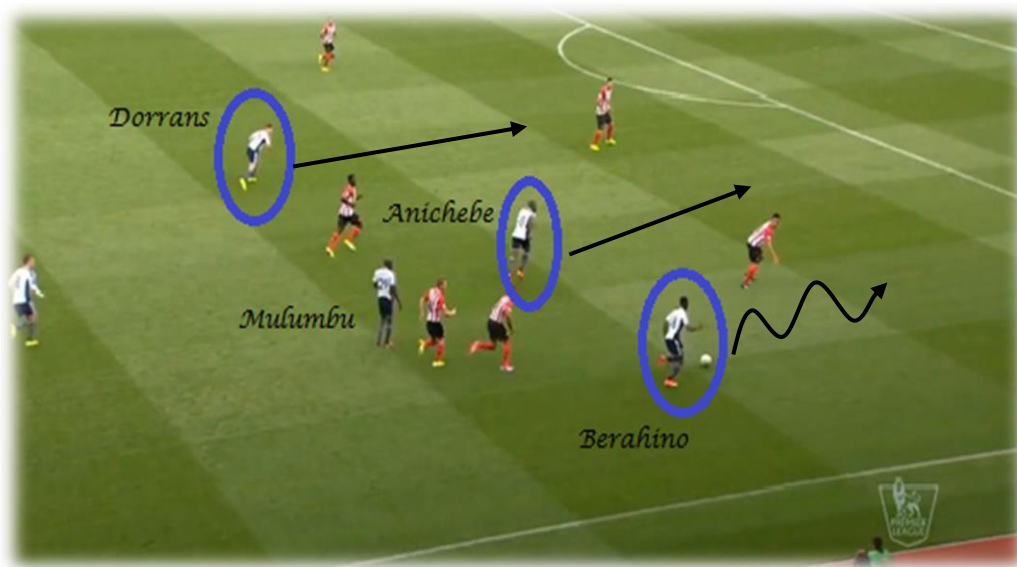
1 -After winning the ball in the middle third (Support) :



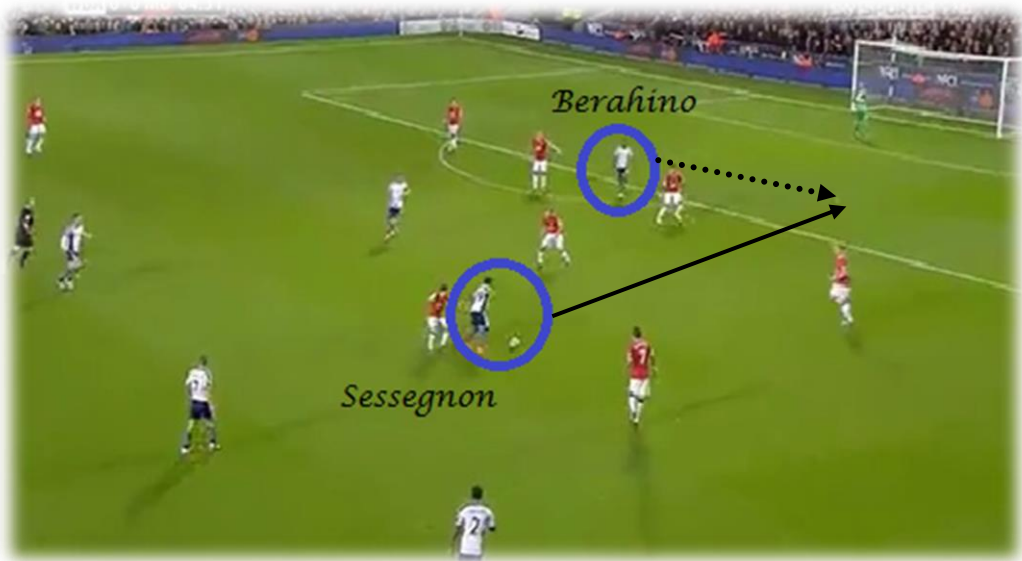
2- After winning the ball in the middle third (Morrison's immediate pass in depth) :



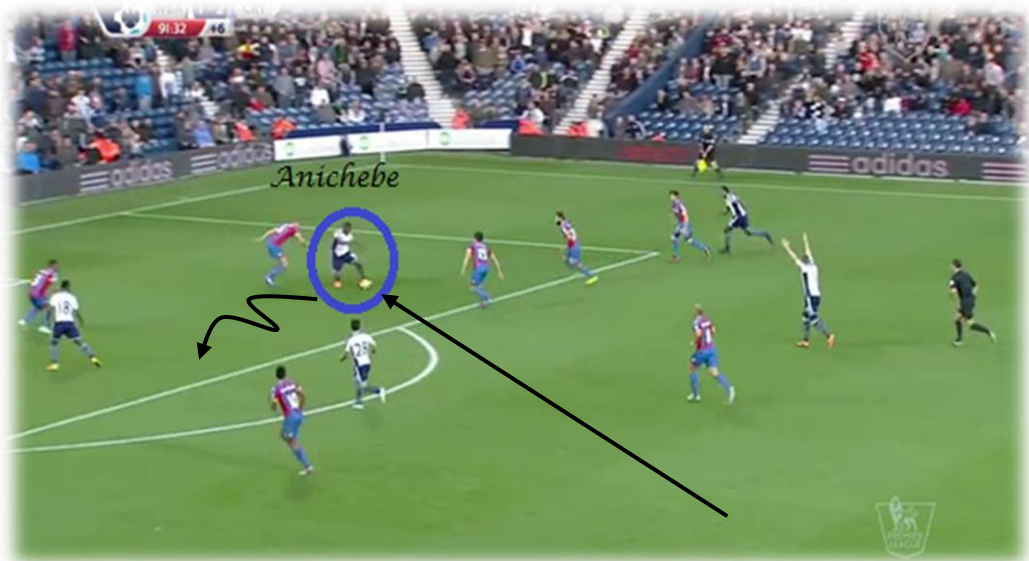
1- After winning the ball in the attacking third :



2- After winning the ball in the attacking third :

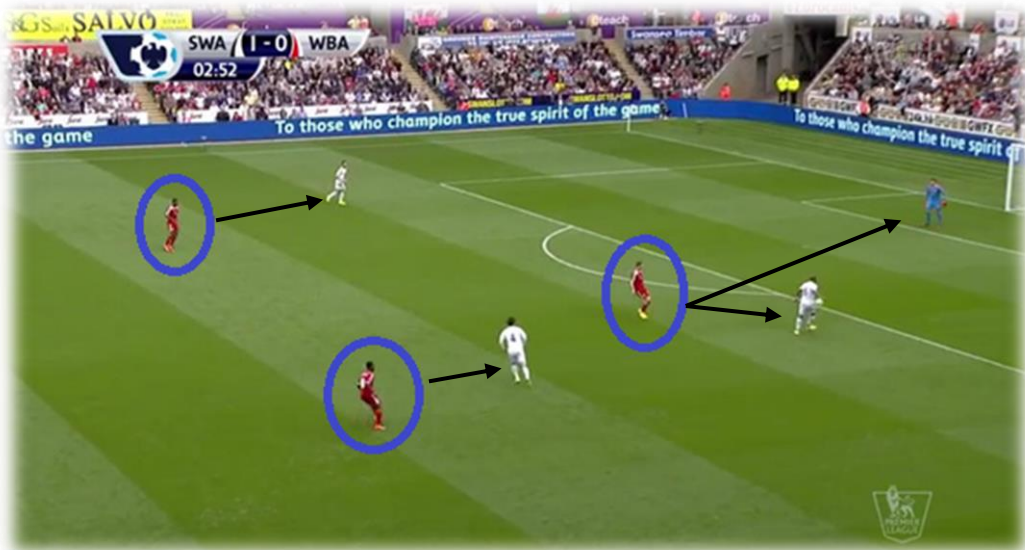


3- After winning the ball in the attacking third :

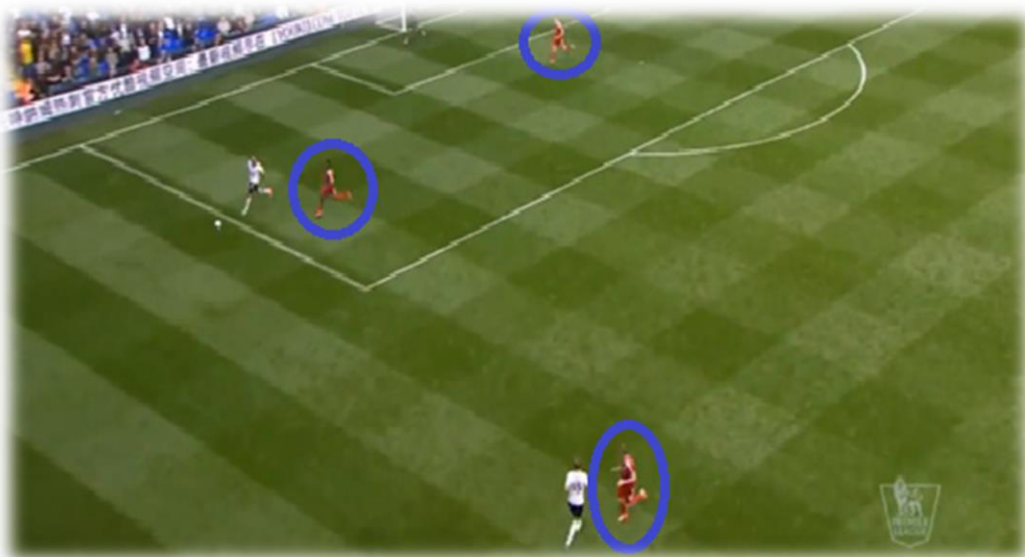


DEFENSIVE ORGANISATION & ERRORS :

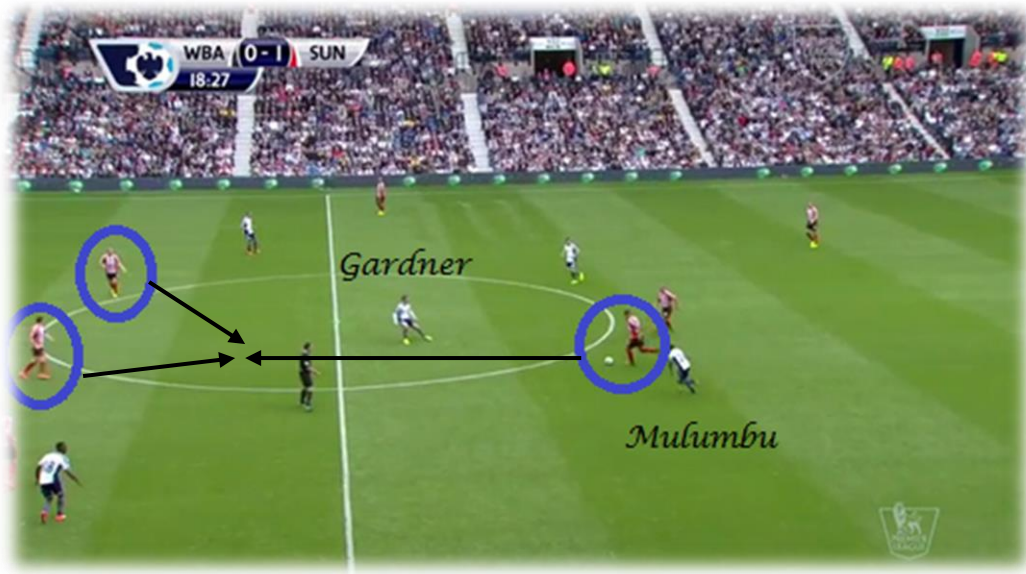
High pressure 1 :



High pressure 2 :



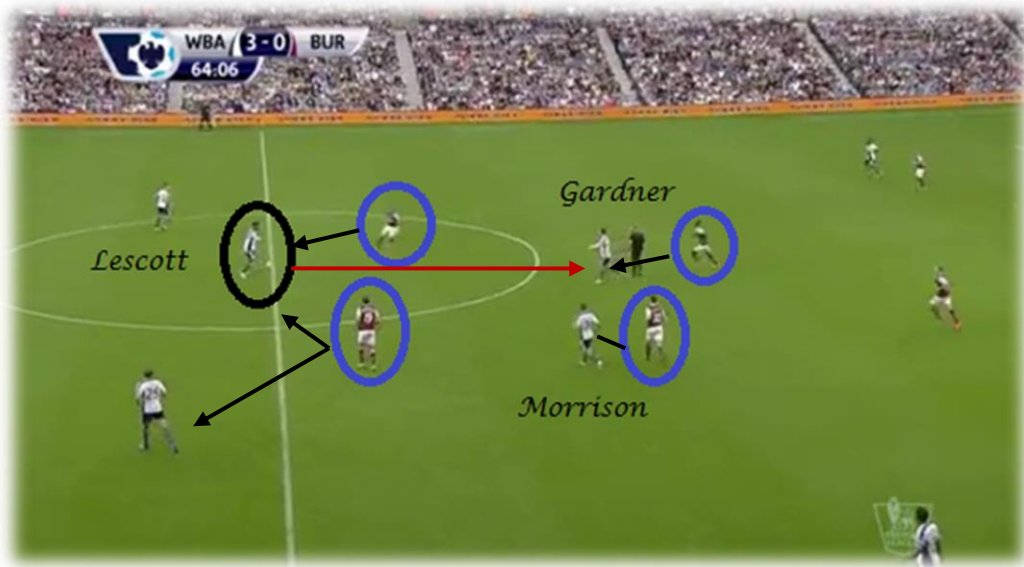
Exploit failed pressure's situations :



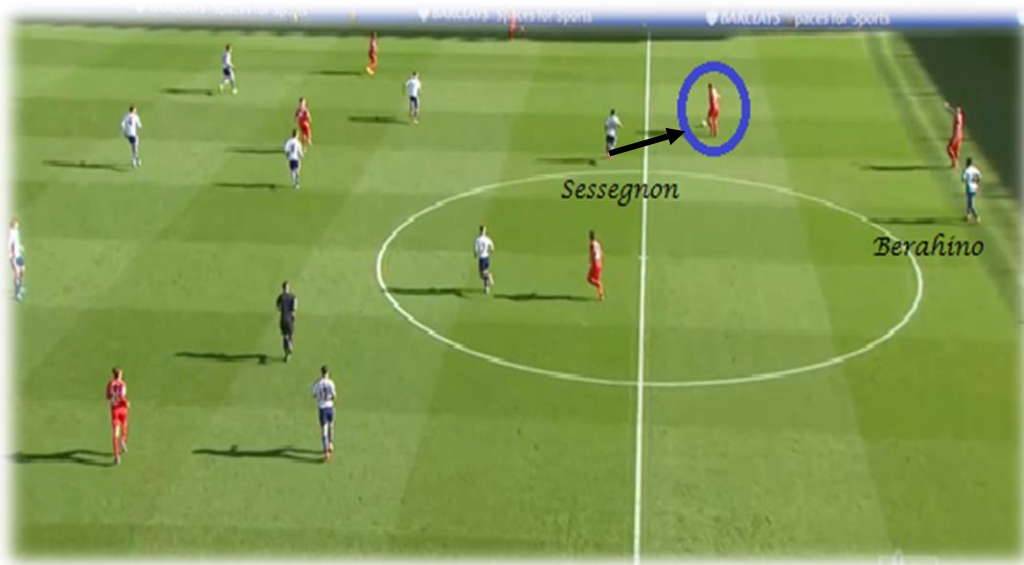
Opponent high pressure 1 :



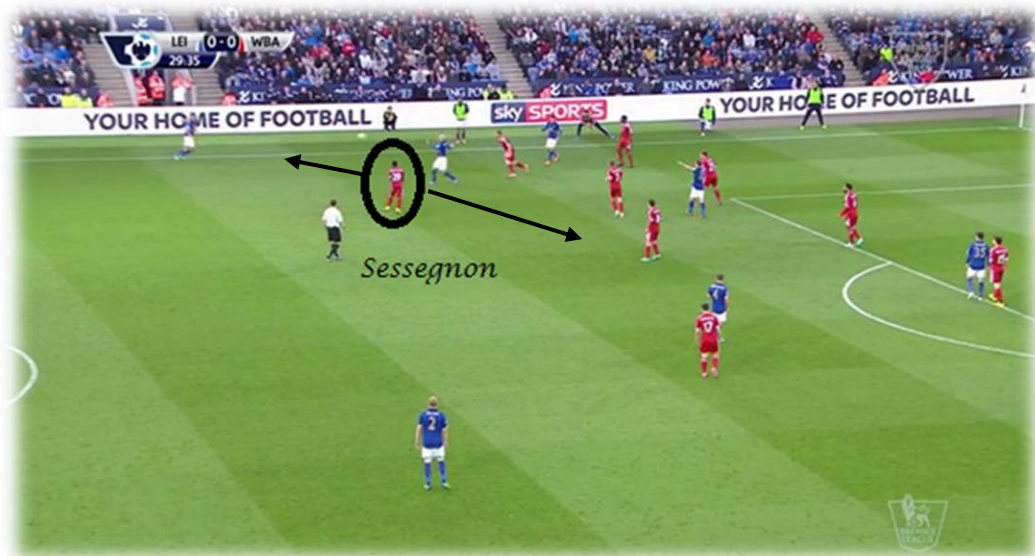
Opponent high pressure 2 (Lescott with the ball) :



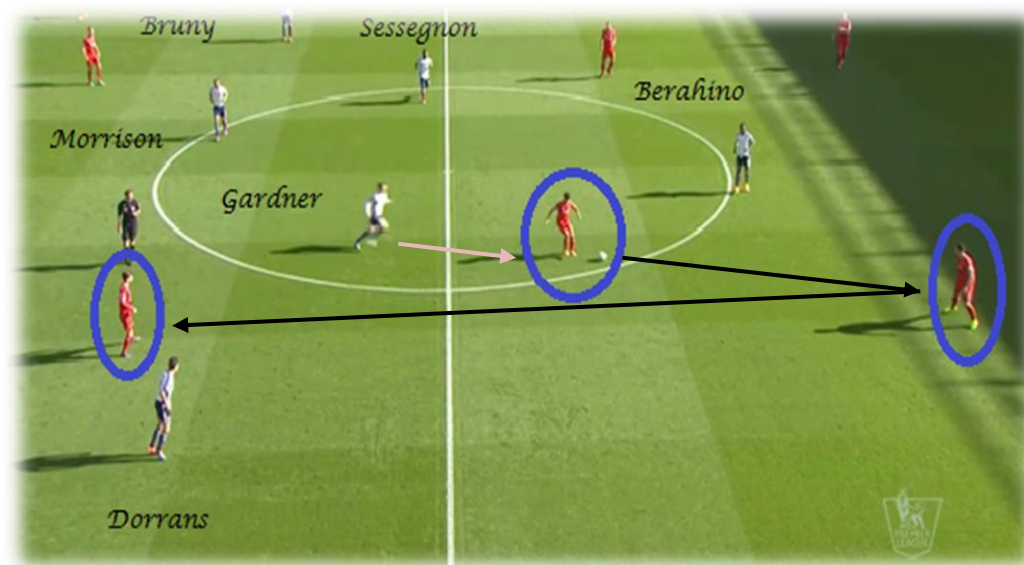
Sessegnon position 1 (Pressure on opponent's midfield) :



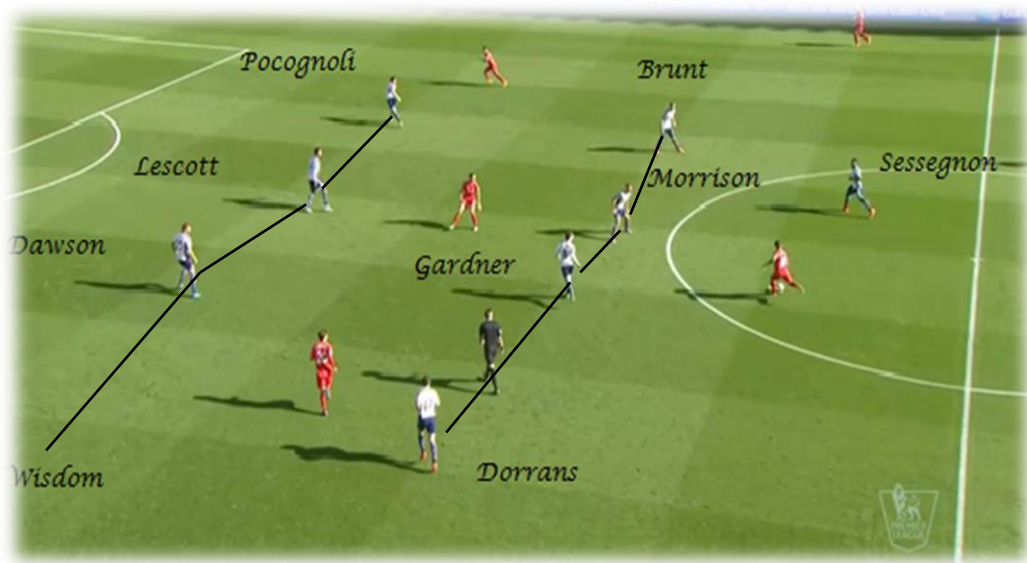
Sessegnon position 2 (Go back to support midfield) :



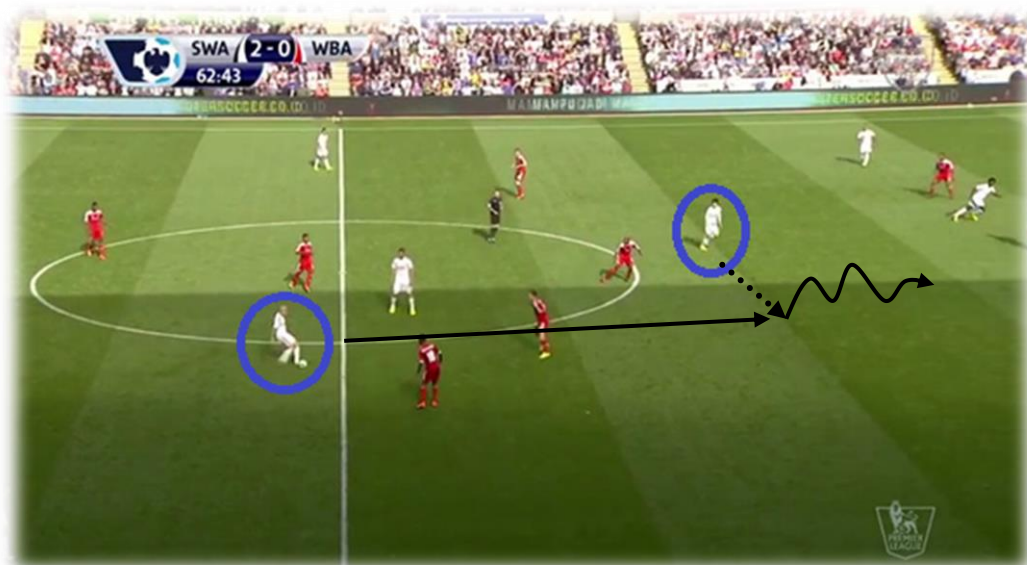
Midfield way 1 (When opponent facing his own goal) :



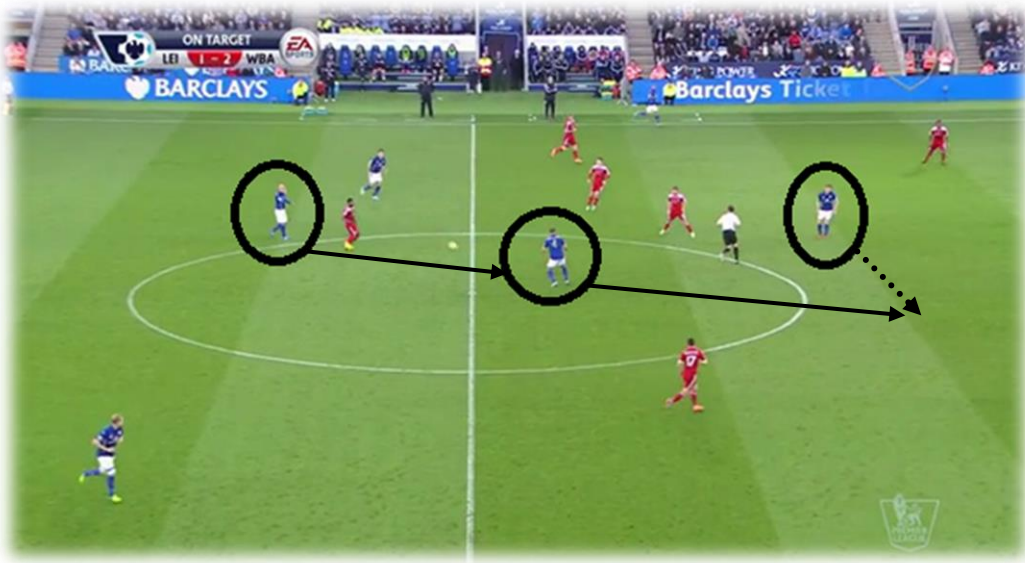
Midfield way 2 : When opponent is facing the play) :



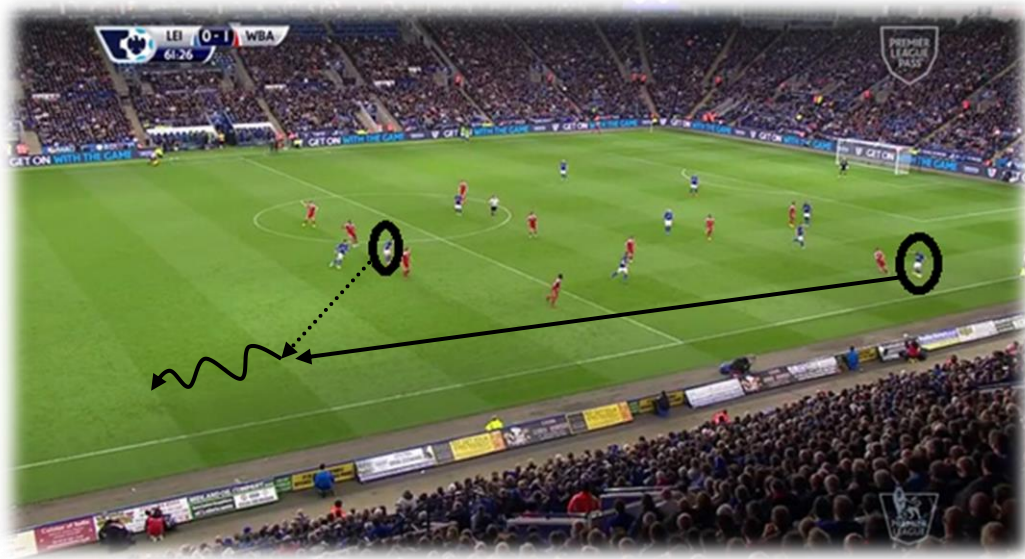
Space between the lines 1 :



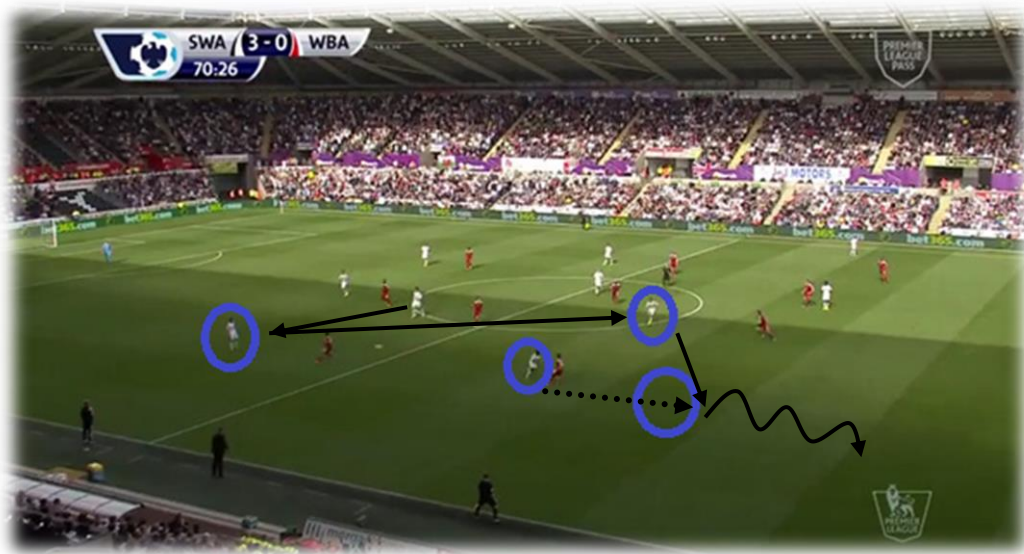
Space between the lines 2 :



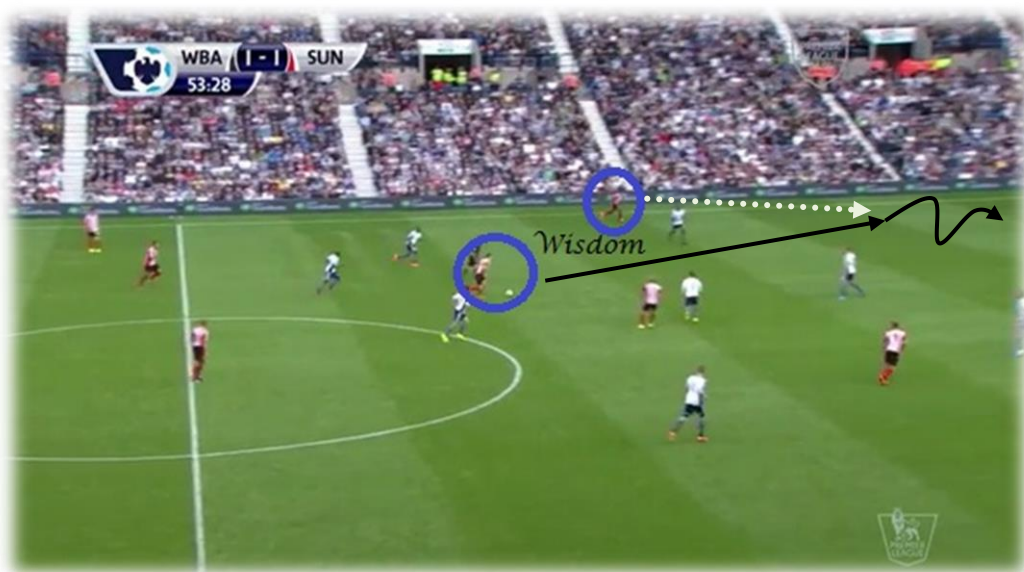
Cut the offside with interchanges between players (bad judgment by the defense) :



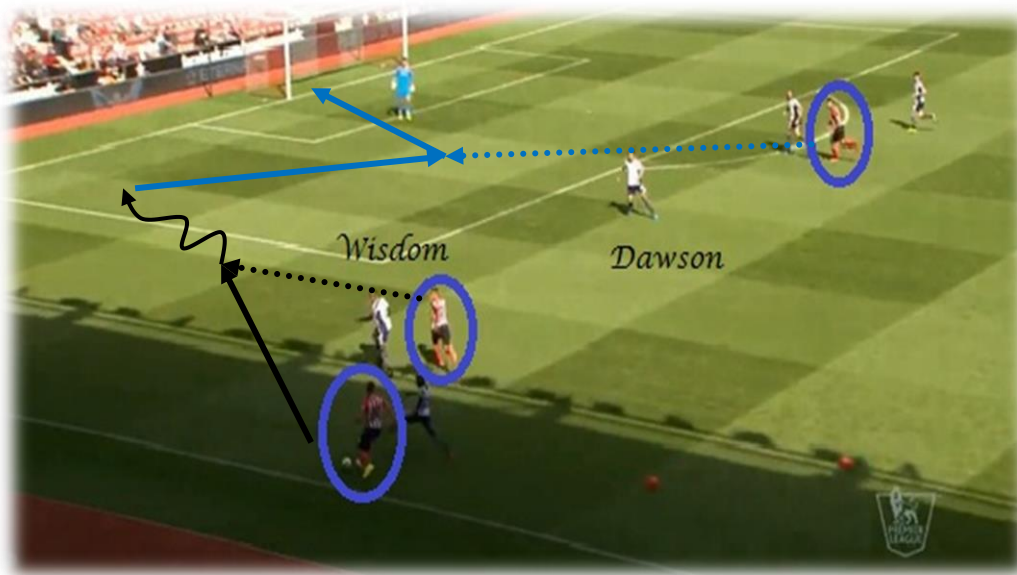
Quick passing link-up with movement & pace :



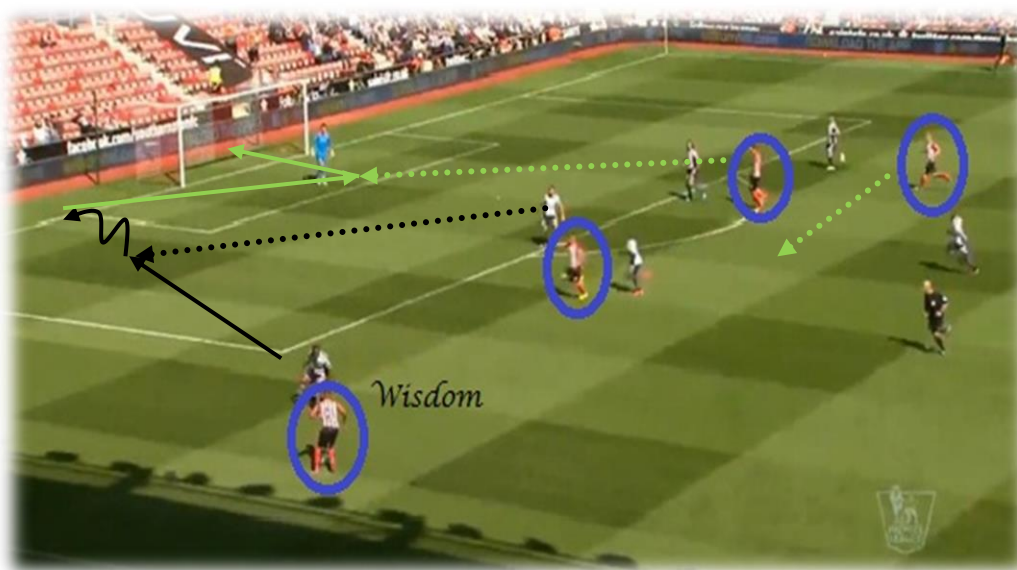
1 – Progression on the right side :



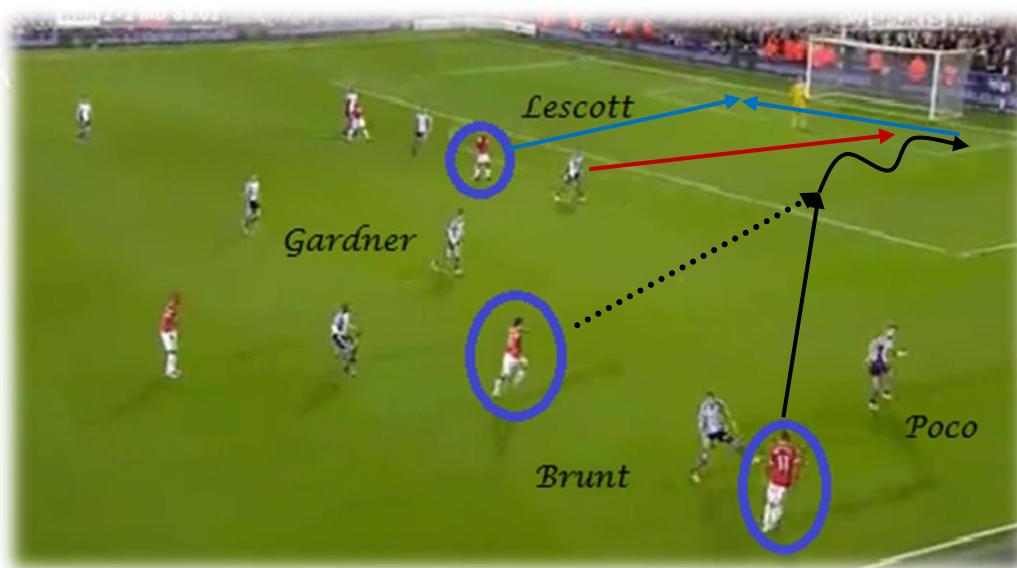
2 – Progression on the right side (cross to the 1st post in the space between 8 -12 yards):



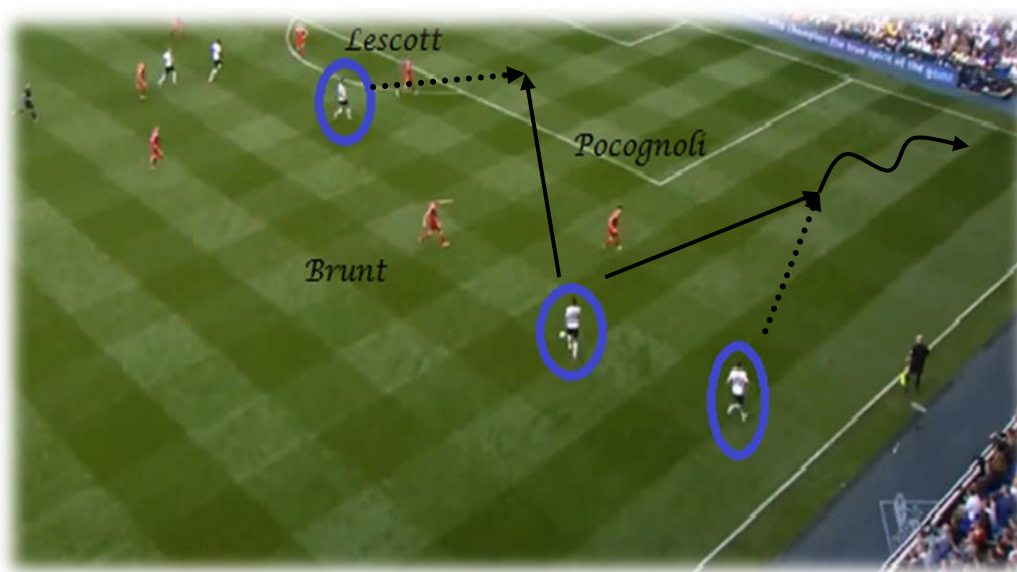
3 – Progression on the right side (leave an option outside the box) :



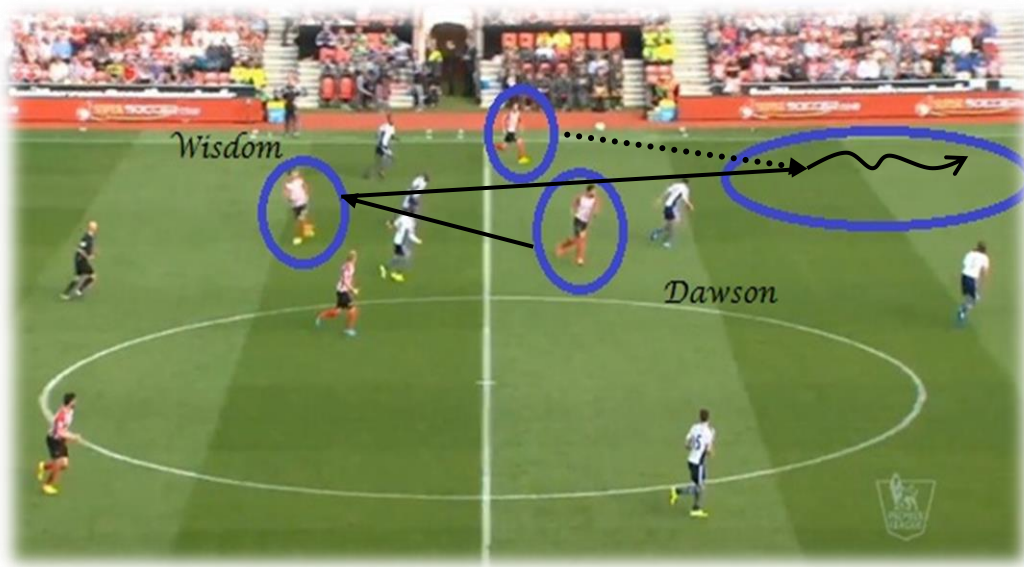
1 – Progression on the left side :



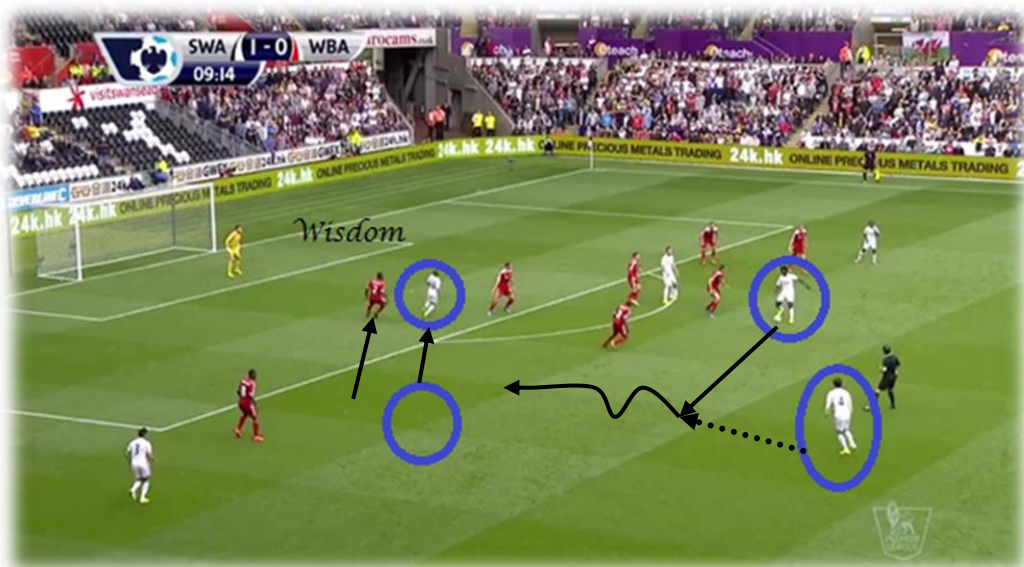
2 – Progression on the left side :



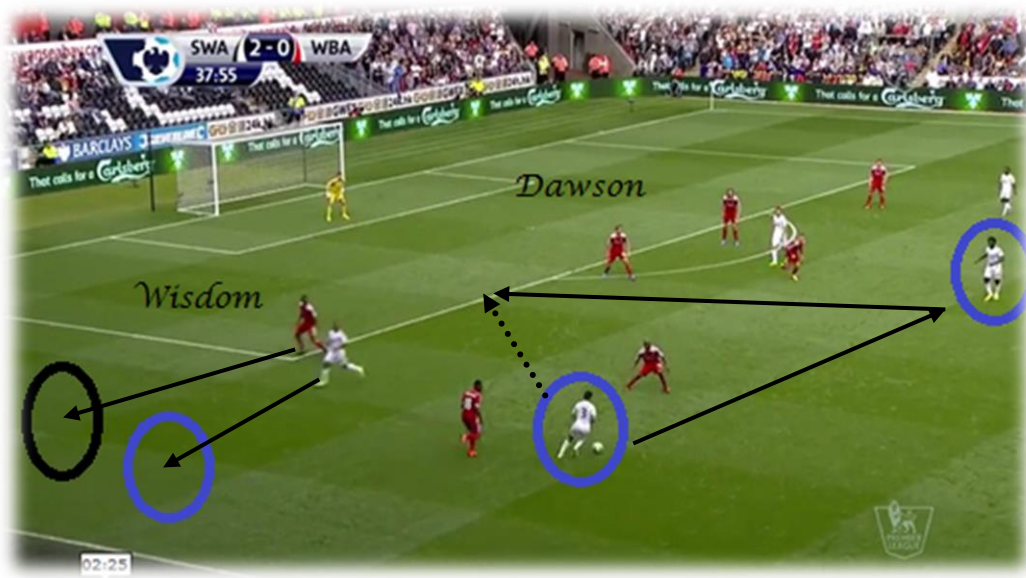
1 – Create the space (Lay off) :



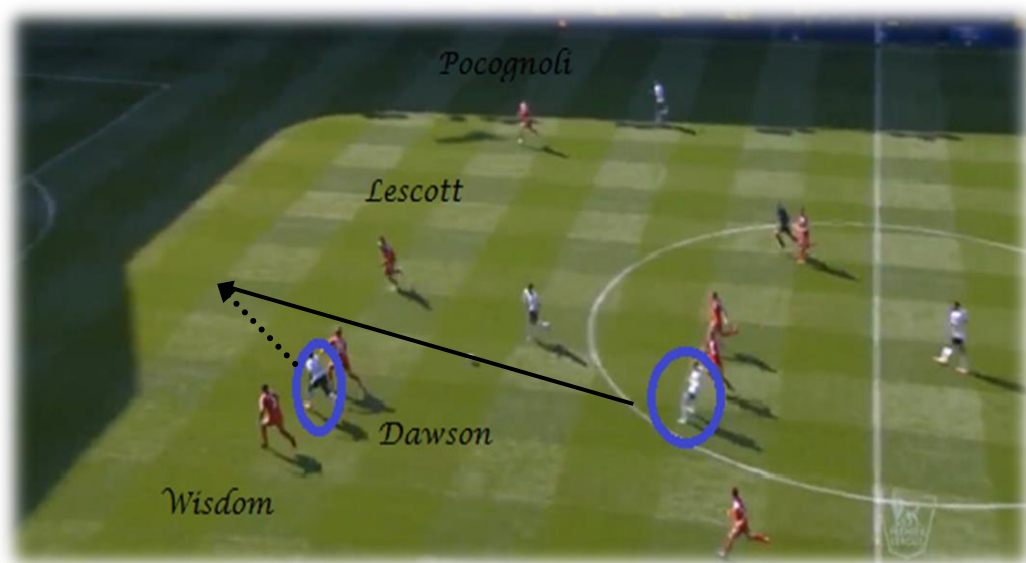
2 – Create the space (Movement off the ball) :



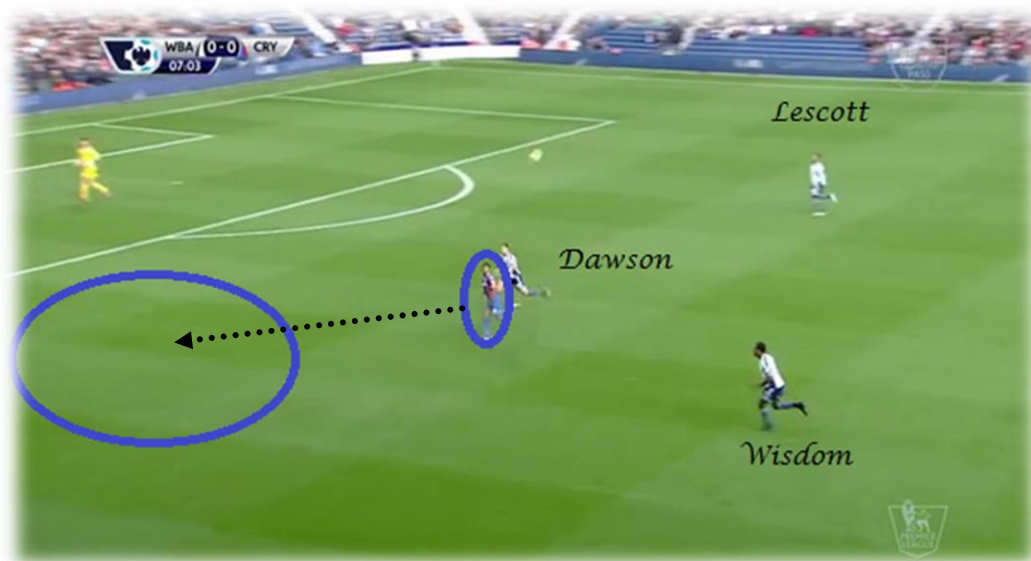
3 – Create the space :



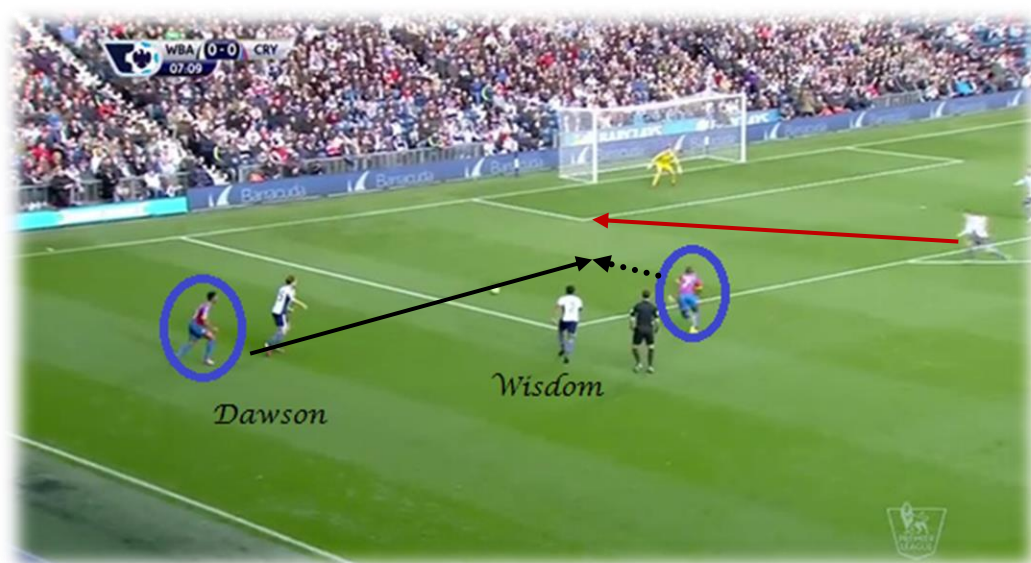
Important to use depth :



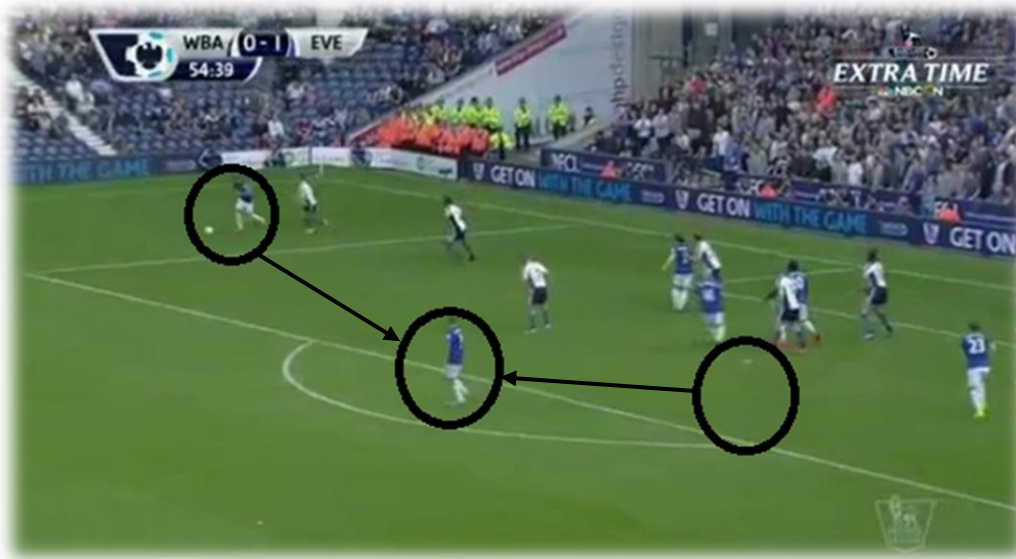
Long pass in the space behind Dawson (Lescott's zone is also a good option , get him under constant pressure when he intercept the ball) :



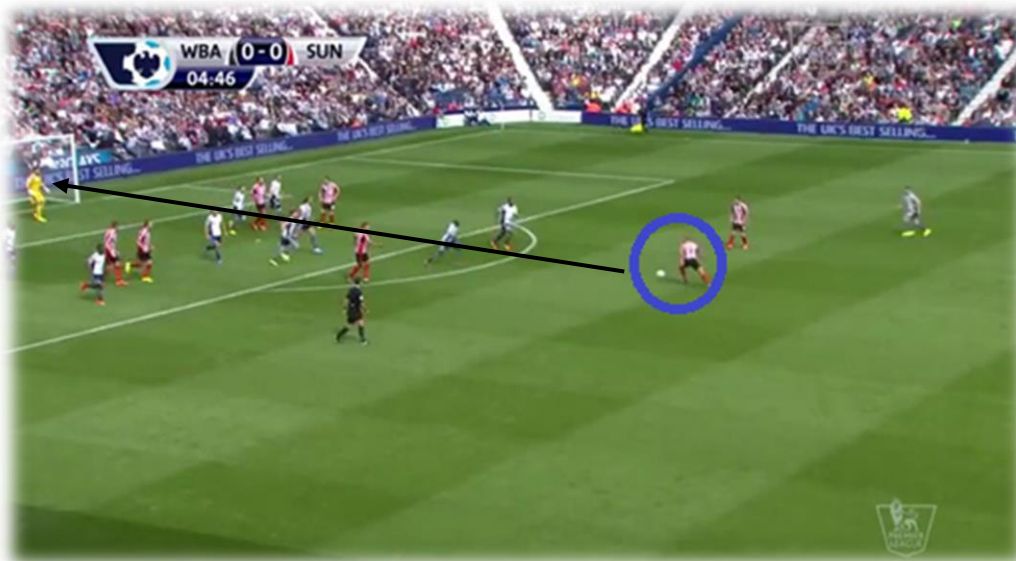
After long pass on the rightside , Wisdom rarely cover Dawson's position :



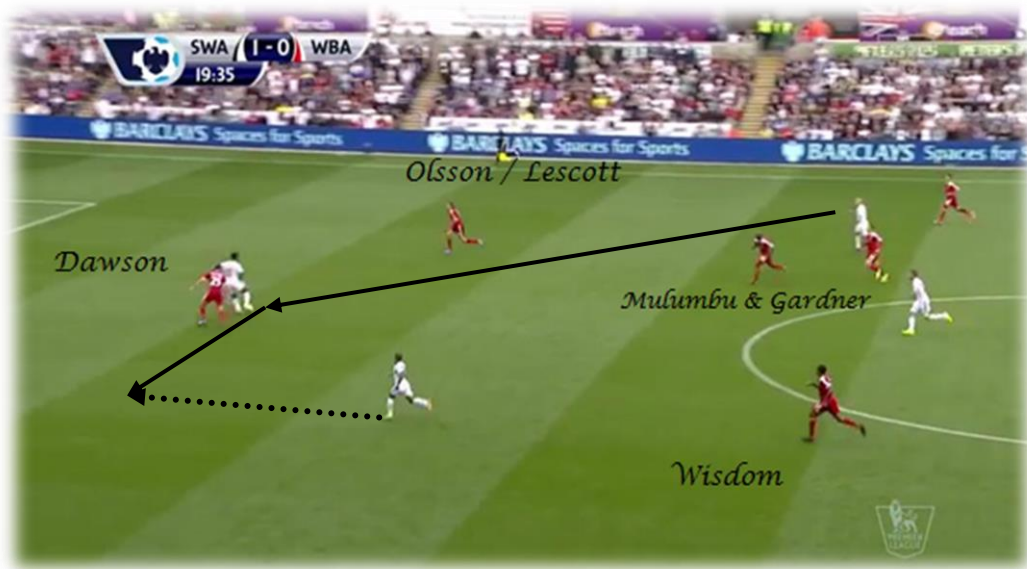
Movement outside the box :



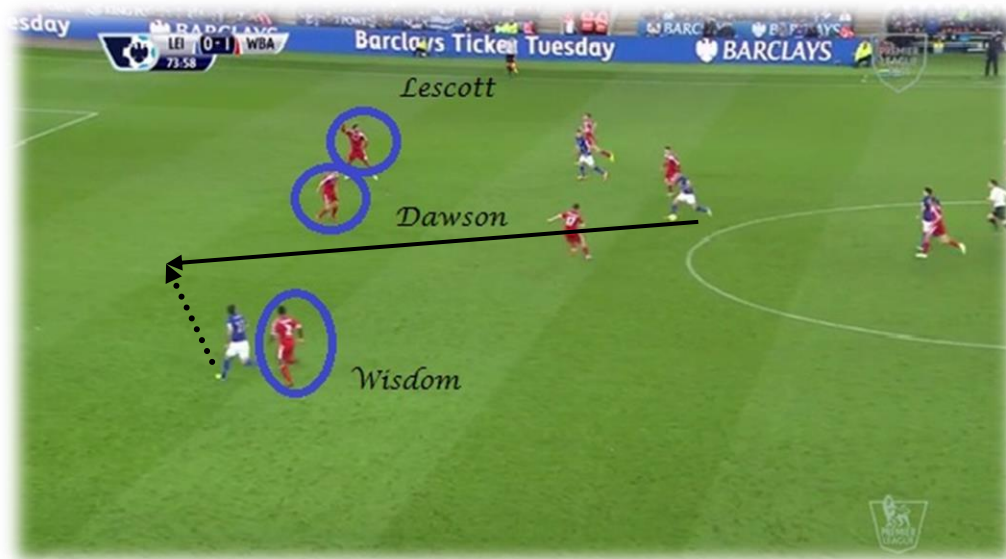
Winning 2nd balls (immediate shoot , or orient the play to the flanks – especially right side – cross the ball to the space in the 2nd post) :



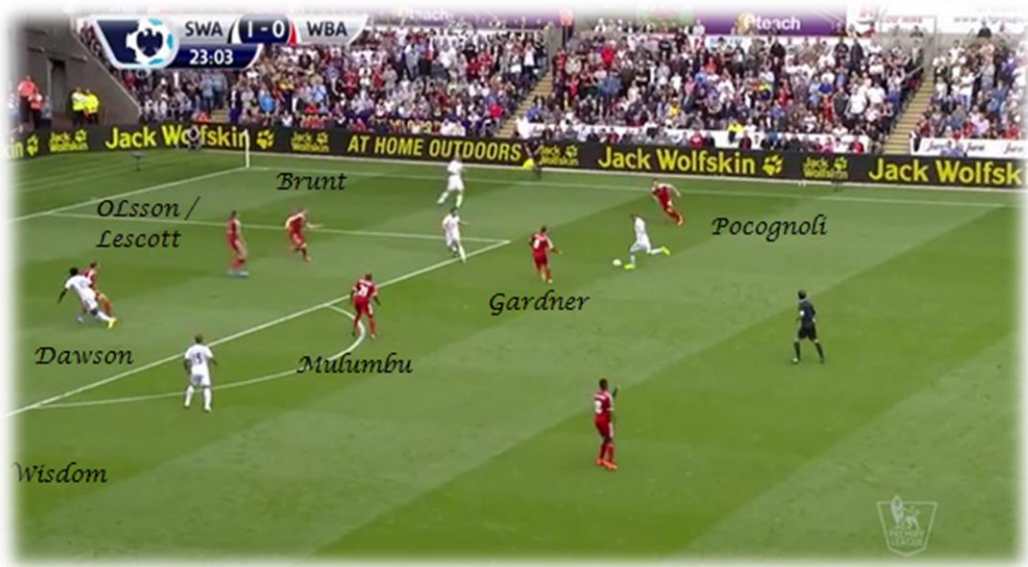
Disorganization in counter attack :



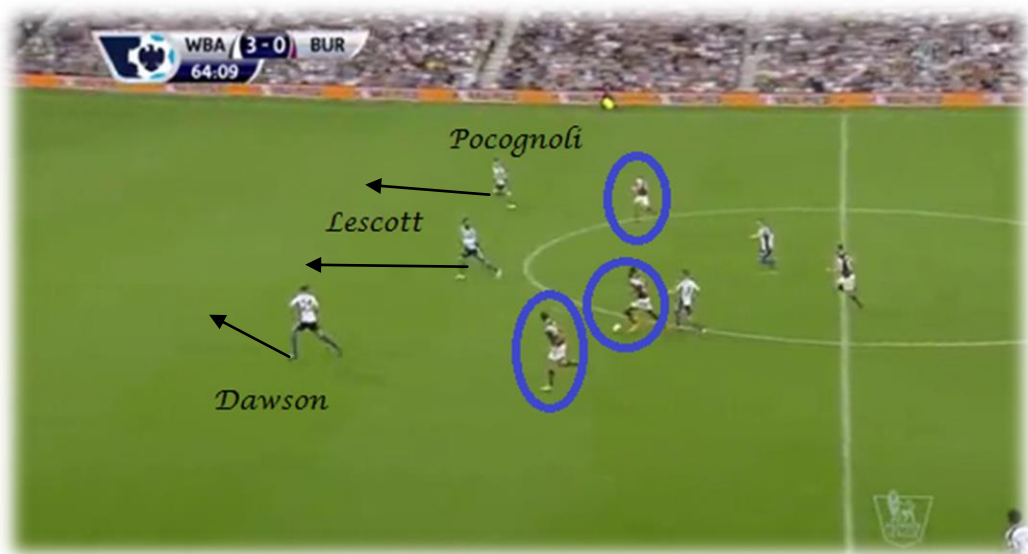
Offside : Normally their defenders believes bad timing & judgment , exploit Wisdom's side to penetrate :



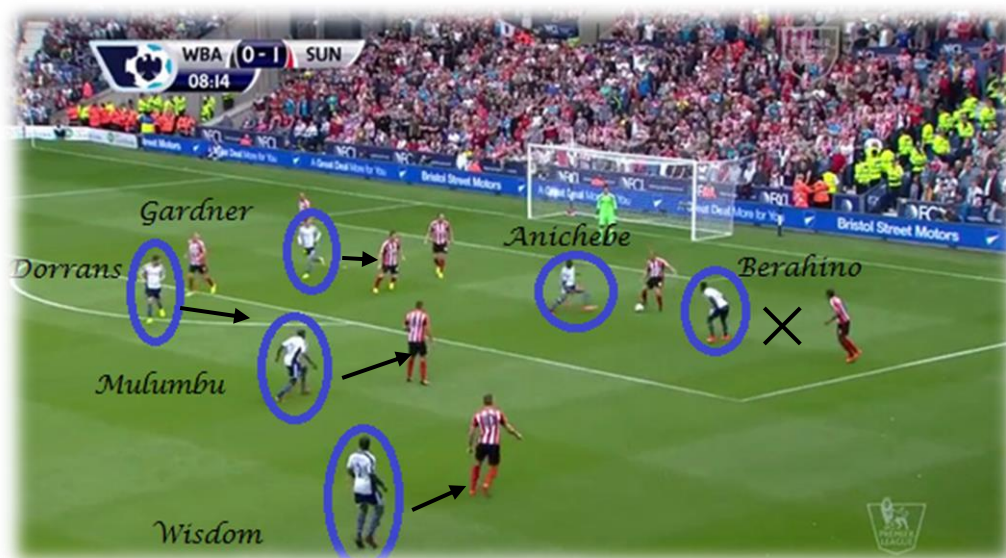
After losing the ball in the defensive third , Dezorganisation :



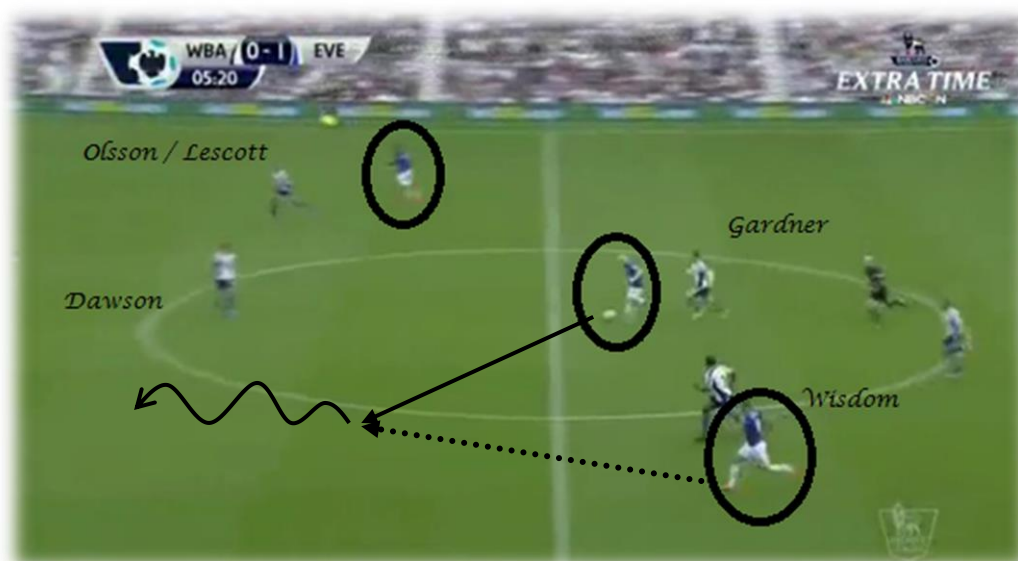
After losing the ball in the middle third (3vs3 situation) :



1- After losing the ball in the attacking third : Aggressive .



2 - After losing the ball in the attacking third : Exploit Wisdom's side :





Good luck Paul !

" CM22 "

19 Years