“Playing By The Numbers”
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

3 FORWARDS

3 MIDFIELDERS

4 BACKS

1 GOALKEEPER
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

4 BACKS

1 GOALKEEPER
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

1=GOALKEEPER

Main priority is to keep the ball out of the goal

Organize the backs/defenders

Help in building up the attack

First line of attack (distribution)
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

2 and 3=Outside Backs

Defend wide attacking players

Provide cover for the 4, 5, 7, and 11

Provide balance defensively when the ball is on the opposite side

Provide width in the attack

Penetrate with the ball by passing or dribbling

Mobility-getting forward in the attack
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

4 and 5=Center Backs

- Deny opposition attacking opportunities on goal
- Defend the opponents forward(s) aka #9
- Provide cover for the 2, 3, and 6 players defensively
- Intercept passes, win tackles and air balls
- Provide depth in the build up when attacking
- Penetrate primarily by passing
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

3 MIDFIELDERS

© 2014 U.S. Soccer CONFIDENTIAL – Not to be shared without U.S. Soccer approval
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

6 = Defensive Center Midfielder

Holding midfielder

Intercept passes and win tackles

Pressure ball to deny penetration

Protect the four backs by “screening”

Aid the back four and midfielders in building up

Penetrate by passing and dribbling

© 2014 U.S. Soccer CONFIDENTIAL – Not to be shared without U.S. Soccer approval
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

8=Center Midfielder

Box to Box midfielder

Connect players in possession

Offer passing options for teammates

“Organizing” midfielder defensively

Provide cover for the 6 and 10 defensively

Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
PLAYING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

10 = Attacking Center Midfielder

“The Playmaker”

Create scoring opportunities

Connect midfield and forward lines

Help defend the center of the field

Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

3 FORWARDS
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

7 and 11 = Wingers/Wing Players

Provide width in attack

Penetrate in wide areas to create scoring opportunities

Serve crosses or dribble centrally to create

Pressure ball higher up the field defensively in wide areas

Help the #2 and #3 defensively in wide areas

Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

9=Central Forward

Score goals

Provide length in attack (stretch the field)

Adept in playing with their back to the goal

Adept in “holding” the ball up to allow teammates to advance

Defending higher up the field to “steer” the opposition

Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
PLANNING BY THE NUMBERS

SYSTEM: “1-4-3-3”

3 FORWARDS

3 MIDFIELDERS

4 BACKS

1 GOALKEEPER
Acknowledgements

Dave Chesler-US Soccer
Andy Coutts-Minnesota Youth Soccer Association
Steve Franklin-Indiana Soccer