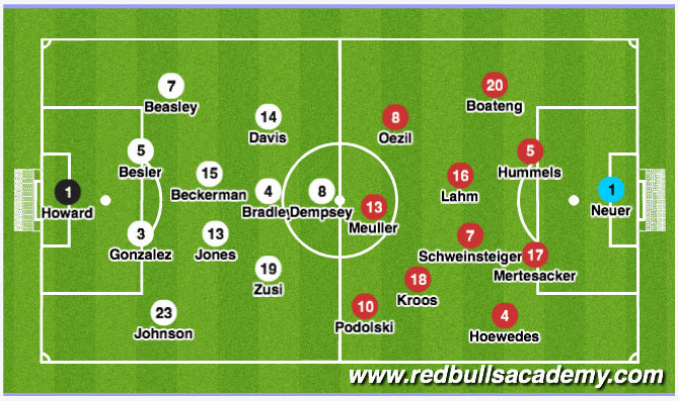
USA vs Germany



Key Individual Influencers:

USA:

- Kyle Beckerman: Great job of screening the back four, and staying connected with back four as well as trying to get forward. Made strong tactical decisions, even if it was a foul. Connected passes.

- Demarcus Beasley: Did a solid job of trying to defend the left flank. Tried as much as possible to get forward. The few times he did, US was able to get more numbers in the box.

- Graham Zusi: Looked to get forward often, and was willing to go on the attack. Had the only shot, almost goal, in the first half. Did especially well when he and Davis switched and he played inverted.

- Jermaine Jones: Tried to get forward as much as possible, when on the ball made solid decisions in getting the ball to where it needed to be.

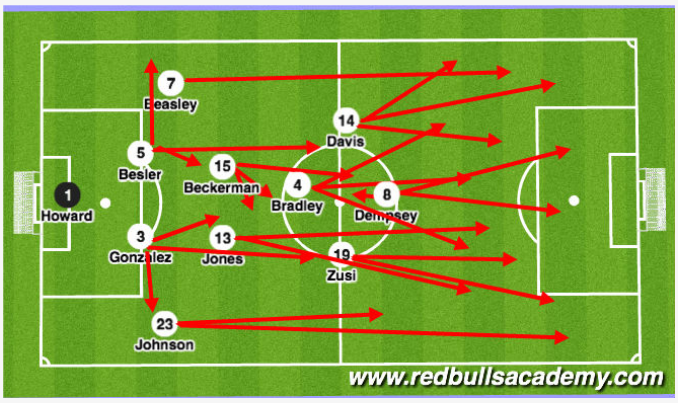
Germany:

- Thomas Mueller: Runs/movement were always a problem, was always hunting for goal. Had the freedom to move everywhere.

- Phillip Lahm: Controlled the middle of the field, set the tempo of the match. Always in the right spots, and allowed the team to have freedom to attack.

- Jerome Boateng: Got forward early and did so all game (second half a little less). Provided many dangerous crosses. Took advantage of space between Beasley and Davis.

USA (Attack)



Group Functions:

- Forwards & Midfielders: In attack, Bradley tried to stay as high up the field as possible but had an inconsistent time. Zusi and Davis played very narrow and and looked to be as close to Dempsey as possible. Jones had almost a free ticket to go wherever he wanted. Beckerman looked to support the front 5 as much as possible with an eye on any counter in order to shield the back four. Dempsey was virtually non-existent. Didn't provide any depth, and wwasn't very dynamic with his runs to get into spaces in behind. On defense, their line of confrontation was around the top of the center circle. Dempsey tried to limit the ball from a switch of field, and the midfield played as like a diamond plus one in behind him.

- Defenders & Midfielders: In attack, Johnson and Beasley tried to get forward when they could, but Podolski and Boateng/Oezil did a solid job of keeping them pinned back. The defenders tried to get Jones or Bradley on the ball as quickly as possible. Had a solid counter-attack in the first half, but that was just about it. Davis and Zusi played very narrow in the channels. On defense, wherever the ball was, Bradley was generally the 1st player to defend. Beckerman was perfectly in line with the player on the ball. Davis and Zusi were tucked in to keep compact, and Jones stayed near the ball to be the cover player. All 5 of these guys looked to shield the back four who were in a line.

- Goalkeeper & Defenders: In attack, played the "modern" way of getting the backs wide and high, and splitting the centerbacks. Beckerman or Jones would drop to come get the ball. When Howard had the ball, wasn't as willing to keep it to build. Would play safe and get the ball away from the goal. On defense, back four created a wall that tried to stay as compact as the width of the box. Was a very conservative defensive shape, nothing out of the ordinary.

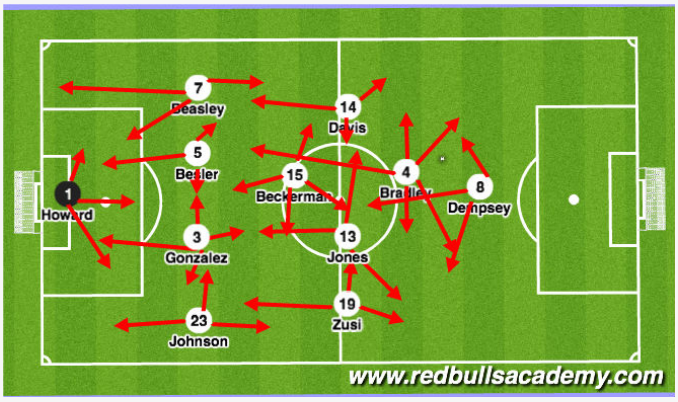
Style of Play:

- Build Up Play: Didn't really have much build up. Couldn't keep the ball long enough, so it turned into Jones trying to do everything. Shape-wise, outside mids tucked centrally, and with Bradley and Dempsey tried to form a diamond shape. Jones took liberties to just run into spaces and make things happen individually.

- Move Mid-to-Final 3rd: It was a bit of up-back-through in order to get an extra pass to help get more numbers/runs into the box. There

were also a few attempts to get the ball in behind with through balls utilizing late/3rd-man runs, mainly from Jones.

USA (Defend)



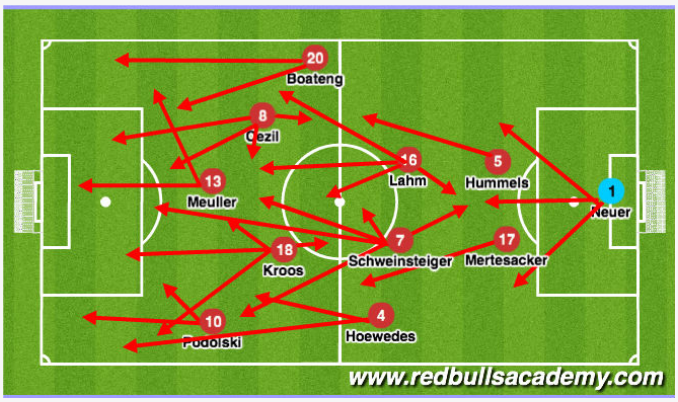
Group Functions:

- Forwards & Midfielders: On defense, their line of confrontation was around the top of the center circle. Dempsey tried to limit the ball from a switch of field, and the midfield played as like a diamond plus one in behind him.

- Defenders & Midfielders: On defense, wherever the ball was, Bradley was generally the 1st player to defend. Beckerman was perfectly in line with the player on the ball. Davis and Zusi were tucked in to keep compact, and Jones stayed near the ball to be the cover player. All 5 of these guys looked to shield the back four who were in a line. When Bedoya came on, he was able to recover more in order to give a bit more help to Beasley.

- Goalkeeper & Defenders: On defense, back four created a wall that tried to stay as compact as the width of the box. Was a very conservative defensive shape, nothing out of the ordinary.

Germany (Attack)

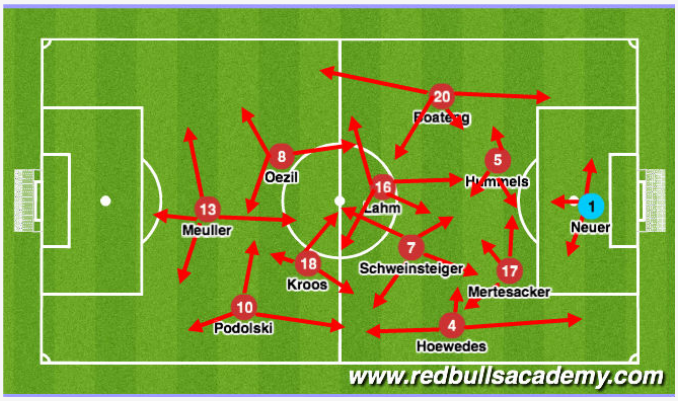


Style of Play:

- When in attack (1st half), Mueller initially stayed high and central, as much as he could. He did drift out to the wide right area when he desired. Podolski stayed high up the field, looking to pin back Johnson. Oezil and Kroos stayed in the right and left channels respectively, as they left space for Boateng and Hoewedes to get forward in the wide areas. They both tried to sit on the same line as Beckerman and connect with the striker. Schewinsteiger was allowed to just fill in where he wanted, and Lahm provided all the support. Boateng, more than Hoewedes, was looked upon to get high up the field to provide the crosses on the right side. Enjoyed a lot of success getting into the attack the entire game.

- When in attack (2nd half): Bringing on Klose for Podolski changed the personnel within the team shape. Kept the same tactics, but it gave them more of a traditional #9 who would stay central the entire time. With Mueller wide right, and Podolski wide left, it was a bit tougher for the US as they stayed high to keep Johnson and Beasley pinned a bit. With Mueller wide right, Boateng didn't look as aggressive to get high, played a bit more "traditional". Schweinsteiger and Lahm in the middle were able to make more runs into the final 3rd.

Germany (Defend)



Group Functions:

- Forwards & Midfielders: Striker pushed high up the field, and looked to stay positioned between the two centerbacks. Tried to keep the play predictable for the players in behind. Podolski stayed as high as possible to force Johnson to stay in defensive 3rd and stay disconnected from Zusi. Kroos and Oezil sat in behind them to provide cover and jump any passes. Lahm sat in space and looked to just break everything up. Schweinsteiger filled in behind Kroos and Oezil to provide the cover for both of those players. If he had to get wide, he would pop out to cover those areas so the front 4 could stay high.

- Defenders & Midfielders: Boateng and Hoewedes were advanced of Mertesacker and Hummels. They tried to play more for the transition of what they could do once they won the ball. They were able to gamble on the space as their positions were more concerned on what they would do once the ball won. Mertesacker and Hummels played as traditional centerbacks, and Lahm would drop just a little bit to almost play as a back three, but was still advanced of them. The back four, with the addition of Lahm were almost in a "W". Schweinsteiger looked to just fill in space, while

Oezil and Kroos tried to stay as high as possible while still staying connected to the team.

- Goalkeeper & Defenders: Not much work required. Played a bit of zonal marking, and not too much asked of Neuer other than the Zusi shot in the 1st half.