

An article from [www.finesoccer.com](http://www.finesoccer.com) .

Of all of the questions I receive via e-mail this might be the most common one. Coaches writing me asking how or where should they hide certain players on the field.

Let's look at some options. Some coaches try to hide their weak players as fullbacks. The logic being that if their forwards and midfielders are good enough, the ball will never get back there. The problem with this logic is no matter how good the team is, they will always at some point come up against an opponent who can attack against them, and at that point, they have one of their weakest players exposed in back.

Another option, is to put them as outside midfielders with the logic being, outside midfielders frequently don't touch the ball as much as other positions therefore they will not hurt the team as much. The problem with this logic is that it forces the team to play down the center of the field losing the opportunity to attack with width and really limiting the attack.

Another option is to put these players up front as forwards. The logic here is that they do as little damage as possible to the team. The problem, of course is it makes it very difficult to score with weaker forwards.

So what is the answer?

What about the idea of actually coaching these kids? Is the idea of training players so that a weak player becomes stronger impossible? Wouldn't that be a better long-term solution than to hide them and hope they don't hurt the team too much?

Is winning so important that we need to stifle development of weaker players, and hide them rather than train them and make them better even if short-term the wins don't come? Are we as coaches under so much pressure to win that we aren't really coaching anymore? If so, where is the pressure coming from? Parents? Administration? Ourselves?

Is developing players and winning mutually exclusive? I would think, that not only are these two things not mutually exclusive but long term if we do not develop players our teams will not win.

Are too many coaches thinking short-term instead of long-term?

Are you thinking short-term and instead of long-term?

Are short-term and long-term mutually exclusive?

If we actually have a plan long-term and use that long-term plan to also think short-term will we not all benefit?

Just something to think about. Have a great day !