Most Effective Defences

Defence Analysis of the 1-4 ranked teams

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2018

1. Quantitative analysis

Comparing the semi-finalists against the rest of the teams

- Goals conceded
- Blocked shots
- Stolen balls
- Goalkeepers' saving percentage
- Punishments

Sources: *Qualitative analysis - XIII Men's EHF European Championship, 2018 Croatia by Peter Kovács and http://home.eurohandball.com/ehf_files/specificHBI/ECh_Analyses/2018/CRO/2/4/TOPTEAM.PDF*

13th MEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
EHF EURO 2018

Goals conceded

Team and ranking	Match Played	Win	Draw	Lost	Avg. result	Points
1. ESP	8	6	0	2	28:24	12
2. SWE	8	5	0	3	27:27	10
3. FRA	8	7	0	1	31:27	14
4. DEN	8	5	0	3	29:27	10
5. CRO	7	5	0	2	30:25	10
6. CZE	7	3	1	3	25:27	7
7. NOR	6	4	0	2	32:28	8
8. SLO	6	2	2	2	27:25	6
9. GER	6	2	2	2	26:24	6
10. BLR	6	2	1	3	26:29	5

- Average 27 goals were conceded per match
- From the Top 4 only ESP conceded less goals than the average
- Out of the Top 4 CRO, SLO and GER conceded less goals than average
- Apart from CZE, the goal difference of the teams from 9th place down is negative
- No. 3 FRA suffered only 1 defeat, while No. 2 SWE lost 3 times

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Blocked shots and Stolen balls

Teams

Team and ranking	Match Played	Blocked shots	Ave-rage	Stolen balls	Ave-rage	Total points
1. ESP	8	15	**1.9**	45	**5.6**	**7.5**
2. SWE	8	10	**1.3**	23	**2.9**	**4.2**
3. FRA	8	22	**2.8**	33	**4.1**	**6.9**
4. DEN	8	27	**3.4**	31	**3.9**	**7.3**
5. CRO	7	19	**2.7**	29	**4.1**	**6.8**
6. CZE	7	19	**2.7**	26	**4.3**	**7.0**
7. NOR	6	11	**1.8**	22	**3.6**	**5.4**
8. SLO	6	18	**3.0**	12	**2.0**	**5.0**
9. GER	6	19	**3.2**	15	**2.5**	**5.7**
10. BLR	6	12	**2.0**	20	**3.3**	**5.3**

- Average 2.2 blocks / team / match
- Average 3.3 steals / team / match
- DEN blocked on average 3.4 shots / match, closely followed by GER (3.2) and SLO (3.0)
- ESP stole average 5.6 balls /match followed by CZE (4.3), FRA, CRO (4.1)
- ESP had the most success in total (7.5), but Top 4 FRA and DEN also produced around 7 points
- No. 2 SWE produced the lowest (4.2)

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Blocked shots and Stolen balls

Individuals

BEST DEFENDER BY AVERAGE

Rank	No	Name	Team	Block	Steals	Total	Avg.	MP
1	6	LEMKE Finn	GER	12	1	13	3.3	4
2	13	HORAK Pavel	CZE	10	4	14	2.0	7
3	27	DIPANDA Adrien	FRA	12	3	15	1.9	8
4	50	KARALEK Artsem	BLR	7	4	11	1.8	6
4	23	TOFT HANSEN Henrik	DEN	8	6	14	1.8	8
6	10	GOJUN Jakov	CRO	8	2	10	1.7	6
6	23	JOHANNESSEN Goran	NOR	5	5	10	1.7	6
8	29	ARINO Aitor	ESP		9	9	1.3	7
8	24	BOZOVIC Milos	MNE	2	2	4	1.3	3
8	51	MACKOVSEK Borut	SLO	8		8	1.3	6
8	14	ZACHARIASSEN Anders	DEN	6	3	9	1.3	7
12	3	BLAGOTINSEK Blaz	SLO	5	2	7	1.2	6
13	21	CANELLAS Joan	ESP	4	5	9	1.1	8
13	30	GUARDIOLA Gedeon	ESP	4	5	9	1.1	8
13	30	MAMIC Marko	CRO	6	2	8	1.1	7

Next 289 players were tied with a total of 1.0

Most blocked shots

1. **Dipanda FRA 12** / 8
4. **Toft Hansen DEN 8** / 8
8. **Zachariassen DEN 6** / 7
9. **Cannelas ESP 4** / 8
9. **Guardiola ESP 4** / 8

Most stolen balls

1. **Arino 9** / 7
2. **Toft Hansen DEN 6** / 8
3. **Cannelas ESP 5** / 8
3. **Guardiola ESP 5** / 8

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Goalkeepers

Teams

Team	MP	6m Centre Shots		Wing Shots		9m Shots		7m Penalty Shots		Fast Breaks		Breakthroughs		Fast Throw Off		Total	
		S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%	S / S	%
AUT	3	7/20	35	11/38	29	13/40	33	3/13	23	2/14	14	2/12	17	0/0	0	38/137	28
BLR	6	9/39	23	20/53	38	41/99	41	4/12	33	5/25	20	5/27	19	2/3	67	86/258	33
CRO	7	8/27	30	13/42	31	31/102	30	2/23	9	5/31	16	2/18	11	3/8	38	64/251	25
CZE	7	17/48	35	17/47	36	37/94	39	7/28	25	8/34	24	7/23	30	0/5	0	93/279	33
DEN	8	7/43	16	21/56	38	47/119	39	8/27	30	8/35	23	0/23	0	2/5	40	93/308	30
ESP	8	14/54	26	23/61	38	47/87	54	5/23	22	5/24	21	1/26	4	3/12	25	98/287	34
FRA	8	11/44	25	13/52	25	57/120	48	7/25	28	10/47	21	6/27	22	0/1	0	104/316	33
GER	6	9/26	35	13/42	31	41/89	46	5/23	22	3/16	19	0/19	0	0/1	0	71/216	33
HUN	3	8/25	32	4/19	21	12/44	27	0/12	0	2/15	13	1/3	33	0/1	0	27/119	23
ISL	3	1/5	20	9/28	32	17/42	40	3/7	43	3/14	21	2/17	12	1/5	20	36/118	31
MKD	6	7/30	23	13/35	37	39/87	45	2/17	12	8/41	20	8/28	29	0/3	0	77/241	32
MNE	3	3/17	18	4/17	24	10/30	33	2/16	13	1/14	7	1/14	7	0/2	0	21/110	19
NOR	6	4/42	10	22/54	41	44/89	49	4/25	16	1/21	5	4/20	20	0/0	0	79/251	31
SLO	6	6/28	21	18/57	32	38/80	48	5/22	23	4/25	16	4/13	31	0/2	0	75/227	33
SRB	6	5/26	19	14/59	24	23/61	38	2/16	13	10/51	20	7/30	23	3/12	25	64/255	25
SWE	8	13/40	33	27/82	33	50/94	53	8/41	20	9/33	27	12/39	31	1/7	14	120/336	36
Total	47	129/514	25	242/742	33	547/1277	43	67/330	20	84/440	19	62/339	18	15/67	22	1146/3709	31

Goalkeepers' saving percentage
(ECh avg.: 31%)

1. SWE 36%
2. ESP 34%
3. FRA 33%
3. GER 33%
3. BLR 33%
3. SLO 33%
.....
11. DEN 30%

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Goalkeepers

Individuals

Rank	Name	Team	%	Saves	Shots	MP
1	KASTELIC Urh	SLO	41	22	54	2
2	GERARD Vincent	FRA	37	68	184	8
3	GREEN KREJBERG Jannick	DEN	36	49	136	8
3	PALICKA Andreas	SWE	36	50	138	8
5	APPELGREN Mikael	SWE	35	69	195	8
5	MITREVSKI Nikola	MKD	35	38	108	6
5	SALDATSENKA Viachaslau	BLR	35	71	203	6
8	BERGERUD Torbjorn S.	NOR	34	73	212	6
8	HEINEVETTER Silvio	GER	34	26	76	6
8	MRKVA Tomas	CZE	34	51	151	7
8	PEREZ de VARGAS Gonzalo	ESP	34	52	151	6
8	WOLFF Andreas	GER	34	43	126	6
13	GALIA Martin	CZE	33	42	126	7
14	CORRALES Rodrigo	ESP	32	35	108	8
14	GUSTAVSSON Bjorgvin Pall	ISL	32	35	111	3
14	SKOK Matevz	SLO	32	35	111	6
17	LESJAK Urban	SLO	31	17	54	4
18	RISTOVSKI Borko	MKD	30	39	130	6
18	STEVANOVIC Ivan	CRO	30	46	155	7

Goalkeepers' saving percentage
(ECh avg.: 31%)

1. Kastelic 41%
2. Gerard 37%
3. Green 36%
3. Palicka 36%
3. Appelgren 33%
8. Perez 34%
14. Corrales 32%
.....
Sterbik 7m 3/6 50%

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Punishments

Team		MP	YC	RC	2Min	Points	
						Total	Avg.
ISL	Iceland	3	10		6	22	7.3
ESP	Spain	8	24	1	18	65	8.1
FRA	France	8	15	1	24	68	8.5
CRO	Croatia	7	23		21	65	9.3
DEN	Denmark	8	19	1	26	76	9.5
MKD	FYR Macedonia	6	16		21	58	9.7
HUN	Hungary	3	8		11	30	10.0
NOR	Norway	6	16		22	60	10.0
SRB	Serbia	6	9	1	24	62	10.3
SWE	Sweden	8	18	1	33	89	11.1
GER	Germany	6	19	1	22	68	11.3
BLR	Belarus	6	14	2	25	74	12.3
CZE	Czech Republic	7	18	4	26	90	12.9
MNE	Montenegro	3	7	1	16	44	14.7
SLO	Slovenia	6	18	3	39	111	18.5
AUT	Austria	3	6	4	17	60	20.0

Consistency of the squads

EURO 2016, Poland	EURO 2018, Croatia	New players since 2016	New coaches since 2016
2. SPAIN	1. SPAIN ↑ +1	10 / 19	Jordi RIBERA
5. FRANCE	2. SWEDEN ↑ +6	10 / 18	Didier DINART
6. DENMARK	3. FRANCE ↑ +2	8 / 18	Nikolaj JACOBSEN
8. SWEDEN	4. DENMARK ↑ +2	6 / 18	Kristjan ANDRESSON

2. Qualitative analysis of the 1-4 ranked teams

Characteristics in defence

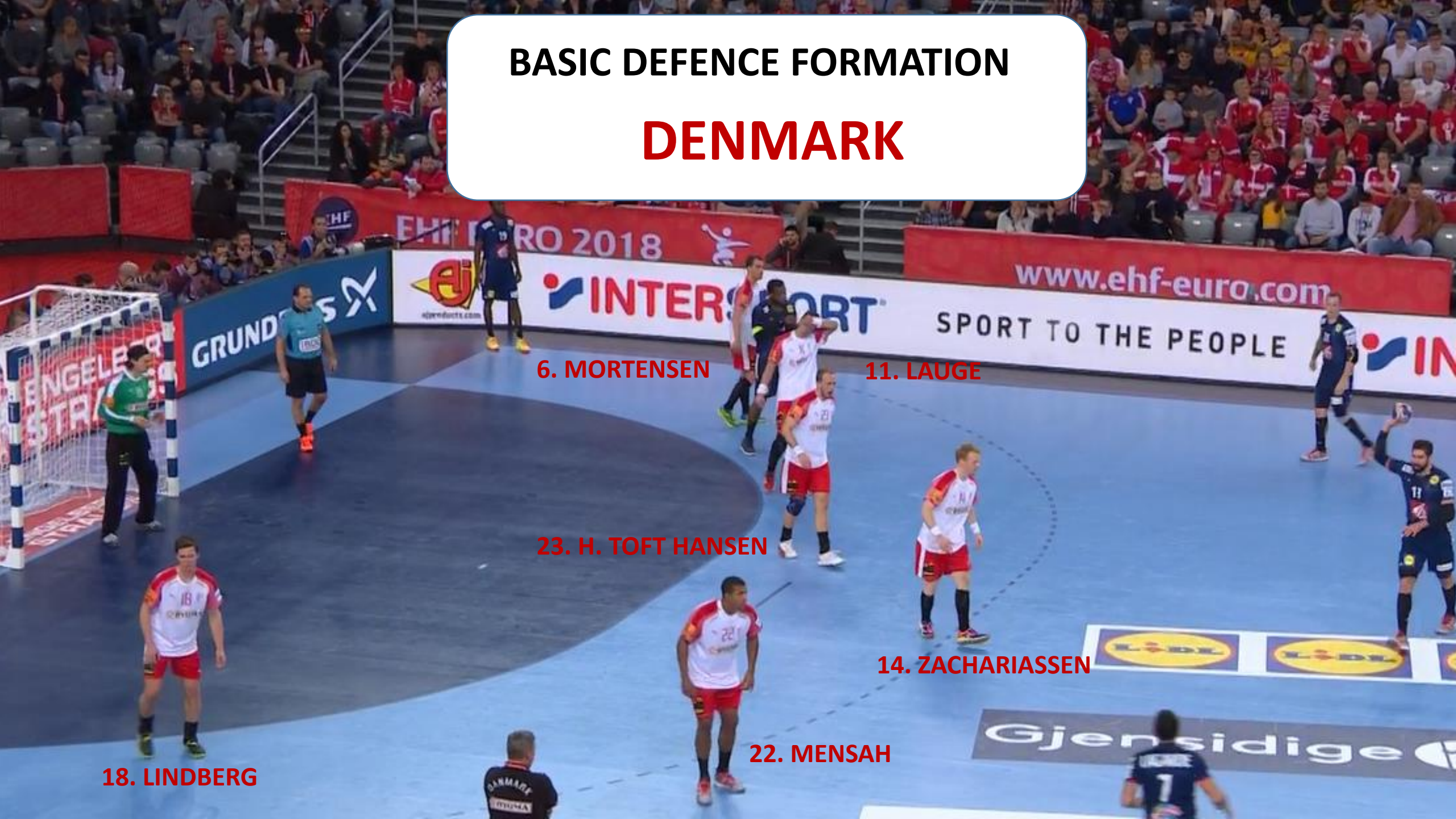
- SPAIN
- SWEDEN
- FRANCE
- DENMARK

Characteristics in defence DENMARK

- Averege 3.4 blocked shots per match, - the best among the teams
- DEN GK's average performance (30%) was below the competition's average (31%) and the lowest among the Top 4 teams
- Mostly applied 6:0 zone defence
- Different starting line-ups in defence and ocassionally changed defence systems (6:0, 5:1, 5+1, man-to-man)
- Struggled to find a place for good attackers in defence (Mensah, Hansen)

BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION

DENMARK



BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION

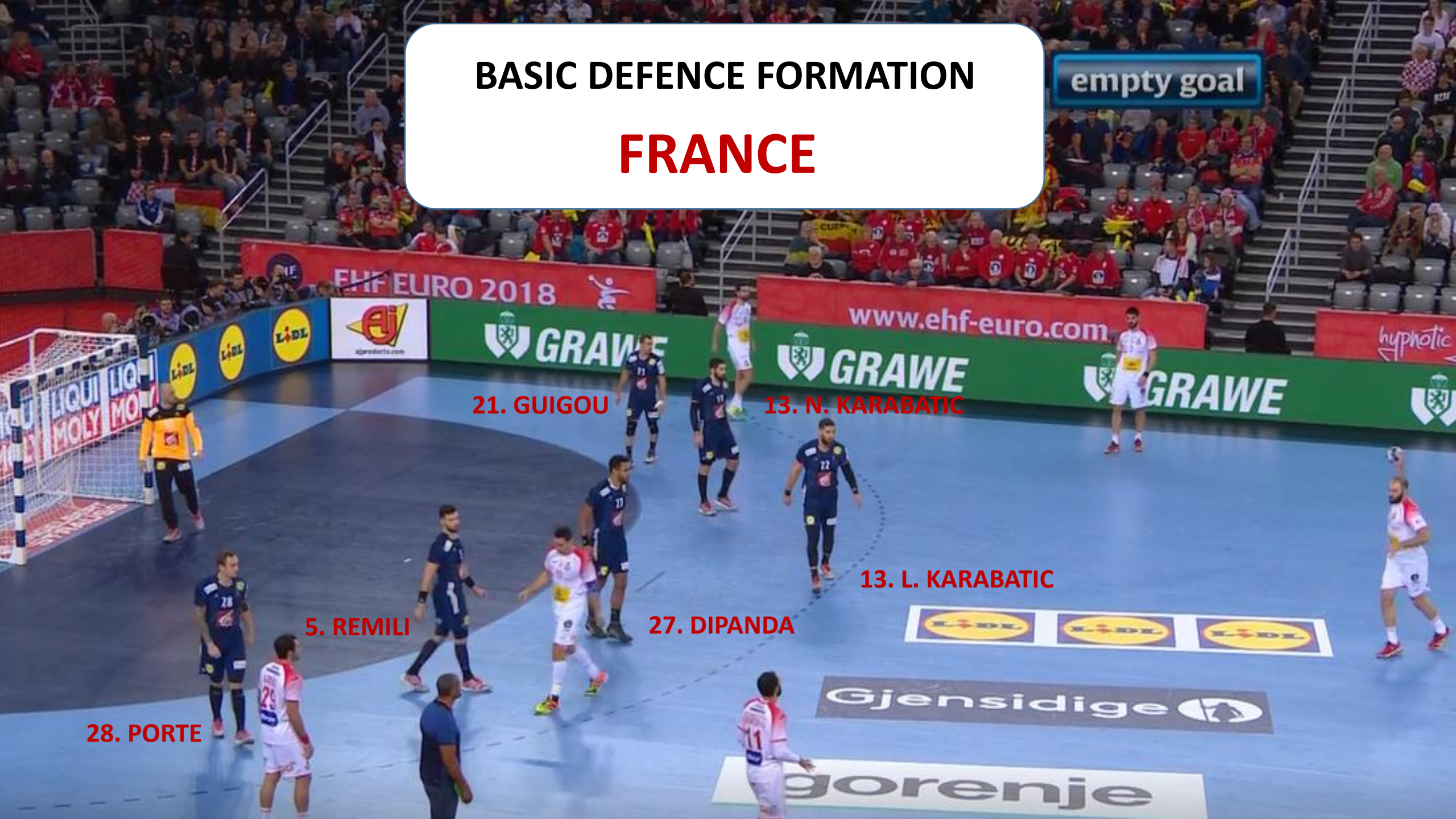
DENMARK

Characteristics in defence FRANCE

- FRA produced the best performance indicators in defence:
  - lost one game only; among the best in stealing and goalkeeping; 2nd fairest in defence
- FRA GK's performance (33%) was above the competition's average, V. Gerard's average saving percentage was the best (37%)
- Mostly applied very active 6:0 zone defence, alternating to 5:1 or 4:2 formation
- A. Dipanda as defence specialist became a key player in defence
- Attacker oriented/centred zone defence

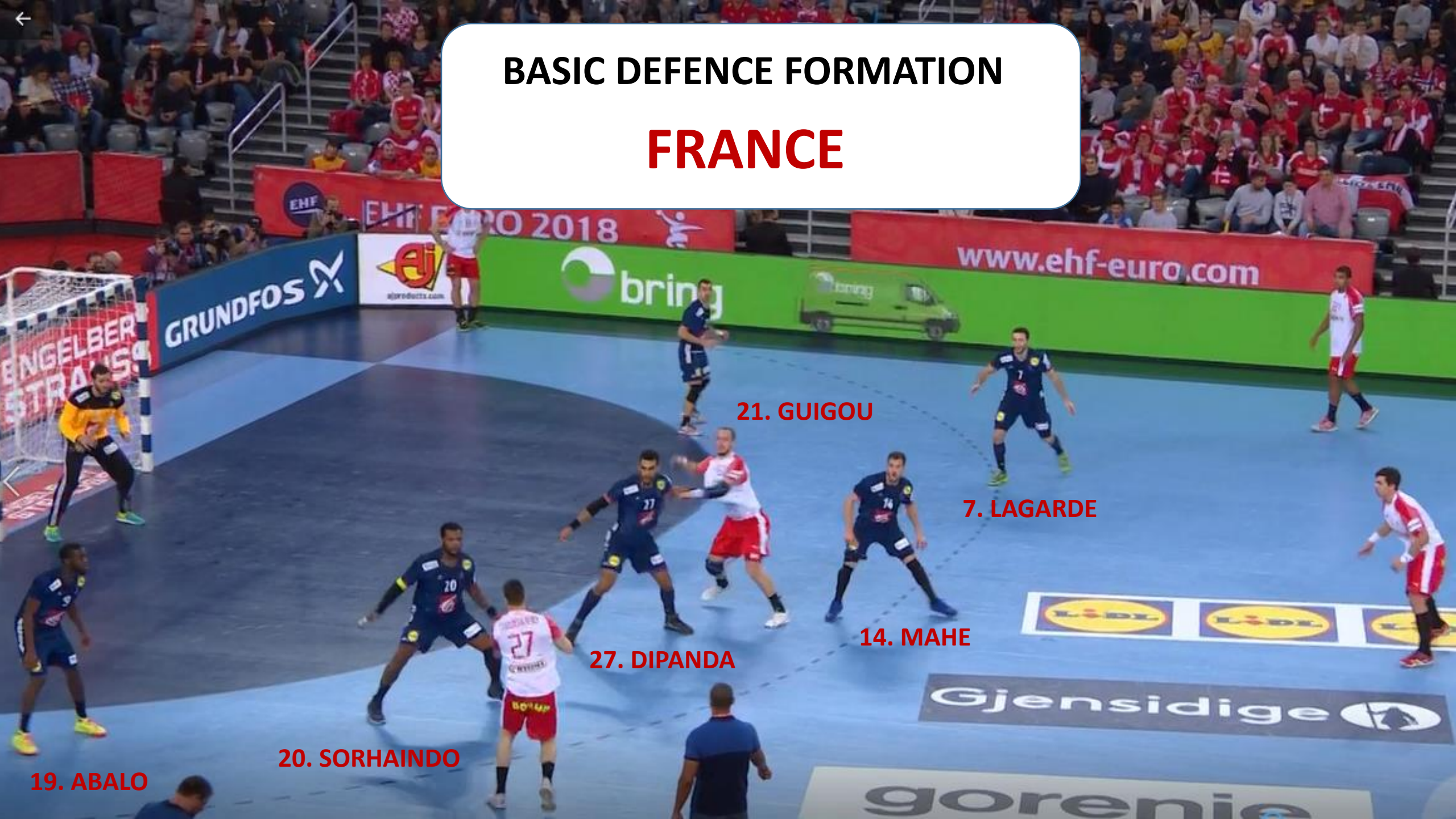
BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION

FRANCE



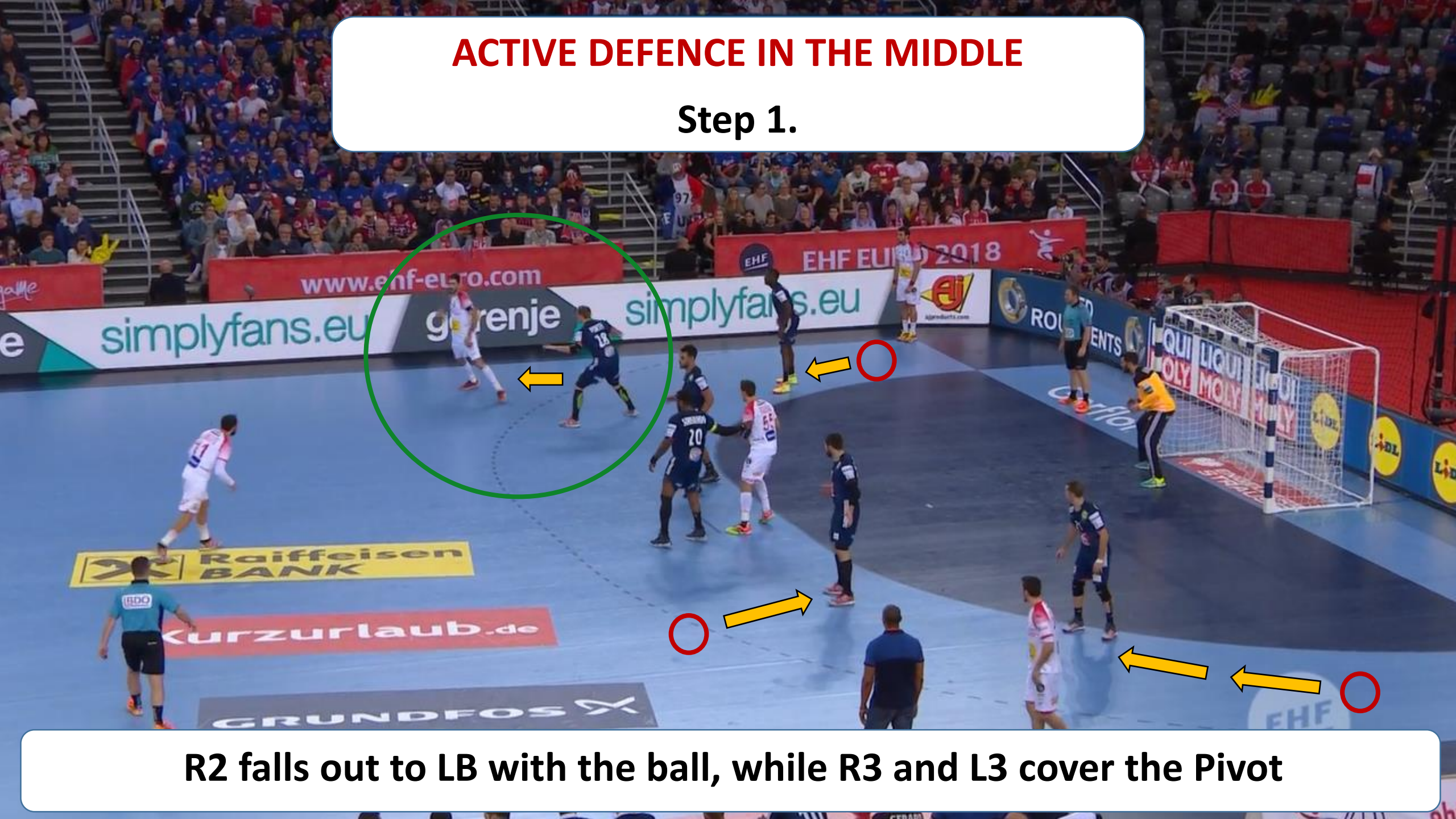
BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION

FRANCE



ACTIVE DEFENCE IN THE MIDDLE

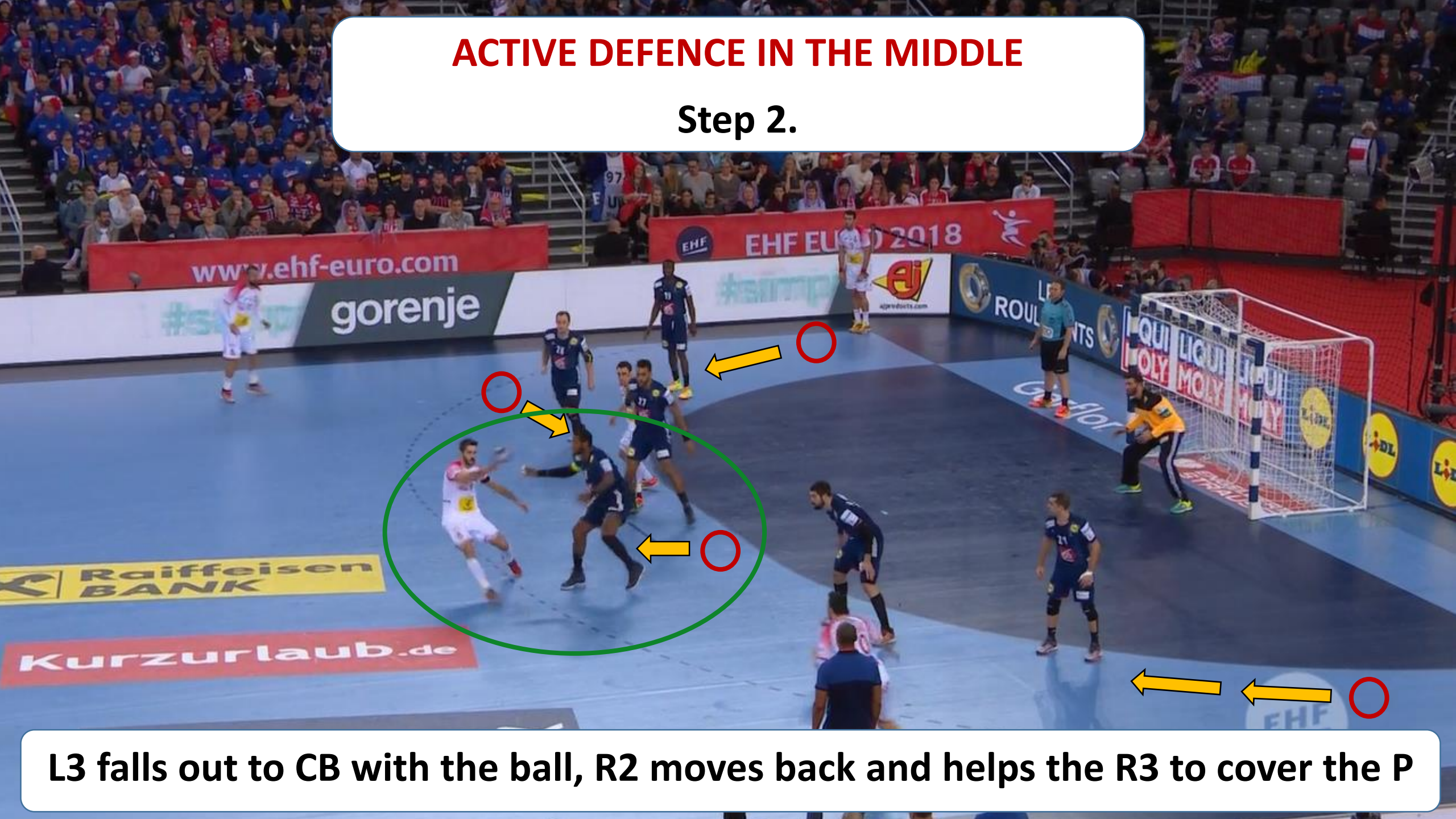
Step 1.



R2 falls out to LB with the ball, while R3 and L3 cover the Pivot

ACTIVE DEFENCE IN THE MIDDLE

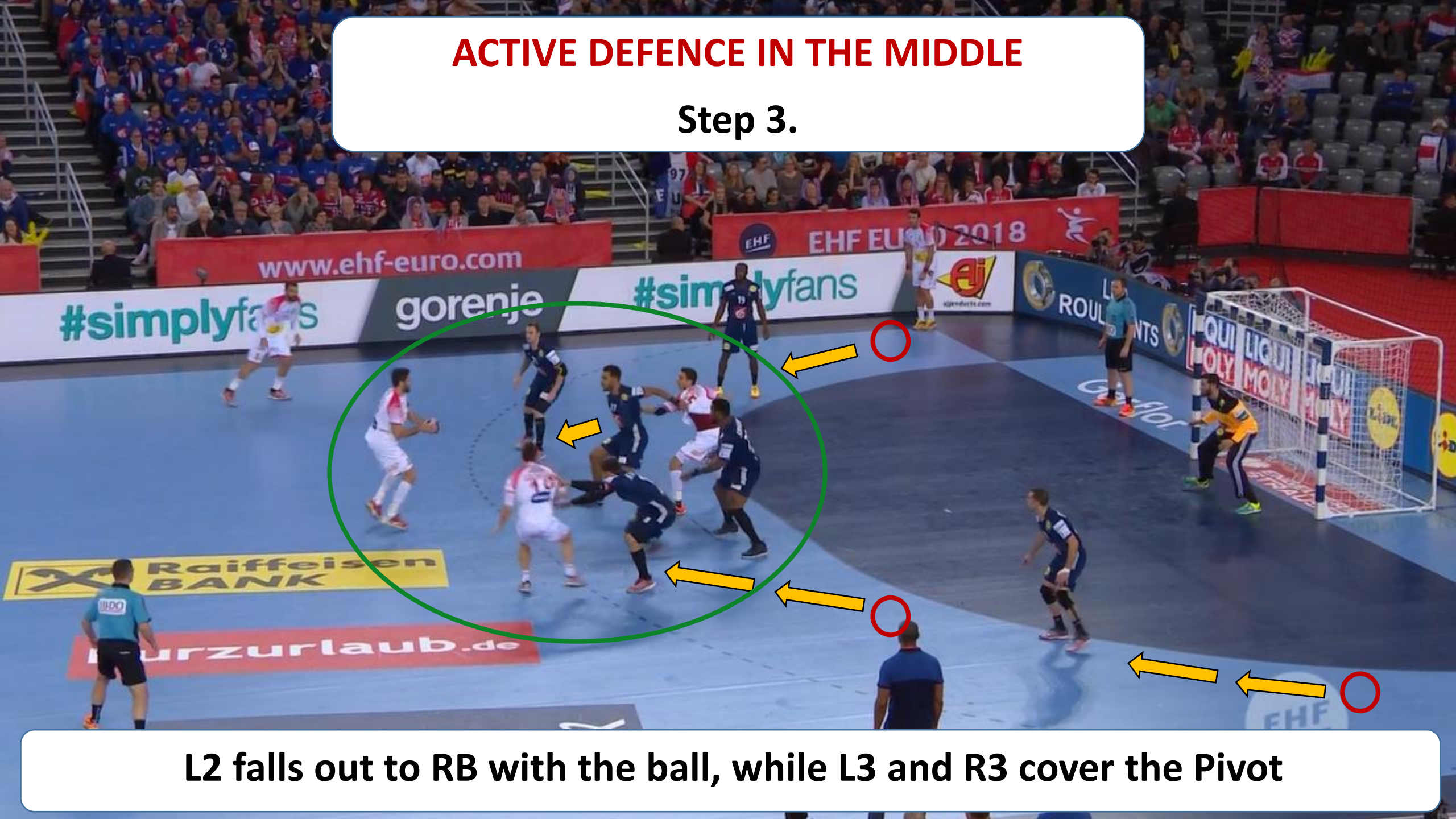
Step 2.



L3 falls out to CB with the ball, R2 moves back and helps the R3 to cover the P

ACTIVE DEFENCE IN THE MIDDLE

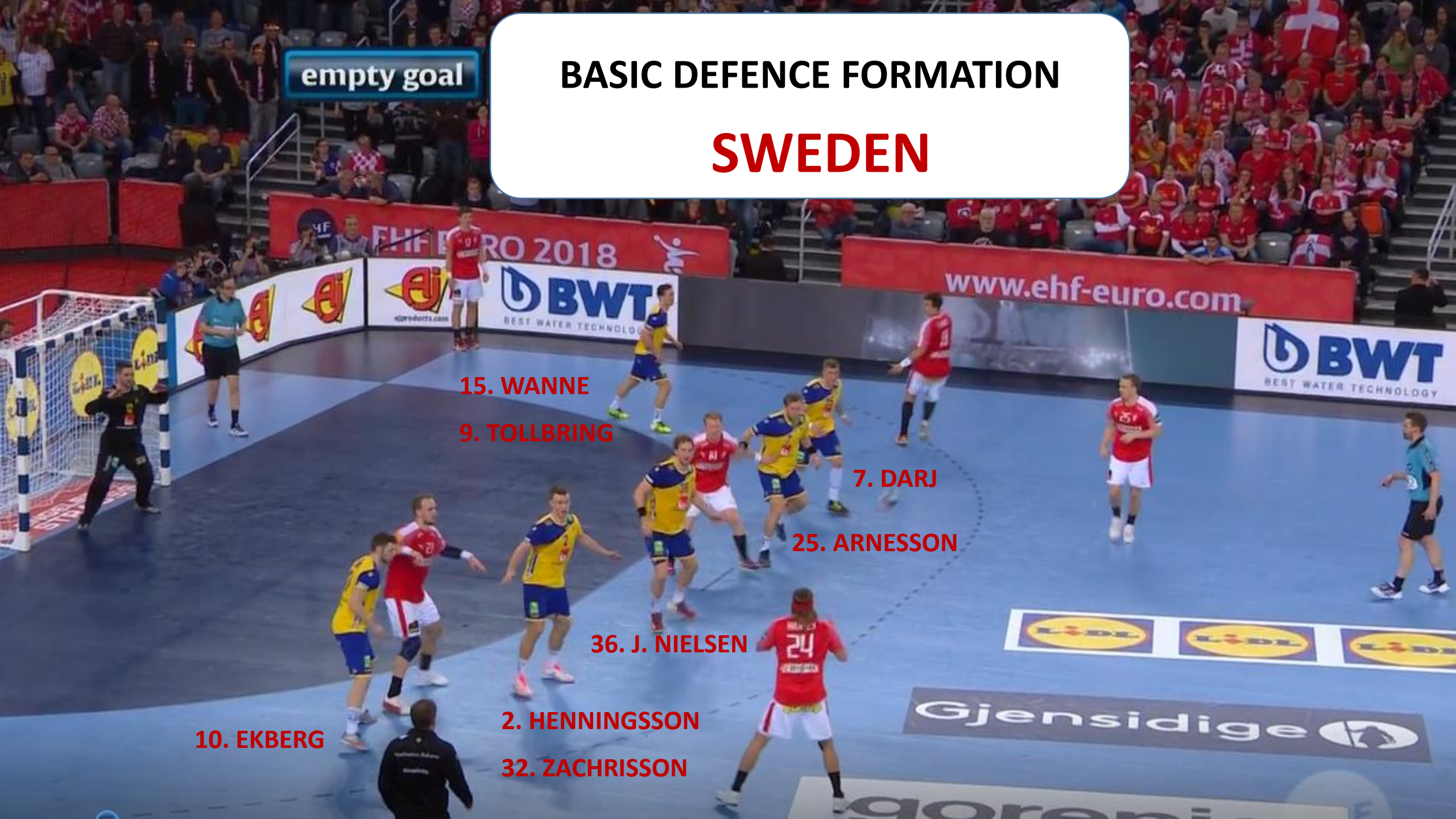
Step 3.



L2 falls out to RB with the ball, while L3 and R3 cover the Pivot

Characteristics in defence SWEDEN

- Despite losing 3 times, SWE finished 2nd with 0 goal difference (27:27)
- SWE GKs' performance (36%) was the highest in the competition
- Excellent partnership between the 2 goalkeepers
- Mostly applied 6:0 zone defence
- J. Nielsen was a key player in both attack and defence (playing time: 6:38:11)
- M. Darj played as defence specialist


BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION
SWEDEN
15. WANNE
9. TOLLBRING
7. DARJ
25. ARNESSON
36. J. NIELSEN
2. HENNINGSSON
32. ZACHRISSON
10. EKBERG

EXCELLENT PARTNERSHIP

4:30:17

3:05:13

No	Name	MP	Total			All Saves / Shots										
			Saves	Shots	%	7mP	7m%	6mC	Wing	BT	FB	FTO	9m	9m%	NS	NS%
12	PALICKA Andreas	8	50	138	36	3/16	19	4/11	15/38	2/19	3/9	1/4	22/41	54	21/68	31
20	APPELGREN Mikael	8	69	195	35	5/25	20	9/29	12/44	9/19	6/22	0/3	28/53	53	30/92	33
Empty Net Goals				2												
Totals			120	336	36	8/41	20	13/40	27/82	12/39	9/33	1/7	50/94	53	52/161	32

Characteristics in defence SPAIN

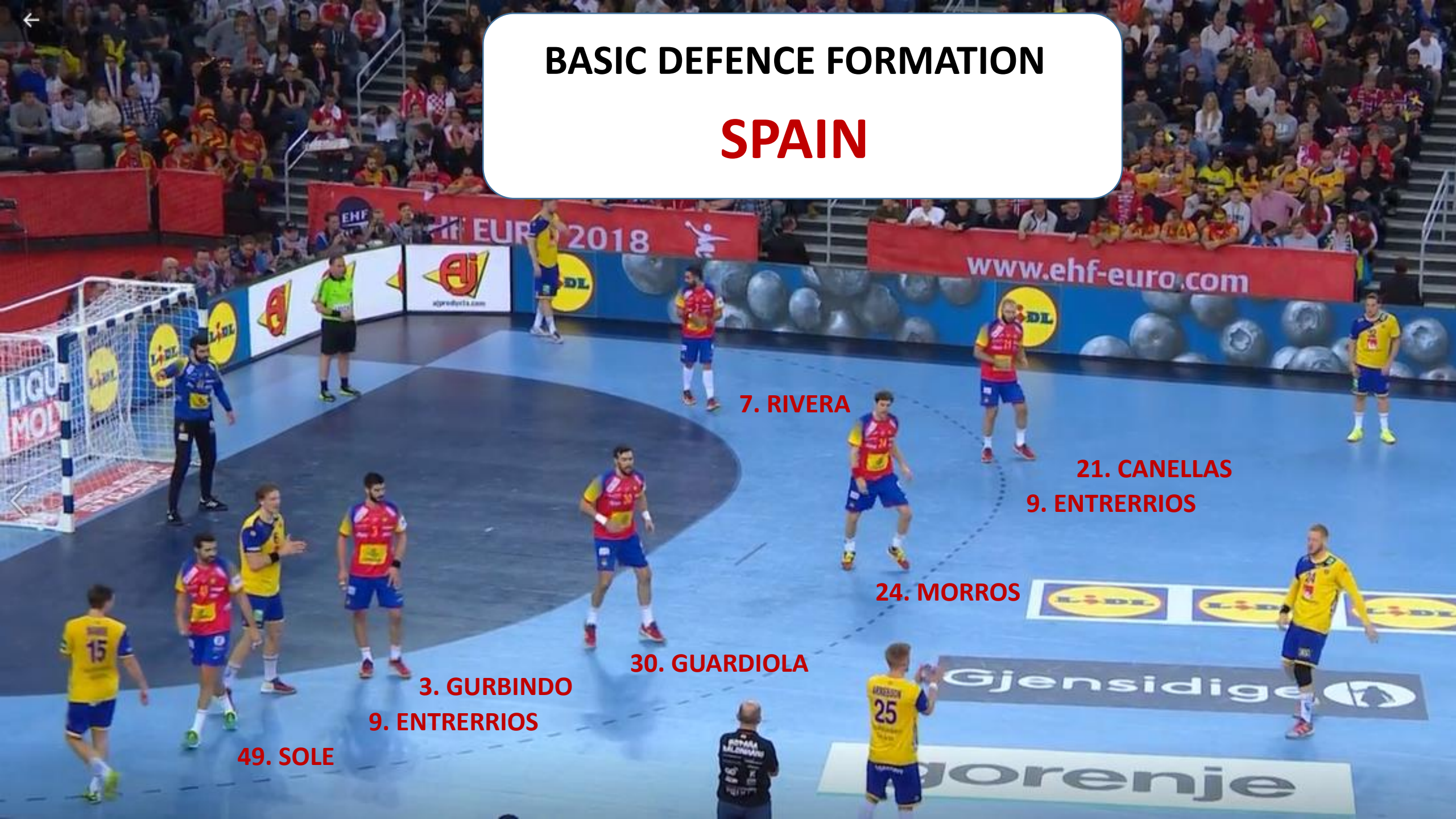
- Conceded the least amount of goals on average (24) per match
- ESP GK's average performance (34%) was better than the competition's average (31%) and second best among the Top 4 teams
- Mostly 5:1 zone defence system with a variety of 4:2 and 3:3
- Average 5.6 stolen balls per game
- Played with two defence specialists (V. Morros and G. Guardiola)

Characteristics in defence SPAIN

- Taking the initiative in defence
- Guiding the attackers into the direction which best suited the defenders
- Provoking / forcing the attackers to lose possession of the ball
- Move the attackers out of their comfort zone, take their confidence away
- Forcing the attackers into unknown situations where they uncomfortable
- Camouflage the weak points of their defence

BASIC DEFENCE FORMATION

SPAIN



FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 1.

L1 covers RW 1 on 1 and follows him towards the back court

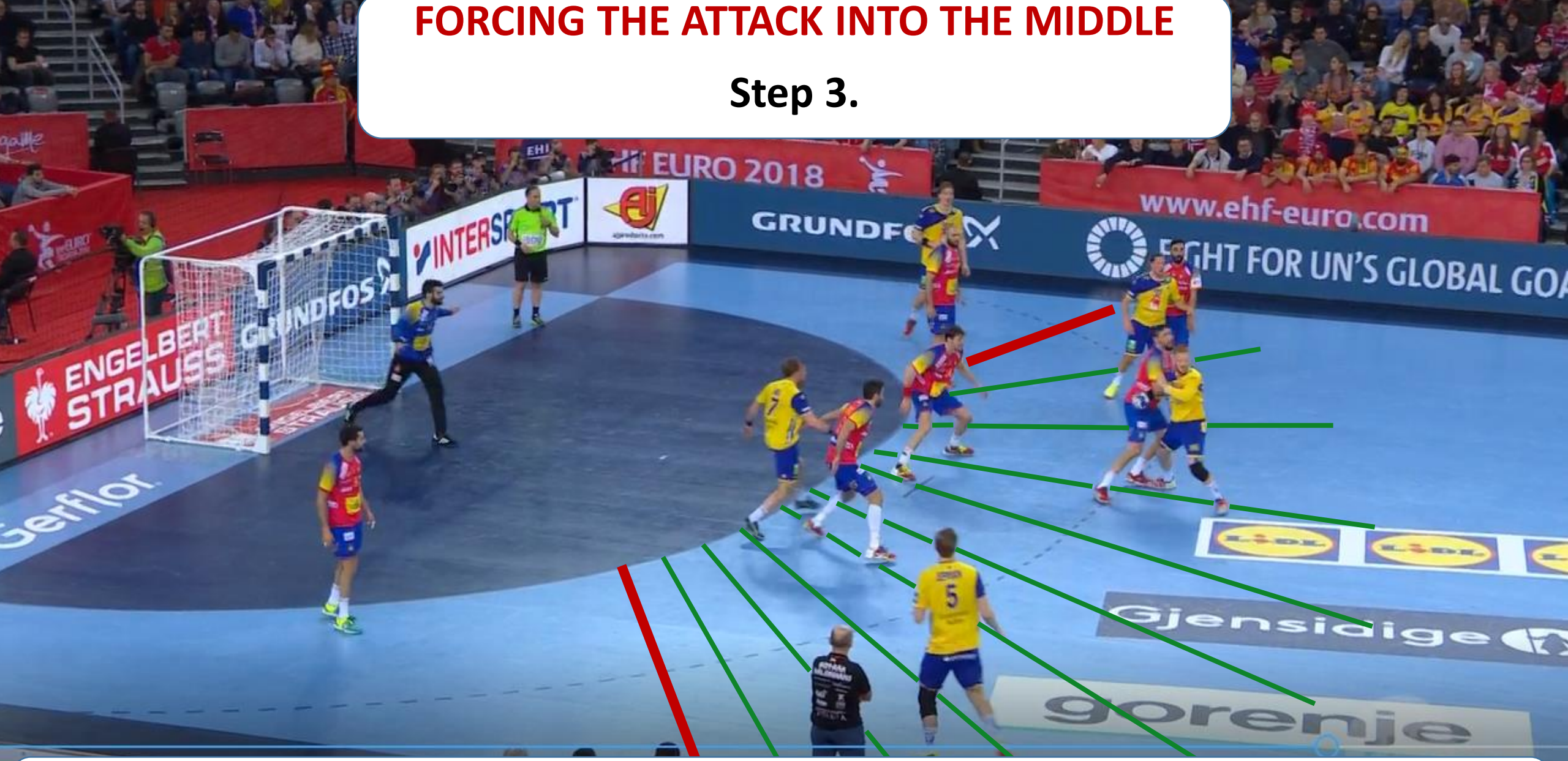
FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 2.

When RW runs-into the defence wall, L1 switches to RB

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 3.



L1 stays out and forces the attack towards the middle,

while L3 stops the CB passing towards the throwing arm side

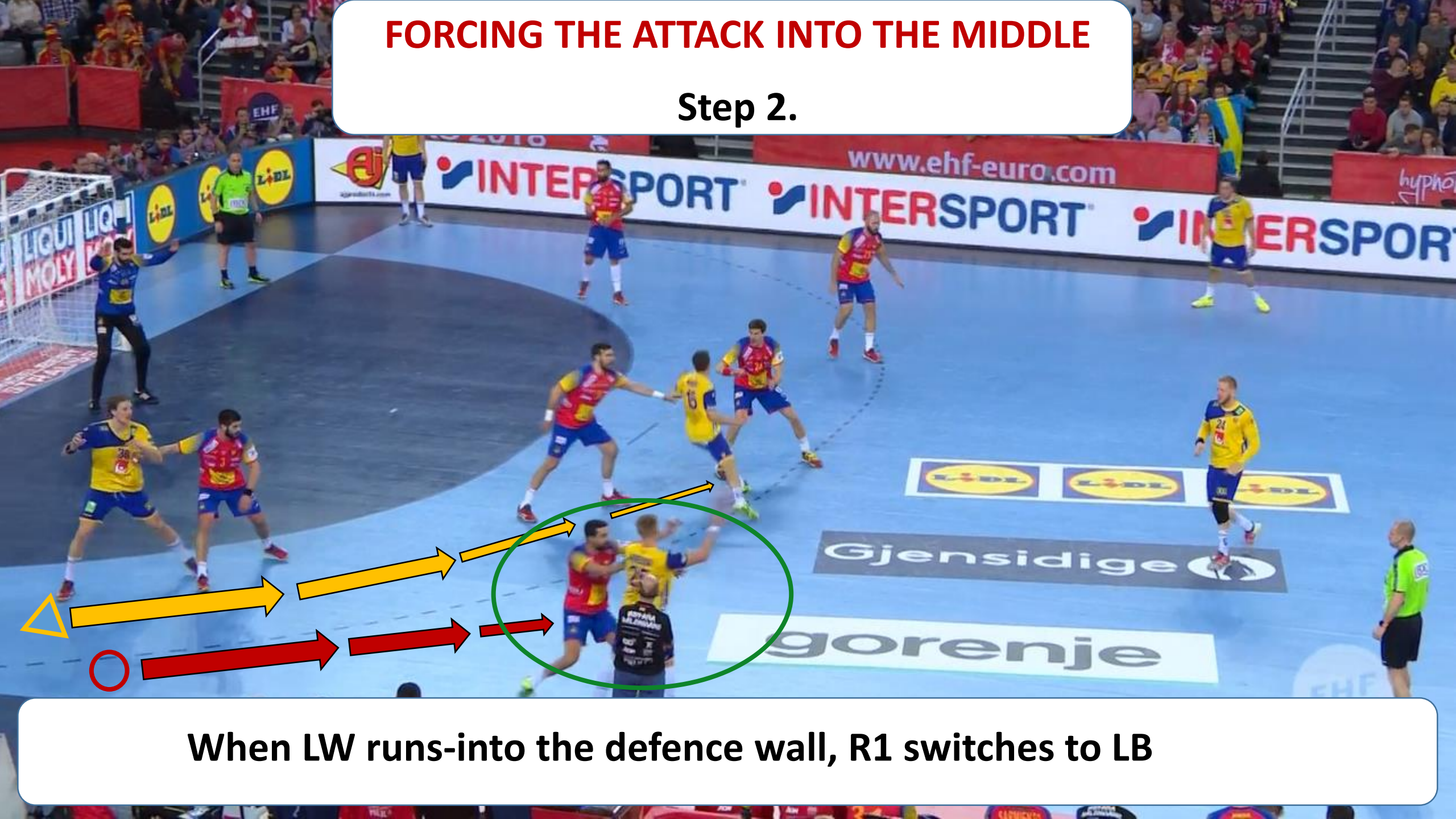
FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 1.

R1 covers LW 1 on 1, when Pivot is on the same side

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 2.



When LW runs-into the defence wall, R1 switches to LB

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 3.

L1 stays out and forces the attack towards the middle,

while L2 stops the RB passing towards the wing

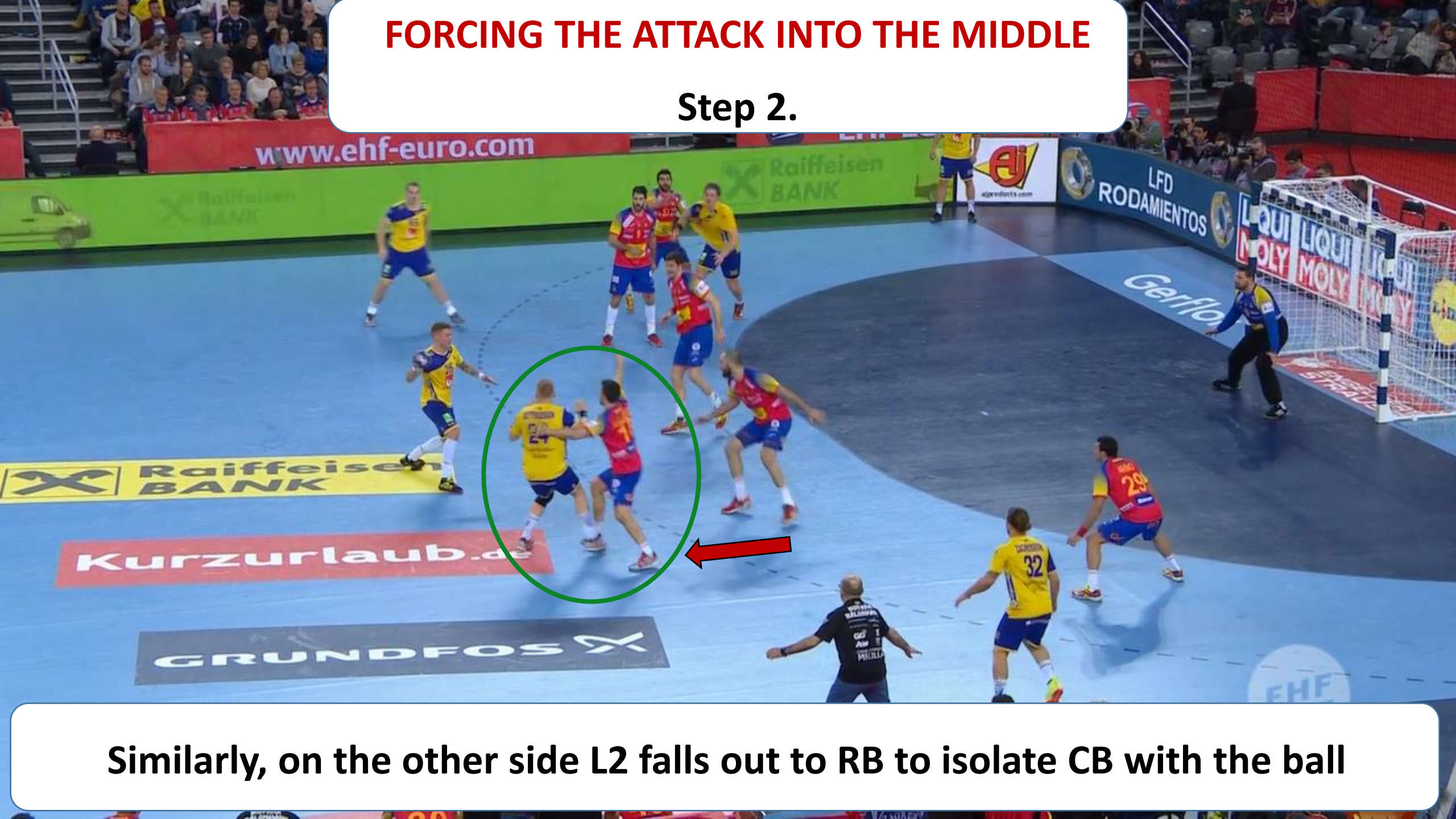
FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 1.

R2 falls out to LB to isolate CB with the ball

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 2.



Similarly, on the other side L2 falls out to RB to isolate CB with the ball

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 3.

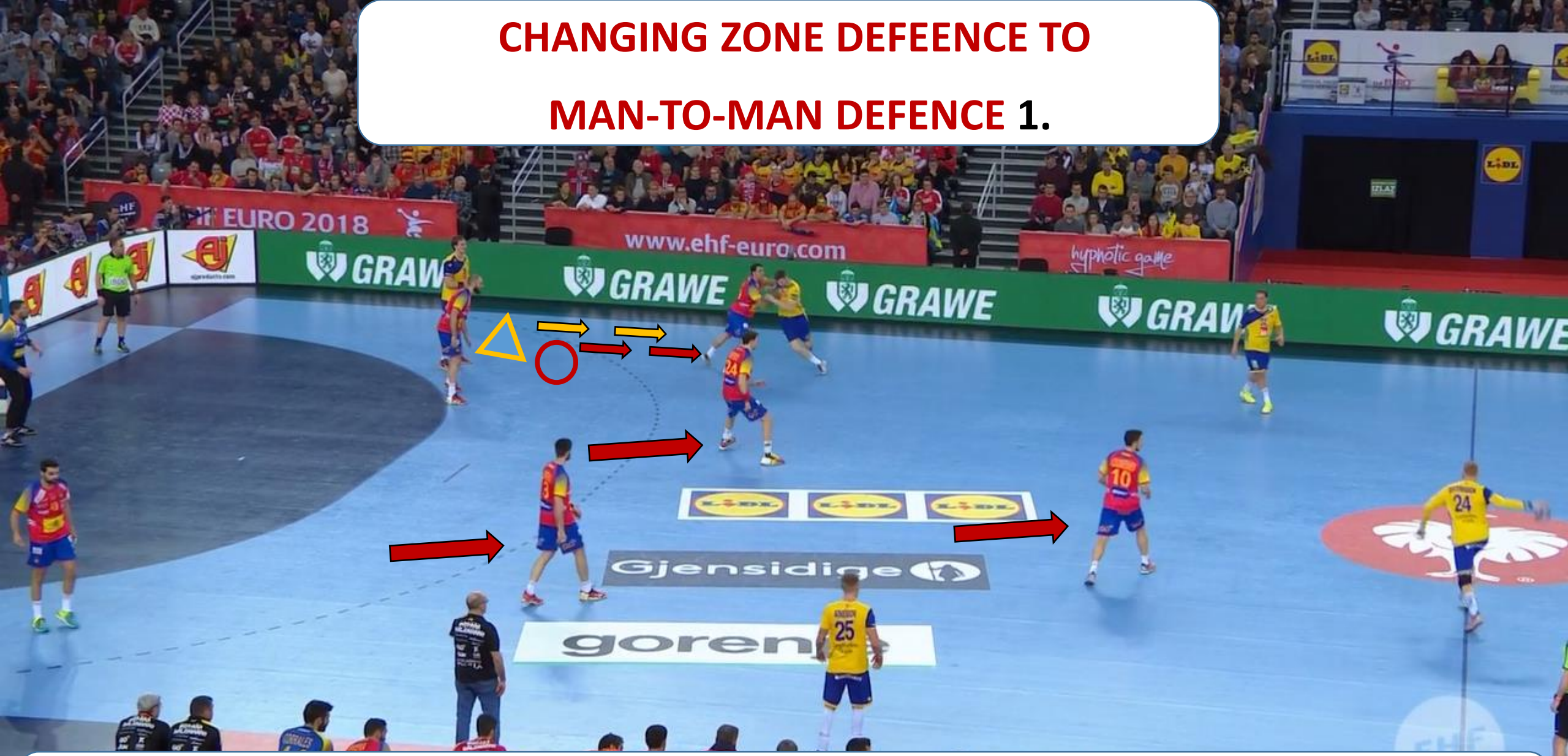
R2 falls out again, and intercepts CB's pass to LB

FORCING THE ATTACK INTO THE MIDDLE

Step 4.

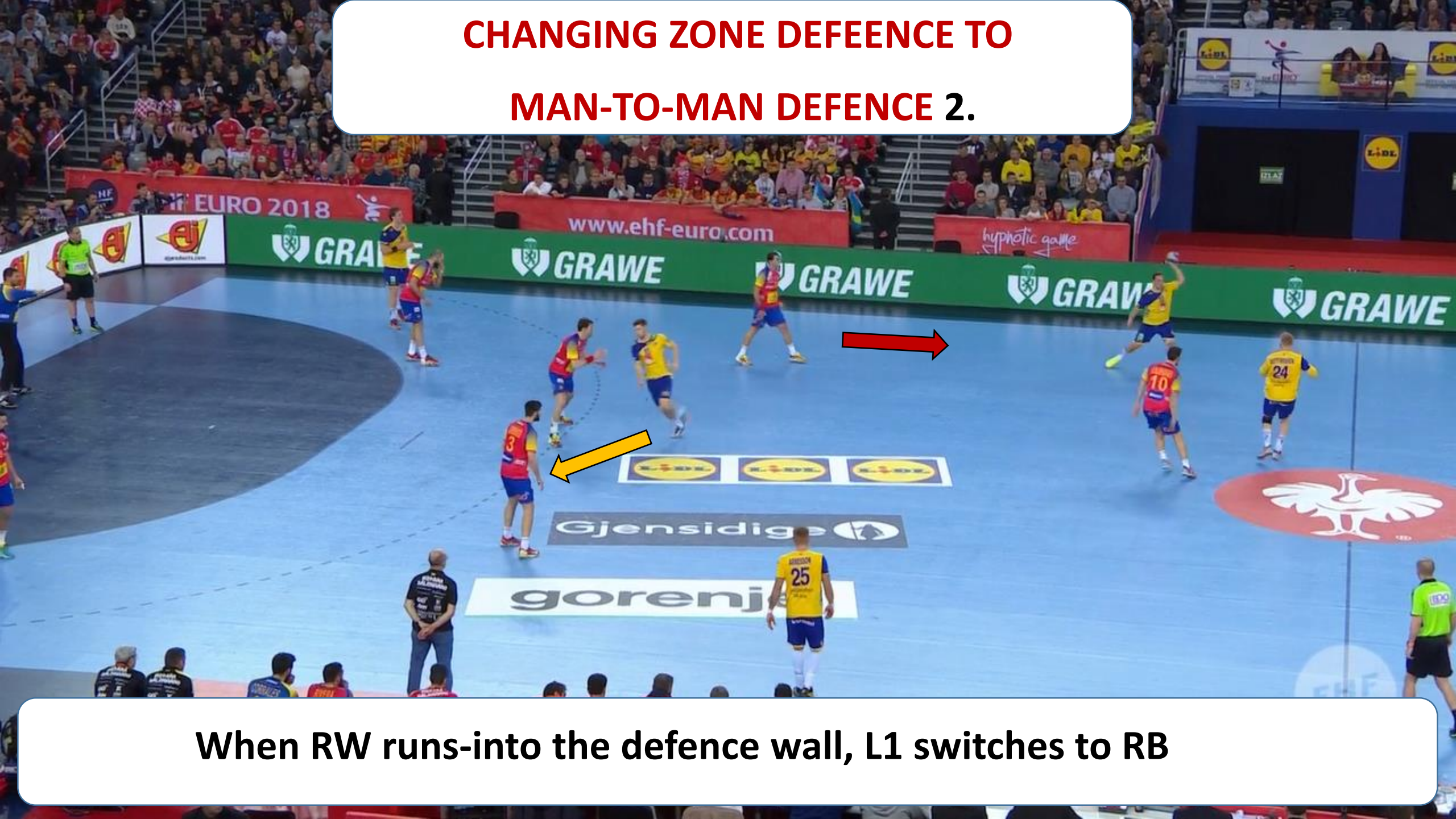
… and initiates fast break with the stolen ball

CHANGING ZONE DEFEENCE TO MAN-TO-MAN DEFENCE 1.



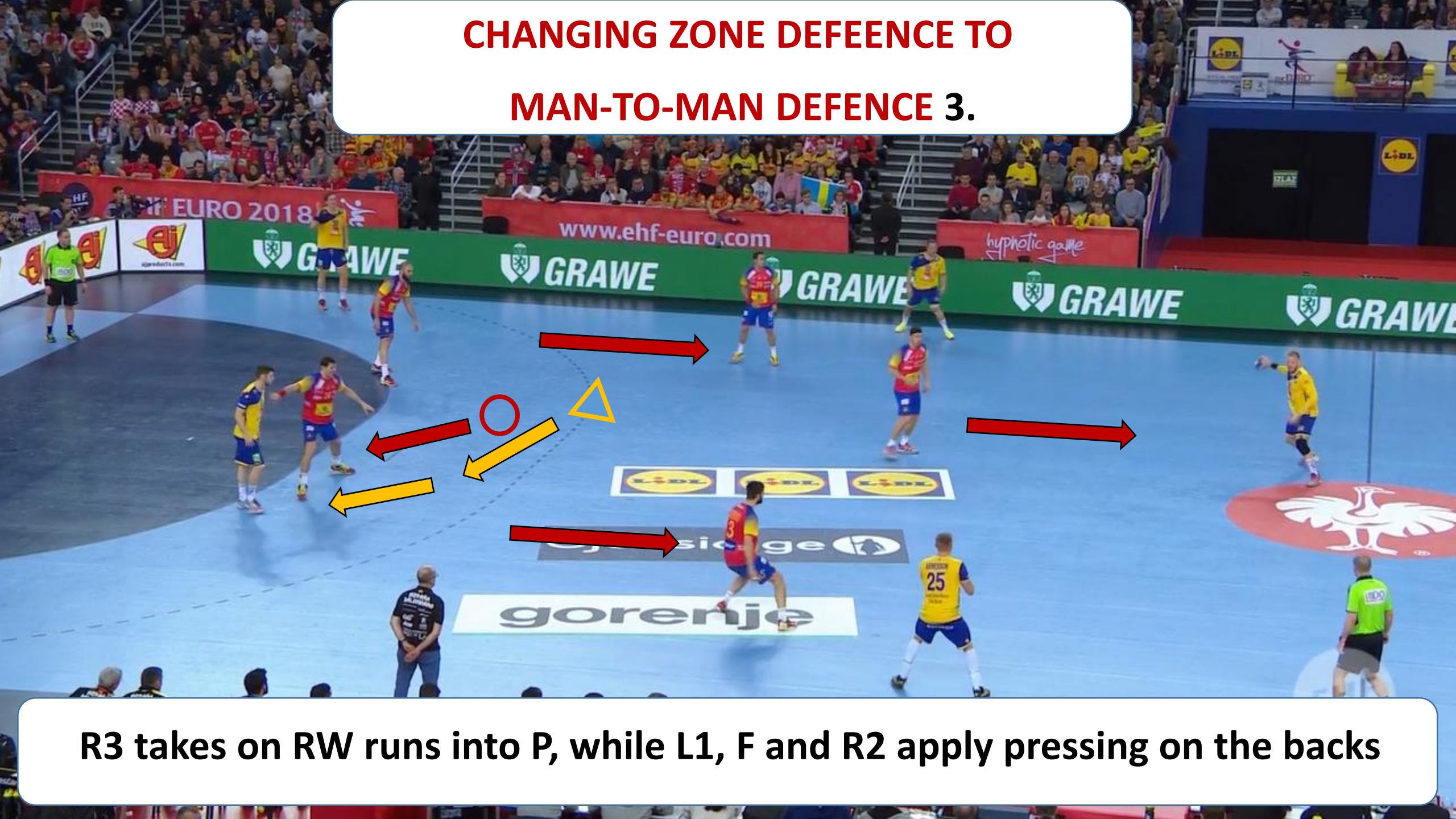
L1 covers RW 1 on 1 and follows him towards the back court

CHANGING ZONE DEFEENCE TO MAN-TO-MAN DEFENCE 2.



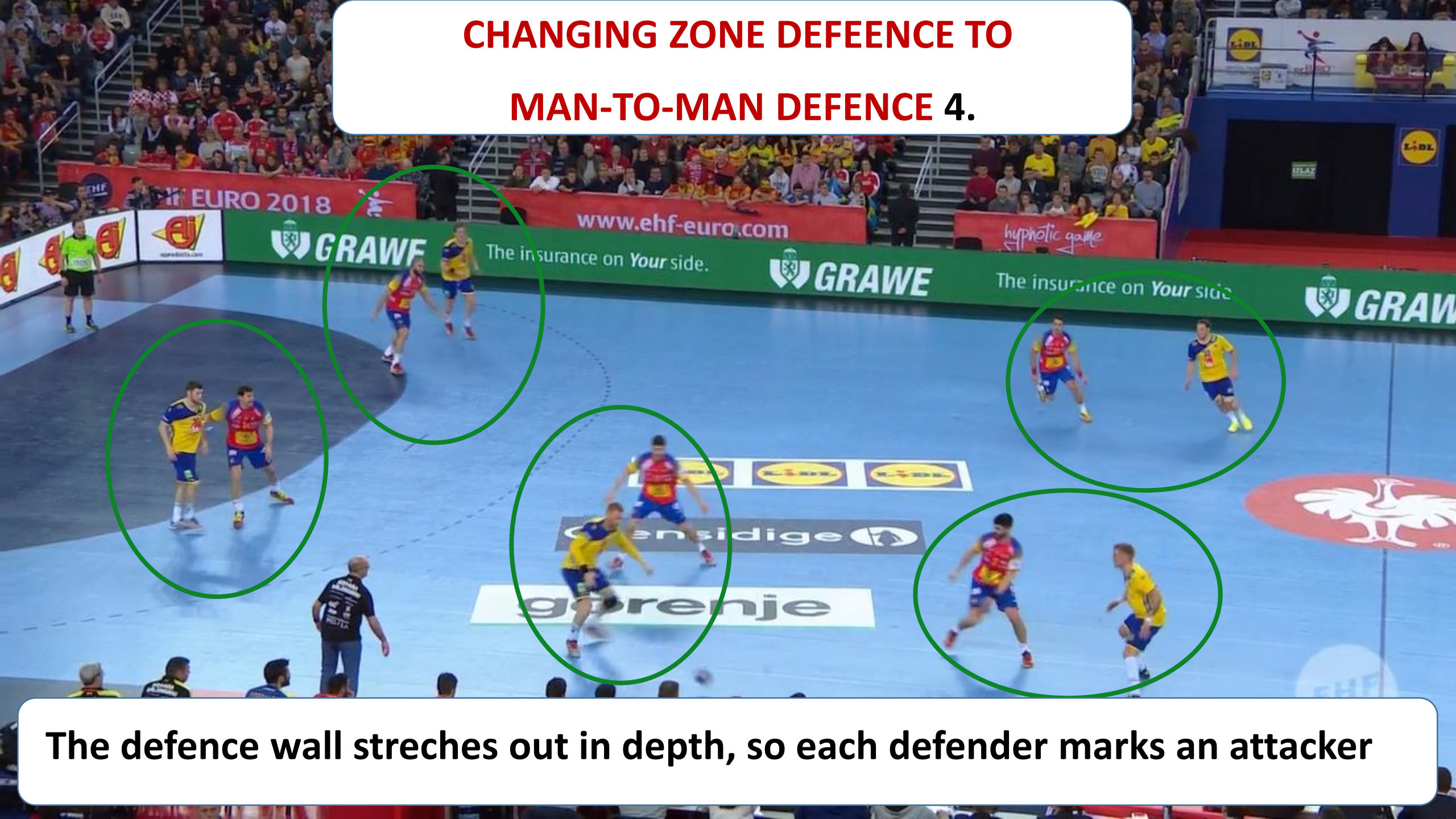
When RW runs-into the defence wall, L1 switches to RB

CHANGING ZONE DEFEENCE TO MAN-TO-MAN DEFENCE 3.



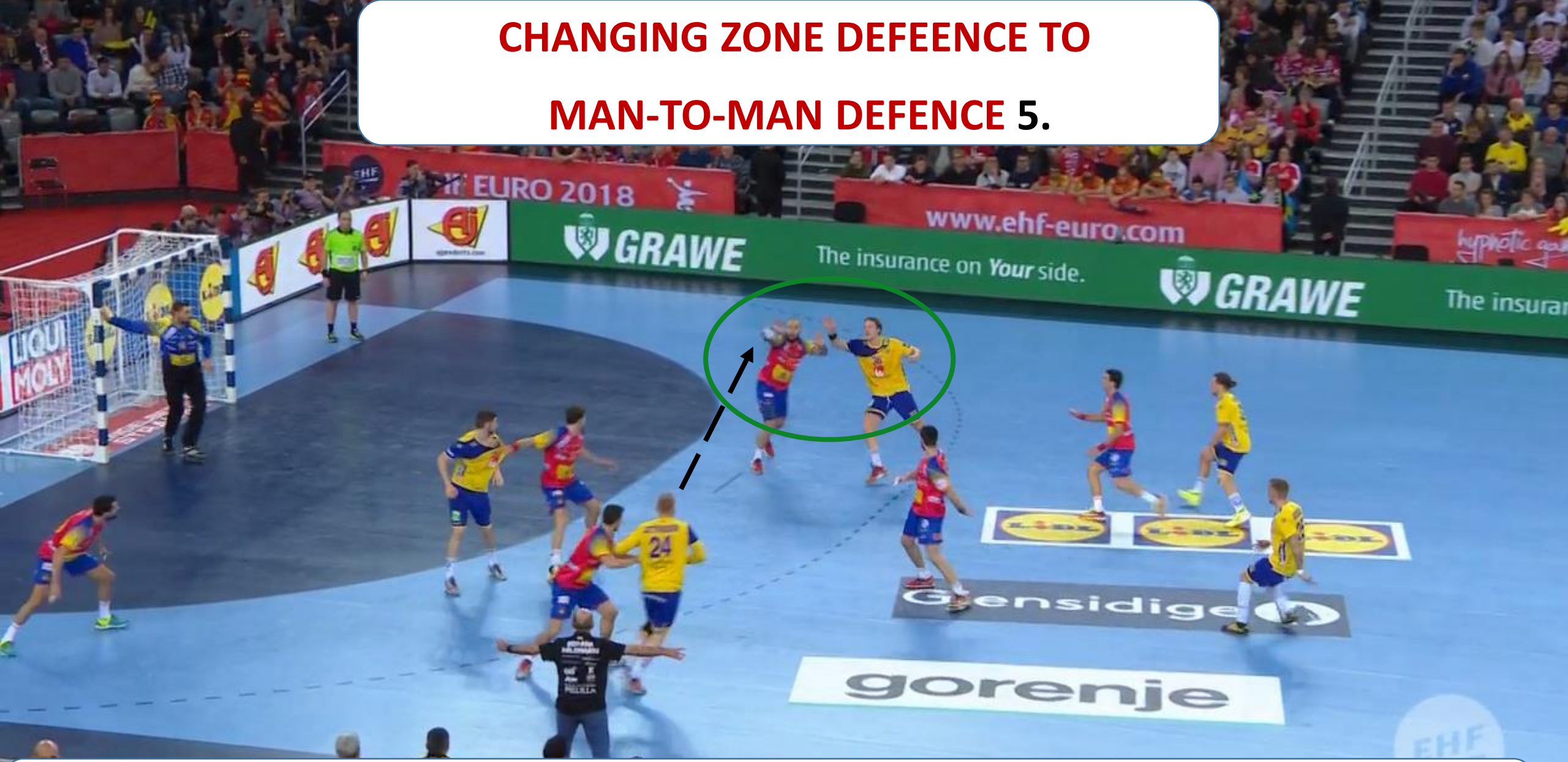
R3 takes on RW runs into P, while L1, F and R2 apply pressing on the backs

CHANGING ZONE DEFEENCE TO MAN-TO-MAN DEFENCE 4.



The defence wall streches out in depth, so each defender marks an attacker

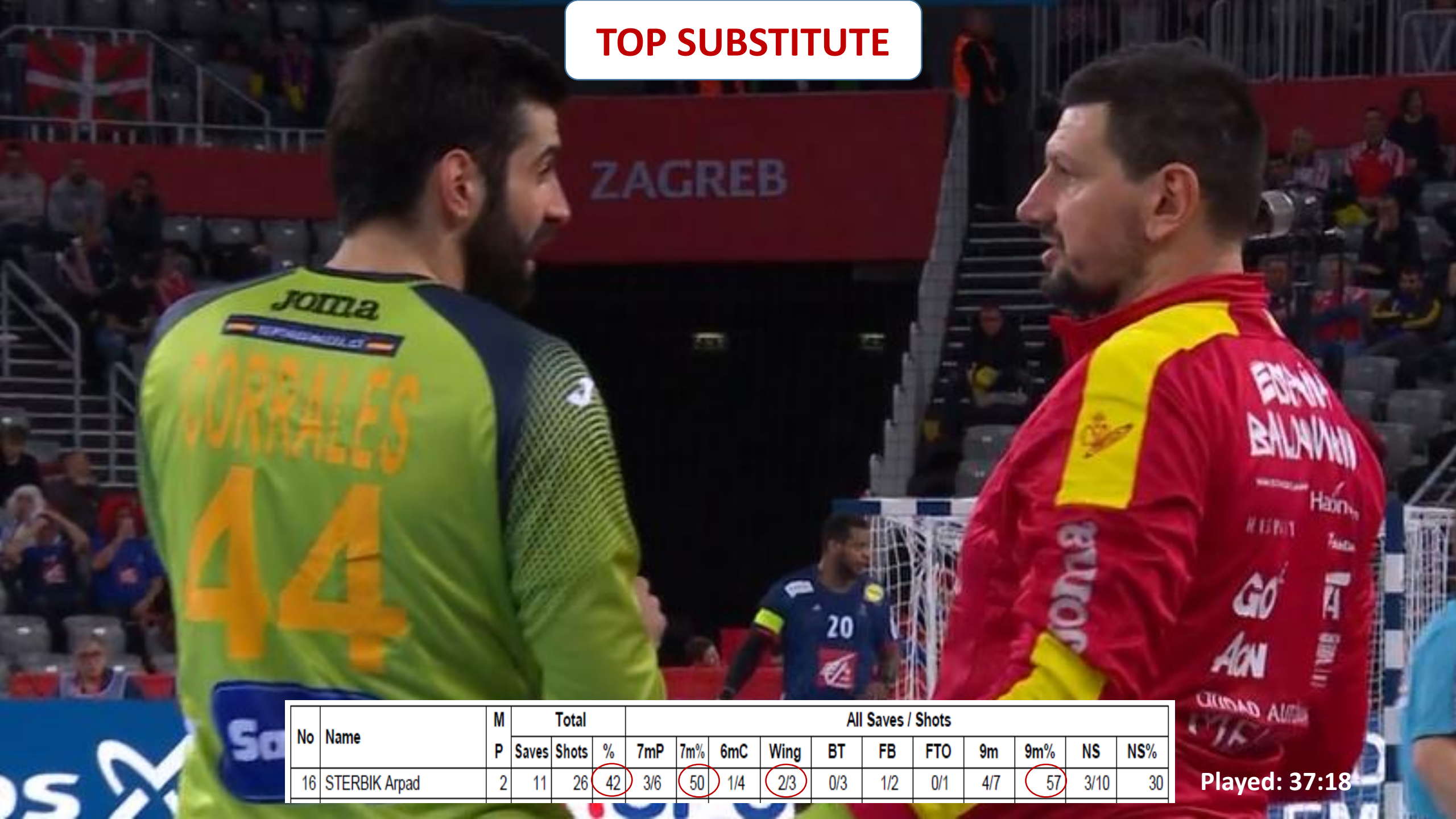
CHANGING ZONE DEFEENCE TO MAN-TO-MAN DEFENCE 5.



…forcing them to make an error


BEST DEFENDING PAIR
AND
MORROS
199 / 99
GUARDIOLA
200 / 103

TOP SUBSTITUTE



No	Name	M	Total			All Saves / Shots										
		P	Saves	Shots	%	7mP	7m%	6mC	Wing	BT	FB	FTO	9m	9m%	NS	NS%
16	STERBIK Arpad	2	11	26	42	3/6	50	1/4	2/3	0/3	1/2	0/1	4/7	57	3/10	30

Played: 37:18

Summary

- Outside defenders moving up – making the defence more compact in the middle
- Half defenders dare to fall out in depth and change positions if needed
- Change the basic defence set up – applying a flexible defence
- Responding well to running-ins, thus defending well against two pivots
- Retreating well, reducing the chance of conceding easy fast break goals
- Defending well 5vs6 – being shorthanded is not always a disadvantage
- Solid goalkeeper performance and good goalkeeper - defender cooperation
- Defending well 1 vs1 is still crucial – strength, mobility, anticipation are needed
- Strong defending pair in the middle – giving the whole defence strength and stability