

Open in app ↗

≡ Medium

🔍 Search

✍ Write



Welcome Offer Access to everything. Now up to 60% off. [Upgrade now](#)

Italian national starting team composition vs Venezuela



Kobe Stowe 3 min read · Mar 24, 2024







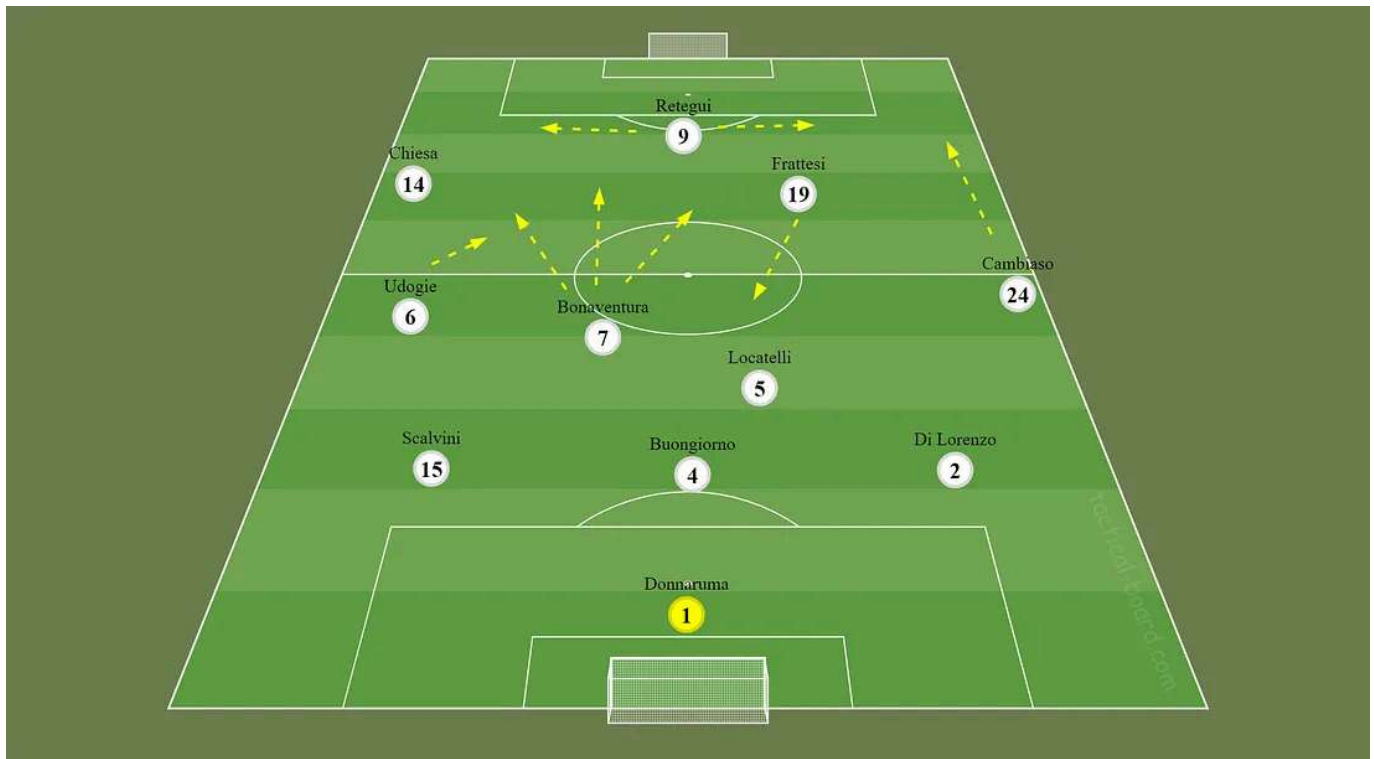
On March 21st 2024, Italy and Venezuela played each other for the first time in their history at Chase Stadium, Fort Lauderdale. Italy emerged 2–1 winners thanks to a Retegui brace whilst Darwin Machis got on the scoresheet for his home country.

Italy lineup and starting formation:

3–4–2–1



And going forward this is how roughly their positions were:



Donnaruma had three Centre backs ahead of him which makes it easier to build up play from the back than a two Centre back system. The three CB's also allows the Wingbacks in this system to play higher where they can connect better with their teammates. Locatelli, the deepest midfielder plays close to the CB's to help progress the ball up the pitch. He's a patient player and coupled with his passing ability and vision, he's able to spot players in open positions and play the pass needed with good precision. Because the wingbacks are also pushed fairly high, there's plenty space ahead of both Scalvini and Di Lorenzo both whom are encouraged to advance in these spaces with or without the ball to create overloads. Depending on which side of the attack, Locatelli will slot into either LCB or RCB.

Medium dot calm.
Longer reads. Deeper breaths.

Upgrade today

Bonaventura plays higher in the midfield two as he supports the attack with his forward runs, offering himself as a passing option whilst working tirelessly off the ball with his pressing. Italy favored the left flank a majority of the match, so often Bonaventura would drift left to combine with Udogie, who as a wingback in this system, played more narrow than his counterpart Cambiaso on the opposite flank and Chiesa who hugged the byline. A natural right footer, he would cut inside and look for a passing option to create an opportunity for someone or for himself. Frattesi playing slightly narrow at times, to allow space for Cambiaso to play forward, would drop deep into Centre midfield as a passing option for Locatelli and look to turn and try getting the ball into Retegui or Cambiao to start creating chances.

Retegui was the lone striker and therefore the focal point of the attack. whenever Donnaruma had no short passing options, the goal was to go long and find Retegui who displayed competent hold up ability and drawing necessary fouls to drive his team up the pitch.

Defensively, Italy lined up this way:



Udogie and Cambiaso would drop back into the defensive line to create a back five. Udogie, who naturally plays narrow on the ball would always be in the ideal position to win the ball back via a counter-press if the team lost possession. blessed with speed and an acute sense of danger, he can snuff out opportunities should the Bonaventura and attacking trio press should fail. The front three together are very mobile and very willing pressers and are backed up by Bonaventura, who is a very energetic player. Locatelli is less so and could struggle to cover any ground, and lose out in the physical battle if left exposed. The back three itself is sound as they can deal with aerial threats but can be found wanting against faster more agile attackers as Scalvini and Buongiorno aren't very quick and Di Lorenzo is a fullback by trade and isn't a CB.

Credit goes to Tactical Board Online for the diagrams

Soccer

Football

Soccer Analytics

Football Analytics



Written by Kobe Stowe

0 followers · 2 following

Edit profile

No responses yet



Kobe Stowe

What are your thoughts?

Recommended from Medium





In Write A Catal... by Dr. Patricia Schmidt... · Jan 14



Lorenzo Fumagalli · Apr 16

As a Neuroscientist, I Quit These 5 Morning Habits That Destroy You...

Most people do #1 within 10 minutes of waking (and it sabotages your entire day)

57K 1300 423

...



Saundzo · Dec 30, 2025

Technical details for 1v1 defending

Analysis is in reference to (PREP F.A.S.T) framework;

67 3

...



David Sumpter · Mar 19

Forget Jamie Carragher! Find a dental student to present football...

Home advantage in football: does it actually matters? A data driven...

Does Home Advantage Really Matter in Football? A Data-Driven Look

...



CR Scouts · Mar 9

Scouting Centre Backs

The primary role of a centre back is to defend the area surrounding their goal; the penalty...

...



AB17 · Jun 10

No World Cup for Portugal!

“Hey man, what are you saying?”

The first thing I asked Mohamed Dawoud,
when he expressed an interest in joining...



 57



See more recommendations