

# FIFA 09 GUIDE

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## Be a Pro: Seasons

Be A Pro mode is designed to test your skills as you take the reigns of one player for the entire game. If you understand your Pro's position and where to be and what to do then you will do well. However if you are not really sure, no worries - the game is designed with several graphic clues to assist you on what to do and where to be.

The camera is unique in this mode in that it follows your player and at the same time shows enough of the field to see the play. You can use the PRO camera in conjunction with the radar to track all the movement in the game.

Each position in the lineup has specific objectives and it varies per position. For strikers / forwards / wingers it is all about scoring goals.

For midfielders correct positioning, passing, organizing play and tackling are the key.

For defenders the key is to prevent goals, obviously, and score high on your tackling and jostling.

There are also many indicators to help assist you in game to direct your player to play and position better.

The "in game" indicators are as follows;

### The Player Indicator

A red arrow stays over the head of your player at all times in this mode making it easy to identify him at all times.



Wayne Rooney is shown with the indicator arrow over his head.

### The Position Indicator

These are yellow arrows shown on the pitch at the feet of your player pointing in the direction your player needs to get go.

3 yellow arrows means he is far out of position, 2 arrows means he is getting closer, one arrow means he is getting in the vicinity and no arrows means you are in the generally correct position.

In this example you will see Wayne Rooney is told to get back up into the attack after dropping to help on defense.



The three arrows indicates that he has some ground to cover to get there and what direction he is needed for the position his is playing in that particular game!

### The Threat Indicator

The threat indicator is a red ring on the ground around a player or players that are an immediate threat for one reason or another. In the graphic you will see Wayne Rooney positioned ahead of the player marked with a red ring on the ground.





Rooney moves into position to defend and ends up winning a header off the goal kick.

### **In Game Action Indicator**

(Action are: Shots, Passes, Dribbles, Tackles, Jostle)

As your player performs an action successfully in the game, he will receive match ratings points for executing that action.



This skill shows up as a green "+" on the progress bar if successful, with the name of the skill on top. However, if for example your pass is intercepted by your opponent, the same indicator shows up as a red "-" and points are subtracted.

### Call for Pass or Through Ball

With the press of a button you can immediately call for the ball. When you do you will see a call out bubble with a soccer ball in it appears over your player's head. You will often see him raise his arm.



Be prepared, because your teammates will do all they can to give you the ball right away. If they take your advice, you will receive points even if the pass fails. If they ignore you, you will lose points. Franck Ribery calls to his teammate for a through ball and puts his arm forward to indicate where he wants the pass. Be careful when calling for the pass as your teammates will immediately try to make this pass, even if they are facing the wrong way, or are off balance. Try to wait until you see a good passing lane before calling for the ball. Be creative with your runs. As a forward/midfielder always look for dangerous space behind the defensive line. Try to bend your run to stay outside and call for the through pass.

### Call for Defender

With yet another simple push of the button you can call in another defender to assist you in a tough situation.



Ronaldinho calls for assistance. Look for instances where there is a teammate nearby before activating this control. You don't want to drag a play way out of position just to help you out.

### Offsides Flag

The example shown is a play where Manchester United has created a turnover. As Rooney ran towards the sidelines he was slightly offside. This is clearly indicated by the offside flag that appears over your Pro's head.



Make sure you do not call for the ball when you are offside or you will lose points. Once your player gets back onside then the flag disappears.

### Performance Bar

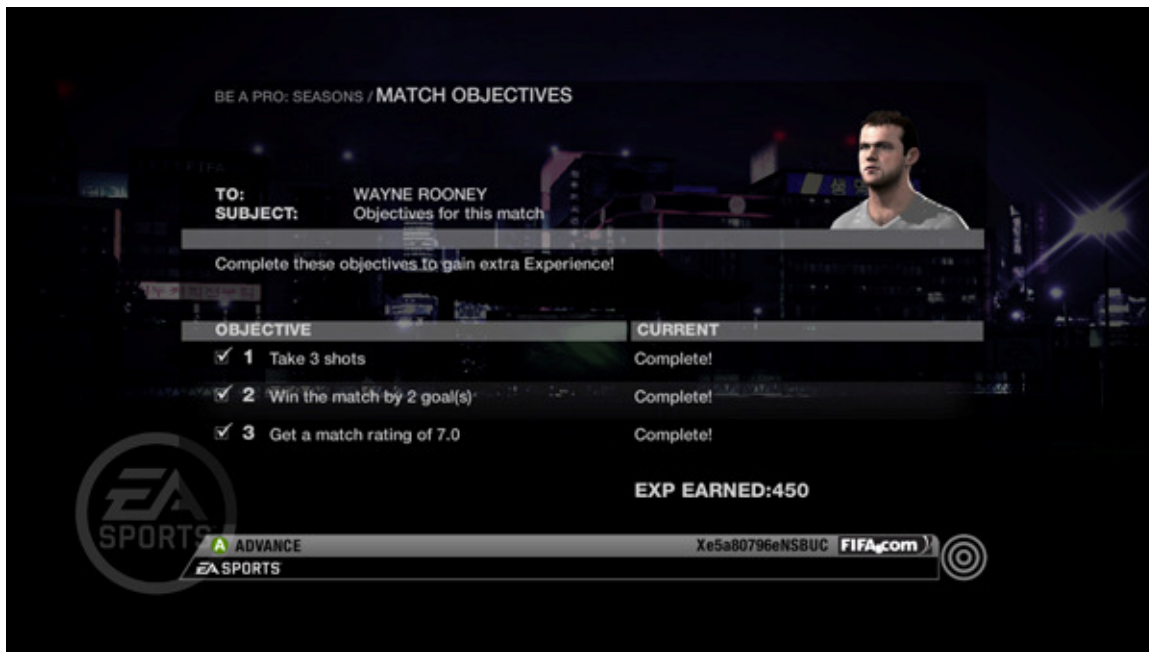
This is a progress bar located in the lower center of the screen showing how well overall your player is performing.



The more green that is showing on the bar, the better your pro is performing. The more red showing, the more you need to step up your game! Your Match Rating will be determined by the status of this bar at game's end.

## Pro Performance

Several actions are monitored. Your pro's stats are shown both at half time and the end of the game.



Those skills are: Goals, Shots on Target, Passes Completed, Dribbles Completed, Tackles Won, Experience Earned, Game Rating, Ranking (First, Second or Third), Overall Rating, Match Objectives. These two screen shots show both a "Pro Performance" and a sample of required "Match Objectives".

Now that we have the basics of Be A Pro mode down, let's take a look at each position group and how to play them.

## Positions

### Center Back

The Defensive Leader! This is the true captain on defense. He is the key player for picking up attackers in the center of the field and always just be aware potential threats to his goal. He is the key man in setting the depth of the defensive. This player is typically very strong and in a diamond defensive shape takes on a Sweeper role. The center back is usually great in the air for headers and is like a wall to get through on the ground. When you are running a flat four defense with a pair of center backs, the two work in tandem to pick up any attackers in the middle of the field. The two are also ready to mark players that are making through runs or receiving crosses from the wings. When you play this

position, be careful about venturing too far down the field. You are the last line of defense!

*On the Field:*



Maurice Edu notices the ball about to go over the wing back. He quickly starts heading back to cover in case the forward can get to it and start an attack.



The forward misses the ball as well and starts to attack Edu to try and get the ball back.



Edu calmly settles the ball. As the center midfielder makes a run to space Edu passes the ball to him on the run allowing his team to build the attack once again.



In this second example Edu is still playing the role of the center back. This time he was called over to assist the wing back with a build up from the opposition that was threatening the wing.

The attacker eludes his wing back and sprints towards the top of the box hoping to get a shot on goal.





Edu takes no chances and after noticing the forward knock the ball just a little too far ahead, slides in. Edu gets the ball and knocks it safely away.



The opponent is launched into the air as Edu's teammate takes off with the ball. The referee motions to play on, no foul!

### **Wing Back**

The Defensive Outlet! This player must be very skilled with the ball, fast and strong. His primary role is to stop the threat of the wing attack looking to cross the ball. The key for this player is not to dive in on attack too soon unless he is sure he will get the ball. Otherwise the defense is now vulnerable from the wing for a good cross or shot. The key to this position is that the player must read the forward wing attacker well and jockey until a good opportunity to make the tackle arises. When not in possession of the ball, position this player between the ball and the goal at all times. When in possession of the ball the wing defender should check back and push to the touchline to give the central defenders an outlet to relieve pressure. He should look to start the build up of the attack with the midfield.

#### *On the Field:*

In the first example, Maurice Edu plays the outside Wing Back. As the attack got under way he was able to push up almost to midfield.



The wing was shut down on the direct attack by the defense and there were no immediate outlet players around him. Edu calls for the ball.



The forward acknowledges Edu and plays a big ball back to him.



Maurice then gets a midfielder to open up and plays the ball to him. The attack builds up once again and most important of all, the Rangers maintain possession of the ball.



In this second example, Edu again is playing the outside wing defender on the left side. The opponent's right wing forward positions himself behind Edu, actually in an offside position.



Once the ball is played to the forward, Edu closes down the space between him and the player. He puts pressure on the forward immediately.



The player's first touch is a little too far and Edu goes in for a slide tackle. Always make sure to tackle from the front/side. He does just that and the result finds the ball out for a throw in and the forward looking up noticing how nice the sky looked that day!

### **Defensive Midfielder**

The Stopper! This player is usually the first line of the defense. He is the key to stopping the big shot on goal. When in possession of the ball he starts the build up of attack and acts as the transition to the midfield and forwards. Also known as the holding midfielder this central midfielder is stationed in front of the defenders and behind the midfielders. His responsibilities are to hold back the attack from coming down the middle before the opponent gets to his defenders. Once he gains possession of the ball he is skilled at getting it to the more attack oriented players.

*On the Field:*



The first example shows a goal kick about to happen. Daniele De Rossi calls for the ball as the defensive midfielder.



Once the ball arrives he traps the ball turns and beats the opponent who has come up on him to steal the ball.



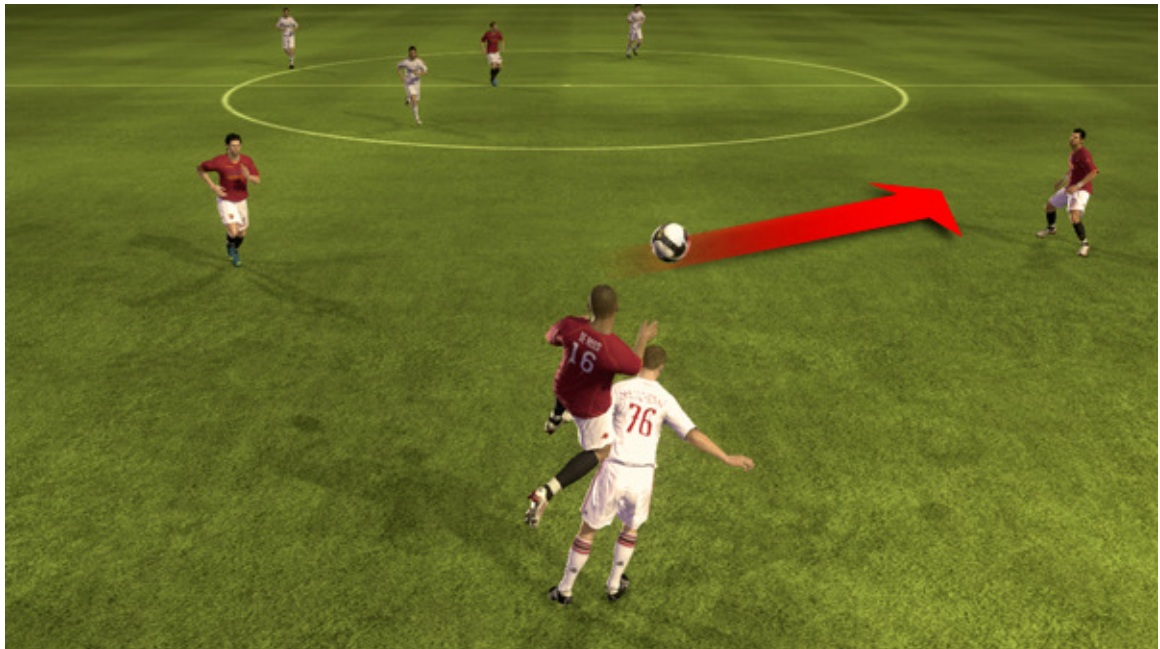
He spots the attacking midfielder checking towards him and makes a successful pass. The attacking mid turns and heads on to build the attack.



In the second example De Rossi notices there is an unmarked player that has drifted in behind him. He has not been picked up by a defender.



Before the opponent takes the free kick De Rossi gets goalside of the attacker.



Once the ball is played he goes up strong, wins the header and plays the ball to the feet of his teammate. This gets the attacking moving down the touchline. By slipping in behind the attacker he was able to get the upper hand and get a better view of the ball being played. This led to his success in creating the turnover and eliminating the threat on his goal.

### **Attacking Midfielder**

Another Crafty Playmaker! His role is very similar to the playmaking center forward with the only difference being the added responsibility to assist the midfield in stopping the attack and the defensive responsibility to create turnovers. He is positioned just ahead of the midfield, also known as "the hole" and works with the wings and striker to manipulate the defense. The attacking midfielder role requires a player that possesses good technical ability, an eye for holes to exploit in the defense, a strong shot, and great dribbling skills. This player must always keep looking to push forward to assist the strikers and forwards in generating goals.

*On the Field:*

In the first example Ronaldinho plays the attacking midfielder position.



The center forward has come back to receive a pass which draws in his defender.



Ronaldinho overlaps from midfield into a very sizable hole in the center of the defense.





He receives the pass on stride, squares his shoulders and takes a shot on goal. The opportunity came from the center forward pulling out the defender and creating a large hole that the attacking minded midfielder was quick to exploit. When you see your forwards make these types of check backs, take your player and run into the space while calling for a pass.

In the second example Ronaldinho is once again playing the attacking midfielder role.



He receives a pass back from the winger teammate, settles the ball, and pushes the ball forward.



As the striker pulls out of the attack, again pulling the defender out, the winger also runs towards the touchline creating a hole again in the defense.



Ronaldinho finds space created by his teammates, pushes hard into that space and gets a good look at the goal outside the 18-yard box. He is able to get a quality opportunity on goal.

### **Center Midfielder**

The Work Horse! This is the leader on the field, orchestrating attacks and defensive plays. Central midfielders play several roles on the pitch, and are probably the most crucial to the initial build up of the attack. Their position enables them to have the best view of the overall game, and since most of the action takes place in the middle of the field, midfielders have the greatest degree of control over how a match is played. Commanding central midfielders are the heartbeat of any team. From the center position there are endless possibilities to generate attacks.

*On the Field:*



In the first example Ronaldinho is playing the center midfield position. The defense gets a turnover so he moves to space to receive a pass from the defender.



He then simply turns and receives the ball.



He then quickly pivots and starts the counterattack by playing the ball through to the center forward.

In this particular play Ronaldinho takes on the role of the transition man between the defense and the forwards.



In the second example of a central midfielder role, Ronaldinho notices the striker running across the pitch. At the same time the left midfielder running to the left draws several defender's attention.



He in turn makes the overlap into space. The striker hits a no-look back heel pass that puts the ball right on Ronaldinho's stride.



He plays a one-touch ball to the left winger making a great slashing run across the field. The winger gets the ball into the danger area of the opponent and is now threatening the goal.

One position moving correctly made room for another. This is great combination play. The back heel did not allow the defenders in this case any forewarning that the pass would be made. Since they had less time to react, the chance creation ended in a goal.

### **Outside Midfielder**

The Overlapping Attacker! Outside midfielders have the demanding role of getting up in to the crossing zones as well as getting back and preventing the opponent's attack as well. Usually used when there is only a striker up top, these outside midfielders help keep width in the attack and pose a constant threat for launching crosses into the box. He is usually a deadly crosser of the ball. He does not rely on trickery to dribble past opponents to cross from the wide zones (located between the 18 yard box and the touchline on both sides of the pitch). Instead he uses his pace and passing ability to set up attacks. Frequently he overlaps with other players to get open on the wing as his primary role is to get dangerous

crosses launched in. He also provides an outlet in case things get clogged up with too many players in the middle of the field.

*On the Field:*



In the first example, Franck Ribery is playing the outside right midfielder in this line up. After a great build up of one touch passes, the center forward plays the ball to the striker making a nice run to the outside.



Once the striker receives the ball, Ribery sees he is well marked by several defenders. Ribery checks down the line and calls for a pass back.



As soon as the ball gets to him he plays a one time cross into the box for a high quality scoring opportunity. This catches several defenders off guard that were marking the striker.

This releasing cross found several open players in the box and most importantly created a huge opportunity out of a play that was closed down.



The second example shows the center forward receiving a pass. He is extremely well covered. Franck Ribery finds space out wide as the left wide midfielder this time.



The center forward manages to maintain possession and one-touch passes the ball to him.



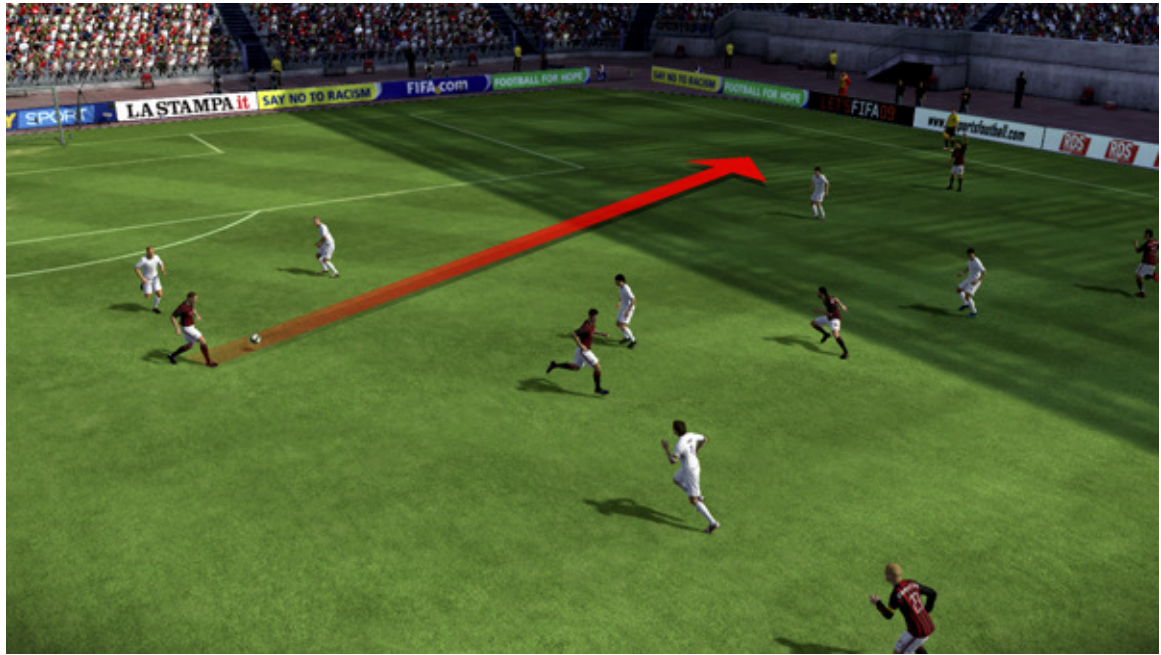
Ribery gets a great cross off into the box where a teammate strikes a quality ball on goal forcing the keeper to make a full stretch save. This simple play took a situation with no play at all and by using the wide outside midfielder for relief turned it immediately into a very dangerous scoring opportunity.

### **Wing Attacker / Forward**

The Server! These players work in tandem with the strikers and the center forwards to find a way through the opponent's defense. The wing attacker plays the width of the field forcing the defense to have to mark wide. Their primary strength lies in the ability to attack the wings into the crossing zones and feed dangerous balls into box for opportunities on goal. The wing attacking forward is also skilled at shooting and finishing and looks for opportunities to overlap with other forwards making them tough to mark. His skill also lies in the ability to beat the defender one on one and head to goal for a layoff or strike of his own.



*On the Field:*



The first play shows Ronaldinho on the right wing as a forward. Two defenders have the striker marked so he calls for the ball to be played wide down the line in front of him. The striker plays it ahead of him out of the reach of the defender.



Ronaldinho takes the ball and heads down the line into space.



He sends a quality cross into the penalty spot where the center forward has made a run. The forward gets a header and puts it in the back of the net.



In the second scenario Ronaldinho, still playing the right wing attacking forward, prepares to receive a goal kick. He calls for the ball as he runs into the open space.



As the ball approaches he goes up strong in front of the defender who has come in to defend him. His effort wins the header.



He heads the ball to a nearby teammate who one-touches it back to him on a full sprint towards the opponent's goal.

Some simple creativity led to great scoring opportunities. The wing attacker is extremely good at determining whether the play calls for the ball to be laid off to another teammate better positioned to score, or if he can get the quality look at the goal on his own.

### **Center Forward**

The crafty playmaker! The center forward is not the striker, but has a different specialty. His role is not to be the goal scoring machine, but rather to set the stage for great goal scoring opportunities. He too is a great goal scorer, but he works in tandem with the Striker and wings attackers to find gaps in the defense. The center forward plays in the hole between the midfielders and the striker. He is usually good with picking out other players on the run, usually very fast and possesses great ball control. Often this is the #10 player. He is probably the hardest player on the field for the opposition's defense to mark. His stealth like quality comes from his ability to sit behind the strikers to locate and exploit gaps in the opponent's defense. Usually by the time the opponent's defense locates and accounts for him, it is too late!

## *On the Field*

In the stills you will see Wayne Rooney set back from the striker in the middle of the field receiving a pass. The striker is making a cross field run as the opposition's stopper and midfielders are focused on Rooney, and not the striker.

At the perfect time before the striker is offside, Rooney plays a firm through ball pass on the ground into space.



The striker receives the pass and like a quality striker muscled past the last defender and heads to goal for a one-on-one with the keeper.

Rooney's role as center forward had him wisely trailing the play. In case of a turnover he would be in a good position to try to win the ball back. He is also in ideal position to stick a rebound back into the net. This particular time there is no need, as the striker did his job!



In the next example you will notice Wayne Rooney this time overlapping the strike, and asking for a through ball pass from the midfielder. He takes the ball down the wing as the striker peels off and heads to the middle of the box.



Rooney and the striker have forced the single defender into a choice of who to guard. The defender chooses Rooney. Seeing the commitment, Rooney plays a firm pass on the ground across the top of the 6 yard box.



All that is left is a nice clean far post touch by the striker; a simple yet beautiful goal.

### **Striker**

The goal-scoring machine! Simply put, this player has one job to do for your team and that is to put the ball in the back of the net. He must be strong enough to hold off a defender with one arm while skillfully maintaining control of the ball. This very crafty player constantly seeks out holes or weaknesses in the opponent's defense. His job also is to stay pushed forward as much as possible and keep the defensive line honest about their positioning. Be very conscious of this players' position so as not to be caught offside, especially if your opponent tends to play a very high defensive line (near the middle of the field). This player is often used as a target for a one touch strike on goal from a cross (with all parts of his body) or is the recipient of a brilliantly fed through ball timed to perfection.

Upon a turnover or the opposing team's short outlet goal kick, the striker should pursue the defenders and force them to play the ball where he wants them to go. This works especially well when running a dual striker formation to cut off potential passing lanes and force the opponent to play into your strengths and

away from theirs. With the striker you also have to know when a simple controlled finish is needed, like on a break away or in tight on the goal. Other times a laser strike is needed when 2 defenders just give enough of a hole to pull the trigger. Often times the striker does not score the pretty goals, he is purely in the business of getting the job done. On the other hand, every once in awhile magic happens!

*On the Field:*



In this game Wayne Rooney is positioned as a single striker. The first scenario shows Rooney having the center midfielder play a ball to his feet as he finds space just beyond the last wing defender.



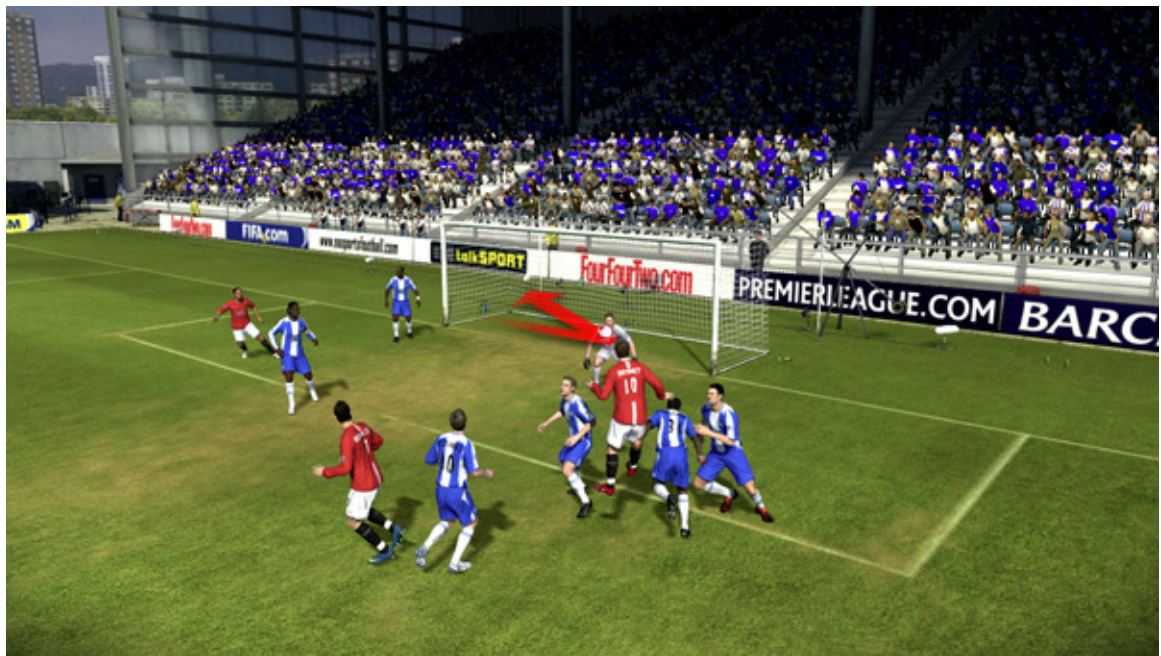
He takes the ball and heads right to goal. The opposite side defender comes in on him to try to keep Rooney from getting the shot off.



Rooney fakes the shot, drags the ball past the defender and launches the ball past the keeper. This example shows how the striker will use great individual effort to stretch the opponent's net!



The second example shows how Rooney on a corner kick sneaks to the far back post and starts a run.



He locates some space in between the defenders and muscles his way through to make the header happen.



A key asset to being a good striker is being a great finisher. Rooney takes aim at the open side of the net and directs his powerful header past the helpless keeper.