

DUTCH SOCCER SECRETS

HYBALLA / TE POEL

COACHING - TACTICS - TECHNIQUES
INTERVIEWS WITH TOP-LEAGUE TRAINERS
GAMES + COACHING PHILOSOPHY

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SPORT

Dutch Soccer Secrets

*For both my sons Nils and Jens, and my wife Isabel,
who allowed me to have "so much free time" to write this book.
God bless my deceased father Egon, my mother Elisabeth,
and my uncle Hans te Poel who recently passed away
for the many fruitful discussions and arguments we had
about national and international pro soccer.*

Hans-Dieter te Poel

*Dit boek draag ik op aan duits-nederlandse ouders
En aan Opa en Oma Verhoef!*

Peter Hyballa

*Thanks to my friend, Peter!
Thanks to my friend, Hans-Dieter*

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Peter Hyballa & Hans-Dieter te Poel

Dutch Soccer Secrets

Playing and Coaching Philosophy –
Coaching – Tactics – Technique



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1 In the Netherlands, the verb *kaatsen* has a general meaning of "hitting the ball." However, in Dutch playing and training practice, *Kaatsem* has a specific meaning referring to the technique of "one touch" ball contact in all possible directions of play and is linked to searching for new running positions. For this reason, the term is retained throughout the book.

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Foreword



I am delighted to be asked to write the foreword for this very interesting book about various visions & strategies of developing young players. In my search to become the coach that I am at this present moment I have asked myself the following questions a lot. Why do I, as a coach, do the things that I do? Why do I train young players the way I do? And is this the right way? Why do I train youth players, and senior players in a different way? What is right? Where lies the truth? What is the truth? Plenty of questions to think about. Plenty of questions that set me out on a journey to discover what in my opinion are important key factors when it comes to identifying talent, developing potential and building successful teams.

Looking back on my road to discovery I can truly say that I can identify myself with every level in football. In my 30 year long coaching career I have worked at all levels in football. From the lowest Amateur teams to the highest and one of the most successful professional teams in the world, Manchester United. I have worked with U-7 and U-8 age groups all the way up to U-18's. I have worked with boys & girls alike of moderate levels all the way up to young talented internationals to the top professionals of Manchester United with the likes of Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Cristiano Ronaldo to mention just a few. This work along the spectrum of football has enabled me to create the strong beliefs that I hold about identifying talent, developing potential and building successful teams.

Football is the most popular sport in the world, played in all corners of the globe. Culture and history have always played an important part in the popularity of football all over the world. Many changes have taken place in the last 30 to 40 years. Ranging from the physical, tactical, mental and technical aspects. Teams at the highest levels are fitter then ever and tactically better drilled. However, the same aspect that has made the difference over so many years is still in tact. It is still the players who possess the skills to be unpredictable in attacking play that make the difference for the team and the result. That was the case when players like Pele, Beckenbauer, Best, Cruyff and Eusebio were playing, and is still the case now. Look at players like Messi, Ronaldo, Xavi and Giggs. Developing technical skilful players who are able to dominate their opponent as well as being unpredictable in forward play: That to me is the core and heartbeat of my beliefs and philosophy in identifying talent, developing potential and building successful teams.

The answers to my questions about developing the new generation of young players lies in my opinion in analyzing the best teams and players in the world. They are the best

because they make or have made the difference. In my search I spend many hours analyzing the qualities of the best teams of past and present. I also spent many hours trying to identify the qualities of the best players, past and present. Looking at the best defenders, midfield players and attacking players, I have identified the key qualities of successful teams and key qualities of world class players.

This information has formed the base and guidelines for my beliefs and philosophy that I have with regards to identifying talent, developing potential and building successful teams.

Kids of the modern era can't or don't play in the street or park as much. They grow up in a very fast and ever changing environment dominated by technology. Kids spend many hours in front of the TV playing the Wii, play station or Xbox live. Their eye-hand co-ordination is unbelievable, however their physical development stagnates.

Even more so that we all have an obligation to our current and next generation of young footballers that we provide them with the best possible environment and training methods, so they can enjoy the game and maybe become a future professional player that can meet the demands of the modern game.

Enjoy reading the various and different insights of all the professional people that have contributed to this interesting book. I hope it will help you on your journey to become the coach that you want to be with the beliefs that are YOURS!

Let's go and coach these kids!

*René Meulensteen
First Team Coach
Manchester United*

Authors' Foreword

The inspiration for writing our book *Dutch Soccer Secrets* is easy to identify: take two "soccer-mad" German soccer coaches, one raised in Westphalia (Germany) with a Dutch name and the other also raised in Westphalia with Dutch roots, both of whom are crazy about technique-oriented, creative and offensive soccer and who eagerly learn about and reflect critically on the ideal concept of our game that is afforded by an outstanding breeding ground of soccer talent.