The Dutch vision on Youth Development

Albert Stuivenberg

KNVB Academy
Introduction
Albert Stuivenberg

- National Team Coach u.17 boys
- Ass. National Team coach u.16 boys
- Instructor professional coaching course (TC I–UEFA A Youth)
- Former Head of the Academy Feyenoord Rotterdam
- 16 years of coaching experience in youth football
Dutch Secrets ??

Vision on:

- organisation/structure of football and competition
- player development
- coach education
The Netherlands

16.000.000 inhabitants

- Football = sport nr. 1
- 38 Professional clubs
- 3.000 Amateur clubs
- 1.100.000 Members
- 480.000 Youth players
- National office in Zeist and 6 District offices
  - 8 National staff coaches
  - 20 District staff coaches
  - 50 Regional Coaches

Influencing all youth coaches, officials and other volunteers in the 3,000 clubs
Organization Youth Leagues

Youth Leagues in each of 6 Districts and National

- u19
- u17
- u15
- u13
- u11
- u9
- u7
- u6

Organized Club football from the age of 5!
Youth Leagues
the best players play against the best

National Youth Leagues:

U19
U17
U15
U13

Premier

2x First Division

etc., etc.
The Dutch way

- Individual development and team development
- Youth development is a joined responsibility of the Association and the Clubs
- The best players play with the best against the best
- Talented players have about 6 training sessions and 1 or 2 competitive games per week.
- Well educated and football experienced coaches for talented players.
Vision on player development
Vision on Football

- What’s the aim of the game?
- What are the characteristics of the game?
- What is the structure of the game?
Football, what is it?

- Scoring
- Building up
- Preventing scoring
- Defending
- Attacking
- Transition

Transition

Adding Positive

Disturbing Building Up

Removing Negative
### Aim of the game:

**Winning**

### Team Functions:

attacking – defending – transition

### Team Tasks:

Building up and scoring/ disturbing and preventing scoring

### Actions in football

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting (of the core)</th>
<th>the core</th>
<th>Supporting (of the core)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insight in the game:</td>
<td>Actions of movements</td>
<td>Communication:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– individual player</td>
<td>with ball (technique)</td>
<td>– tuning of football actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– choices</td>
<td>without ball</td>
<td>– Cooperation of players on team level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– observing</td>
<td>– running into free space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– relation teamtask/ teamfunction</td>
<td>– squeezing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- passing
- receiving
- dribbling
- shooting
- heading
- sliding
- giving pressure
- marking
- cover
Youth Football Training???

What you train is what you get!!!!
Youth player development process

"developing football actions" (within attacking, defending and transition)

Age related characteristics

- **U6**: learning to control the ball
- **U7-U9**: goal-oriented actions with the ball
- **U10-U11**: learning to play goal-oriented together
- **U12-U13**: learning to play from a basic task as a team
- **U14-U15**: fine-tuning basic tasks as a team
- **U16-U17**: playing as a team
- **U18-U19**: learning to be competitive

Teams:
- 4 v 4
- 7 v 7
- 11 v 11
The Dutch Vision on Youth Training

- Football = attacking, defending and transition
- Learn the game by playing the game
- The several actions should not be separated
- Training sessions must be match related
  (exercises must include attacking and defending)
- Training is to simplify football
- Players have to solve football situations
- The coach must help the players to...
The Dutch Vision on Youth Football

GIVING SENSE IS THE KEY FOR MOTIVATION

Not: running for running
dribbling for dribbling
passing for passing

But: How, When and Why:
to run
to dribble
to pass

- Young Players need to recognize the Game and develop Skills to play together
Vision on coach education
Coaches

- Rinus Michels (Ajax, FC Barcelona, The Netherlands)
- Louis van Gaal (Ajax, FC Barcelona, The Netherlands 2008: AZ Alkmaar)
- Leo Beenhakker (Ajax, Real Madrid, The Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago 2008: Poland)
- Guus Hiddink (PSV, Valencia, The Netherlands, South Korea, Australia 2008: Russia)
- Dick Advocaat (The Netherlands (2x), PSV, Glasgow Rangers, South Korea 2008: FC Zenit, Russia)
# Developing Coaches

## Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>UEFA Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach Professional Football</td>
<td>experience</td>
<td>Professional Football</td>
<td>UEFA PRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainer-Coach I</td>
<td>experience</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>UEFA A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>UEFA B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainer-Coach II</td>
<td>experience</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Preliminary B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics coach development

Vision based on

- **Vision on football**: structure of the game is starting point (aim: winning the game)

- **Vision on coaching**: players themselves have to become more and more responsible for solving the football problems (dependent – independent)

- **Vision on education**: learning in a practical way.
Dutch Secrets ??

No!!!

But a clear vision/idea on:

- organisation/structure of football and competition
- player development
- coach education