

# THE TECHNICIAN

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**NEWSLETTER  
FOR COACHES**

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Frank Rijkaard gives instructions to his team's captain, Carles Puyol, during FC Barcelona's victorious UEFA Champions League final.

(PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES)

DAVID TREZEGUET  
PLAYED IN THE  
1997 FIFA WORLD YOUTH  
CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER  
GÉRARD HOULLIER,  
BEFORE MOVING  
UP TO THE SENIOR  
NATIONAL TEAM.

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# THE DA VINCI COACH

## EDITORIAL

BY ANDY ROXBURGH,  
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

When someone asks you: “Can he play?”, they are usually referring to a player’s technical qualities and his ability to read the game. But when they ask: “Can he coach?”, the question is much more complex because it depends on the coaching category and the specific role he plays. Although coaches come in many guises, they can be put into three general groups – front-line team managers, player developers, and coach educators. So what is the difference between the various branches of the coaching profession?

The high-profile prowlers of the technical area – club coaches such as Arsène Wenger (Arsenal FC) and Frank Rijkaard (FC Barcelona) or national coaches such as Otto Rehhagel (Greece) and Oleg Blokhin (Ukraine) – have the task of winning top-level games. In the entertainment age, most of the time this has to be achieved with style and panache if the wrath of the media and public is to be avoided.

Roy Hodgson, head coach of the Finnish national team, summed up the requirements when he said: “The modern coach needs a philosophy, an expert eye and intuition.” If we were building the winners’ profile, we could add that he must also be articulate, focused, mentally strong, intelligent, decisive, and energetic. The perceptive and lively Giovanni Trapattoni emphasised that the day-to-day coaching of a club was an entirely different proposition from handling a national team. The Italian master coach once pronounced: “With a club I was a sculptor, and with the national team I was a blender.”

In the field of player development, youth coaches, academy directors, technical trainers and grassroots organisers/teachers try to create a learning environment which nurtures young footballers. For me, the youth coach who works with talented players needs to be honest, open, passionate, fit, organised, patient, practical

(a man of the pitch), knowledgeable (a football and teaching expert), demanding, and, above all, young at heart. Working with the young can be an exhausting business, and the coach needs to match the players’ enthusiasm.

Academy directors, while playing the role of practical coach, also have overall responsibility for talent management. With the support of their staff, they must identify, attract, develop, manage, motivate and keep young players of potential at their club, guiding them along the road to football maturity. With elite youth players, either at a club or with the national youth squad, coaching is fundamentally an educational process. As Juan Santisteban, the excellent coach of the Spanish youth teams for the last decade, has often stated: “As usual, I was less concerned with results than with adding to the boys’ education.” Of course, coaches and players want to win, but not at the expense of a young player’s health and development. Those who work in grassroots football have a similar philosophy because the grassroots players’ welfare and enjoyment supersedes team outcomes – in fact, a win-at-all cost mentality has no place in the grassroots game or, for that matter, in elite youth football.

Technical directors, such as Sir Trevor Brooking (England) and Aimé Jacquet (France), oversee all aspects of technical work in their respective associations. One domain under their control is coach education, and in some countries this area is handled by a specialist coach education director: Andreas Morisbak (Norway) and Mariano Moreno (Spain) are two good examples of technicians who organise the training of student coaches, the reeducation of those in employment, and the further development of their own staff coaches. The Italian FA’s Franco Ferrari and the German FA’s Erich Rutenmüller are recognised as two of the best European coach educators, particularly in the coaching work they have done with Pro-licence candidates in their respective associations. Many coaches at top clubs in Italy and Germany will testify to the support and wise counsel they received from their ‘professors’ – football teachers who taught them how to coach rather than what to coach.

Few coaches have the necessary background or diverse interests to work in all categories of the coaching profession. Gérard Houllier, however, is one of the select few who immediately comes to mind when we talk of the ‘all-rounder’. The Lyon coach is the current champion of France; a UEFA Cup winner with Liverpool; a European youth champion with a team which included Thierry Henry, David Trezeguet and others; and a leading coach educator when he was technical director of the French Football Federation. Recently, the French newspaper *L’Equipe* asked me to describe Gérard’s coaching qualities. I described him as a “Da Vinci Coach” because of his expertise in the art and science of football, and because he has shown his ability to make an impact on all grades and sectors of the game. Seeing the big picture in football can be invaluable, as UEFA Champions League winners Sir Alex Ferguson and Louis van Gaal have shown over the years.

“Can he coach?”. Ultimately, the value of a coach depends on his ability to work in a particular coaching category and on how well he is able to perform in the specific role. Of course, certain fundamental skills are required by all coaches, including the ability to read the game. As Mario Zagallo once said: “A good coach is not the one who sees the game, but the one who reads the game.” Winning a title, although great, is not the only way to contribute to the success of the game. Or to put it another way: Not all coaches of value live in the media spotlight.



Gérard Houllier is a good example of a versatile coach.



## INTERVIEW

BY ANDY ROXBURGH,  
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



ROSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

**FC BARCELONA WERE CROWNED 2006 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS IN PARIS, AND THE SPOTLIGHT WAS MAINLY ON THEIR FOREIGN STARS, SUCH AS RONALDINHO, ETO'O, DECO AND LARSSON. WHAT MAY HAVE GONE UNNOTICED WAS THAT NINE OF THE BARÇA UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SQUAD WERE HOME-GROWN PLAYERS, INCLUDING CAPTAIN CARLES PUYOL, LIONEL MESSI, VÍCTOR VALDÉS AND ANDRÉS INIESTA. BARCELONA'S YOUTH ACADEMY HAS THEREFORE BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CLUB AND ITS SUCCESS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMME IS JOSÉ RAMÓN ALEXANCO, A STAR WITH FC BARCELONA FOR 13 YEARS. HIS RECORD INCLUDES CAPTAINING THE EUROPEAN CUP WINNING SIDE IN 1992, COLLECTING TWO EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUPS, FOUR SPANISH CUPS, FOUR SPANISH LEAGUE TITLES, TWO SPANISH SUPERCOPAS, AND TWO UEFA SUPER CUPS. THE MAN WHO STARTED OUT AT ATHLETIC BILBAO AND REPRESENTED THE BASQUE CLUB IN THE UEFA CUP FINAL AGAINST JUVENTUS PLAYED FOR LEGENDARY COACHES SUCH AS KUBALA, HERRERA, LATTEK, MENOTTI AND CRUYFF, BEFORE BEGINNING HIS COACHING CAREER UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF BARÇA LEGEND JOHAN CRUYFF. TODAY JOSÉ RAMÓN ALEXANCO USES ALL HIS EXPERIENCE AS A PLAYER, COACH AND SCOUT TO RECRUIT AND DEVELOP PLAYERS FOR FC BARCELONA. HE IS KNOWN TO HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS SIMPLY AS....**

# ALEX

### 1 • How would you describe FC Barcelona's development philosophy and goals?

The first thing is to develop a footballer – we are not looking for results. We try to develop the footballer and the person, both socially and intellectually. We are living and working with kids from 12 to 19 years and we have to be 'parents', teachers and coaches, and we know we have a responsibility for leading them correctly in social terms. We organise meetings with the parents, and it is very important that we explain to them what we are doing with their children during the hours we spend with them at the club. We get excellent support from all the parents because they know exactly what their children are doing at any given time.

### 2 • What is the organisation and structure of the Barça academy?

We have a coordinator who oversees the development of players between the ages of 10 and 15. They all get match play, but it is at the older level that you get more of a competitive element. We prepare them in the younger categories to be able to compete when they get older. It is at the 16 years and over stage that we concentrate on the technical, tactical and physical requirements which will equip them for the first team. The technical leaders of the club prepare the guidelines for all the training sessions. In the current first team squad, nine of the players have

come through the Barça academy programme. Young Lionel Messi, for example, arrived here from Argentina when he was 12 years old. His family came to Barcelona to live and, soon after, he started training with the club. At FC Barcelona, we have 12 boys' teams and eight women's teams, although the latter are in a separate section. In the academy, each squad has two coaches and there are 23 or 24 players in each group. At least half of the coaches have a UEFA Pro licence. The club provides the budget, around six million euros per year, and is fully responsible for the academy facilities and training programme.

### 3 • How do you deal with the grassroots and the recruitment process?

Firstly, we concentrate on technical/tactical work. We play football. We have a



**ALEXANCO CAPTAINED  
FC BARCELONA WHEN THEY  
WON THE EUROPEAN  
CUP WINNERS' CUP IN 1989.**



football school where kids can play from the age of six upwards – this is a grassroots phase below the academy structure, with 16 to 20 coaches working there. They all travel here to the club's training centre. We also have about 30 clubs throughout Catalonia that cooperate with us on a regular basis. There are also nursery teams which develop the grassroots. Barça has 25 scouts throughout Spain – at least one in each province. Elsewhere in Europe, we also have people who watch games and send us reports. Obviously scouting and recruitment are important parts of our job. At least twice a year, we bring all our scouts to Barcelona because it is important that they see the standard of work we do here. We hold workshops and explain the criteria and the quality we are looking for in young players.

#### 4 • What qualities do you look for in a young player?

We search for players with the extremely high standard that is required by this club. We look for pace, technique, and someone who looks like a player. The speed of decision-making, the way he approaches the game, the vision to pick off a long pass – in other words, the mental qualities to go with the technical

ability. These days, we do put an emphasis on speed because we think it is one of the fundamental qualities required, and when this speed is combined with top-quality technique, then we think we have the ingredients.

#### 5 • Cesc Fabregas was one of your talented academy boys. Why did he leave?

When a boy reaches 15 years old and his family decides to move residence, then under Spanish law he can go, and only a small amount of compensation for training and education can be claimed. Cesc Fabregas took advantage of this ruling and when he was 16 years old he simply moved to London with his parents. This was classed as a relocation of the family, and there was nothing we could do to stop him signing for Arsenal FC. We have just lost another two of our players – one to Manchester United and another one to Arsenal. The only thing we can do is to project the image of the Barcelona club to the youngster and his parents. We sell the idea that this is one of the best clubs in the world and let each player know that he has a great opportunity to develop by working with us. We try to create a wonderful environment for the players'



football education. We hope they will stay, but legally there is nothing we can do about it if they decide to move. Cesc Fabregas could very easily have been playing here in our first team, but all we can do is keep looking for talented players and creating the best conditions for their development.

#### 6 • What is your games programme and your approach to training?

The boys play one match a week, Saturday or Sunday, and sometimes we have friendly games during the week against touring sides – many teams from places such as Africa and South America come here and want to play against our boys. We also have many of our players selected for the various national squads (even as low as Under-12s), and therefore we have some weeks when players from every level up to Under-21 are away on international duty. In our assessment, some kids play too many games in a season. With our teams we also take part in tournaments at Easter and pre-season, and we have to be careful not to accept too many invitations. So during the season a lot of our players can play as many as three games a week. We have a close contact with the schools to get the players released for training. With players aged 12 years



Victor Valdes wins a duel with Thierry Henry during the UEFA Champions League final in Paris. Valdes is also a product of FC Barcelona's youth team.





**A clash of the captains during the UEFA Champions League final in Paris: Carles Puyol, up against Thierry Henry, has stayed loyal to the colours of FC Barcelona.**

GENE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

and upwards, we bring some of them into our residential school in La Masía, although we prefer them to be at least 14 years old before they leave home. We have about 60 youngsters in our centre at any given time. Carles Puyol, the first team captain, is a graduate of La Masía.

## LIONEL MESSI ARRIVED AT FC BARCELONA AS A YOUNGSTER AND MADE THE PROGRESSION FROM THE YOUTH ACADEMY TO THE FIRST TEAM.

Regarding our methods, we use the same playing system as the first team, so all our youth teams operate a 4/3/3 formation. The development teams have to reflect the personality of the first team. This also means we have to play attacking, attractive football. Our view is that if we do everything well, the winning comes as a consequence. By the time a player reaches 16 years, we try to have him in his best position, but we like to keep an open mind and not be too restrictive when the players are developing. We like to expose them to different playing roles as part of their education.

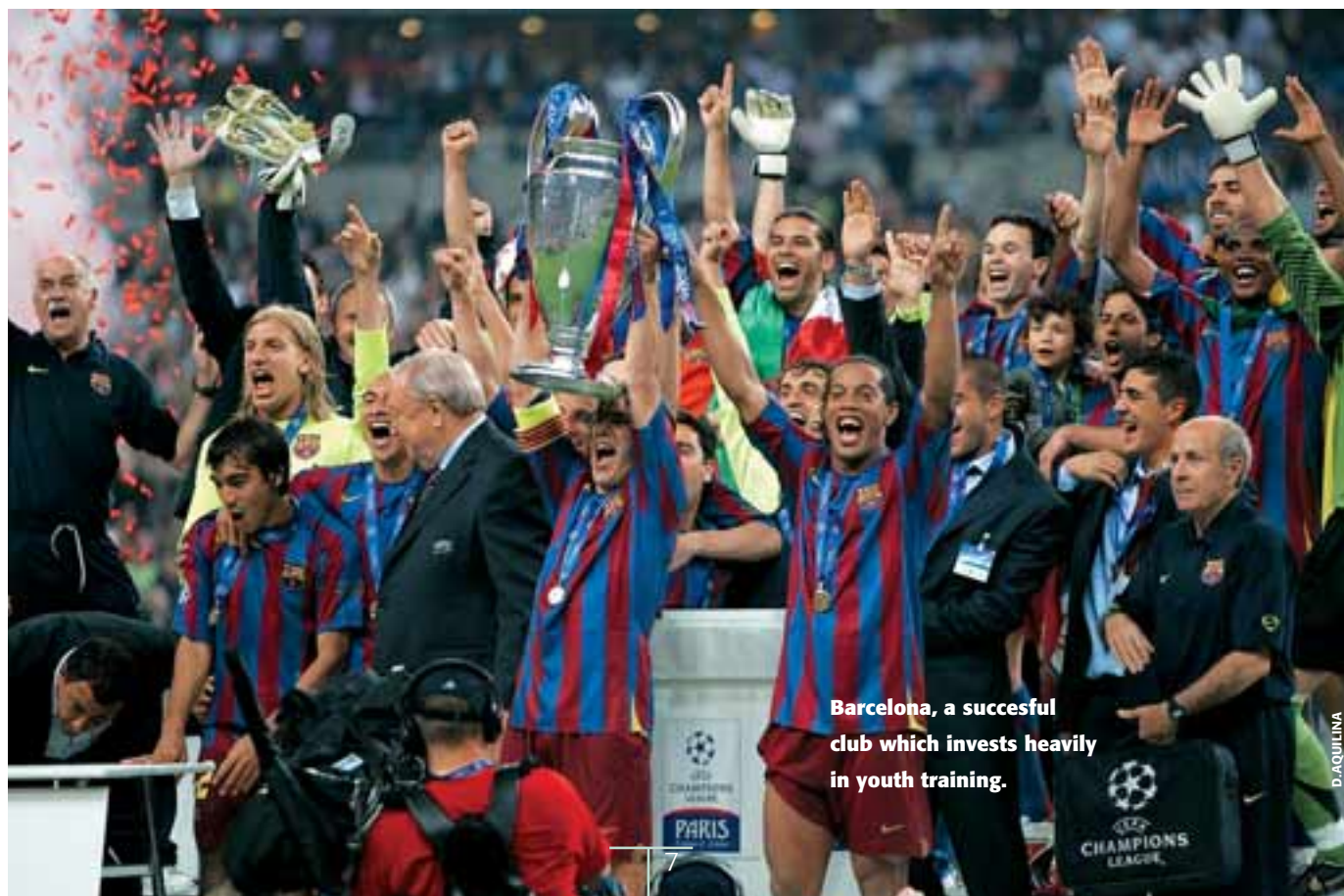
We have two coaching coordinators, plus two coaches with each team, and all of us are on the field every day. We work intensely on the individual skill, but also on group play, including each line of the team. We train the Barça way which involves fast movement of the ball, player mobility, use of the width, and a lot of fast, effective finishing. We get them to watch the passing movements of the first team as they provide the role model for the youth teams.



GETTY IMAGES

### 7 • How do you re-train your staff coaches?

It is a continuous process for us which includes roundtable discussions. At these meetings we analyse everything and make suggestions about our training programmes. We are always trying to improve, always learning – and, of course, searching for good players who can one day play in the blue and red of FC Barcelona.



**Barcelona, a successful club which invests heavily in youth training.**

D.AQUILINA





**AFTER BEING SENT OFF AT THE BEGINNING OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL IN PARIS, JENS LEHMANN GIVES A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MANUEL ALMUNIA AS HE PREPARES TO TAKE OVER IN GOAL FOR ARSENAL.**

# HANDLING THE GOALKEEPER

**MOST TECHNICIANS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING A GOALKEEPER'S HANDLING OF THE BALL. BUT HOW IMPORTANT IS THE TECHNICIAN'S HANDLING OF THE GOALKEEPER?**

Previous issues of "The Technician" have discussed the role of the goal-keeping coach and the need to find the right balance between specific keeper-orientated training and sessions which fully integrate the goalkeeper with the rest of the group. However, mental preparation can be just as relevant as time spent between the posts on the training ground. Apart from the demands placed on the keeper during a match – spells of hectic activity interspersed with long periods of inactivity, for example, with a consequent need for special ability to maintain concentration – the goalkeeper has to contend with a series of external factors that outfield players are not usually required to deal with.

It is a well-known fact of life that a goalkeeper is more readily judged by his mistakes than any outfield player. The 'justice' of the penalty shoot-out, for instance, has frequently been debated because the player who fails to convert a spot-kick can all too easily be classed as the villain of the piece. By contrast, it is one of the few occasions when a goalkeeper can be hailed as a hero. During normal play, outfield players are rarely condemned because of an error. The goalkeeper normally is. One of the basic requirements for top goalkeepers is therefore the mental resilience to cope with negative reporting by the media and acknowledge-

ment of the fact that they may only be noticed when they make a mistake.

But what about the goalkeepers who never make a mistake? The immediate reaction is to think that we're talking about a non-existent species. But it is a fact that, if we consider the goalkeeping fraternity as a workforce, the majority are, technically speaking, 'unemployed'. At club and national team levels, most squads contain three goalkeepers, of which only one habitually gets a chance of shining – or making mistakes – on the field of play. Some outfield players

might not be classed as 'first-team regulars' but they, at least, have realistic chances of entering the fray as substitutes or during spells when the team is affected by injuries and/or suspensions. Reserve goalkeepers are rarely, if ever, given this opportunity.

For the technician, this can be problematic. In the first place, it converts the selection of the goalkeeper into an important issue – and one which sometimes becomes headline news. But, having made their first choice, many coaches now recognise that, in



Eto'o outwits Manuel Almunia and sets Barcelona on the road to victory over Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League final.



**SANTIAGO CAÑIZARES  
PLAYED IN THE 2004 UEFA CUP  
FINAL AS A RESULT OF  
HIS TEAM-MATE ANDRÉS PALOP  
(INSET) BEING INJURED.**

man-management terms, there is a need to give the reserve keeper some football. Sometimes there is a pre-season agreement that, whatever happens, the No. 2 will be between the posts for cup games or, in some instances, UEFA club competition matches. Rafael Benítez, while leading Valencia CF to a league and UEFA Cup double in the 2003/04 season with a squad that contained two top-class keepers, established a system whereby his No. 2, Andrés Palop, would be between the posts for UEFA Cup matches. He would have kept goal in the Gothenburg final had he not broken a bone in his wrist five weeks earlier and handed the UEFA Cup gloves back to Santiago Cañizares. However, fate redressed itself this season, as Palop was able to demonstrate his worth during Sevilla FC's run to the UEFA Cup final and by keeping a clean sheet against Middlesbrough in the Eindhoven final.

These days, the top clubs recognise the importance of having top-quality cover between the posts. Coaches therefore face the challenge of keeping their 'reserve' goalkeepers motivated and focused on a job they are only rarely allowed to perform.

The issue takes on even greater relevance if one considers the circumstances in which the reserve keeper is required to take the field. After weeks or months of 'inactivity', the keeper often has to pull on his gloves without a moment to warm up or to prepare himself mentally for the task in hand. Sometimes, it's because the first-choice goalkeeper has been injured. On other occasions, the situation is one of even greater emergency and tension: the keeper has been red-carded and the first task facing his replacement is to stare a penalty-taker in the face.



FIRO FOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Ask Manuel Almunia. After watching from the bench as Jens Lehmann assembled a record-breaking collection of clean sheets during the knock-out rounds of the UEFA Champions League – and having contributed to the record-breaking run during the group stage – the Arsenal keeper was abruptly summoned on to the pitch after 19 minutes of the final and required immediately to set up his defensive wall and deal with a Ronaldinho free-kick from the edge of the box.

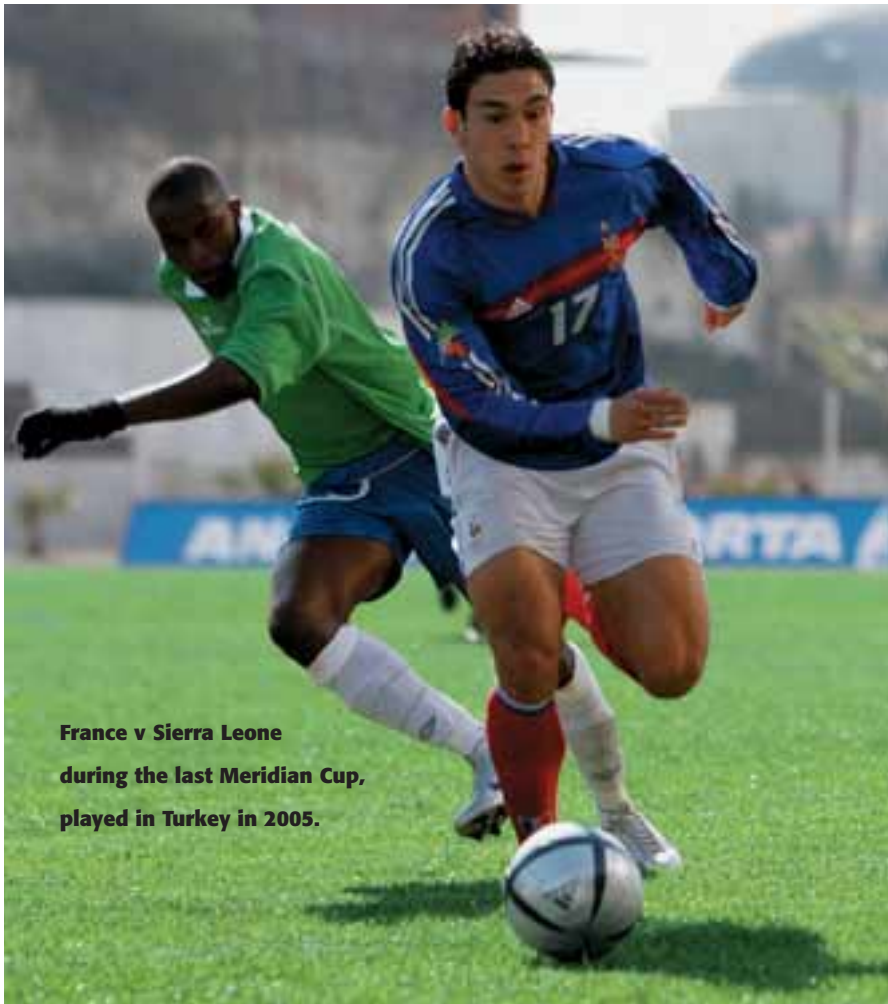
All this adds up to a clear demand for the coaching staff to recognise the value to the team of their goalkeepers – plural – and the need to make the peripheral performers feel that they are important components within the team ethic. Treating them as equals on the training ground is probably the easiest part of the equation. The coach also has to ensure that there is a good working relationship between all his keepers and that the reserves are fully motivated and prepared to perform a vital role for the team in crucial moments of matches or at crucial stages of the season. For the media, the 'reserve keeper' might be a forgotten man. But the technician cannot afford to neglect him.



**THE FACILITIES OF FC BARCELONA  
WILL BE USED DURING  
THE NEW-LOOK MERIDIAN CUP.**

# THE MERIDIAN CHANGES DIRECTION

**ONE OF THE MOST SALIENT FEATURES OF THE UEFA/CAF MERIDIAN PROJECT  
HAS BEEN THE MERIDIAN CUP TOURNAMENT DURING WHICH, EVERY ALTERNATE YEAR SINCE 1997,  
HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER-17 TEAMS FROM AFRICA AND EUROPE.  
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROJECT HERALDS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN DIRECTION.  
IN 2007, THE EMPHASIS WILL SWITCH TO “TRAINING THE TRAINERS”  
AND A NEW FORMAT ON THE PITCH.**



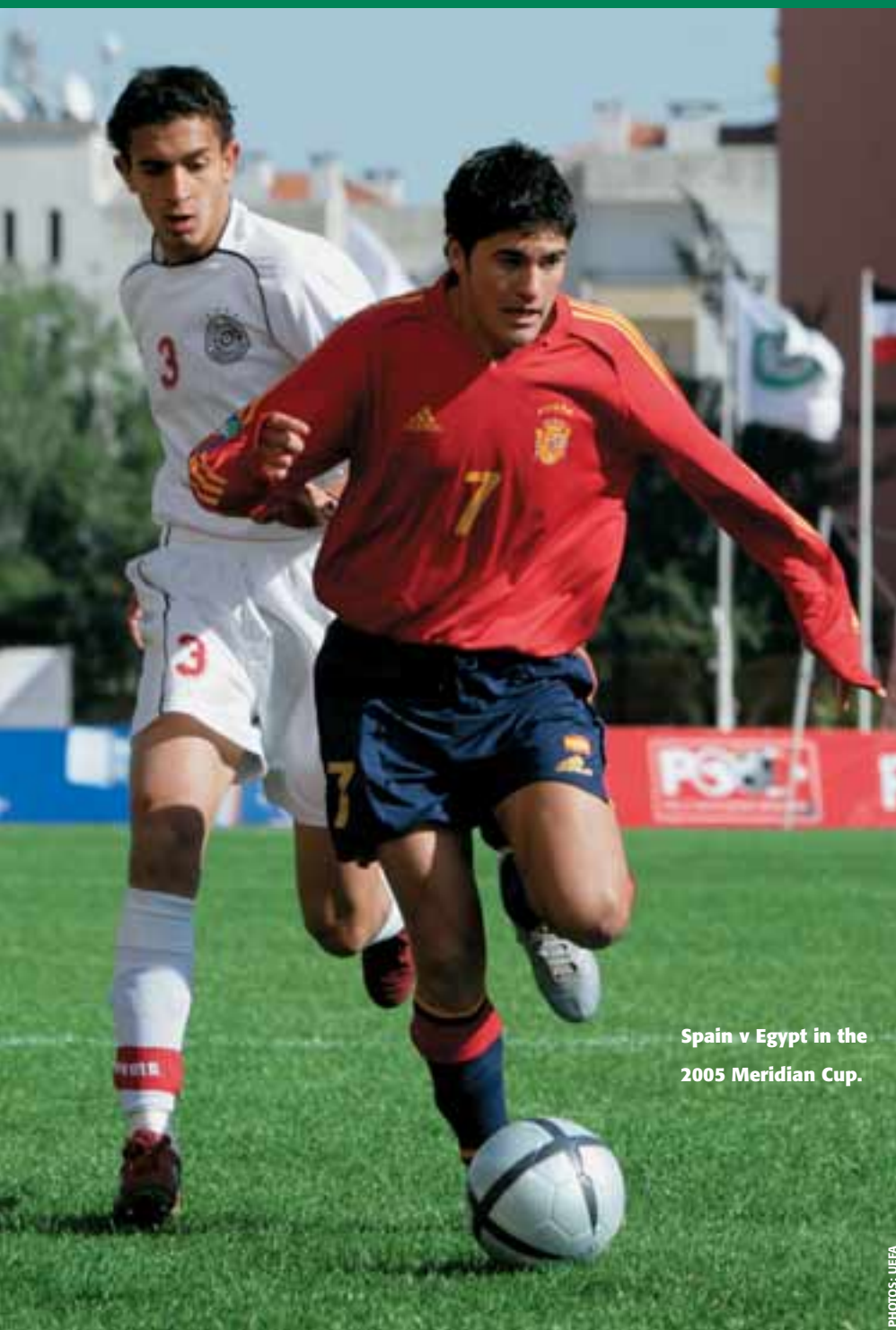
**France v Sierra Leone  
during the last Meridian Cup,  
played in Turkey in 2005.**

The 2007 edition of the Meridian Cup will see Europe and Africa face each other on the pitch in two attractive fixtures between Under-18 sides. This time round, there will be no national teams on the park. Each continent will select an Under-18 squad, from which each player will be promised at least one start in the two matches.

In terms of public interest, the two games will be the focal points of a one-week event to be staged in Barcelona between 25 February and 2 March, with the Spanish and Catalan football associations, FC Barcelona and the city authorities teaming up with UEFA and CAF as organisers. But, in a sense, they will represent only the tip of the iceberg. A major part of the event will take place well away from the public eye with the Meridian Conference bringing together top national youth coaches.



**THE AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN TEAMS  
WILL TRAIN ON THIS PITCH NOT FAR FROM  
THE PRESTIGIOUS CAMP NOU.**



**Spain v Egypt in the  
2005 Meridian Cup.**

PHOTOS: UEFA

As the Meridian Cup has successfully promoted footballing and cultural contacts between the top four nations from each continent, one might be excused for asking why a winning formula has been changed. The answer is, quite simply, to

broaden the event's horizons, to include more associations in the action, and to look for longer-term rather than short-term benefits.

It means that the national youth coaches from all the member asso-

ciations within UEFA and CAF will be invited to attend a conference which, apart from embracing the two matches and the two squads' training sessions, will focus on player development, the education of youth coaches and the best ways of nurturing talented young players through the crucial stages of their development from the youth ranks hopefully to senior international status. In other words, it should be a nice mix of match play, coaching, discussion and exchanges.

The venue could hardly be better. It has to be said that the organisation of the Meridian Conference had kicked off long before Juliano Belletti scored the winner against Arsenal at the Stade de France. But it will not just be a pleasure to visit FC Barcelona because they are the champions of Europe. The club has a long tradition of youth development with many home-grown talents reaching first team status.

Barça's residential school is in the stadium complex; the brand-new sports centre at St Joan Despí is ideal for the training sessions; the Mini Estadi, opposite the main ground, is the perfect venue for the Europe v Africa fixtures; and the hotel where the conference is to be staged is next to the stadium. It should be the ideal setting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Meridian Project and to re-launch it in an exciting new direction which brings it much closer to the technician and offers more associations the chance to participate.



GETTY IMAGES

**FC BARCELONA, WINNERS OF  
THE 2006 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE.**

# THE CLASS OF 2006

**FRANK RIJKAARD IS NOT EXACTLY THE MOST  
DEMONSTRATIVE MEMBER OF THE COACHING FRATERNITY.  
SO MANY OF THE MILLIONS OF TV VIEWERS ALL OVER THE WORLD  
MUST HAVE RAISED THEIR EYEBROWS AT THE SIGHT  
OF THE DUTCHMAN PERFORMING A FISTS-CLENCHED JIG ON  
THE TOUCHLINE AT THE STADE DE FRANCE WHEN SAMUEL ETO'O  
SQUEEZED AN EQUALISER INTO THE ARSENAL NET.**

It represented a release of all the tension generated by an arduous run to a UEFA Champions League title that

meant so much to FC Barcelona and the hordes of supporters who identify the team with a certain way of playing.

For Frank Rijkaard, the victory in Paris demonstrated that respect and humility are not at all incompatible with winning. After the final whistle, his first move was to salute Arsène Wenger, just as he had embraced his former team-mate Carlo Ancelotti after the semi-final against AC Milan and his fellow countryman Ronald Koeman after the quarter-final against SL Benfica.

The hard-fought victory over a young and finely-tuned Arsenal side, excellently groomed by Arsène Wenger, allowed Frank to join Carlo on the select list of five men who have been champions of Europe as both player and coach. The first name to appear was that of Real Madrid's Miguel Muñoz, captain in the first final in 1956 and head coach when the Spanish completed a quintet of victories at Hampden Park in 1960. He was



**Sevilla FC, winners  
of the 2006 UEFA Cup.**

EMPICS



**VICTORY AGAIN FOR FFC FRANKFURT  
IN THE 2006 UEFA WOMEN'S CUP.**



HEIMANN/  
BONGARTS/  
GETTY IMAGES



APHOTO SPAIN/LNFS

Interviú Boomerang confirmed Spain's futsal supremacy by winning the 2006 UEFA Futsal Cup.

followed, a quarter of a century later, by Giovanni Trapattoni. The other two names have special relevance in that they offer clues about Frank Rijkaard's footballing inheritance. He and Carlo Ancelotti lived and breathed the AC Milan philosophy implanted by Arrigo Sacchi; while he and Johan Cruyff share a rich heritage based on the Ajax way of seeing and playing the game. The fact that FC Barcelona's two European crowns have been donned with the two Dutchmen on the bench suggests that a happy "marriage" has been found.

Such "marriages" are not easy to find. Many technicians will say with feeling that 'success' can depend largely on being at the right club at the right time with the right players. Others – Arsène Wenger among them – would say that you need to work hard at achieving



UEFA

Russia came to the fore in the 2006 UEFA European Under-17 Championship.



that magic blend. Whatever the final score at the Stade de France, nothing can be taken away from his player-development achievements. And if we look around the coaching family, how many examples can we find of a non-native technician who has made – and who has been allowed to make – such a long-standing contribution to the status of a club?

In the 2005/06 campaign, three of the four semi-finalists were coached by imported technicians. Coincidence? Or, in a situation where dressing-rooms at the top clubs have become more and more cosmopolitan, are we now reaching a stage where blends of coaching philosophies and footballing cultures are the ingredients for success?

In Paris, Frank Rijkaard became the second successive imported technician to win the European crown and the fifth since Belgium's Raymond Goethals won the first UEFA Champions League in 1993. As a talking point, it is nothing new. After all, the early years of the competition were marked by imported

coaches like Luís Carniglia of Argentina, Belá Guttmann of Hungary, Helenio Herrera of Argentina, Ernst Happel of Austria and Stefan Kovacs of Romania. But, as we look for trends in modern-day European football, it is interesting to look at the names of the winning technicians and, if possible, to trace their heritage. For example, how much did Igor Kolyvanov's playing career in Italy stand him in good stead to lead Russia's Under-17s to the European title a couple of months ago? Or, to put it the other way round, was his opponent in the Luxembourg final – where a penalty shoot-out decided the champion – any the worse for having decided, as Jakub Dovalil did at 21, that his personal way forward was along the coaching road rather than in a playing career? To take his team to a European final at the age of 32 is no mean achievement.

In that respect, our periodic tribute to the winning coaches makes interesting reading. So, for the record, here are the names that have already been embossed on the roll of honour in 2006.

## CLUB COMPETITIONS

### **UEFA Champions League in Paris Saint-Denis**

#### **FC Barcelona v Arsenal FC 2-1**

Champion: Frank Rijkaard (Netherlands)  
Runner-up: Arsène Wenger (France)

### **UEFA Cup in Eindhoven**

#### **Sevilla FC v Middlesbrough FC 4-0**

Champion: Juan de Dios 'Juande' Ramos  
Runner-up: Steve McLaren

### **UEFA Women's Cup**

#### **1. FFC Frankfurt v**

#### **1. FFC Turbine Potsdam 7-2 on aggregate (4-0/3-2)**

Champion: Hans-Jürgen Trittchok  
Runner-up: Bernd Schröder

### **UEFA Futsal Cup**

#### **Interviú Boomerang v MFK Dinamo Moskva 9-7 on aggregate (6-3/3-4)**

Champion: Jesús Candelas  
Runner-up: Aleksandr Shibaev

## NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

### **European Under-17 Championship in Luxembourg**

#### **Russia v Czech Republic 2-2 (5-3 in penalty shoot-out)**

Champion: Igor Kolyvanov  
Runner-up: Jakub Dovalil

### **European Under-21 Championship in Portugal**

#### **Netherlands v Ukraine 3-0**

Champion: Foppe de Haan  
Runner-up: Oleksii Mykhailchenko



The Netherlands were crowned 2006 European Under-21 champions in Portugal.



THE LOUIS II STADIUM  
IN MONACO, THE SETTING FOR  
THE UEFA SUPER CUP.



EMPICS

# TRAINING

## Directing opposition attacks as a method of active ball-winning

BY BERND STÖBER

German FA (DFB) Youth Coach



### Philosophy

*Active ball-winning as  
a principle of the DFB football  
philosophy*

Remaining active every second of the game, even when the opposition has the ball, is part of the playing strategy for our youth teams. The players' actions remain forward-looking and "attack-orientated" at all times. The only difference when the opposition has the ball is that the attacking objective is initially not the opponents' goal, but rapid retrieval of possession.

### Principle

After the opponent plays the pass – either to the wing or to the midfield – the midfielders press tightly. The recipient of the pass is therefore put under pressure and attacked.

### Training

In order to rehearse the basic tactical principles and running patterns of this key element of our playing strategy, our training sessions regularly include a systematically structured and coached 8 v 8 exercise.

### Organisation

The basic formation involves eight players on a three-quarter length pitch, attacking a goal with a goal-keeper. We do not use any central defenders, since they are not directly involved in this important tactical exercise.

The (simulated) opposition team, meanwhile, also has eight players, but their target consists of three small goals behind the halfway line. The opponents must dribble through the two wider goals, or pass the ball through the middle goal.

### Variations

If the next opponent is expected to play with two strikers, we do not use them in this training exercise (see diagram). However, if three strikers are anticipated, we remove one attacking midfielder and the central striker.

# AGENDA

2006

### July 11-22

European Women's  
Under-19 Championship  
Final Round (Switzerland)

### July 18-29

European Under-19 Championship  
Final Round (Poland)

### August 25

UEFA Super Cup (Monaco)

### August 31 – September 1

UEFA Elite Coaches Forum (Nyon)

### September 11

UEFA Technical Development  
Committee (Berlin)

### September 11-13

UEFA Conference for  
European National Coaches  
(Berlin)

### September 14

Jira Panel (Berlin)

### October 23-27

UEFA Course for Coach Educators  
(Florence)

### November 28-30

UEFA Medical Symposium  
(Istanbul)

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