

THE TECHNICIAN

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Including



**NEWSLETTER
FOR COACHES**

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COVER

Having already won the UEFA Champions League with Juventus, Marcello Lippi pulled off a unique double in winning the World Cup with Italy this summer.

(PHOTO: ANDERSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

FABIO CANNAVARO UP AGAINST THIERRY HENRY IN THE WORLD CUP FINAL. THE ITALIAN DEFENDER WAS ONE OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE COMPETITION.

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THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

EDITORIAL

BY ANDY ROXBURGH,
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Italy won the FIFA World Cup 2006 with a masterly display in the art of defending. Two goals against, one a penalty and one an own goal, was the sum total of their concessions and tangible evidence of their ability to thwart the opponent. They were, it should be noted, also very good going forward. Even the finalists of the UEFA Champions League proved to be miserly in giving anything away. Arsenal, the runners-up, went ten matches in a row without conceding a goal (a record); while champions FC Barcelona, with their flamboyant style, scored 24 times with only five goals in reply. Indeed, the season 2005/06 produced the lowest goals average in over a decade of UEFA Champions League football. As Rafa Benitez said after the club final in Paris: "There has been a big improvement in defending in top-level football." Fortunately, the lack of scoring quantity was offset by the extremely high quality.

From a structural perspective, the trends were clear. The top 16 teams that participated in the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League operated with a zonal back four, as did 14 of the sides that reached the World Cup knock-out phase. In addition, all of the aforementioned teams

selected at least one
midfield holding
player, or screen,
in order to protect
their back line.
In the World Cup,
nine of the leading
teams used a two-
man barrier, including

the French and, in the latter stages, the Italians. On the other hand, the UEFA Champions League finalists (plus seven other top teams) favoured the deployment of one 'vacuum cleaner', as the late, great Rinus Michels described the role. Interestingly, many of these deep-lying midfield players have become the initiators of the build-up play, such as Italy's Andrea Pirlo.

A side's basic shape is 'necessary for team order' according to Sir Alex Ferguson of Manchester United. But, the same system can operate differently depending on the philosophy and the style employed, and the special characteristics of the team. During the last season, however, one common feature was to defend deep and in a compact defensive block. The uncertainty created by the interpretation of the offside law is one of the reasons for this. Villarreal, the small Spanish club that reached the last four of the UEFA Champions League, were an extreme example of this approach. During the competition, coach Manuel Pellegrini said: "We defend deeper than most sides, and though it creates more work for our midfield players, it does reduce the space behind our defenders." And Lyon's Gérard Houllier summed up the attitude to defending when he said: "The trend is to bring the opponents into the defensive block and then to aggressively press the ball."

Some of the outstanding players last season were goalkeepers and defenders. Italy's No. 1, Gianluigi Buffon and centre back Fabio Cannavaro were two of the best players at the World Cup in Germany, and Arsenal's keeper Jens Lehmann and

FC Barcelona's centre back Carles Puyol proved that star quality is not the preserve of the glamour boys who play up front. Top defenders and their defensive team-mates proved that good defensive play is a prerequisite to team success in top-level competitions.

The dynamics of football mean that the game is always in flux. When the defending qualities improve, attacking solutions are pursued and developed, and vice-versa. We, in the coaching profession, can acknowledge and appreciate the improvements in defensive play while simultaneously accepting the challenge to find the antidote. Counter-attacks, set plays and solo actions have become crucial



Manuel Pellegrini, advocate of a tight defence with Villarreal.

in breaking down sophisticated packed defences. But significantly, the game is moving more towards the assets of speed and skill, and this augurs well for the future. Balance is the key word. It applies to team organisation, to defending and attacking, and to great competitions. As Marcello Lippi said at UEFA's recent Elite Club Coaches Forum: "Balance is number one." So is Marcello, Italy's World Champion – a master coach in training the arts of attack and defence.

INTERVIEW

BY ANDY ROXBURGH,
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



SIR ALEX FERGUSON OF MANCHESTER UNITED IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT COACHES. IN A COACHING CAREER SPANNING OVER THREE DECADES, HE HAS WON THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE (1999 WITH MANCHESTER UNITED FC), THE EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP TWICE (1983 WITH ABERDEEN FC AND 1991 WITH MANCHESTER UNITED FC), THE UEFA SUPER CUP (1983 AND 1991), AND THE EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN CUP (1999). ALEX WAS ALSO NAMED THE UEFA COACH OF THE YEAR IN 1999. DOMESTICALLY, HE HAS ACCUMULATED THREE SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, FOUR SCOTTISH CUPS AND ONE SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP, EIGHT ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE TITLES, FIVE ENGLISH CUPS AND TWO ENGLISH LEAGUE CUPS. HE MANAGED THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL TEAM AT THE FIFA WORLD CUP IN MEXICO (1986) AND IS THE LONGEST-SERVING HEAD COACH IN THE ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP, HAVING BEEN THE BOSS AT MANCHESTER UNITED FC SINCE 1986. IN ADDITION, ALEX, WHO WAS KNIGHTED FOR HIS SERVICES TO FOOTBALL IN THE UK, IS A REGULAR, VALUED MEMBER OF UEFA'S TECHNICAL GROUPS AND ELITE CLUB COACHES FORUM. CURRENTLY, HE HOLDS THE POSITION OF HONORARY LEADER OF THE UEFA COACHES CIRCLE, A UEFA PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES A TECHNICAL SERVICE FOR PRACTISING COACHES.

IT IS THIS GROUP THAT SIR ALEX ADDRESSES IN THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

1 • What are the main qualities required by a coach at the top level?

I have thought about that a lot, and there are a number of things. As I progressed as a coach, I learned that observation was vital. To coach and watch at the same time is difficult. If you are involved too much in the coaching, you miss many things. I started to delegate more things to my assistant and to stand back sometimes. Observation is definitely an important issue in order to make sure that the quality is high and that you get out of a training session what you want. Next, I think you need perseverance because coaching at the top today is not an easy job. If you come in on a

Monday morning after a defeat and you lack this quality of perseverance, then it will show and that will affect the players. So on Monday morning, you have the 'fire in the belly', you are ready. The passion has to come out.

I also think that a top coach needs an imagination. When people ask you what was your best ever goal as a coach, you want to identify a perfect goal that you influenced. It is about your imagination, inculcated into a training session, and which the players take on board. They then do it by habit. I remember as a young coach teaching take-overs in important areas of the pitch which was

unusual at the time. So you put this imagination into a player's mind, and he can then take it to another level, because he realises that you both want to try things. You create a chain reaction which produces thinking players, and this is a wonderful thing to develop.

It is also important to have simple communication. You see those training sessions where the coach is talking all the time and the message is lost – the words get lost in the wind. Keep it simple, be brief, but be decisive. Make it perfectly clear what you are after in a session. Remember when we were players – we were stand-

**SIR ALEX
AND
ROY KEANE.**



ing there and we wanted to get on with it and the coach was rambling on. Talking too much is a big danger for a coach.

2 • How did you develop as a coach?

Well, I was an apprentice tool-maker, and then at 22 years of age I got the chance to become a full-time player. I decided to take the gamble, but I was determined not to fail, so I wanted to learn everything about the game. I started going to the Scottish coaching school when I was 23 years old. In the first year, I got my B licence, and then quickly progressed on to my full badge. I had decided that when I finished playing, I was going to be prepared to be a coach. My ambitions were not necessarily focused on becoming a manager or a coach, but I did want to stay in the game in some capacity and I wanted to be ready for that. I used to read all the coaching books – not that I wanted to replicate everything I read, but I was curious and hungry for knowledge. I was fortunate that the Scottish FA's courses were very practical and the staff coaches were top professionals.

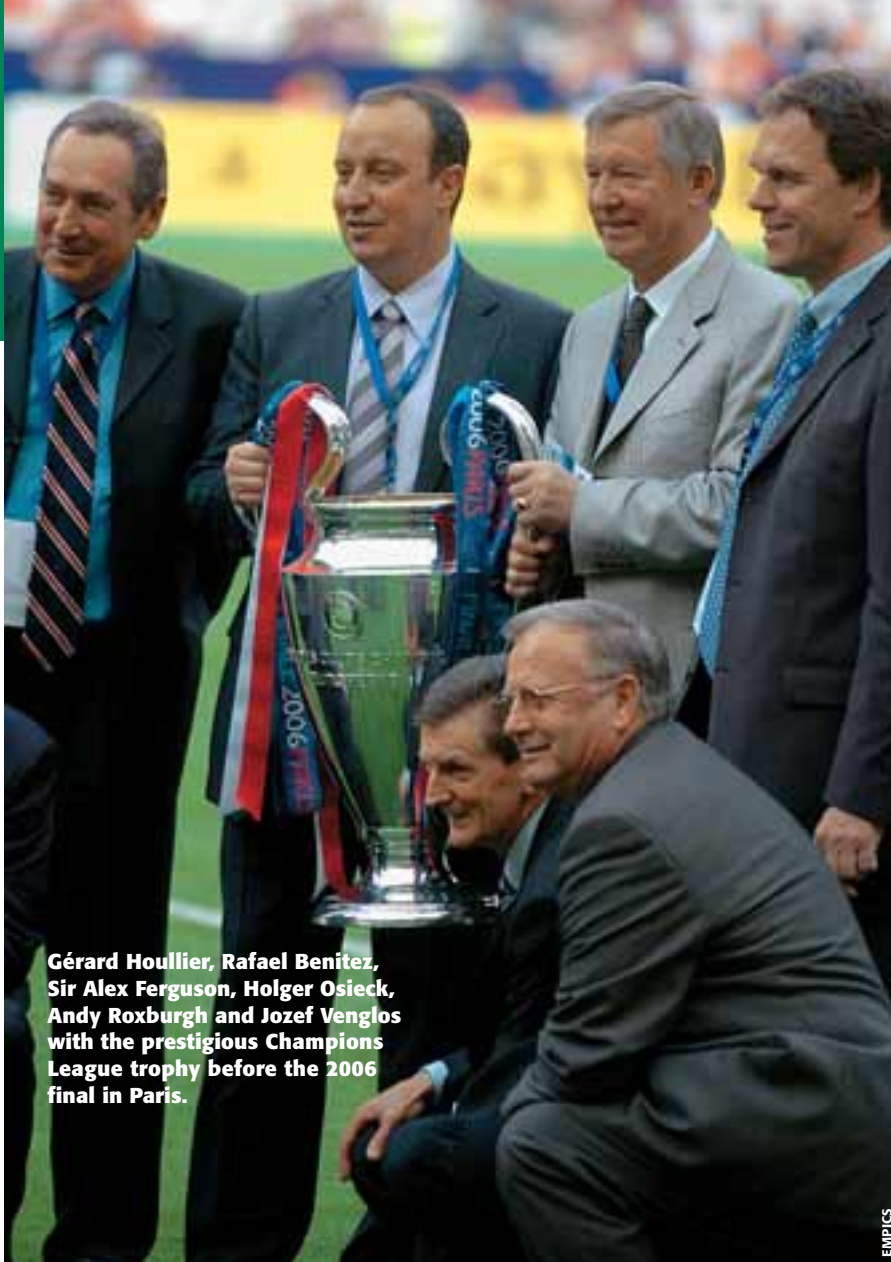
3 • What would your advice be to a young coach?

Most young coaches have been players, and they are cocooned, protected by agents or coaches. Most players live in a fortunate environment. Yes, you need to sacrifice to be a top player. But make no mistake, when you become a coach there is a bigger sacrifice to be made, because you are giving up your whole day, every day. Coaches are not only working with

their team but travelling all over the place to watch players or opponents. When you go into this game you have to work extremely hard – you and your family have to sacrifice. You need a natural work ethic. The really good coach is the one who is happy to work, and believe me, it is not easy to work hard in coaching for your whole life. The drive, the hunger, the passion must be inside you, because players need to recognise that you care. And, of course, the aim is to get the players to care along with you. If the young coach has these qualities I have been referring to, and they have the ability, then they have a chance. One last point, they must take their steps. I started the right way at the lowest level and built my way up. But don't forget, everyone needs a bit of luck along the way.

4 • What are the biggest problems facing coaches today?

There is a player ego today that you have to deal with. As a coach, the one thing you must have is control. You can't afford players to take charge of a training session. There has to be a strong discipline in the training and in general. Simple rules must apply, such as time-keeping, concentration at training, etc. Another thing, of course, is the pressure of results. When I came into the game the media demands were less than we have today. No agents or freedom of contract back then. More and more, we are dealing with player power. I grew into all of that, but a young coach must realise that he is walking straight into all of that. They have to find a way of navigating all of these pressures. Also, if you have a good chairman and board, then you are lucky. If not, then you have to handle that situation as well. You need to under-



Gérard Houllier, Rafael Benítez, Sir Alex Ferguson, Holger Osieck, Andy Roxburgh and Jozef Venglos with the prestigious Champions League trophy before the 2006 final in Paris.

is happening – it's not possible for me to immerse myself in the youth work as I once did.

7 • Apart from yourself, who are the role models in coaching today?

I look at coaches who have a difficult job and do well. And I look at coaches who win with different clubs. Because Italy has been at the forefront for years in terms of success, I look at someone like Marcello (Lippi) who has won the World Cup, the UEFA Champions League and titles in Italy. Fantastic. And he started the right way – at the bottom end and worked his way up. Also, he survived time. Fabio (Capello) is the same – he was a success at Roma, at AC Milan, at Real Madrid, etc. These colleagues are good examples for young coaches, and if the young coach is still coaching in 15 years time, they will understand what I am talking about – it's not easy to stay the course. It needs a good constitution, great stamina (you have to look after yourself), and a little luck. A young coach might say, "How am I going to reach Lippi's level? Even if I can, how many years will that take?" But there are also good examples of young coaches who have quickly risen to the top. Look at Rafa (Benítez) who started as a youth coach at Real Madrid, went to Valencia, and then on to Liverpool FC where he won the Champions League. Then look at José Mourinho who entered the top level as an interpreter, but had an ambition and a hunger to listen and to learn. He went on to win the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Cup. This shows young coaches what can be achieved. You have another two good examples of young coaches in today's football. Marco van Basten (who started as the Dutch national coach) and Frank

stand your bosses and what their expectations are. There are some presidents or chairmen who expect to win a title every day. The main advice I would give to a young coach is to focus on his job. Forget all the peripheral things, don't get involved in the politics, just concentrate on your job, on your squad, because players are the best weapon you have.

5 • Do you believe in the use of technology as an aid to coaches?

Yes, I use the various IT tools because it quickly gives me all the information I need about opponents, etc. In the old days, you would painstakingly take notes. And for me, it has always been out of the question to read out notes at a team meeting, or to give the notes to the players. We at Manchester United do

the video analysis very well now. We have two full-time people taking care of that.

6 • Many top coaches have a big staff – do you believe in that?

In terms of staff, things have progressed over the years. When I went to Manchester United at first, I had a staff of only eight at the club. We had no full-time doctor. Today, we have an optometrist who does all the treatment of the eyes (she did a great job getting Paul Scholes back to normal after he had blurred vision), we have a full-time doctor, five physios, a fitness coach, a weight coach. I never thought I would work with a backroom squad of this size. As you get older, you learn to delegate better. You can't do everything yourself at a major club. For example, with the youth programme, I put it in good hands, and I simply oversee what

Rijkaard (who won the UEFA Champions League with FC Barcelona). But I like to think about coaches who have survived time and had success with different clubs; clubs which presented different challenges. These are the coaches we should look up to and admire. Look at what they have done, because winning in this profession is not easy.

8 • Is coaching as a profession in good shape?

I think it is as good as we can expect, given that there is an ever-changing process in our game. But it's not healthy that a coach can lose four games and then he is out of a job – this is not good for the football industry, especially if the coach has not

been given time to produce. I wish that the presidents of clubs, and the supporters, would have the same patience that the coaches have. We are asking miracles, of course. It is a very emotional game and sometimes the expectations are too high. That has always been the case and won't change. For many supporters, their whole lives are intertwined with the football club, and that spiritual connection is very strong. You can therefore understand that losing four games can't be tolerated. Because of that, there is a frequent change of coach. There is no evidence to suggest that continual changing of coaches brings success. Coaches such as Fabio, Marcello, Arsène (Wenger) and myself suggest the



Sir Alex with Sir Bobby Charlton and the new England national team coach, Steve McClaren.



opposite, that longevity can bring success. And also, the relationship between the coach and the player can be stronger when you are there a long time.

9 • As the honorary leader of the UEFA Coaches Circle, do you have a message for practising coaches?

I can only think back to when I was a young man and how keen I was to learn. That enthusiasm for knowledge should never be lost. For example, I had a great discussion with Marcello (Lippi) about Italy's tactics in the World Cup. I thought the final was tactically interesting; he thought the semi-final against Germany was better. And in terms of spectacle, he was right. The main thing is that we are curious and we talk. Apart from staying inquisitive, my message to all practising coaches, including those in the UEFA Coaches Circle, is to persevere. We all have bad days. I have had some but I always bounced back. When I was at Aberdeen FC, I lost a final, and on the Monday I told the players it was the last time we would lose a final – it was. You have to have that vital drive, and to deal with the disappointments. Players today don't have the same feeling as the coach has when they lose – so the coach has to deal with that situation. Coaches often think they are alone, but they are in the same situation as many fellow coaches. It's important, therefore, to relate to your coaching colleagues because we are all in the same boat.



UEFA

GINÉS MELÉNDEZ

MAÑANA

NOT MANY PEOPLE NEED TO REACH FOR THE DICTIONARY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH ONE OF THE MOST UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED WORDS IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE. IT'S ALSO A FLEXIBLE ONE. THE ADVERB MEANS TOMORROW. AS A NOUN, LA MAÑANA MEANS THE MORNING. BUT, IN ITS MASCULINE FORM, EL MAÑANA STANDS FOR 'THE TOMORROW' – THE FUTURE. HAD AFC AJAX BEEN BASED IN SPAIN, INSTEAD OF NAMING THEIR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE THE TOEKOMST – THE FUTURE – THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE CALLED IT EL MAÑANA.

Even on the day of the European Under-19 final in Poznan, *el mañana* was uppermost in the mind of the Spanish coach, Ginés Meléndez. "To be honest," he said, "I'm not concerned about whether we win or lose." It's a sentiment that technicians don't voice too loudly in the dressing-room for fear of it being misinterpreted as lack of ambition. But, among colleagues, Ginés explained, "When you've been working with a group for two years or more, when you've observed how they've developed, and when you've seen how well they've played during

the tournament, you feel an inner satisfaction at having done some good work and having helped the youngsters to progress as footballers and as people. Winning or losing the final doesn't change that."

In other words, if asked to cast a vote in the perennial debate between results and development, Ginés would immediately raise a hand in favour of the latter. So would Tommy Wilson, his opposite number in the Poznan final. But the circumstances were hardly the same. Whereas the Spaniards were

extending their unparalleled record of successes in teenage football, the Scots were in their first UEFA final since Andy Roxburgh's team took the Under-18 title in 1982. Tommy Wilson admitted that, on arrival in Poland, the prime objective had been no more than laying claim to one of Europe's six places in the forthcoming Under-20 World Championship.

Reaching the final made a major impact. The Under-19s became a lead story on Scottish sports pages, BBC Scotland immediately acquired the right to screen the final, and reporters scurried onto Poznan-bound planes. In other words, results *did* have their importance in terms of image, promotion and, more importantly, confidence in a development programme that was beginning to bear fruits.

On the day of the final, Tommy traced the origins of his team back through the trips to Spain to study their youth development methods, the visits to Denmark to study structures in a country of roughly the same stature, the importance of the implantation of small-sided games in Scottish youth football, and a new, enhanced tactical awareness among his young protégés. Eliminating the defending champions, France, in the qualifiers and going on to reach the final represented a reward for years of work on a coherently designed project.



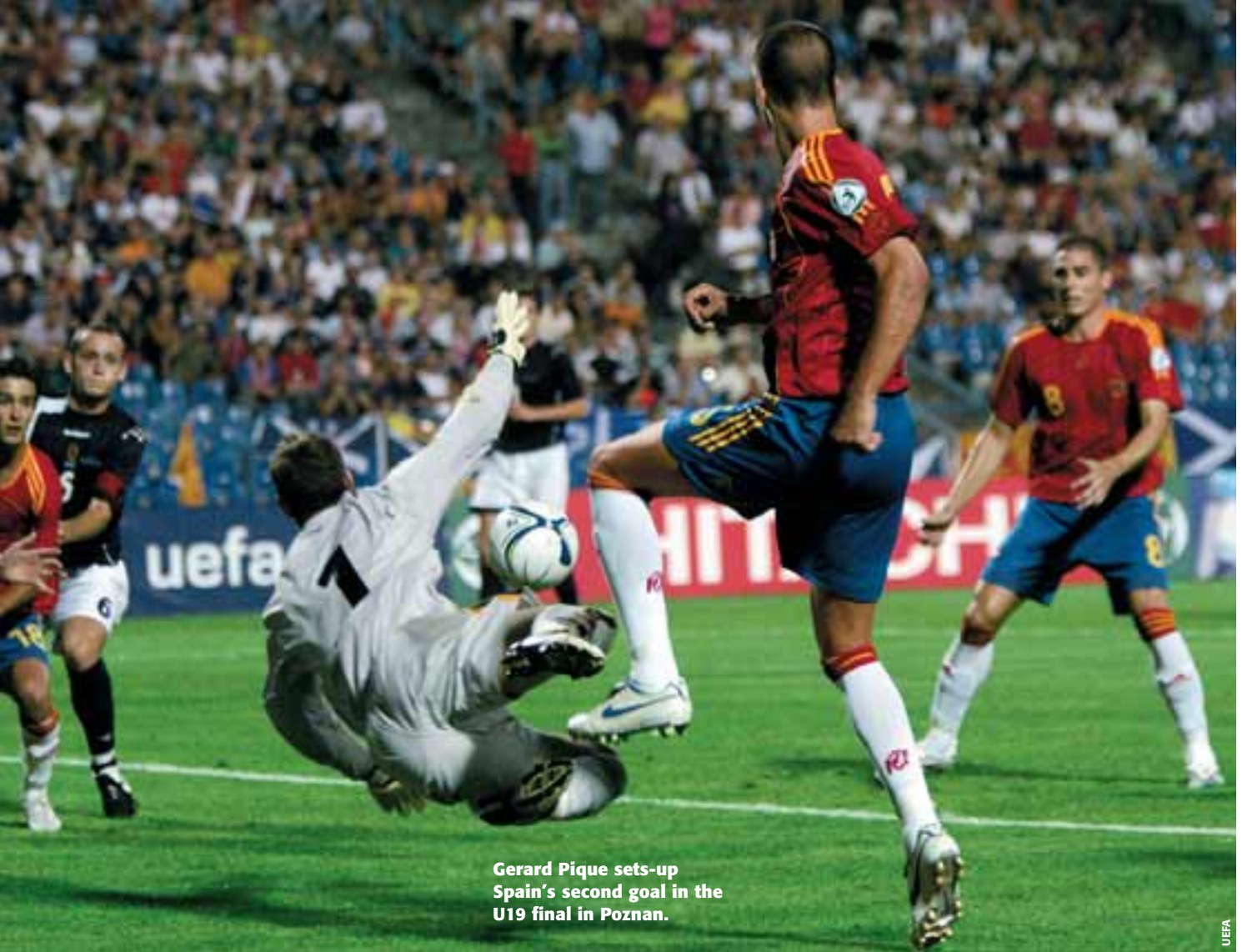
UEFA

Alberto Bueno of Spain and Scott Cuthbert of Scotland during the European Under-19 Championship final.

TOMMY WILSON



UEFA



Gerard Piqué sets-up Spain's second goal in the U19 final in Poznan.

UEFA

Spain's 2-1 win over the Scots in the final brought the total for the tournament in Poland to 63 goals. UEFA's technical study group, when selecting their team of the tournament, had to contend with a surfeit of attacking midfielders and forwards. Standards of attacking and counter-attacking were high. And the general willingness to adopt adventurous strategies, to take risks and to allow the youngsters a high degree of freedom to express themselves raised an important question for the technician: apart from carefully assembling the nuts and bolts of a programme, how important is the *philosophy* behind player development projects?

This is one of the issues to be discussed at the 16th UEFA Course for Coach Educators, to be staged at Italy's national training centre in Coverciano. And it is especially relevant at a time when a UEFA youth licence is being mooted. Some countries already have such a scheme in place (the French FA has an excellent system, for example) and UEFA's plan is to create criteria for a specialised youth coaching diploma which would represent the equivalent of an 'A' licence. No fewer than 51 of UEFA's member associations are now enrolled in the coaching convention and, now that the basic

structure has been consolidated, the aim is to encourage associations to add an extra dimension to their coaching set-up.

There are some interesting questions to be discussed. During formative years, what sort of mentality should prevail? Which facets of the game deserve special attention? What are the best practices when it comes to schooling youngsters to win – but not to win at all costs. Tommy Wilson and Ginés Meléndez will be among the speakers in Coverciano, helping to explain how we might best lay foundations for *el mañana*.



UEFA-PIWOODS.CH

HIGH FIVE: SIR ALEX FERGUSON, FRANK RIJKAARD, MARCELLO LIPPI, JUANDE RAMOS AND FABIO CAPELLO.

TACTICS FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT HAVE THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS TAUGHT US? AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? THOSE WERE THE BASIC QUESTIONS POSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AT THE 8TH UEFA ELITE CLUB COACHES FORUM, STAGED IN GENEVA WHILE CALENDARS WERE BEING TURNED FROM AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER. ONE OR TWO OF THE COACHES WERE NOT ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH THE NAME. "I AM NOT ELITE" WAS FRANK RIJKAARD'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION. BUT THE SQUAD PHOTO BEGGED TO DIFFER. FRANK, THE EUROPEAN CHAMPION, AND JUANDE RAMOS, WINNER OF THE UEFA CUP AND UEFA SUPER CUP, FLANKED WORLD CHAMPION MARCELLO LIPPI. ALONGSIDE AND BEHIND THEM WERE FELIX MAGATH, PAUL LE GUEN, PAULO BENTO, THOMAS SCHAAF, TROND SOLLIED, ARSÈNE WENGER, FERNANDO SANTOS, VALERY GAZZAEV, MANUEL PELLEGRINI, RICARDO GOMES, JESUALDO FERREIRA, GÉRARD HOULLIER, FABIO CAPELLO AND SIR ALEX FERGUSON – WITH ANDY ROXBURGH AND HIS FIFA COUNTERPART, HOLGER OSIECK, RUNNING THE WINGS. IF THAT GATHERING DOESN'T WARRANT AN 'ELITE' LABEL, WHAT DOES? WHAT'S MORE, THE SQUAD WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN STRONGER HAD THREE LEADING ITALIAN SIDES NOT BEEN TAKING EACH OTHER ON IN A TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT THAT EVENING.



UEFA-PIWOODS.CH

An elite team for the forum in Geneva.

But, in one sense, Frank was right. The Forum was all about humility, camaraderie and some serious reflections on the state of the game and its future. The points of reference were the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League and the FIFA World Cup finals. Arsène Wenger was the first of many to comment that, when the group matches in Germany got under way, it was inevitable to start drawing comparisons with the standard of football in the UEFA Champions League, where the best of various nationalities are concentrated into one line-up.

But statistics provided one evidently common denominator between the two competitions. During the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League, the four teams that reached the semi-

**MARCELLO LIPPI
MAKES A PRESENTATION
TO 2006 UEFA CUP
WINNER JUANDE RAMOS**



UEFA-PIWOODS.CH



PITMAN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

finals jointly conceded 23 goals in 48 games. It doesn't require a mathematical genius to convert this into an average of one goal conceded in every three hours of football. When Frank Rijkaard and Arsène Wenger led FC Barcelona and Arsenal FC on to the pitch at the Stade de France, their teams had jointly conceded six in 24 games – one goal in every six hours of football. Of the four conceded by Barça, one had been a penalty and one an own goal.

The FIFA World Cup offered similar reading. When Marcello Lippi and

“The tactical approach in the domestic league is different from the UEFA Champions League.”

*Felix Magath
(Bayern Munich)*

Raymond Domenech led their sides out in Berlin, the Azzurri had conceded one in six games and Les Bleus two. Again, one goal per four games, with the odd bit of extra time thrown in to produce even more striking evidence of defensive acumen (as highlighted in the editorial on page 4). The only record set in Germany was also a defensive one: Köbi Kuhn's Swiss side went home without conceding a goal.

Asked for their comments, Marcello and his compatriot Fabio Capello were quick to highlight 'balance' as

the keyword. And it was interesting to note that computerised analysis revealed how the most successful sides in the UEFA Champions League had been the ones who most consistently maintained their shape, their tactical discipline and a rational occupation of the playing area. The question was whether the balance and discipline displayed during the

“Individuals often make the difference.”

*Juande Ramos
(UEFA Cup Winner with Sevilla)*



UEFA-PIWOODS.CH

CONNOISSEURS'
COMMENTS: FABIO CAPELLO,
MARCELLO LIPPI
AND ARSÈNE WENGER.

2005/06 campaign amounted to a trend towards cautious, low-risk football – and another dimension was added to the debate during a later session devoted to the Laws of the Game.

Frank Rijkaard, representing a club whose supporters demand a degree of panache as well as results, was the leading voice in a chorus which described the current 'passive offside' rulings as a major threat to the future of the game as entertainment. Sides whose attacking vocation is underpinned by pushing up and keeping lines within a rational distance of each other are being undermined by a rule that allows opponents to exploit offside positions.

“In terms of defending, the trend is to bring the opponents into the defensive block and then aggressively press the ball.”

*Gérard Houllier
(Olympique Lyonnais)*

Analysis of the finals in Germany provided evidence that this now applies to defending at set plays. At a free-kick on the right, just outside the box, one team sent a player to a starting position near the bye-line beyond the far post.

He was so flagrantly offside – some 10 metres – that he was, obviously, left unmarked. But when the free-kick was played to an overlapping team-mate on the right, he sprinted into the centre of the box and, had the cross from the right reached

“Balance is the key.”

*Fernando Santos
(Benfica)*



LOENG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



GETTY IMAGES

“Each team has its own characteristics, but to be a success you need quick players, especially in attack.”

*Fabio Capello
(Real Madrid)*

him, the goal would have been declared valid, as he had run into a position behind the ball. He would have exploited the 'passive offside' ruling to be (a) unmarked and (b) able to run unopposed into a scoring position.

However, what worries the coaches is not so much these situations in themselves but the response they provoke: the only logical antidote, in open play and at set pieces, is to defend further back.

Hence Frank Rijkaard's deeply-felt concern about a ruling which, he fears, could signify the end of the

**TWO OF THE ELITE
COACHES' FORUM REGULARS:
GÉRARD HOULLIER
AND SIR ALEX FERGUSON.**



UEFA-PIWOODS.CH

“When it comes to style, it’s winning first – attractive next.”

*Marcello Lippi
(Italian World Cup winner)*

road for attacking philosophies based on an advanced defensive line. And, as a Dutchman steeped in attacking traditions, he feels that this is a threat to be taken very seriously.

This was one of many messages transmitted by the coaches and injected into UEFA’s debates on the future of the game and, more particularly, the future of UEFA’s club competitions. The Forum issued an

endorsement for the current format of the UEFA Champions League, while maintaining certain reservations. For example, with seasoned internationals often obliged to watch match action from the stand, the long-standing call for a greater number of substitutes on the bench remains on its feet. On the other hand, it gratified the coaches that proposals from previous years – such as a standardised ball for all UEFA Champions League matches – have already become reality.

“In the UEFA Champions League and World Cup finals, the winning coaches (Rijkaard and Lippi) made the difference with their second-half substitutions.”

*Sir Alex Ferguson
(Manchester United)*

calendar and, in the wake of a FIFA World Cup that had finished on 9 July, the idea of playing international friendlies on 16 August was questioned – especially bearing in mind that legislation in most countries entitles footballers to a statutory four-week holiday. There was a proposal for World Cup participants to avoid the August date or, at the worst, for the four semi-finalist nations to back out of any pre-arranged fixtures. One of the coaches remarked that he would have to wait two months before he could train his entire squad in top gear, bearing

“With counter-attacking becoming increasingly important, countering the counter has become the main trend.”

*Arsène Wenger
(Arsenal)*

in mind that the players had reported back on widely varying starting dates. This was a general concern based on the disruption of pre-season schedules and the difficulties in finding time to coach players and teams once the intensive programme of competitive fixtures gets under way. As Gérard Houllier said after the meeting: “Getting the top coaches together is great, but having these intense discussions on football issues is an enriching, exciting experience.” That, apart from the ideas and proposals that emerge from it, is the fundamental *raison d’être* for the Elite Club Coaches Forum.



SORIANO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

“You need to be good to win, but you can lose to a poorer team.”

*Trond Sollied
(Olympiacos)*



**SEVILLA FC,
2006 UEFA SUPER CUP
WINNERS.**



AUTUMN LEAVES

A LONG, HOT FOOTBALLING SUMMER IS NOW BEING FOLLOWED BY SOME AUTUMN LEAVES – IN THE FORM OF THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL REPORTS THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE. BUT, FIRST THINGS FIRST. AND THE FIRST THING IS TO SIGN OFF THE 2005/06 CAMPAIGN BY SALUTING THE TECHNICIANS WHO HAVE STEPPED ON TO THE PODIUM SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE. THE FIFA WORLD CUP IN GERMANY WAS AN EDIFYING EXPERIENCE IN THAT TEAMS FROM EUROPE MONOPOLISED THE SEMI-FINALS, WITH BRAZIL'S LUÍZ FELIPE SCOLARI JOINING THREE EUROPEAN COACHES ON THE BENCHES.



The Spanish youngsters showed their class once again by winning the European Under-19 Championship.

UEFA/FIFA conference for national team coaches in Berlin, while UEFA's technical reports on the UCL and all the age-limit tournaments (the Under-21 finals in Portugal, the Under-19 finals in Poland and the Womens Under-19 finals in Switzerland) either have been or are being distributed in English, French and German. Apart from providing a statistical record of all the events, the reports contain some interesting comment from the members of our technical study groups about trends in today's football.

With Russia having taken UEFA's Under-17 title and the Dutch making off with the Under-21 crown, honours in age-limit tournaments were shared around the map when a talented Spanish team emerged as the dominant force at the Under-19 finals in Poznan, while Germany's victory in the women's equivalent allowed Maren Meinert to become champion of Europe at the tender coaching age of 32.

At the club level, Sevilla FC, winners of the UEFA Cup 2005/06, made a good entry in the new season beating UCL title holders FC Barcelona in the UEFA Super Cup in Monaco.

FIFA's technical report on the World Cup was officially launched at the joint



A fourth World Cup title for Italy.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

**FIFA World Cup
in Germany**

**Italy v France 1-1
(5-3 in penalty shoot-out)**

Champion: Marcello Lippi
Runner-up: Raymond Domenech
Bronze medal: Jürgen Klinsmann

**European Under-19
Championship
in Poland**

Spain v Scotland 2-1
Champion: Ginés Meléndez
Runner-up: Tommy Wilson

**European Women's
Under-19 Championship
in Switzerland**

Germany v France 3-0
Champion: Maren Meinert
Runner-up: Stéphane Pilard

CLUB COMPETITIONS

**UEFA Super Cup
In Monaco**

FC Barcelona – Sevilla FC 0-3
Champion: Juan de la Cruz
"Juande" Ramos
Runner-up: Frank Rijkaard

THE GERMAN WOMEN'S
UNDER-19 TEAM, EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONS IN 2006.

TRAINING

Build-up versus Counter



BY GÉRARD HOULLIER

Head Coach, Olympique Lyonnais



Aim

- To develop constructive build-up play.
- To encourage the fast break.

Numbers

- Two teams – 8 v 8 plus goalkeepers.

Area

- Full pitch, with four zones (each 20 m).

Rules

- One team is identified as the build-up team, but it must conform to the restrictions on passing (i.e. maximum of 4 in the deep defending zone, 3 in the next zone, 2 in the next, and one in the attacking area. In order to score, the whole team must be in the opponent's half of the field (this creates space behind the defence for the possible counter).

- The counter team tries to win the ball back, and initiates a fast break (a maximum of 5 passes can be imposed, before a shot on goal).

Time

- Duration – 26 minutes (2 x 12 minutes, plus 2 minutes rest).
- The teams change roles at half-time – the build-up team becomes the countering team, and vice versa. (Intensity 90%).

Alternative

- Each team can use both approaches (i.e. they build-up or counter, depending on the situation). But they must conform to the rules for each type of attack (i.e. if it is a counter, they only have 5 passes).

Key Coaching Points

- The countering team can press the ball and counter in the opponent's half; or retreat, try to intercept the ball, and initiate a fast break from a deep starting position.
- The build-up team are encouraged to play composed possession football in their own half, and then to penetrate quickly with dribbling movements or fast combinations.
- Concentration, turnover speed and effective forward movement are key elements in the practice.
- Enjoy.

AGENDA

2006

October 23 – 27

16th UEFA Coach Educators Course (Florence)

November 3 – 7

UEFT Symposium (Prague)

November 28 – 30

4th UEFA Medical Symposium (Istanbul)

December 4

Draw European Women's Under-19 and Women's Under-17 Competitions (Nyon)

December 5

UEFA Youth & Amateur Football Committee (Nyon)
Draw European Under-19 and Under-17 Competitions (Nyon)

December 6

2nd European Youth Football Workshop (Nyon)

December 13

2nd UEFA Women's Elite Coaches Forum (Nyon)

2007

January 25 – 26

XXXI UEFA Congress (Düsseldorf)

February 26 – March 2

UEFA/CAF Meridian Cup & Conference (Barcelona)

April 2 – 7

7th UEFA Grassroots Conference (Helsinki)

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