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THE TECHNICIAN

Editorial: Street Life

Designing of the Youth Coach

From Player to Coach

Interview: Zico

The Golden Age of Coaching





BONGARTS

"You are never too old to have a happy childhood."
Japanese saying



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Ronaldo, a "toe poke" to beat Turkey.

COVER

● Michael Owen: from football in the street to the toèp with Liverpool FC. (EMPICS)

Photos from left to right:

- Zico.
- Street football.
- Sir Bobby Robson and Ronaldo with the Cup Winners' Cup they won with FC Barcelona in 1997.

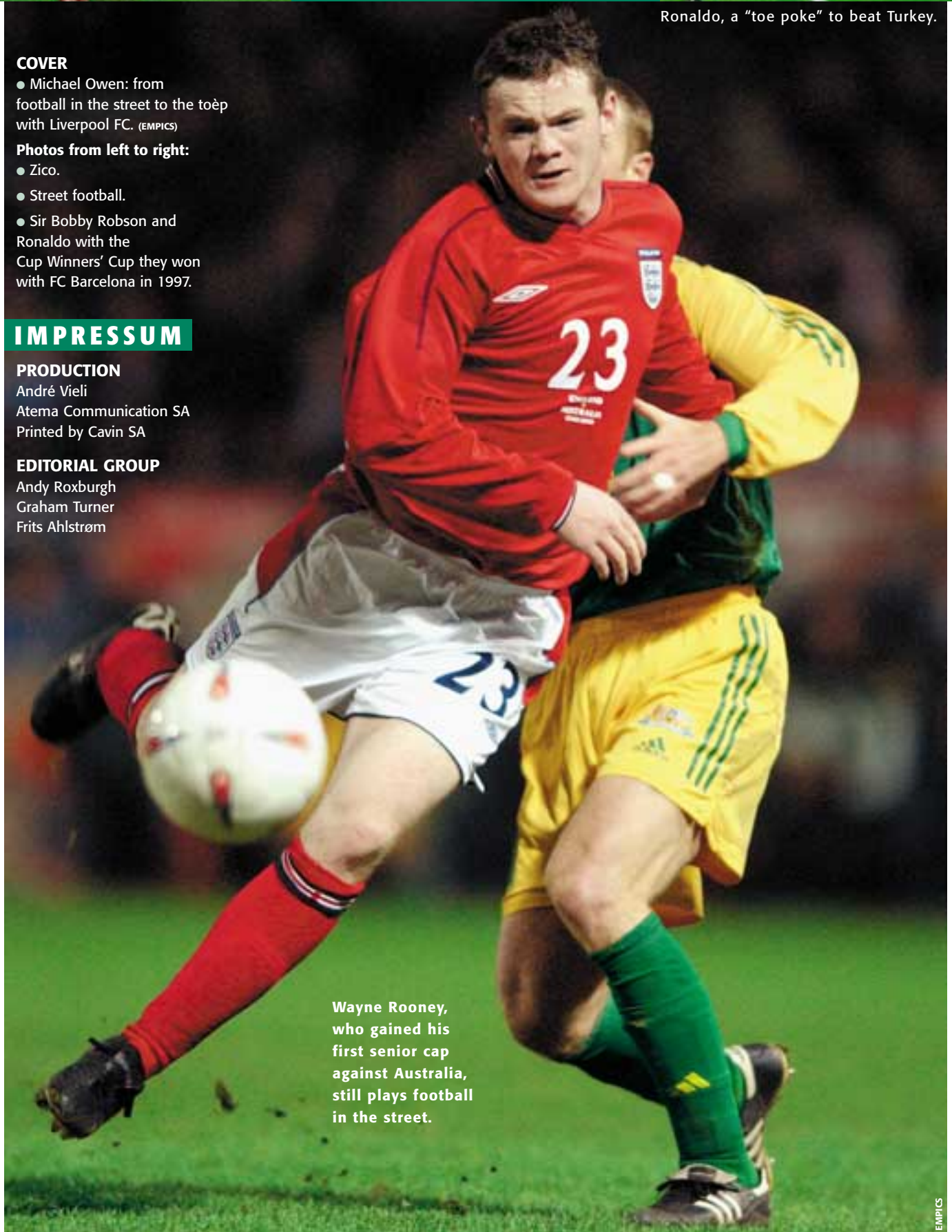
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Andy Roxburgh
Graham Turner
Frits Ahlstrøm



Wayne Rooney, who gained his first senior cap against Australia, still plays football in the street.

EMPICS

Street Life

EDITORIAL

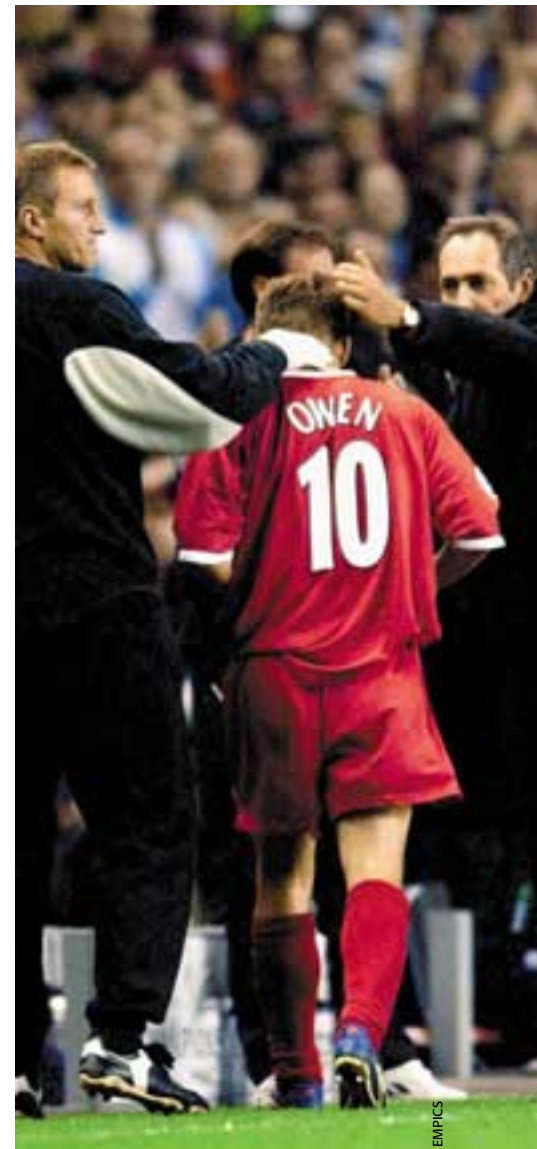
BY ANDY ROXBURGH,
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

It was lunchtime in Turin, and while others around the table spoke about the UEFA Champions League match which would take place that evening in the Stadio Delle Alpi between Juventus and Manchester United, Roberto Bettega, Juve's Vice Chairman and former star player, talked to me about street football. "Although I was attached to this club from the age of nine years, much of my development took place in the streets – it was there that I practised and refined my basic skills", said Roberto, who won seven championships for the "Old Lady" of Turin and represented Italy on forty two occasions. What troubles Roberto, who played alongside Platini, Rossi, Boniek and other icons of the game, is the dominating style of many youth coaches. With the passion of a street fighter, he added: "Young players need some time for self expression, for spontaneity. Their coaches need to watch and listen more and instruct a little less." In many parts of Europe, street football has all but disappeared, but the philosophy and the mentality remains valid. The street game was player centred, competitive, skilful and fair, and the small-sided game, with one-on-one a key element, was the basic form of play. Youngsters practised for hours on tricks and on passing / shooting techniques, using a wall as their silent partner. A love of football permeated all activities, and cups and medals (extrinsic moti-

vation) had no immediate significance for the fierce young dreamers who were dedicated to the ball and lost in the romance of the game. UEFA, through its Grassroots Programme, is committed to supporting the associations and the clubs with their community schemes and player development programmes. Football leaders are acutely aware that the loss of the street environment, particularly in industrial regions, has provoked a greater need for training facilities, free-play areas, and appropriate equipment. But equally, there is an increasing demand for well-educated coaches who have the specific knowledge and the ability to work with young players. Just as the smart referee knows the difference between a foul, a dive and a legitimate tackle, so the sensitive youth coach understands when to drill, when to teach creatively, and when to encourage self-reliance and free expression. Every player, even the stars, were once grassroots players. Every Sunday morning, as a youngster, Michael Owen of Liverpool FC played 2 vs. 2 games with his father and two elder brothers. Ronaldo claimed that his "toe-poke" goal against Turkey in the semi final of the World Cup was the product of his Futsal (5 vs. 5) experiences as a young player. Wayne Rooney, Everton's seventeen year old striker, who recently became the youngest player to play for England, still plays in the streets with his friends. It is a football maxim: if the grass roots are strong, then the game will grow and blossom.

As facilities improve and programmes become more sophisticated, there is the danger that some will lose sight

of the heart and soul of the game. Coaches who have a street mentality, who appreciate the value of free play, self expression, and passion, will never allow the game to become sterile and mechanical. The Japanese have a saying: "You are never too old to have a happy childhood." For the youth coach, this translates into a simple message: stay young at heart – it is a sentiment which Roberto Bettega would fully endorse.



An affectionate gesture from Gérard Houllier for Michael Owen as he leaves the field.

**THE
DEMONSTRATION GROUP
AT THE COACH
EDUCATORS COURSE
IN VILAMOURA.**

**THE CAPTAINS
OF THE FOUR EUROPEAN
TEAMS WHICH
WON THE
MERIDIAN CUP.**

**ENGLAND
VS. NIGERIA
IN THE
MERIDIAN
CUP.**



Designing the Youth Coach

DURING THE OPENING MONTHS, TWO EVENTS HAVE SERVED TO PROVOKE REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. THE FIRST WAS THE MERIDIAN CUP PLAYED IN EGYPT AT THE END OF JANUARY AND THE SECOND WAS THE 13TH UEFA COURSE FOR COACH EDUCATORS, STAGED AT VILAMOURA IN THE SOUTH OF PORTUGAL.

The Meridian Cup, pitting the top four Under-17 teams from Africa and Europe against each other, ended in victory for Europe by a handsome margin of 36 points to 6. This gave food for thought. Two years earlier, in the Bari region in southern Italy, Europe's 35-8 victory had been achieved in mitigating circumstances of very un-African weather and playing conditions. The result in Egypt underlined that, whereas nobody contests the wealth of talent in African football, the Europeans were ahead in terms of concentration and tactical awareness. Instead of patting ourselves on the back, the questions that were relayed to the coach educators in Portugal were based on whether we are doing enough to nurture young talent; and what qualities are required from both players and coaches during this crucial phase of development.

The Coaches' View

There are clear signs that the parameters of youth coaching have changed from the traditional concept of a



Juan Santisteban has led Spain to further success.

teacher imparting knowledge to pupils. And the European coaches in Egypt – Dick Bate (England), Luc Rabat (France), Juan Santisteban (once again a winner with Spain) and Pierre-André Schurmann (Switzerland) – stressed that human qualities are, these days, just as important as didactic ability, if not more so. In their eyes, the youth coach needs to be a father figure and a calming influence as well as an educator and a technique trainer. This combination means that the ideal youth coach is sympathetic and creative while being a disciplinarian and an alert psychologist. These days, they felt, players don't have to be constantly instructed. Instead, they need to be put into problem solving situations and stimulated to develop their own innate talent. In terms of the job itself, the profile of the ideal coach involves enthusiasm, dedication to the promotion of young players plus team-building, teaching and organisational qualities. At the same time, he must be honest and trustworthy enough to earn respect.

“We take great care at this club to make sure that our young players keep their feet on the ground.”

Sir Alex Ferguson



Spain's Fernando Llorente Torres surrounded by three Egyptians in the Meridian Cup.

On the training ground, he needs to be a patient instructor yet be demanding in terms of insisting that his players constantly aim to upgrade their standard of play. Leadership qualities are therefore very much in the equation and the coaches consulted agreed that having been a professional player undoubtedly gives a head start to the youth coach. In the 'must-to-avoid' column, the coaches felt that arrogance, indecision, weak personality, lack of vision/imagination plus human factors such as disloyalty, an unfriendly disposition and a tendency to avoid responsibility form the ingredients for failure. Given the current state of the transfer market, many clubs are now returning to youth development in order to underpin their team-building – and are realising that the youth coach

is not a 'give-away' job. The role is demanding in both sporting and human terms and should be entrusted to specialists with the appropriate qualities.

The Players' View

Youth education is no longer a one-way street. In the post-Bosman era, young footballers are increasingly demanding in terms of coaching that will help them to hit the big-time as quickly as possible. In Egypt, THE TECHNICIAN sat down with three members of the English team (Lee Croft of Manchester City, Chris Hogg of Ipswich Town and Ross Gardner of Newcastle United) and asked exactly what they expect of a youth coach.

Again, their emphasis was on human qualities. Their ideal coach would be

an honest, approachable motivator with a genuine passion for the game. They expect him to be firm, fair and patient while giving one-to-one relationships a high priority. With regard to on-the-training-ground qualities, they would ideally work with a coach who sets high standards, possesses footballing expertise and is a good reader of the game. They expect him to be a competent fitness trainer but place emphasis on guidance rather than drilling. They would like to work with a well-respected coach, which means that former players start with an advantage. Summing up the qualities they were looking for, the boys made it clear that they were talking more about a role model than the traditional concept of an autocratic manager/coach.

In the light of these views, the coach educators at the course in Vilamoura were invited to pinpoint the key elements of an education programme for youth coaches. These were their suggestions:

- The theory of player development
- Identifying talent
- Coaching philosophy and specific teaching methods
- Match analysis pegged to each age-bracket
- Lifestyle and fitness concepts
- Game-orientated practical content
- Attaining the correct balance between results and development
- Coping with success and failure
- Development of individuals within the group
- Managing the entourage (parents, agents, social milieu) and the environment

**JOZEF VENGLOS, CHAIRMAN
OF THE UEFA TECHNICAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
PRESENTS ROGER SPRY
WITH A GIFT.**



Roger Spry contributed to the development of Figo at Sporting Lisbon.



Tales of the **Unexpected**

**“I WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED OF ONE THING,”
COMMENTED BRAZIL’S HEAD COACH LUIZ FELIPE SCOLARI.
“THAT IN THIS WORLD CUP, INDIVIDUAL SKILLS WOULD DECIDE
MATCHES. AND SO IT WAS.” ALTHOUGH SKILL ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH
TO GUARANTEE A FIRST-TEAM PLACE IN THE MODERN GAME, ONE
MOMENT OF INDIVIDUAL BRILLIANCE CAN MAKE THE CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN TOP-LEVEL TEAMS – AS ZINEDINE ZIDANE STUNNINGLY
DEMONSTRATED AT LAST SEASON’S UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL.**

The ability to produce the unexpected has become a priceless treasure in a world where opponents are studied and analysed in minute detail.

The burning question for the technicians is whether players can be coached to produce the unexpected. At first sight, it appears to be a contradiction in terms. As soon as something is coached, one could argue, it ceases to be unexpected. Roger Spry has other ideas. “Creativity was

once thought to be a magic gift possessed only by a chosen few,” he comments. “But it is a magic gift that everyone has access to.”

Roger, who worked with Bobby Robson at both Sporting Clube and FC Porto, returned to Portugal to address the technicians who had gathered for the UEFA Course for Coach Educators. His answer to the ‘contradiction in terms’ was logical and compelling. You can’t coach the ‘unexpected’ in physical terms –



**ROGER SPRY
SETS AN EXAMPLE.**

“Why use only one ball in a training game or a drill,” he asks. “Why during practice only play two teams against each other? Why only have two goals? If you remove these barriers, it makes the coach and the players think differently in order to cope with a new set of problems.” Roger therefore focuses on multiple-ball training routines with the emphasis on directional changes, decision-making and reacting to decisions taken by opponents. His thesis is thought-provoking. We are coaching the body but are we dedicating enough time and effort to coaching creativity in the mind?

but you can coach the player’s mind; stimulate his creativity; and help him to produce, off his own bat, the unexpected move that can decide evenly-balanced games.

Roger concentrates on two facets: working on the creative mind and, at the same time, the physical agility that will allow original ideas to be put into practice.

He maintains that, in physical terms, the speed of the game may improve minimally on today’s levels via advances in sports science, playing surfaces or ball technology. The major changes, he foresees, will be in agility, range of movements and unusual ball skills. “If through a series of extreme body shapes and positions,” he says, “a player can kick the ball with more power, spin and, above all, disguise than his opponent, that player or team will have

a distinct advantage over opponents who train and play in a traditional fashion.” This is where, he reckons, footballers can benefit from the range of movements employed during ballet dancing, martial arts or other sports. Fluid movement, he says, can be practised on the training ground with the coach as ‘choreographer’. As he said to the participants in Vilamoura, “are you ready to handle that?!”

Next question: how do you coach creativity? Roger answers “Most training drills are, by their very nature, linear and very ‘left-brained’. The right side of the brain, the so-called ‘creative centre’ also needs to be worked to the same degree.” Training, he suggests, needs to be focused on forming a strong body and a strong mind. Traditional habits shouldn’t become a strait-jacket.



Roger Spry and UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.



“You can coach the player’s mind.”



From Player to Coach

Sir Bobby Robson

As a top-class midfielder, Bobby Robson represented his country in the 1958 and 1962 World Cup finals. As a coach, he moved into the limelight during a 13-year spell at Ipswich Town FC, building an attractive side which took the UEFA Cup in 1981. From 1978, he also managed the England 'B' team and, when Ron Greenwood stepped down in 1982, he led the English national team to the 1986 and 1990 World Cup finals.

LAST YEAR, THE UEFA PRESIDENT'S AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO A MAN WHO, IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES DURING A TIME-SPAN OF 46 YEARS, HAS COMBINED A BURNING PASSION FOR THE GAME WITH AN INNATE SENSE OF FAIR PLAY AND STANDARDS OF ELEGANT, GENTLEMANLY BEHAVIOUR WHICH EVEN DIEGO MARADONA'S 'HAND OF GOD' GOAL FAILED TO RATTLE.

During the 1990s, Bobby Robson, who was born on 18 February 1933, won silverware for Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish clubs. In September 1999, he received a call from the north-east of England, his birthplace, and at 66 he took over as head coach at Newcastle United – a club that had taken one point from its opening six games. His first game on the bench at St. James' Park ended as an 8-0 win.

The UEFA President's Award, however, is not about results. It was given in recognition of the 34 years of coaching work performed by a gentleman with a cool head, shrewd eyes, elegant behaviour and, above all, overwhelming enthusiasm for the game.

England before a friendly match against Spain in 1960.

Back, left to right: Brian Miller, Bobby Robson, Ron Springett, Ron Flowers, Mike McNeil, Peter Swan.

Front row: Bryan Douglas, Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Smith, Johnny Haynes, Bobby Charlton.



"He is an amazing person and the aura around him is so special. He's already willing to talk to you and give you advice. All the honours he has are well deserved."

David Beckham



Bobby Robson playing for West Bromwich Albion.

Playing Career

1950-56 Fulham FC
1956-62 West Bromwich Albion FC
1962-67 Fulham FC

Honours

345 league matches and 77 goals for Fulham FC
239 league matches and 56 goals for WBA
20 appearances and 4 goals for England

Coaching Career

1967-68 Vancouver Whitecaps
1968 Fulham FC
1969-82 Ipswich Town FC
1982-90 English National Team
1990-92 PSV Eindhoven
1992-93 Sporting Clube de Portugal
1993-96 FC Porto
1996-97 FC Barcelona
1997-98 FC Barcelona (International Scouting Director)
1998-99 PSV Eindhoven
1999- Newcastle United FC

Honours

FA Cup Winner (1978)
UEFA Cup Winner (1981)
World Cup quarter-finalist (1986)
World Cup semi-finalist (1990)
Dutch League Winner (1991, 1992)
Portuguese League Winner (1995, 1996)
Portuguese Cup Winner (1994)
UEFA Cup Winners' Cup winner (1997)
Spanish Cup Winner (1997)
A British Knighthood (2002)

"He's a colleague with a great track record. His behaviour has been an example for a whole generation of coaches."

Vicente Del Bosque

"He's a legendary coach and I'm happy to have worked with him at two different clubs and to enjoy his way of going about the job."

Luís Figo



Bobby Robson and Alan Shearer.

"I rate him among the three or four best coaches in the world."

Roberto Carlos

"He is a genius and I am happy that he is still healthy even though he is not the youngest coach in the world. He maintains his fascination and enthusiasm for his work. He was my opponent at the World Cup in 1990 in Italy and we were the lucky ones in the penalty shoot-out that decided the semi-final. As soon as Pearce had taken the last penalty, Bobby came straight over to me and congratulated me. He's a sportsman from tip to toe."

Franz Beckenbauer

"He's getting old but he is getting better with age. He's one of the most popular managers about."

Michael Owen

"In our job, if you are not fired with enthusiasm, they fire you with enthusiasm. I'm sure Bobby will never get the sack because he has so much energy on top of all his footballing knowledge."

Gérard Houllier

"He's a true football man who has committed his whole life to football. No matter his age, his enthusiasm has never stopped. I think he is one of the most-loved and respected managers in the world."

Sir Alex Ferguson

"He is a good example of an Englishman and he is a friend. It's unbelievable that you can do at his age what you were doing when you were 20. That's remarkable. I love Bobby Robson."

Louis van Gaal



Sir Bobby Robson with the Manager of the Month trophy that he won in February.

INTERVIEW

BY ANDY ROXBURGH,
UEFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



ZICO: THE VERY MENTION OF THE NAME TRIGGERS IMAGES OF SPECTACULAR FREE KICKS, WONDERFUL INCISIVE PASSES, AND THE TECHNICAL MAGIC SYNONYMOUS WITH THE YELLOW JERSEY OF BRAZIL. HE INHERITED THE NO 10 FROM HIS PREDECESSORS PELE AND RIVALINO, AND SHONE IN THE NATIONAL TEAM COLOURS ON 94 OCCASIONS, SCORING 67 GOALS IN THE PROCESS. A STAR AT FLAMENGO FOR A TOTAL OF 14 YEARS (591 GOALS IN 734 GAMES), HE WON THE EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN CUP (3-0 AGAINST LIVERPOOL FC IN TOKYO), THEN GRACED EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FROM 1983-1986 AT THE UDINESE CLUB IN ITALY, BEFORE MOVING TO KASHIMA ANTLERS OF JAPAN. ZICO HAD A STIMULATING EFFECT ON THE J-LEAGUE AND BECAME THE HERO OF MANY YOUNG JAPANESE FANS AND PLAYERS. FOLLOWING THE WORLD CUP IN KOREA/JAPAN, HE WAS APPOINTED HEAD COACH OF THE JAPANESE NATIONAL TEAM IN SUCCESSION TO PHILIPPE TROUSSIER, AND HE NOW HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON THE WORLD CUP IN GERMANY, IN 2006. HE IS ONE OF THE GREAT NAMES IN FOOTBALL'S "HALL OF FAME" – HE IS...

1 • How would you describe yourself as a coach?

I like coaching football which emphasises the attacking game. The most important aspect for me is enjoyment and for this the players

ZICO

must be happy. I try to create a positive atmosphere, and my relationship with the players has this aim.

In order to produce top-level performances, players need to be relaxed, and it is part of my job to keep the players calm. I also want them to express themselves on the pitch, both technically and tactically, and for this they need my help and encouragement.

2 • What will be the main problems for you in coaching Japan?

I have only started my career as the head coach of Japan, but already I realise that time is the biggest problem. There isn't enough time with the players, not enough time with other coaches – it's the same situation for other national coaches around the world. Eight of the players are based in Europe and this adds to the problem. Language



Zico presents the Japanese number 10 shirt to UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.

**ZICO PLAYING
THE USSR IN THE 1982
WORLD CUP.**

**ONE OF ZICO'S
BEST MATCHES, AGAINST
LIVERPOOL FC IN THE
EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN
CUP IN 1981.**



will also be a factor – although I can understand some Japanese, I will need my translator to help with communications.

3 • After 11 years in Japan, what are the good qualities of the football in this country?

Not only do I have a good impression, but I think it is a fact that Japanese players learn and develop faster than players from other countries. Japanese players are very disciplined and technically of a high standard. The Japanese adapt easily to the style of football which is played in South America, in particular in Brazil and Argentina. The players are very adaptable and their mentality helps them to be flexible in their approach to the game. The Japanese clubs and players are impressed by the Brazilian and Argentina schools of football and this is good for me.

4 • What needs to be done for Japan to reach the top ten in the world?

We need to play many matches, particularly away from home, against top teams from South America and Europe. Japanese clubs only play at home or in Asia and the players don't get the worldwide experience they need. For the players to develop a top-level professional mentality, the clubs and the national team need international exposure. We need to play in Germany, Italy and Scotland but scheduling is very difficult. Look at the number of African players who are playing in European clubs and gaining invaluable competitive experience. African football has therefore become very strong and highly competitive.

5 • What have been the highlights of your career?

My time with Flamengo was memorable – we won the championship

four times in Brazil and, in 1981, defeated Liverpool (3-0) in the Toyota Cup in Tokyo. But one of my best matches was in the final of the South American Cup when Flamengo beat Cobreloa (Chile) 2-0 and I scored both goals. One was a free kick, just like the one against Scotland in the World Cup in Spain 1982, which I am sure you remember! Then there was the first ever J-League match – I played for Kashima against Grampus Eight and we won 5-0, and I scored three times. Gary Lineker played for Grampus that day. Of course my first game as head coach for Japan has to be noted. We drew 1-1 with Jamaica in a low-key friendly match, in Japan.

6 • What effect has the 2002 World Cup had on Japanese football?

It was very important for the public and the players as it opened their eyes to world football. The competition gave a boost to the confidence of the Japanese, although it must be said that the increase in enthusiasm was only apparent in the stadiums, not in the streets, not in daily life. The expectations are sometimes extremely high. There is a history of winning in Asia, but never outside the continent, and hopes that Japan can be a top 16 team in Germany will not be easy to satisfy.

7 • Having watched the World Cup Korea/Japan, what is your view of European football?

There has been a change in structure – South American teams have favoured three at the back while many Europeans play a zonal back four. The European teams have



JAPAN'S FOOTBALLERS, LIKE TOMOKAZU MYOJIN, HAVE GOOD TECHNICAL SKILLS.

ZICO CHALLENGES DANIEL PASSARELLA IN THE ARGENTINA VS BRAZIL MATCH IN THE 1982 WORLD CUP.



fundamentals – control, passing and shooting. The dribbling is natural and this shows in the games: five vs. five, eight vs. eight and eleven vs. eleven. We also practice on different surfaces – the beach, artificial turf and grass. The use of different surfaces encourages players to develop a variety of techniques. I also promote football with a smile – I want players to experience the joy of playing.

10 • What do you focus on during training sessions with top players?

The priority is to develop the personality of the player in the game. In Japan, the players concentrate, are disciplined, but it is their confidence in making decisions which needs improvement. I like the players to make their own decisions on the pitch – they shouldn't just follow instructions. They must learn to read the game and make their own decisions.

The Japanese culture does not encourage risk taking – this needs to be changed in our football and the young are beginning to improve in this respect.

11 • What was your best quality as a player and how did you develop your talents?

My best quality was my ability to play a decisive pass. I had a natural talent for the game but I trained very hard. After training sessions, I worked on my own, focusing on technical skills. Even from a young age, I worked on my left and right foot, and I spent about 40 minutes every day taking free kicks. The Flamengo coaches encouraged me, so it was a mixture

always had good teamwork and power, but they have also added star quality, like Figo, Zidane, Beckham etc. For example, I wasn't surprised by Turkey's success – many Brazilians, players and coaches, have worked there and they have been impressed by the standard of football. For me, European football is top-level and European teams are always producing great performances.

8 • What did you think of the Brazilian team in 2002?

The team arrived in Korea/Japan in good condition and with the big stars – Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Ronaldhino – ready to perform. Also, we were fortunate to be in a modest group at the beginning and Felipe (Scolari) was able to make adjustments – only when Klebertson came in did we have a balanced team. The games against Belgium, England and Turkey were very difficult, but once the defence was stabilized and

the balance found, the talents shone through. I must add that the staff – doctors, fitness trainers, and Scolari – did a great job to have the stars, Roberto Carlos, Cafu, Ronaldo, in good condition. This was not the case with some of the top European players like Figo and Zidane.

9 • Why do you have so many good players in Brazil?

Because football is everything. Everybody plays: in the streets, on the beaches, in the clubs. The football environment and the passion for the game are important. The mentality of the players is also significant – keep the ball, dribbling, creativity. In Brazil, the economy is difficult and young people see football as an escape – a place to be creative, a way of becoming famous. Outside, life is very difficult, but inside football, it is easy. In Brazil, I have a football school and in every session I include a 30 minute-game, plus work on three

**RONALDO,
ANOTHER EXAMPLE
OF THE WEALTH
OF BRAZILIAN
FOOTBALL.**



TEMPSPORT

of talent, work and education. But I lived football, it was and is my life.

12 • If you were the boss of world football, what would you do to improve the game?

I would make the World Cup a 16-team final tournament. Only the best should play in the Finals. I cannot believe that Brazil and Germany had never met in the World Cup before the match in Yokohama.

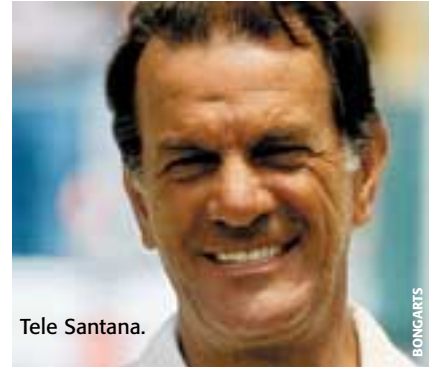
13 • What is your view of the UEFA Champions League?

The UEFA Champions League has many great players and clubs, and is the most exciting league competi-

tion. I personally liked it when it was more of a cup competition. It's not good that cup competitions, even domestically, are not as strong as before. In football today, money dominates everything and this is dangerous – one day we may have no national teams in the World Cup, only the top clubs!

14 • Who are your favourite players and coaches?

Dida, the No 10 of Flamengo, was my hero. He played in the World Cup in 1958 in Sweden. Pele replaced him in the final matches. My brothers were significant to me – one of them, Edu, was Head Coach of Brazil and now works



Tele Santana.

BONGARTS

with me in Japan. I come from a football family. My favourite coach was Tele Santana because of his philosophy. He focused on the ball, on creativity, on the players. He was a very good coach and I had the greatest respect for him and his approach to the game.



Having fun playing football on the beach in Rio.

EMPICS

**RONALD
KOEMAN, ONE
OF THE
NEW GENERATION
OF COACHES.**



Hector Cuper, the only non-European coach in the second group stage of this season's UEFA Champions League.

The Golden Age of Coaching

THIS SEASON'S UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SETS OUT NO BLUEPRINT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL TECHNICIAN.

For example, the ages of the coaches whose teams reached the last sixteen ranged from Sir Bobby Robson, who celebrated his 70th birthday with a Newcastle United victory in Leverkusen, to Matthias Sammer, half Bobby's age, who lead BV Borussia Dortmund into action at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. AFC Ajax's Ronald Koeman is another example of the new, young generation of technicians who, having played in the UEFA Champions League, are now coaching in it.

However, a common denominator among the sixteen coaches

is top-level experience as a player, with Valencia CF's head coach, Rafael Benítez, as the notable exception. Internazionale FC's Héctor Cúper is the only non-European and one of only four coaches whose nationality is different from their club's – including Manchester United's Scottish 'import', Sir Alex Ferguson.

Another curiosity is that the two clubs who changed their coaches during the second group stage did so on account of domestic, rather than European, shortcomings. Klaus Toppmöller, despite taking Bayer 04 Leverkusen to last season's final and the second group stage of the current campaign, was dismissed due to the club's lowly position in the German Bundesliga. Louis van Gaal, the youngest coach to win the UEFA Champions League, was shown the door a few days after FC Barcelona had equalled AC Milan's record of ten successive victories in the UEFA Champions League. By the way, the other winning coaches have all been in the 47-58 age bracket (the golden age of coaching) – a trend which the new youngsters are hoping to break.



Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Robson are hoping to extend the average age of winning coaches in the UEFA Champions League, but in an upward direction.



"A winning mentality – you have to earn it; you cannot buy it in a supermarket."

Sven-Göran Eriksson

AGENDA 2003

April 2/3

Grassroots "Starball" Match (24 hours of 5 v 5) • Manchester

April 8/9 • 22/23

UEFA Champions League (Quarter-finals)

April 10/24

UEFA Cup (Semi-finals)

May 2

UEFA Women's Committee • Nyon

May 6/7 • 13/14

UEFA Champions League (Semi-finals)

May 7 – 17

2nd European Under-17 Championship • Portugal

May 20

UEFA Jira Project Panel • Sevilla

May 21

UEFA Technical Committee • Sevilla

May 21

UEFA Cup Final • Sevilla

May 28

UEFA Champions League Final • Manchester

June 4

UEFA Futsal Committee • Nyon

June 22/28

3rd UEFA Regions' Cup • Germany

July 1 – 3

4th UEFA Grassroots Course • Florence

July 16 – 26

2nd European Under-19 Championship • Liechtenstein

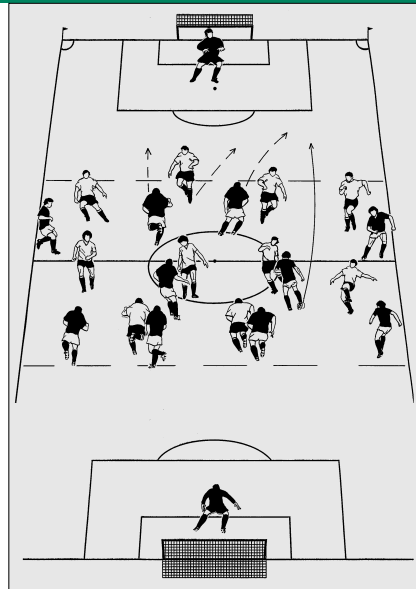
July 25 – August 3

2nd European Under-19 Women's Championship • Germany

TRAINING



BY TAKESHI OKADA
(Yokohama F. Marinos and Ex National Coach of Japan)



My Favourite Practice

Aim

- To overcome midfield pressing and to break out of the condensed central area, keeping the offside rule in mind

Numbers

- 11 v 11

Area

- Full pitch, with central area marked (20 metres into each half)

Duration

- 10-20 minutes, depending on physical/tactical requirements

Rules

- When the ball is played across the 20 metre line into the attacking zone, two players from the attacking team and one from the defending

team can follow the ball into the forward area. The attackers attempt to score, the defender and the goalkeeper try to regain possession and play the ball back to their team-mates in the central zone. The game continues.

(If a player enters the attacking area before the ball is played forward, the other team is given possession of the ball on the 20 metre line where the infringement took place.)

Coaching

- Work on the timing of runs into the attacking area (same concept as overcoming offside)
- Coach midfield pressing and possession play (anti-pressing) in a condensed space

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