

FOOTBALL 2020
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At the higher levels of world football, especially in Europe, the changes in finance, organization, structure, resources, facilities, management, coaching and the actual playing of the game are un-precedented. Arguably, never in the history of the game have so many innovations, changes and shifts occurred in such a short time frame. From the early 90's to the present day, the game seems to change daily!

As coaches of players and teams, making sense of the past and the recent evolution of the game, could if studied deeply, give us a degree of insight as to the likely ingredients of the game in the future. Technically, tactically, athletically, coach and management wise, just what are the anticipated needs of players and coaches to be able to succeed some ten to twenty years in the future?

Preparing young players particularly and teams for the future is the role and responsibility of the present day football teachers and coaches who largely work from a present-day curriculum which is rapidly being overtaken by the game's forward moving technical and tactical agenda.

The good coaching materials and development manuals give us that necessary and in some cases, everlasting foundation for our personal development as coaches but become quickly out-dated as inventive players and coaches find new answers to the game's demands.

Technically, tactically and athletically the game is changing beyond all recognition from that played some twenty years ago. Players cannot perform at the peak of the game without highly developed athletic qualities - but in which areas? Technically, the answers provided to the game's challenges are evolving but in which domains particularly, and tactically, what are the increasingly significant developments that are being witnessed into today's game? More significantly, in which direction will these developments take the game in the next twenty years or so and are today's coaches aware of the likely needs of the players and themselves to participate in that future game?

Society changes, and individuals will either contribute to rebel against or be carried along by those changes. How will modern day living and the material wealth of the leading players affect the strategies of the future coach and just what will the coach need as personal and professional expertise in the years to come as the individual is afforded increasing significance in what is essentially a team orientated game, and so more stridently exerts his own views and values ?

North American players are increasingly taking their place and playing their part at the highest levels of both domestic and international football as the game in Europe especially becomes a "world game." That was not the case some twenty years ago and is symbolic of the changes that have taken place over the past two decades. So, if the game

continues to evolve at the present rate where will it be, and what will effective coaches need in 2020 some twelve years down the line?

This session aims to look forward into the future and to offer some thoughts as to what will change, how it will change and the ramifications for the coach as the changes take place and he/she arrives at 2020!