



Stories...




BELGIUM

The road to success...




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The Belgium vision on youth development

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Belgium Vision on youth development

FOCUS ON THE PLAYER



- Let him
 - make his own decisions
 - experience (own experience)
- Support him, be patient and give him confidence
- Help him
 - to make the right decisions
 - to find a solution
 - with a positive coaching

Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day ...

Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime !

Belgian Vision on youth development

5 crucial keys of success



- All** talented players have the opportunity
 - early and late mature
 - players mainly from 1st division clubs but also from lower divisions and girls from national selections
 - favorable geographical spreading (no problem of transport)
- Strong** learning environment:
 - training sessions with all the most talented players
 - 250 extra training hours a year, based upon the development vision of the Belgian FA.
- A specific **educational** "topsport"-management offering the possibility to obtain a full diploma
 - teachers of football (experience as players and coaches, diploma UEFA-A and pedagogical diploma)
 - smaller class groups, study guidance, specific exams regulations and possibility to train with the A-team

Belgian Vision on youth development

Basic competences



A future top player requires
6 basic competences :

1. Winner's mentality
2. Emotional stability
3. Personality
4. Explosivity
5. Insight in the game
6. Ball and body control

These basic competences are equally important !

Belgian Vision on youth development

5 crucial keys of success



- Guarantee** for continuity and expertise
 - Continuity: same staff of coaches, same learning plan
 - Expertise : 14 years of know-how
- 100% oriented** to individual development
 - not based upon the formation of a team
 - a modular system with BASICS and TEAMTACTICS objectives and qualitative evaluations (7 per year)
 - learning objectives per training session, per week, per module and per year
 - a specific individual monitoring

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Maturity



Unequal battle between early and late mature players !

U16 Futurs Belgium (°1993)
(late mature players)



U16 Belgium (°1993)
(normal and early mature players)



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Future players – 4 out of 17 players are professionals (3 representing Belgium) including one with 4 Sr. caps (Ferreira Yannick – Atletico Madrid)

Early Mature – 7 out 11 are professionals (6 representing Belgium), only one with 1 Sr. Cap (Thorgan Hazard – Bor. Mong.)

From 2009 to now... change in vision & philosophy... Being innovative & creative as a FEDERATION (no different than what top players need to do on the field)

1 plan, 1 vision, 1 mission

- ‘We made a brochure’: the Belgian vision of youth development (it was more of a book, in fact)
- The architect was Michel Sablon (former technical director)
- ‘We had a whole group of people around a table in the technical department and we decided to make a plan for **three target groups**.
 - First of all was **the clubs**,
 - secondly **the national youth teams**
 - and third **the coaches** of the schools



Five or six years to accept it because for most of the coaches and the clubs, all they cared about was **winning the game. Nothing else.**

But that was absolutely wrong for the development of all the players. Totally wrong.

stop thinking about **your team** and the results

start thinking about **THE INDIVIDUAL PLAYER!**

"First and foremost, I want my players to develop. Being here (U-17 WC) is amazing for them, but **it's just another stepping stone in their education.**"

"Players have to take ownership over their learning, I just strive to provide an environment in which they have the opportunity to develop. I speak to them a lot; I hold one-on-one talks with them in which I ask them to set themselves goals. **I try to nurture their creativity and their ability to make things happen individually while never losing sight of the collective spirit.** I put a lot of emphasis on decision-making and give them responsibility."



**Group NOT at the U-17 WC to win, but guess where they finished?!?!
3rd place losing in the semi-final on a GK mistake!**

Significant Progress...





U-20 Serbia Team celebration in Belgrade

Veljko Paunovic – Head Coach U-20 Serbia

Two words ... **PASSION & BELIEF**

For your country, for the game, for your team, for the opponent, ... most importantly in yourself!





Parents – 6 sentences to remember...

Before the Competition:

I love you.
Good luck.
Have fun.

After the competition:

I love you.
It was great to see you play!
What do you want to eat?

Players... a lot ask – what does it take for me to “make it”??



Are you ready..... ??

Adversity!! Challenge yourself!!

**If you are not training, improving, studying,
progressing, moving forward in achieving
your goals... just remember...**

someone else is.