Traits of Top-level Coaches
Clearwater “B” License 2014
The Starting Point

Coaching Credibility
Coaching Credibility

Where Did You Play?
What License Do You Hold?
What Have You Done In The Game?

What Can You Teach Me?

What Else?
Coaching Licenses

Top-level Coaches

“Success in management depends upon team selection, good decision-making ability to be lucky!”

Alex Ferguson
So, How Do Coaches Develop?

- Football Background
- Work Experience
- Coach Education
- Personal Study
- Life Experiences
- Attitude
- Personality
Three Headlines

Vision
Knowledge
Communication
Vision
Klinsmann on Style of Play
Tactical Themes

Playing out from the Back
All teams must feel comfortable playing the ball from the back (four) through the midfield and from there to the final quarter of the field.

Possession & Transition
All teams must try to keep possession of the ball playing a one-two touch game. Players will be encouraged to support and move, thus creating passing options. Once the possession game is consolidated, the team must learn how to transfer the ball in the most efficient way from one area of the field to another.

Offense-Defense Quick Transition & Vice Versa
When possession is lost, players must react quickly and apply pressure to regain the ball. Once possession is regained, players will be positioned immediately to counter-attack.

US Soccer Curriculum (p6)
Vision: Tactical Framework

- Counter-Attacking
- Building vs High Restraining Line
- Building vs Medium Restraining Line
- Building vs Deep Restraining Line
- Attacking Restarts

Defending
- Defending Against The Counter-Attack
- Pressing
- Defending From Behind A Line Of Confrontation
- Bunkering
- Defensive Restarts
### Team Personality Definers - Assessment

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Realistically, what type of players do you have to work with?
Vision – Your Reality!

Question...

Write down a few words that describe your team(s) style of play.
Vision

Discussion...

For Future Top-level American Coaches, Does / Should Style Count Over Success...

For Player Enjoyment?
For Player Development?
For National Development?
Knowledge
Knowledge

Question...

Write down the top five competencies (technical and otherwise) you feel are necessary to become a top coach in the American soccer environment?
# American Coaching Competencies

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<td>Game Management</td>
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<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>Soccer Program Developer</td>
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<td>Facility Management</td>
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<td><strong>The Tech/Tac Context (Principles of Play)</strong></td>
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Increasing Demands for Ball Possession and Passing Accuracy
Demands of the Modern Game

Champion’s League
- 86% Passing Success Rate.
- 84% Success Rate are 1-Touch.

Barclays Premier League
- 86% of Passing Success Rate.
- 80% of Passes are 1/2 Touch.
- 78% of Passes <25 yards.

Pass Rate Accuracy? 80+ percent
Average Time Between Passer and Receiver? 3 seconds
Average Time In Possession? 2 seconds
Average Touches On The Ball? 2 touches
Decision-Making Window? 2 seconds

Meaning...
- Less Time On The Ball
- Less Time Between Passes
- Fewer Goals Scored
- Fewer Touches Allowed / Demanded
- Less Recovery Time
Knowledge: Possession

Spain
WC 2010 Qualifiers

Total Passing Success Rate: 88.07%

- 66,556 passes over 10 games
- 939 passes made by Xavi, Average 94 per game!
“Transitions have become crucial. When the opponent is organized defensively it is very difficult to score. The moment the opponent loses the ball can be the time to exploit the opportunity of someone being out of position.

Similarly when we lose the ball we must react immediately. In training I sometimes practice keeping a minimum of five players behind the ball so that when we lose it we can keep a good defensive shape.”

Jose Mourinho
Discussion...

Given these demands on top level players, what are the **Coaching Implications** for Training & Long-Term Player Development in the American soccer environment?
Communication
No matter how much knowledge a coach has, no matter how great their understanding of the physical and emotional need of their players, success or failure boils down to one thing – COMMUNICATION!
Communication

Think of the coach(es) you respected the most; the coach(es) you enjoyed playing for the most; and the coach(es) who inspired you the most.

What were the Key Qualities of this Person(s).
Will You Be The One They Remember?

Memorable Coaches Qualities

- Passionate
- Memorable
- Interesting
- Inspiring
- Leader
- Charismatic
- Respectful
- Role Model
- Reliable
- Caring
- Personality
- Genuine
- Honest
- Maximized Potential
- Successful
- Challenging
- Humor
- Understanding
- Teacher
- Innovative
- Driven
- Realistic
- Confident
- Engaging
- Demanding
- Intelligent
- Funny
- Enthusiastic
- Realistic
- Driving
Leadership

“The players must feel that they have a sure and strong guide”

Marcello Lippi
Credibility through Transformation?
Game Coaching Competencies

- Reading the Game
- Selection/style/strategy
- Substitutions
- Decision Making
- Team Meetings (Pre-game, halftime & post match)
- Communicating with technical staff and players
- Match Evaluation
Practice Coaching Competencies

- Situating your practice sessions.
- Introducing your activities.
- Efficient transitions
- Standards & expectations.
- Interventions / feedback.
- Introducing large-sided games.
- Sideline coaching.
Introducing a Large-sided Game

Structure and Organization

- What colors do you want each team to wear?
- What is the desired formation?
- What are the specific roles assigned to specific players?
  - Should reflect the training session.
- How do you want the opponent to be organized?
  - Specific players in a specific formation?
- How are you going to promote an organized transition to play?
  - Scrimmage vests pre-organized formation?
  - Assigned players in assigned colors placed in formation?

- How do they win?
- How long are they playing for?
- What are the objectives?
**Sideline Coaching**

### Checking for Understanding
- Are the players in their assigned positions?
- Do the players understand their roles and functions?
- Is the general flow of the game as you expected?
- Are the key moments of the soccer problem materializing?

### Coaching
- Are you commentating on the game, in general, or on the specific soccer problem?
- Are you coaching the relevant side of the ball (attacking vs defending)?
- Are you coaching the relevant players?
- Are you coaching at relevant moments?
- Are you Cueing (pre), String-pulling (during) or Correcting (post) the action?
- Are you shaping the game by helping the players recognize the tactical cues?
Question...

What have you learned anything by making a **Mistake**?

What do soccer mistakes tell players?
What if soccer mistakes were unacceptable?
If you think your job is to provide

“perfect coaching”

solutions during a freeze, what is the score at the end of the game?
Communication

Three Types of Questions...

**Factual:** Where are the two goals situated?

**Conceptual:** Why do you think the two goals are situated close to the middle of the long line?

**Provocative:** Does anyone have any thoughts on how this tactic might relate to our match on Saturday?
Keys to the Socratic Method

- Know the final answers before you ask the first question.
- Reformat your questions, as needed.
- Be ready to ask intermediate questions to get to an answer.
- Solicit answers either from the group, or from specific players (who can always pass).
- Give questions time to simmer.
- Remember there may be multiple solutions to questions.
- Avoid answering your own questions!
Communication (Kidman)

The **Answers** to Questions tell us...

- Whether there is understanding, or not!
- What a player/group knows about the game.
- What a player/group is thinking about the game.
- What a player/group sees, or is looking at, in the game.
- How a player/group is feeling about the game.

**Intellectual vs Practical Learning**
Communication is an Active Process

Questions...

Who has not participated yet, today?

Do you feel you are part of the process?

What is the value of discussion and participation in learning?
Self-assessment

Questions...

Take a few minutes to answer the following questions.

What are your current strengths and limitations as a developing professional coach?

What do you hope to learn about yourself this week?
Tomorrow’s Coaches: 10 Basics!

1. How to Coach/Teach
2. How to Manage
3. How to Lead
4. How to Learn
5. How to use Tools
6. How to Communicate
7. How to Organize
8. How to Prepare/Plan
9. How to Analyze
10. How to Build Teams
Thank You For Your Participation…

Questions?
Comments?
Criticisms?
Witticisms?