Scouting

ICA

Why Scout ? – This scouting information will prepare the coach to create a realistic training environment that specifically is designed to compete against the opponent.

Professional scouting is a very meticulous job. It requires a great deal of time in assessing and analyzing data. You must ask yourself during the scouting process, "does this information help the player and team to prepare effectively and improve results?" However, it's important to avoid analysis paralysis. Assemble information that is practical and useful to the players. It must be clear what is important to analyses and why. The report should focus on what really matters.

Keep it simple and a matter of fact not opinions. A poor scouting report can be disastrous. If the scouting report is not accurate players will loose faith in it's value.

The techniques in collecting data are numerous. Especially, with the technology boom. You can attend matches, study game videos, observe training sessions, discuss strategies with other coaches or scouts, utilize sophisticated computer programs, and finally attend the matches. There is nothing that can duplicate being in and observing the action.

What is critical in effective scouting is how you can record and standardize your data. This allows you to have valuable information at your fingertips. What needs to be carefully considered is how and when you should share the scouting data with your team. Appropriate timing is everything.

Benefits in effective scouting:

1. With simple, safe, secure and smart information you can create a level of confidence in your players in preparation for the match.

2. This scouting information will prepare the coach to create a realistic training environment that specifically is designed to compete against the opponent.

3. With advance knowledge of scouting the opposition we can avoid any surprises.

4. Depending on the level your scouting gathering this information can be very valuable in player acquisitions.

5. Establishes a standard method of collecting data that can be useful for the future as well as reflecting on the past.

6. Charting specific information can detect patterns in your team as well as the opponents.

7. Scouting allows you to control all aspects of preparation up to show time.

You'll be more effective in communication with your team regarding the opponent.

Team Shape - What is the system used by the opponent and how does it effective your team?

The assessment of Team Shape (Systems of Play) is to determine a recognizable order or pattern of play from the assignments of specific players with clearly defined roles on the field. What are this team's combination of plays. Who, Where, What and Why does it effect their style of play?

What is the system used by the opponent and how does it effective your team?
Do you need to make adjustments? Most systems start with a 3-3-1. Now you need to discover where the remaining three players are positioned. Yes, in general it is true that when the team is in possession of the ball, all players in general are attackers, and when out of possession all are defenders. However, most coaches do assign specific tasks to each player and organization of players.

Although theories and tactical strategies tend to channel soccer into a fixed schemes, soccer's charm comes from it's unpredictability.
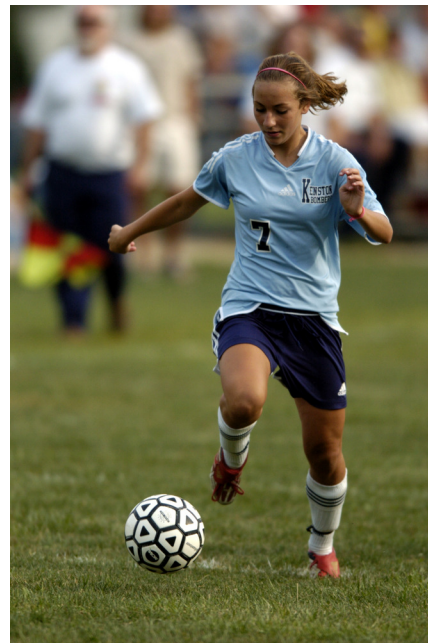
Number of Front Runners

1. Central
2. Wide left or right side
3. Combinations and patterns
4. Specific Role

Mid-Field Make up

1. Number of Mid-Fielders
2. Combinations and patterns
3. Specific Roles

Defenders

1. How Many
2. Sweeper
3. Defending Roles
4. Attacking Patterns

Attacking Tendencies - Evaluate the opponent's individual and collective execution of offensive technical and tactical skills.

The target in the game of soccer is the opponent's goal. The persistence in striving towards the target against the organized resistance of the opposing team effects the overall behavior of the players.

Evaluate the opponent's individual and collective execution of offensive technical and tactical skills. How does the team develop offensive opportunities in order to create scoring chances and how does it's offensive movements exploit spaces? In turn, how will your team deny decisive space?

Attacking Formation

Direct or Indirect

1. Territorial dominance
2. Possession areas
3. Time of Possession

Play Maker

1. How does he receive the ball, space or feet?
2. How does he prepare the ball when he receives it?
3. Who delivers the ball to him?
4. Why is it effective?
5. Where does he receive the ball?
6. What is his dominant foot?
7. What type of ball does he serve?
8. Where is his comfort zone?
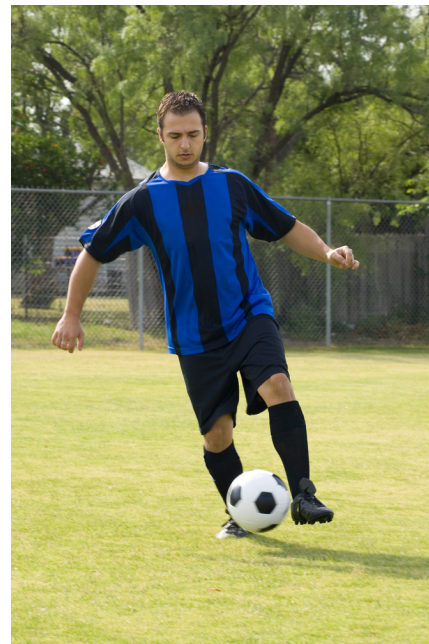
Goal Scorer

1. How does he score?
2. Where does he score from?
3. Who provides him with the service?
4. What type of pass does he prefer?
a. Service to the head
b. Which foot
c. Service into space
d. After receiving the ball where does he take it?

Patterns of Runs

1. Each third of the field
2. How are they dangerous?
3. How do these runs effect our defending methods?

Restarts

Free kick Specialists

1. Type of shot
2. Range and angle of run and shot
3. Type of deception off the ball
    a. Shoot straight away
    b. Multiple touches
    c. Position of players
    d. Time of organization

Corner Kicks

1. Organization of players
2. Short or long service
3. Near post or far post service
4. Signals
5. Movement of players
6. In swinger or out swinger service
7. What players are relocated

Penalty Kicks

1. Left or right footed
2. Type of run toward the ball
3. Any rituals
4. Is the team prepared for rebounds
5. Low, medium or high shot
6. Left, right or in the middle

Throw Ins

1. Short or long
2. Patterns of runs

Defensive Tendencies - when the opposition losses possession of the ball how do they establish defensive structure and what do they do to win the ball back.

In this area of scouting we need to understand when the team losses possession of the ball, how do they establish defensive structure and what do they do to win the ball back.

We need to understand the basic defensive framework of the opposition and do they demonstrate flexibility in this general framework? What area's can we isolate and exploit? How do the players cover each other and restrict the opposition time and space? Where are their restraining lines? Do they get pulled out of position or do they have a tight inner shell or do they break out of that shell? What is the defensive will of each player and the cohesiveness of the team defense?

Defensive Formation

Number of back players

a. Playing with sweeper

Mid field Make up

a. Number of mid fielders
b. Defensive mid fielders

Strikers Role in defending

a. Do they track back
b. Do they direct the play inside or outside
c. Defending teams breaks their pressure, where and what do they do
d. Do the strikers work in tandem

Team Defending

1. High pressure or low pressure
2. Where are their pressure points and lines
a. All over the field
b. Edge of the middle third
c. Half field
d. Defensive third
3. Who are the hard tacklers and ball winners
4. Man to Man, zone or combination marking
5. Will they defend our key players
6. Who is there communicator
7. Defending attitude

Defensive Restarts

1. Slow or quick to organize
2. Zone, man to man or combination
3. Weaknesses we can exploit
4. How can we match up
5. Do they counter attack quickly
6. Are there defenders behind the wall? How far out will they set up a wall? Who sets the wall?

Offsides

1. Do they force offsides
2. Who pushes the defenders out
3. Do they move collectively
4. How far do they push out
5. If beaten do they recover quickly

Goalkeeper

1. Stature
2. Positional tendencies
3. Shot handling abilities
4. Distribution, how and where
5. Communication skills
6. Crosses, what is his comfort zone
7. Psychological make up. How does he react after a critical mistake

Goals

1. Time of goal
2. How was is scored
3. Who scored
4. Where scored
5. Why was the goal conceded
6. How could have the goal been prevented
7. Average number team goals per match
8. When do they tend to score, first half or second half
9. How do react after they score. Do they settle in or aggressively come forward to attack again

Strengths and weaknesses - In preparation for an opponent it is crucial that you formulate simple objectives

In preparation for an opponent it is crucial that you formulate simple objective, strategies, and that orders are clear and concise. Simplicity keeps the team motivated, focused and unified.

When your assessing strengths, you are determining their strong qualities. Meaning, their resistance, durability and firmness.

What is their capacity for effective action and where does their source of power come from? What is their degree of intensity and concentration? With regards to weaknesses, you are determining what are their individual and team defects? How will you play over, through and or around and how will they play versus your team.

1. Speed

a. Overall team speed (with and without the ball)
b. Speed by position (with and without the ball)

2. Size

a. Overall team size
b. Individual size by position

3. Technical Abilities

a. Overall team technical style
b. Individual technical ability

4. Tactical Concept

a. How does specific players effect attacking purpose
b. How does specific players effect defending shape

Psychological Factors – To excel you not only have to have a high degree a fitness level but equally important is the mental side of the game.

There is absolutely no question that soccer is an intense physical sport. To excel you not only have to have a high degree a fitness level but equally important is the mental side of the game.

Do the players your observing have the right head for the game? What is their psychological make up? Are they mentally tough? What is their inner player like? Do they have mental lapses and if so who and where? Do they choke under physical pressure? Is there body and mind connected? How do they handle mistakes individually and collectively. Who are their strong and weak personalities?

How can you effectively match your stronger players with their weaker players? How does the score effective their behavior? Do they behave differently away from home. If so, how?

Self Control
Team motivation
Individual motivation
Leadership roles
Courage
Mental toughness
Concentration
Heart
Determination
Communication
Fighting spirit

Physical Traits

In this area of assessment we are determining if the individual player as well as a collective team possess the fitness level to cope with the physical demands of the game.

During a soccer match it is difficult to isolate and evaluate objectively physical performance. However, you can attain an overall general sense of the physical factors. Are they match fit and where are the slow spots on the team? Use your team as the comparison to the team your assessing.

Overall fitness level

Individual fitness levels

Team speed

Individual speed

Strength and power

Quickness

Jumping abilities

Practical Tips

- Avoid distractions, sit alone.

- Come early to observe pre game preparation.

- Stay after the match to observe player behavior.

- Type of soccer balls used in competition. Try to prepare your team with the same brand of soccer balls.

- Position yourself according to the player or team you are observing.

- It is best, if the conditions allow you to sit up high in the stands. You will get an Ariel perspective.

- Pick up game roster and confirm names match up correctly with players names.

- Call the school or organization responsible for hosting the event for directions and parking facilities.

- If possible have another coach scout the game and compare notes.

- When possible scout home and away.

- Before the match, half time and after the match gather information from the home fans.

- Are there VIP considerations such as VIP tent, parking, call window to pick up complimentary tickets, pre game-half time-post game activities

Scouting Check List

◄ Hand held tape recorder

◄ Video camera with small screen to view the game

◄ Scouting forms and diagrams

◄ Color pencils and eraser

◄ Sunglasses

◄ Binoculars

◄ Cap for the sun glare

◄ Appropriate clothing to accommodate the weather conditions

◄ Chair

Courtesy of Dan Gaspar – Star Goalkeeping Academy

Player Evaluation Form

Name:_____

Position:_____#_____

Home Address:_____

Telephone:_____

Club Team:_____

Coach:_____ Telephone:_____

Game scouted at:_____ Date:_____

RATINGS:

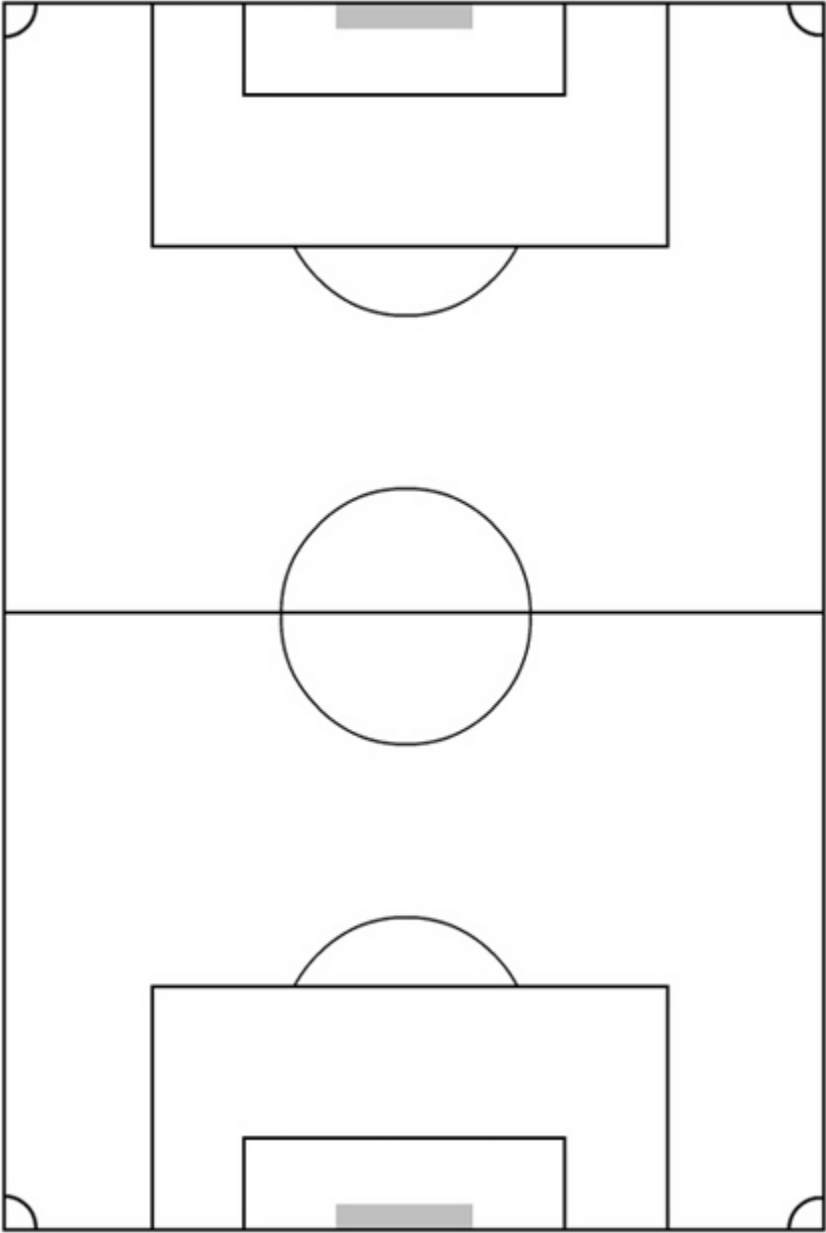|			
Technical Ability	1	2	3
Speed	1	2	3
Endurance	1	2	3
Mental Focus	1	2	3
Aggressiveness	1	2	3
Immediate Impact Player		Yes	No
Developmental Player		Yes	No

Comments:

Courtesy Dan Gaspar - Star Goalkeeping Academy

Team Evaluation Form

Team Scouted:_____ v _____ Date:_____

System
Played:_____

Key Players:_____

Strengths & Weaknesses by Position:

Goalkeeper:_____

Defense:_____

Midfield: _____

Forwards: _____

Set Plays and Restarts:

Offensive: _____

Defensive: _____

Comments:

Courtesy Dan Gaspar - Star Goalkeeping Academy

Full Field Diagram

Half Field Diagram